

October
2023

The Samaritan

Worship Themes

This month we continue our worship series on some of Jesus's parables and teachings.

October 1 -
The Table / World
Communion Sunday

October 8 -
The Parable of the
Good Samaritan

October 15 -
Kingdom Parables

October 22 -
Parable of the
Unforgiving Servant

October 29 -
Parable of the Talents



Transitions and the Spirit Tree

By Ingrid Bloom, 9-19-2023

Spirit tree.....
You Remember the air clean
the water uncontaminated
You had to grow your roots
in rocks
You stood in harsh winds
storms tearing through your limbs
Yet you stayed strong
resilient
You remember when the land belonged
to everyone
and the first people marveled
at your endurance
You remembered colonizers
claimed ownership of the land
but you knew the air, the water
the land belongs to everyone
they too marveled at your endurance
Now all people must come together
with all plants and animals
honoring air, water, earth, fire
the land that belongs to everyone
Great Spirit
Holy Creation
revive your Spirit in us
that we may be resilient
strong
to be like little Spirit tree
thriving
in challenging, overwhelming conditions
small but amazing
a beacon of hope
for all who notice the miracle of your Being
thank you beloved tree and all beloved trees
for your teachings of living in harmony
in community with earth, water, air
each other
and all living creation
amidst every transition on our beloved earth



Ingrid Bloom visited The Spirit Tree near Grand Marais a number of times over many years, and in response wrote this meditation about "being resilient through all transitions." With her mediation is a picture of a water color of The Spirit Tree by Steve Byers, which she enjoys hanging in her home. The book "The Hidden Life of Trees" by Peter Wohlleben further inspired Ingrid to celebrate how trees inspire us to sustain community and support with each other. The trees themselves are communicating underground and with plants for mutual protection and sustenance. Ingrid has been taking on the roles her husband has loved and was devoted to tending trees, stream, lake, earth and garden on 16 acres in Northern Minnesota. Little Spirit Tree is a miracle for us all to behold having thrived without being part of a forest. As we pray for so many in the world who have lost their homes and support systems, we pray that they too may thrive like little Spirit Tree.

OUR STAFF

Rev. Carol Zaagsma
Lead Pastor
carol@good.org
952-452-9395

Jim Beard
Dir. of Congregational Care
jim@good.org
952-452-9396

Jan Russell
Director of Children, Youth
and Family Ministries
jan@good.org
952-452-9398

Christian Nielsen
Coordinator of Worship Arts
and Online Engagement
christian@good.org

Paolo Debuque
Chancel Choir Director &
Music Coordinator
paolo@good.org

Mary Beth Berg
Organist/Accompanist
marybeth@good.org

Kate Graber
Chancel Chimes Director
kate@good.org

Brad Carlin
Homeward Bound Director
bradleypcarlin@gmail.com

Cindy Bergstrom
Office Manager
cindy@good.org
952-452-9393

Kim Hill
Bookkeeper
kim@good.org
952-452-9394

Dan Green
Building Engineer
danrg@good.org
612-889-4015

Dandy Lewis
Media Specialist
dandy@good.org

Good Samaritan UMC
Office: 952-929-0049

Pastor's Page



The last time I visited my mom, she reflected with me on a conversation she had with a friend. I encouraged her to write out the story that was coming to mind, and while it's a little embarrassing for me to share a story like this from my childhood, I think there is a tender learning in there by her that is valuable for us all, so I offer it here with her permission.

Pastor Carol

A Reflection from Pastor Carol's Mother

Recently a friend from church was talking to me about being mad at our pastor. Since this wasn't the first time, it got me to wondering, "Why do people get so mad at their pastor?"

The question brought to mind the very first day of my Carol's first day in kindergarten so many years ago. We lived in Jacksonville, Arkansas, and the school system didn't have kindergarten, but Marshall Road Baptist Church near where we lived did.

