

June
2024

The Samaritan

Worship Themes

June 2 - "Fruit of the Spirit: Self-Control", Rev. Melanie Homan preaching / Communion

June 9 - "My Body is Not a Prayer Request: Prayer Perpetrators", Rev. Melanie Homan preaching / High School Senior Recognition / ASP Commissioning

June 16 - "Sabbath: Honoring your Spoons", Rev. Melanie Homan preaching

June 23 - "Universal Design", Rev. Melanie Homan preaching

June 30 - "Clothed with Joy", Pastor Max's first Sunday



Homeward Bound Summer Outdoor Concerts

Homeward Bound is excited to announce their summer outdoor concert series! More details can be found on the kiosk in the Narthex.

Monday June 17, 5:00-7:30 pm | Music on Marschall
First Presbyterian Church of Shakopee, 909 Marschall Road, Shakopee



Bring a lawn chair, your appetite for the free buffet dinner (5:00-6:00 pm), and a few dollars for the free will offering to support the fight against homelessness and hunger in the region. Music (6:00-7:30 pm) immediately follows the dinner.

Monday July 1, 7:00-8:00 pm | Centennial Lakes
Maetzold Amphitheater, 7499 France Avenue S, Edina

Bring a lawn chair, use the terraced natural seating, or spread a blanket out on the upper lawn. Shady spots on the west side are popular and can fill quickly. You are also welcome to bring your own food and nonalcoholic beverages.



Tuesday July 30, 7:00-8:30 pm | Father Hennepin Bluff Park
Father Hennepin Park, 420 SE Main St, Minneapolis



HB is excited to once again be a part of the Minneapolis Music in the Parks concert series! This year we'll be at Father Hennepin Bluff Park, which is across from downtown Minneapolis on the east bank of the Mississippi River in St Anthony Main. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, and food and nonalcoholic beverages as you wish.

Facebook: facebook.com/HomewardBoundMusicians
Website: homewardboundband.com/
YouTube: youtube.com/HomewardBoundBand/

OUR STAFF

Rev. Max Richter
Lead Pastor
beginning June 30

Rev. Jim Beard
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Pastor's Page

Hello, Good Samaritan!

I write this letter to you as I am wrapping up seven wonderful years of ministry at Champlin UMC and preparing for our time together just around the corner. I look forward to welcoming one another into our lives as we begin this pastoral relationship. It is an honor and sacred trust and I look forward to meeting you all soon.



I give thanks for Carol's excellent ministry with you during this last season and look forward to all that is to come as we begin our life together on June 30. Carol and I have been friends for close to twenty years and I know that you have done great ministry with her.

As we begin this time together, I am mindful of the gift of hospitality that is at the core of our United Methodist tradition. In our welcoming practices, hospitality is essential to the work of the Spirit in our midst. Jesus modeled hospitality over and over again in his ministry. He invited those on the margins of society to the center of community life - preaching good news to the poor, the binding up of the broken-hearted, and proclaiming freedom to those oppressed and in captivity. (Paraphrased from Luke 4: 18-19 NRSV)

Over the summer we'll have opportunities in smaller group settings to find out more about your hopes and dreams for our ministry together. I look forward to sharing mine as well as we discern the Spirit's work in our midst.

We will chart a new season of life and growth together. Along the way, I invite us to pay attention to cultivating the fruits of the Spirit in our midst: peace, gentleness, patience, self-control, kindness, faithfulness, generosity, love, and joy (Galatians 5: 22-23).

Some housekeeping items as we begin: I keep office hours by appointment and my sabbath day is Friday and some Saturdays. My cell phone for pastoral emergencies is 612-437-5633.

Again, I look forward to meeting you soon! In the meantime, I'll be praying for you and ask for your prayers as we begin this next season of ministry together.

Best,
Pastor Max

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Thank You from Pastor Carol

I offer a heartfelt thank you to all who made my last Sunday, May 19, so memorable. The reception organized by the Staff Parish Relations Committee, along with hospitality support by Jeff Jelen and Rod Pedley, was such a nice way to socialize after worship. And each aspect of worship, from the prayers, music, children's time, and congregation present was fitting for the day.

