

May  
2024

# The Samaritan

## Worship Themes

May 5 -  
Communion / Fruit of  
the Spirit - Kindness

May 12 -  
Mother's Day /Fruit of  
the Spirit - Goodness

May 19 -  
Pentecost / Fruit of  
the Spirit - Faithfulness

May 26 -  
Fruit of the Spirit -  
Gentleness

### Here's one thing

you must understand  
about this blessing:  
it is not  
for you alone.

It is stubborn  
about this.  
Do not even try  
to lay hold of it  
if you are by yourself,  
thinking you can carry it  
on your own.

To bear this blessing,  
you must first take yourself  
to a place where everyone  
does not look like you  
or think like you,  
a place where they do not  
believe precisely as you believe,  
where their thoughts  
and ideas and gestures  
are not exact echoes  
of your own.

Bring your sorrow.  
Bring your grief.  
Bring your fear.  
Bring your weariness,  
your pain,  
your disgust at how broken  
the world is,  
how fractured,  
how fragmented  
by its fighting,  
its wars,  
its hungers,  
its penchant for power,  
its ceaseless repetition  
of the history it refuses  
to rise above.

## *This Grace That Scorches Us* A Blessing for Pentecost Day

I will not tell you  
this blessing will fix all that.

But in the place  
where you have gathered,  
wait.

Watch.

Listen.

Lay aside your inability  
to be surprised,  
your resistance to what you  
do not understand.

See then whether this blessing  
turns to flame on your tongue,  
sets you to speaking  
what you cannot fathom

or opens your ear  
to a language  
beyond your imagining  
that comes as a knowing  
in your bones,  
a clarity  
in your heart  
that tells you

this is the reason  
we were made:  
for this ache  
that finally opens us,

for this struggle,  
this grace  
that scorches us  
toward one another  
and into  
the blazing day.

- Jan Richardson

## OUR STAFF

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# Pastor's Page

The time has come for me to write a farewell message to you. Like many things in ministry, it's not an easy thing to do, but it is important.

A year ago, when we first heard the news of this transition, the time seemed so far off. Now each day is rushing by. Why does time do that?

Even so, I want you to know how very grateful I am for our time together. You have been great partners in ministry, and I have grown very fond of you all! Yet I have every confidence that Pastor Max will experience the same as he arrives June 30 and settles in here at Good Sam.

Good transitions are very important to me, so let me share a few things that will be helpful in navigating this change.

My final Sunday worship service with you will be Sunday, May 19. SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee) is planning a reception following in-person worship, so I do hope you can stay for the fellowship. Rather than coordinate the customary love offering to be received by me, I've asked SPRC to encourage tax-deductible contributions to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. This Fund has helped most recently in the purchase of new computers for use by staff. Some of our existing equipment was so old it was running Windows 8; so this fund has been extremely helpful in funding important needs that aren't planned for in the budget.

The professional boundaries are well-defined for clergy in a pastoral transition. So with these boundaries in place, I won't return for baptisms, weddings or funerals. And yes, this causes some sadness. But it is a valuable boundary in order to give you and Pastor Max a chance to strengthen your ministry together, while giving me an opportunity to focus on what is next.

There isn't great consistency among clergy in handling social media connections, so I'll just share what I have found to be a good practice. For those of you who are friends with me on Facebook or other social media accounts, I plan to update them Friday, May 31. Using social media terminology, I will unfollow and/or unfriend you. Please don't take this personally, as it comes with an invitation to friend or follow me again after one year. Relationships in ministry are deeply meaningful. I do personally care about your milestones in life and about what's happening with your children or grandchildren. Social media is a great way to keep up with such things, so it will be a joy to accept your friend request again after one year has passed. Please talk with me if you have any questions or concerns.



John Wesley's final words have become one of my favorite quotes: "The best of all is, God is with us." I wholeheartedly believe this, and share it here in the hope that it will bring some comfort now, as well as a sense of purpose and presence for us all.

With gratitude,

*Pastor Carol*

# Worship

## Help Beautify our Worship



### ALTAR FLOWERS

Our altar flower signup sheet for Sunday morning worship is looking very empty. Consider signing up! There are several ways to provide flowers for the altar for all different budgets, including:

- Have Cindy order an arrangement from Bachman's for a cost of \$65 (or more for a larger arrangement).
- To avoid the \$18 delivery fee, order your own arrangement and pick it up yourself.
- Grab a bouquet from your local grocery store (Trader Joe's has a great selection for lower cost) or farmers market (Fulton Farmers Market starts soon at Lake Harriet UMC).
- Cut flowers and foliage from your own yard.