Carol had been on TV's Romper Room, she had an older brother in school and she had worked every page of several pre-school workbooks. This experience gave her the desire with much excitement to start school, so we enrolled her, even though with a late August birthday, she would be one of the youngest in her class.

So, in her brand new dress and new shoes off we went to find her room, meet her teacher, and learn what desk would be where she would be spending her days during that school year.

It was very exciting entering the school. As we were walking down the hall to her room, we passed two other kindergarten rooms with brightly colored paper flowers decorating the windows and other bright colors decorating the room.

When we got to Carol's room, the teacher was sitting at her desk smiling and welcoming the children. As I looked around the room, it was in disarray with books and stacks of paper all around the room. My heart sank. I said to myself, "My beautiful Carol was not going to be in that room with that teacher being so disorganized!"

As I left the room I was crying with tears streaming down my cheeks and I said to myself that I couldn't go to the principal in this condition. So, I decided to go home and would come back to talk with that principal about moving to one of the other teacher's rooms after I collected myself and calmed down.

The school day soon ended and Carol, after running all the way home, and running into the house all excited, was out of breath saying...she had the best teacher and during the year they were going to do this, that, and the other.

Now, I ask you, can you imagine what a terrible thing I would have done had I burst into the principal's office explaining how he was going to put my daughter with another teacher???

I learned something valuable that day. Now how could I be so insensitive about a teacher who gave such joy and excitement for learning to my Carol? And by the way, they did all those wonderful things during the year that the teacher had promised they would.

-Nancy Zaagsma
Pastor Carol's mom

Music

Sing, Sing, Sing!

Dear Good Samaritans,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer!

Over the past two years, the choir at Good Sam has done some incredible things: collaborations with the band and chancel chimes, major choral-orchestral works, workshops with leaders in the choral field to name a few! We've piloted successful programming, added repertoire and sung familiar favorites, and more. Musically we are flying high!

The only thing left to add is YOU! It's time for our numbers to grow, and for our programming to welcome new and returning singers to the fold. And that starts with anyone and everyone who loves to sing lending their voice to worship.

There are three entry points to singing: Chancel Choir, Open Choir, and Project Choirs. Chancel Choir meets regularly throughout the program year - perfect for anyone looking to invest in our work and grow as a part of the ensemble. Open Choirs are one-off events. We'll meet an hour prior to worship in the Choir Room 150 to learn the anthem, then sing in worship. This is great for dipping your toes or for those with busy schedules. Project Choirs are ~6-week commitments with rehearsals on Wednesday evenings leading up to a performance or service. These are best for those who want the choral rehearsal experience but cannot commit to year-round singing.

If any of these sound appealing, all you need to do is show up! The relevant dates and times are below. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at paolo@good.org!

All the best,
Paolo

Chancel Choir schedule:

- Wednesday evening rehearsal, 7-9 p.m.
- 2-3 Sunday worship services per month (meet at 9 a.m.; sing at 10 a.m.)

Upcoming open choirs:

- Sunday, Oct. 1
- Sunday, Oct. 29
- Sunday, Nov. 26
- Sunday, Jan. 7

Upcoming project choirs:

- Lessons and Carols project:
 - ◊Wednesday evening rehearsals starting October 25
 - ◊Performance Saturday, December 9
- Easter project:
 - ◊Wednesday evening rehearsals starting February 21
 - ◊Performance Easter Sunday, March 31

Paolo Debuque
Chancel Choir
Director &
Music Coordinator
paolo@good.org
952-452-9397



Music

A Thousand Tongues Returns!