When you sign up on the Altar Flowers chart on the Narthex kiosk, Cindy will be in touch with you to discuss what you would like to do. Contact her with questions - [cindy@good.org](mailto:cindy@good.org) or 952-929-0049.

# Music

## AAPI Month 2024

One of the most special times in the program year for me is May, AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) Heritage Month. Over the past two years we've been blessed to host a range of incredible AAPI musical artists each May who have enriched our services and community with their musical talents and life perspectives.

Paolo Debuque  
Chancel Choir  
Director &  
Music Coordinator  
[paolo@good.org](mailto:paolo@good.org)  
952-452-9397



This year we'll be continuing this series in collaboration with Kenneth Qian Vigne. Kenneth is an organist, keyboardist, and composer who currently serves as Associate Director of Music at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis, MN. There, in addition to co-leading worship planning and coordinating the Westminster Arts Series, he has worked to uphold Westminster's historic ties to the Twin Cities' Chinese community through arts exhibitions, guest performances, and more.

In the mold of previous AAPI collaborations, Kenneth will join us (virtually) for worship Sunday, May 19, bringing a choral anthem, a congregational hymn, and reflections and stories to help contextualize

his offerings. He will also work with our Chancel Choir and record a video interview that will be available publicly to anyone interested in additional background.

In addition to Kenneth's contributions, we will be bringing Filipino music and reflections of my own choosing to worship May 5. These will include a choral arrangement of an art song by Francisco Santiago, one of the great early-20th century Filipino composers, and a pop song by Ryan Cayabyab, a composer and singer of enormous cultural stature (think Stephen Sondheim crossed with Barbara Streisand). I'm so grateful to this church for your continued support and enthusiasm for this work that is so special to me, and I can't wait to dive into this year's AAPI programming together!

# Music

## Homeward Bound Headlines the Spring Social

Thanks to everyone who attended our first ever Spring Social with Homeward Bound on Friday, April 12 in the Fellowship Hall! We had a sensational time, playing 22 songs that constituted a mixture of sacred songs from our 2023-24 season as well as some more secular material. We were also thrilled to be joined by two very special guests, singer-songwriter Jim Fuller (who co-founded Homeward Bound way back in 1984 for an outdoor worship service) and Pastor Carol Zaagsma, who sat in on trumpet on a song! ~ Brad Carlin



### Upcoming Homeward Bound Outdoor Concert Dates:

- Monday June 17, 5-7:30 pm: HB Live at Music on Marschall!  
*First Presbyterian Church of Shakopee, 909 Marschall Road, Shakopee MN*
- Monday July 1, 7-8 pm: HB Live at Centennial Lakes Edina!  
*Maetzold Amphitheater, 7499 France Avenue S, Edina MN*
- Tuesday July 30, 7-8:30 pm: HB Live at Father Hennepin Bluff Park!  
*Father Hennepin Park, 420 SE Main St, Minneapolis MN*

# Congregational Care

## Not My Problem?

*Hezekiah replied to Isaiah, "Good. If God says so, it's good." Within himself he was thinking, "But surely nothing bad will happen in my lifetime. I'll enjoy peace and stability as long as I live."* Isaiah 39:8 MSG

The prophet has forewarned King Hezekiah of a suspicious encounter with a foreign group. A diplomatic delegation from Babylon, a newly rising power, was welcomed in Jerusalem. Perhaps they were seeking a military alliance against an imminent threat. Hezekiah proudly showed them all his royal treasures. With prophetic insight, Isaiah warned of what would come tragically true a little over a century later: all that treasure and even the king's own descendants would be carried away into shameful slavery by the country in whom Hezekiah now placed his trust. And so it was; a little over a century after his death, Isaiah's prophecy of disaster was fulfilled.



Endangered California Condor, Grand Canyon, 2014. Photo by Jim Beard.

It's the king's reply which we should note, however. Hezekiah doesn't refute or disregard this warning; actually, he hardly reacts at all! Because this news will not have much impact in his lifetime, he sets the concerning news aside and sits back on the privileges of time.

A great many prophetic voices have likewise raised concerns today, about the threats of global warming for example. How many of our leaders, how many of our elders, how many of us hear such news and casually set it aside because, well, to be honest, it may be true, but we won't likely be around to be affected by it? Does the fact that it is likely to be a consequence lived out a century after I am dead dismiss me from all responsibilities today?

What might Hezekiah have done in an attempt to ward off this impending disaster instead of putting his feet up and relaxing? What might our great-grandparents have done which may have prevented the consequences we live with today? All our actions should not be determined by the benefits we will personally gain or pains we will personally avoid; our activities and inactivities today live beyond us, and many will impact our grandchildren's children. Now is the time to act, while there is still time.

*Timeless God, you see beyond the here and now to the times that yet will be. You sadly track my aptitude for selfishness, for short-sightedness, and for personal gain and you send me still your warnings through those who see beyond. Give me the fortitude to take whatever actions I might take today so that destructive forces may be averted for my loved ones who will live beyond me. May peace and stability be mine, and theirs. Amen.*

Pastor Jim Beard  
(he/him)

Director of  
Congregational Care

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# Congregational Care

## Look What's Coming!

### The Lorax & Other Eco-Justice Voices

Are harmful changes we are hearing about in our environment feeling a bit confusing, distant, or overwhelming? This *Everyday Justice* mini-series is an adult-focused, biblically-based course aimed at deepening our awareness, faith, and response to today's alarming global issues. Rev.

Cooper Wigger (former Associate Pastor at Good Samaritan from 1979-1982) has been invited in to lead these sessions. Classes will take place on the first four Thursday mornings of May, from 10:00–11:30 am in the Fireside Room. As a

bonus on May 16, Bill Middlecamp, a professionally trained Climate Reality Leader, will be present to explain the environmental destruction impacts we are experiencing today, how we got to this point, and what the future may hold. Participants will experience the En-ROADS solutions simulator to imagine together what our future could be. En-ROADS is a “choose your ending” simulation that uses some of the best available science to compute and present possible results from choices in energy, food production, land use, and consumer behavior that society can make today. The classes are free to attend, but a minimum of seven people are needed for the best learning dynamics. You may participate in this class either in person, online, or through recorded sessions. For further information or to register, go to [tinyurl.com/GSTheLorax](http://tinyurl.com/GSTheLorax) or use the QR code.



### Take a Hike

Twice monthly this May through September, you are invited to meet at a designated park, share a quick devotional thought, and head out to look anew at God's creation either alone or in groups. “Take a Hike” is a great opportunity to get outdoors and be with friends this summer, without having to arrange it all yourself! We'll have designated parks and gathering sites ready and waiting for you on Monday evenings from 6:00 – 7:00 pm, Thursday afternoons from 2:00 – 3:00 pm, and Saturday mornings from 9:00 – 10:00 am. Register to receive monthly emails with exact locations, along with links to recorded devotions by Pastor Jim focused on God and God's creation, and more.

Our first outings begin the week of May 5 – 11 and will take place at Hyland Lake Park Reserve in Bloomington, so register today. For further information or to register, go to [tinyurl.com/GSTakeaHike](http://tinyurl.com/GSTakeaHike) or use the QR code.



# Congregational Care

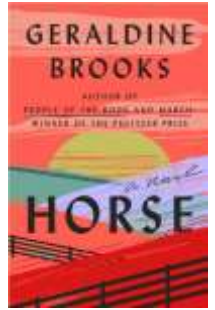
## General Conference Recap



The Tuesday Morning Bible Study invites everyone to join them on May 7, 9:30-11:30 am in the Fireside Room. Pastor Carol will give us an update on what is happening in the UMC following her participation in General Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina.

## Thursday Afternoon Book Group

Our next meeting will be on May 9 at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room. The discussion title is *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks, a fascinating saga based on the true story of a famous 19th century racehorse. Please join us for fellowship, discussion, and refreshments. Questions: Contact Vicki Dunn, 952-930-3431 or [victoria.dunn@q.com](mailto:victoria.dunn@q.com).



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## Annual Peace Garden Planting

You're invited to help plant the beautiful flowers we'll all get to enjoy over the summer and fall in our Peace Garden. We'll have coffee, donut holes, and fellowship as we mark another season of beauty in this special place. Many hands...have fun together!