Last May, Good Sam hosted *A Thousand Tongues*, a concert of songs and stories reflecting on AAPI experiences, featuring four incredible guest artists and our very own Chancel Choir. The concert was an incredibly meaningful experience. I'm pleased to share that it will be returning, with all the same guest artists and a combined Good Sam/Hennepin Ave UMC choir, sponsored by the Philippine Study Group of Minnesota, on Friday, November 3 at 7:00 p.m., at Hennepin Avenue UMC (511 Groveland Ave, Minneapolis). Order tickets at bit.ly/athousandtonguestickets or with the QR code here. Hope to see you there! ~Paolo Debuque

Worship Arts & Online Engagement

Getting the Word Out

Our digital team has created a video advertisement on Facebook and Instagram focusing on our Good Samaritan belief, "We find truth and grace in the search for meaning more than in absolute certainty". In the video, members of our community authentically shared how this belief is part of their Good Sam experience. With just \$15, and with 10 of our Good Samaritan Facebook page users sharing the video, our ad has been viewed more than 2,100 times, reaching 1,424 people, nearly all within 20 miles of our campus. Thank you to all who contributed to this project! Check it out and share the video in your Facebook circle. You can find the video under the "Reels" section or our Facebook page or scan this QR code with your smartphone camera.

Christian Nielsen
(he/him)
Coordinator of
Worship Arts &
Online Engagement
christian@good.org
952-452-9399



Expanding our YouTube Channel

We're continuing to build up our YouTube Channel! Online worship is now available on the channel at 6 a.m. each Sunday morning, as it is on our Facebook Page and at good.org. Look for an expanding array of music and other content on our channel in the coming months. Please check us out and consider hitting the "subscribe" button to follow us. You can go to YouTube and type "Good Samaritan United Methodist Church Edina" in the search box, or scan this QR code to the left with your smartphone camera to go directly to our channel.



Indigenous Histories from our National Parks Worship Series Now Available on our "Good Samaritan United Methodist Church Edina" YouTube Channel.

During our summer worship series on the National Parks, we took time in worship each week to honor and acknowledge the sacredness of our protected places to those who lived here first, as well as to recognize historical harms that have been done. The result is a set of short mini documentaries that were a part of each week's worship. If you scan the QR code to the right with your smartphone camera, you will go directly to a playlist of these segments.



Congregational Care

Getting Our Feet Wet

Get the word out. Teach all these things. And don't let anyone put you down because you're young. Teach believers with your life: by word, by demeanor, by love, by faith, by integrity. Stay at your post reading Scripture, giving counsel, teaching. And that special gift of ministry you were given when the leaders of the church laid hands on you and prayed—keep that dusted off and in use. ~ 1 Timothy 4:11-14 MSG

“Never forget that special gift of ministry you were given,” admonishes Paul to his young apprentice Timothy. I still remember my ordination. Kneeling before our Bishop; surrounded by respected elders of the church and personal mentors who accompanied me through the years leading up to this point.

I remember the warmth of their collective hands on my shoulders, my back, my head as I bowed and closed my eyes. Words were raised to God and to the gathered community, officially recognizing from this point forward my commission as an ordained elder of the church (was this really happening?!), followed by the words which hung with such weight and such responsibility as the stole of the office was draped upon my shoulders and soul ... “Take authority as an elder in the Church to preach the Word of God and to administer the Holy Sacraments.”

A similar commissioning was proclaimed at your baptism... *“Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood.”* (Baptismal Covenant II, pg. 43 UMH). You too have a unique calling which God intends for you to live. This special gift is not limited by age; you carry it with you till your final breath.

As we begin another program year, now is a good time for all of us to dust off and put into use again the gifts for ministry which have been laid upon each of us. Focus on the here and now, on what gifts of ministry we can still share (not on the ones that used to be). In the upcoming weeks, I look forward to listening to your stories and discovering where you sense God is leading you and this church.

Congregational Care is not a one-person job – it is the work of the people. My role is to remind, equip, and empower

Jim Beard
(he/him)
Director of
Congregational
Care
jim@good.org
952-452-9396



you for the ministries which God has laid upon your shoulders. Your role is to do it. This month, commit yourself to some form of ministry again. Get out of your seat, jump into the stream, get your feet wet, and get moving – we all have been commissioned to do so together!

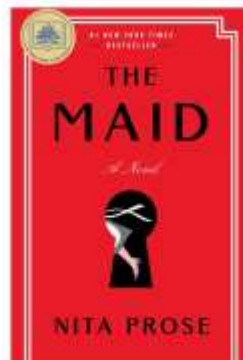
Lord, it's been years since I first felt your calling, years since I felt the weight of those hands on my head, years of striving and strife. Thank you for never leaving me. Thank you for going with me so that I would never be alone. I'm not young anymore, but I guess my charge isn't over, is it? I'm ready to get my feet wet again for you. By the power of Your Spirit in me, send me once again.



Hiking upstream in The Narrows at Zion National Park, Utah. Photo submitted by Pastor Jim.

Thursday Afternoon Book Club

Our next meeting is October 12 at 1:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The discussion title is *The Maid* by Nita Prose, a mystery involving a quirky maid and a murdered guest. Please join us for discussion, refreshments, and fellowship. Questions: Contact Vicki Dunn, victoria.dunn@q.com , 952-930-3431



Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Stepping Out in Faith

I took a webinar in September about getting middle schoolers excited about the Bible. It was an interesting discussion about how there are certain Bible stories that we are all familiar with, Noah's ark, the feeding of the 5000, and of course the Good Samaritan. It got me thinking.

One of my favorite lesser-known Bible stories comes from Joshua, chapter 3. This is the time where Joshua is leading the army to Jericho, and they must cross the Jordan River. They step into the Jordan and God stops the water upstream at a town called Adam. The thing I find fascinating about the story is the water stops immediately, but it's upriver. That water has to go someplace, so the water flows across the people carrying the ark of the covenant until the break in the water comes. They truly had to step out in faith, confident that God was going to stop the water.

I feel like that's where we are now. I have stepped out into the water rushing across my feet as we rebuild our children, youth and family ministries. I am confident the change is coming, but there's still some water running across my toes. I have confidence that God is with us. In this time of re-building, we all need to hold fast and carry on. Please continue to pray for these ministries of Good Sam, that more families will come to us, and hearts will be moved to volunteer to help these ministries grow.

~ Grace and Peace, Jan



Jan M. Russell (she/her)

Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries

jan@good.org

952-452-9398



Children's Project Choir

Come sing with us! Children's Choir rehearsals will resume later this month to prepare for singing at the beloved Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, November 26 at 4:00pm and at Family Christmas Eve Worship on Sunday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m.

Children in grades K-6 will meet Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m. from October 25 through December 20. Feel free to invite any friends, grandchildren, etc. All are welcome! Look for an online sign-up soon. Contact Cindy Bergstrom at cindy@good.org with questions. We look forward to singing with you!



Children, Youth and Family Ministries



Social Justice Family Academy

Can we create a better world for today and tomorrow? Together, we can.

This opportunity is for elementary school children grades K-6 accompanied by an adult(s) who want to make more socially just decisions and take action in a way that makes our world better.

The nursery will be open for younger siblings.

THREE SESSIONS

(Saturdays 12:00-1:30)

- October 14, 2023 (LGBTQ+ Inclusion)
- November 11, 2023 (Disability Awareness)
- December 9, 2023 (Racial Justice)

Each session taught by a local expert.

SCHEDULE

- 12:00-12:20 Lunch
- 12:20-12:30 Devotion / Story
- 12:30-1:30 Program
- *1:30-2:30 (Optional) Adult Conversation & Activities for Children

**Additional time from 1:30-2:30 for adults to connect while children enjoy a topic-based activity and supervised play in the gym.*

Good Samaritan United Methodist Church • 5730 Grove St • Edina, MN 55436

"We affirm that the way we live our lives is the fullest expression of what we believe."

\$100 per family (includes lunch)

Register at tinyurl.com/SocialJusticeFamilyAcademy by Oct. 10, 2023.



Contact carol@good.org with questions
or for scholarship inquiries



Missions

Doing Good

Thanks to everyone for being Good Samaritans! Our church has been living up to its name for many years. Below is a listing of the outreach and mission programs we have been involved with, how long we have supported them financially and physically, and the church contact person listed. Let's keep our support going!