We'll gather on Saturday, May 18, 10:00 am in the Peace Garden adjacent to the upper parking lot. Please bring garden gloves and a planting trowel if you have one. Bring a friend! Please come even if you don't consider yourself a gardener. Contact Mary Lach 612-860-3233 or Steve Schultz 612-212-3056 with questions. We look forward to gardening with you!



# Staff Parish Relations Committee

## Volunteer to Host a New Pastor "Meet & Greet"



The Staff Parish Relations Committee is looking for volunteers who would be interested in hosting a small group of members for a "meet and greet" as a way to get to know Pastor Max. The timing will be during the months of July and August. You can host in your home or at the church. All that is needed is seating and light refreshments. We are looking for 8-12 volunteers. If you are willing to host a meet and greet, there will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or reach out to Candy Fox at 612-790-3212 or email at [cans-](mailto:cans-)

# Children, Youth and Family Ministries

## Taking Care of our Kids

May is Mental Health Awareness month. Today's kids are more anxious, depressed and distracted than ever before. The American Academy of Pediatrics has declared a national emergency in child and adolescent mental health. What can we do as a community to help our kids? Our spiritual community has the ability to create a safe space for open and honest communication with our youngest members. We can create a space where their questions and concerns are met with respect, where we remind them of their value in our community. We can give them a framework to ponder and wonder about what is their place in the world and how can they make a positive impact in the world.



Jan M. Russell (she/her)

Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries

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are met with respect, where we remind them of their value in our community. We can give them a framework to ponder and wonder about what is their place in the world and how can they make a positive impact in the world.

This starts from the moment they enter our nursery to the last care package they receive during their college senior year. Including them in our social justice and volunteer work is vital as well. We need to be able to welcome them in whatever stage they are when they find their way to us.

I have a bunch of specific resources to help our kids grow their mental health tool kit. I would love to share them with you. Let's talk.

I am praying for you and your family.

## Vacation Bible School - Join the Fun!

June 24-28 | 9:00 am to Noon | 4 years old to 4th grade

This unique Vacation Bible School program takes children on an exciting journey where they learn to trust God no matter what situation life brings, know God is always with them, and feel confident in sharing the good news of God's love through Jesus Christ. With our great outdoor space at Good Sam, we will really feel like we are at camp! Bring a friend, reconnect with your friends, and make new friends, too! This adventure is for kids ages 4 years-4th grade. We welcome kids 5th grade and older as Youth Leaders, and we need Adults Helpers, too! Participants will need a water bottle. The cost for VBS is \$25 for one child and \$50 for a family. Scholarships are available.



Register at <https://goodsamaritanedina.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

To contribute supplies, scan this QR code.





# Missions

## March Food Drive Results



Thank you Good Samaritans for your donations to the March Food Drive, 2024. The food donations to the Joyce Food Shelf and VEAP Food Shelf totaled 192 pounds. The monetary donations to Joyce Food Shelf were

\$3,175.00 and to VEAP 4,075.00. The donations are much needed and greatly appreciated. ~ Sue Ohman

## Minnesota Annual Conference News

### Your Gifts Make It Possible

Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with their Annual Conference Session (see below). Their Love Offering this year will help our neighbors - in Minnesota and around the world - heal from trauma and find safety. Your generous support of **Good Sam's Easter Offering** made it possible for the Missions Team to vote to contribute \$1000 to the Love Offering.

This year's offering will go to a new trauma care center in Ukraine, immigration legal support in partnership with Volunteer Lawyer Network, and reducing trauma at Emma Norton Services' new Restoring Water facility. Each year support goes to Volunteers in Mission scholarships, which support first-time mission trip participants. Visit [minnesotaucm.org/loveoffering](http://minnesotaucm.org/loveoffering) for more information.

### 2024 Minnesota Annual Conference Session

This year's Minnesota Annual Conference Session will be held in Bloomington on May 29-30. The theme is "Jesus. Redeemer." Attendees can participate in person or via live stream. Visit [minnesotaucm.org/annualconference](http://minnesotaucm.org/annualconference) for all of the information.



### Serving Opportunities

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

Wednesday, May 1 - 9:00-10:45 am  
Friday, May 10 - 7:00-8:30 pm

Sign up with Jane Heimerl at [jane.heimerl@yahoo.com](mailto:jane.heimerl@yahoo.com) by two days ahead. Space is limited!

## Reconciling News

Minnesota Reconciling Congregations met on Saturday, April 13 at Hennepin Avenue UMC and enjoyed a potluck lunch and a very educational presentation from Rev. Carol Zaagsma and Dave Nuckols who are delegates to the 2024 UMC General Conference that took place in Charlotte, North Carolina at the end of April.



We plan to meet on May 9 at 7:00 pm via Zoom and you are invited to join. Contact Brian Boysen with questions: [bteam@earthlink.net](mailto:bteam@earthlink.net).

# The Good Samaritan Foundation

## Funds Explained



A question often asked of the Foundation Board of Directors is, “What is the best fund to donate to?” In answering that question, the responses may be what is your passion or what is your greatest concern for Good Samaritan and the world beyond our doors?

Would you like to make an impact on the issues of food insecurity, affordable housing, education and training for children, youth and adults, improvement of sustainable practices in agriculture around the world, relief to areas experiencing devastating natural disasters, or assistance for improvement of health? The Outreach Fund addresses that. You can even make an application for a grant for a non-profit organization you feel is worthy of support.

Are you concerned about the financial health of the daily operations of Good Samaritan and its long-term financial sustainability? The Evergreen Fund addresses that with an annual option to draw 5% of the fund balance to supplement the operating budget if a shortfall of cash is likely. Ninety-five percent of your donation remains in the fund to grow, providing support for future years. Donations to this fund since 2020, including generous legacy gifts, have more than doubled the amount available to the Finance Committee to supplement the annual budget.

Are you concerned about funding emergency and unexpected repairs, expensive major maintenance and grounds upkeep? The Cornerstone Fund addresses that. Your donation to this fund is fully available to the Trustees for repairs and purchases not provided for in the annual budget. When this fund has been well-funded, there have not been special fundraising efforts to cover the costs for major projects.

In truth, there is no “best” fund. The best fund for your gift is the one that you feel supports your current interests. Still can’t decide? Your gift can be split between the funds – you can give to one or all three! Problem solved!

The next meeting of The Foundation Board is Thursday, May 16. Please contact Claudia at [claudialboysen@gmail.com](mailto:claudialboysen@gmail.com) if you have any comments or questions about The Good Samaritan Foundation.

## Finance Team

### Finance Update

Thank you to everyone for your commitment to keeping Good Samaritan financially strong. Thanks to you, we are \$18,571 to the positive ahead of our plan YTD. Here are the financial results through the first quarter of 2024:

	Year-to-Date Actuals (thru March 2024)	Plan thru March 2024
Revenue	\$222,443	\$211,633
Expenses	\$165,321	\$173,082
Net result	+ 57,122	+ 38,550

# Trustees

## Maintenance Minute: Keeping Things Going

As I write this, it's almost warm enough to do our boiler shut down and spring tune up before they go in to hibernation for the summer. This entails cutting power to pumps, oiling and greasing them and emptying/refilling the system with clean water. With the age of most or all of our equipment being more than 15 years old, we typically have a couple of breakdowns or have a part go out with in any of our HVAC components in the season. The only rooms our boilers provide heat for are the preschool rooms, Fellowship Hall, three office suites, the Community Room and the adult Choir Room. All other areas are heated by forced air furnaces. This season we didn't have one break down between all of our equipment. That was true all the way up until April 3, when I realized heat was not coming on in Fellowship Hall. Luckily, I found the issue pretty quickly. I noticed the pump for that room had tripped a breaker. I flipped it back on and it tripped right away again. So, I inspected the pump and could see right away that the coupler that connects the pump motor and bearing assembly together, which provides the power to move the water throughout the pipes, was clearly broken. You can see the spring hanging out of it in the first picture. I use Grainger as much as I can for getting parts for many things, and thankfully they had one in stock to pick up. It's a fairly easy job and I got it all installed in little over an hour. One small hiccup arose when a bolt I was loosening had gotten stripped out. I had to drill out and re-tap the threads and it was all complete. It was just in the nick of time before we had our grief group in to use that room. I am always grateful when our equipment runs well with no issues, and I have been pretty lucky this year.

Dan Green  
(he/him)

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**OUR VISION**

INSPIRING  
 Joyful Faith

BUILDING  
 a Loving  
 Community

SERVING  
 Neighbors Near  
 and Far

SUNDAYS

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

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

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

WEDNESDAYS

(Nursery care upon request)

- 6:00 pm
  - Chancel Chimes Rehearsal
- 7:00 pm
  - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

GOOD SAMARITAN OFFICE HOURS

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