- Stonebridge World School - 30 years (JoAnn Knutson)
- Minnesota Reconciling Congregations - about 28 years (Brian Boysen)
- Feed My Starving Children - about 14 years (Jane Heimerl)
- Appalachia Service Project (ASP) - 42 years & 645 participants! (Amy Manolis & Jan Russell)
- Hearts & Hammers - 20 years & 20 houses! (Brian Boysen)
- A Better Chance-Edina (Edina ABC) - 52 years & helped start it! (Sarah & Steve Kumagai)
- VEAP Food Shelf - most of their 45 years (Sue Ohman)
- Joyce Preschool - 55+ years & was a founding member (Jane Heimerl)
- Joyce Uptown Food Shelf - over 35 years (Tony Branch)
- Simpson Shelter - about 35 years (Jan Russell)
- Families Moving Forward - about 20 years (Beacon program has ended)
- Meals on Wheels - about 25 years (Vicki Dunn)

In addition to volunteering with these organizations for many years, we have provided a large amount of in-kind items and funding.

~JoAnn Knutson

Reconciling Report: From the Fair and Beyond

Minnesota Reconciling Congregations (MRC) helped to staff the Hamline Dining Hall on Saturday, August 26, at the Minnesota State Fair and provided new visibility to the work of Reconciling.

The regular MRC meeting happened on Thursday, September 14.

Celebrating 40 years
of the Reconciling Movement
October 13-15 at First UMC in Charlotte, NC



John Wesley encouraged Methodists toward perfection in the lifelong pursuit of love. Love looks like affirmation in the face of persecution, like kinship in the face of isolation, and like courage in the face of despair. It is in that **spirit that we're gathering on October 13-15, 2023** at First United Methodist Church in Charlotte, NC. Pre-Convocation workshops will be offered on October 12, and post-Convo workshops will be offered on October 16.

This year, we kick off the celebration of 40 years as a movement and a people purposed for justice. We invite you to join us in Charlotte to reflect on our history and boldly **claim the future of the Church for all God's children. There's work to do, and there's joy to share.** And we want to do it all with you.

To register, please go to the website at www.rmnetwork.org. For additional questions, please contact Brian Boysen at bteambackup@earthlink.net.

~ Brian Boysen

Missions

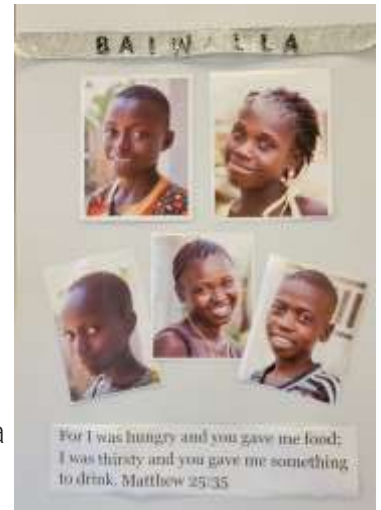
Thank You for Sponsoring African Students in Baiwalla!

The Missions Team wants to thank you for your generous support of students at the Ormsby School in Baiwalla, Sierra Leone! Your donations will allow these needy students, whose parents earn an average of \$2 per day, to attend the only high school in Baiwalla. Sponsorships of \$310 cover the cost of school fees for one child and \$150 pays for their snacks and lunches for this coming school year. However, any amount will be welcome throughout October. Our posters in the Narthex with those cute figures on left poster represent the children who don't have a sponsor yet, but we're moving them to the poster on the right every time a child gets a sponsor.



for almost 20 years and spoke at Good Sam in 2022. See the August and September editions of *The Samaritan* newsletters for full articles on how and why United Methodists in Minnesota are contributing to the success of this school.

~ Pat Deckas Becerra



Serving Opportunity

Volunteer at the Chanhassen site (18932 Lake Dr E) for food packing:

Wednesday, October 11 - 9:00-10:45 a.m.

Sign up with Jean Zivkovich at jzivkovich@comcast.net by October 9. Space is limited!

Help us move as many more as possible these last few weeks of this fall campaign! Just let anyone on the Missions Team, like Brian Boysen or Pat Deckas Becerra, know when you do so we know how many figures to move.

You may send a check to Good Samaritan and write in the memo line that it is for Baiwalla student sponsorship. Or you may pay by credit card at the OC Ministries website, www.ocministriesmn.org by clicking "DONATE". Make sure to scroll down to "Sierra Leone: School Child Sponsorship" (NOT "Sierra Leone: Where Needed Most"). The director of the school, Rev. Judith Banya lived in Minneapolis

The Good Samaritan Foundation

Let's Celebrate!

Foundation Sunday, October 15

There has been lots of action for The Foundation this year so let's have a celebration! The Foundation Board members are excited to tell you what's come in and what's gone out this year.

During worship on Sunday, October 15, we'll report on the projects funded by The Outreach and Cornerstone Funds and how the annual allotment from The Evergreen Fund has supplemented the annual budget.



We'll also give an update on the two challenges for donations to The Foundation – the \$30,000 for 30 years and \$10,000 match...hint, we're *almost* there! THANK YOU to all those who have donated so far. Special coffee treats will be offered in Fellowship Hall after the service!

Questions? Please contact Claudia at claudiaLboysen@gmail.com.

Finance Team

Finance Update

Thank you for your support of our church. ❤️ We appreciate those who have contributed this summer – it really helps! We had a good month in August but can still use your help as we are “short” YTD. If you have a balance on your pledge, consider paying that before the end of the year. If you have fulfilled your pledge, and have the ability to give an additional amount, that would be much appreciated! Thank you for your support of our church! August financials are listed below.

~ Tom Delaney

	August Actuals	August Plan	Year-to-Date
Income	\$44,169	\$36,791	\$428,476
Expense	\$46,191	\$57,117	\$452,080
Net	(\$2,022)	(\$20,236)	(\$23,604)

Trustees

Maintenance Minute: Getting Ready for Winter

I hope you all had a great summer and are ready for winter. One thing I do at Good Sam to prepare for winter is to check the flat roof that covers every area of the building except the sanctuary. Throughout the year, I go on the roof a few times to clear any debris like leaves, sticks, and any standing water. I have to especially make sure to clear the debris away from the roof drains. Good Sam has multiple downspouts acting as roof drains on the outside of the building but there is actually one drain pipe that goes through the roof near the nursery and runs down into the music wing mechanical room and then out. It's important to clear this drain of debris to prevent any backups from occurring during winter. Just last winter, water had gotten stuck from a buildup of leaves and froze, bursting the pipe in the mechanical room, and causing a bad flood. Luckily that room has floor drains which helped with removing the water. I also noticed some screws in our roof coming up. Eventually, these would pop through and cause a hole in the EPDM rubber roof and cause leaks. I cut small slits on top of the screws, drove the screws back into the wood, and patched up the slits I made. I can't say I've ever intentionally put holes in a roof before but it was really the only option before a hole was caused by the screws coming up, causing a leak.

Dan Green
(he/him)

Building Engineer
danrg@good.org
612-889-4015





Good Samaritan United Methodist Church
 5730 Grove Street
 Edina, MN 55436

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**OUR
 VISION**

INSPIRING
 Joyful Faith

BUILDING
 a Loving
 Community

SERVING
 Neighbors Near
 and Far

SUNDAYS

Worship
 10:00am (In-person and Online)

Nursery
 9:45-11:30am, Infants - Age 3

Children's Sunday School
 Held during worship following
 Children's Time. All are welcome!

WEDNESDAYS

(Nursery open from 5:45-9:00pm)

- 6:00pm
- Chancel Chimes Rehearsal
 - Caregivers (2nd Wednesdays)

- 7:00pm
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 - Youth Activities

GOOD SAMARITAN OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9:00am - 1:00pm
 Phone (952) 929-0049