Please know how much I appreciate all the cards and your contributions to the pastor's discretionary fund. These contributions will enable Pastor Max to have some funding available for a ministry idea that we might not have budgeted for. I am grateful for your contributions so that this will be available to him, as I have so appreciated it to help fund office computers, some of the equipment and service technician calls needed for technology in the sanctuary, and for a stipend for the Director of the Children's Project Choir.

Pastor Max's first day is June 30. We have a plan to care well for both in-person and online worship during the transition. On May 26, Rev. Cindy Gregorson, Director of Connectional Ministries and Clergy Assistant to the Bishop, preached about gentleness. If you missed it, you may watch it online at YouTube, Facebook, or good.org.

Then, Rev. Melanie Homan, who is now an occupational therapist, will finish our Fruit of the Spirit series on June 2, preaching about self-control. After that, Rev. Homan will lead a three-week series on Disability Justice in the Church. Then your new Lead Pastor, Rev. Max Richter, will arrive June 30 for online and in-person worship. Please continue to come in person, or participate online, throughout the coming month. I know you'll be glad you did.

Here at Good Samaritan UMC we have some of the best staff around! They are well-prepared for this transition, and each one has an identified staff or committee chair as a conversation partner for any concerns that may arise. While dreams and ideas for the future are always percolating, I have encouraged them to hold those significant proposals for when Pastor Max arrives, so that he will be part of those important conversations. I hope you will do the same. And please know that I hold great optimism for your future.

I thank you again for those of you who accepted me as your pastor and your leader for this season. I am grateful. And now, may we all go into our next steps with the peace of Christ.

With gratitude,

Pastor Carol



2023-24 Staff Parish Relations Committee



Marketing

Good Sam at the Parade!



Good Samaritan will once again participate in the Edina July 4th Parade. Our Giant Puppets (also known as the Three Wise Men at Christmas time) will lead us. We need 17-20 people willing to show off the Good Sam spirit at the parade. If you can participate, please sign up at good.org/news-events/volunteer-signup-opportunities/ or let Brian Boysen (bteam@earthlink.net) or David Knutson (dhknutson73@gmail.com) know.



The parade route is less than one mile. The parade begins at 10:00 am and much of the route is shady. We will gather at 9:00 before the start of the parade for instructions and hints on puppet operation. You will have a good time, guaranteed! Car-pooling from the church may be possible. Hopefully, we will have a super mystery guest with us!

Congregational Care

Models of Ministry

He [Paul] traveled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in Greece, where he stayed three months. Because the Jews made a plot against him just as he was about to sail for Syria, he decided to go back through Macedonia. Acts 20:2-3 MSG

Throughout this section of Acts, Paul travels and preaches. He has no permanent home base, very few long-term friends, no relatives, and often moves on with short notice. Sometimes he stays a very short time: sometimes three months as mentioned here, and other times up to two years (19:10). Although he sometimes works as a tentmaker to earn money, his main activity is to preach, teach, and convert.

This is not the same kind of itineracy that we practice as UMC elders. We put down deeper roots and have families and close friends, buy homes, and settle. Rarely are we forced to leave a charge on short notice. And our job descriptions are much broader, especially in the area of overseeing the "Order" (or organization) of the church. Hopefully, Order has eliminated much of the ancient internal dissension and external antagonism we read about in the Bible. It should be noted, too, that Paul often left apprentices behind or appointed local leaders as the overseers. Few of us are called to walk in Paul's shoes, but the church still needs the few who will. Ministry comes in many forms.

Lord Jesus, raise up for us those who will travel freely to preach, teach, convert, or do whatever else you need done still today. Also, empower those who are needed to stay still and nurture those seeds of faith during the long seasons of growth. Give your church peace and acceptance during these comings and goings so that all may know your Spirit ever more fully. Amen.

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



Congregational Care

The Lorax & Other Eco-Justice Voices

A special thanks to our guest presenters, Rev. Cooper Wigen and Bill Middlecamp, for coming to share this program with us throughout May. For those who may wish to view the recordings of these sessions, they may be accessed on YouTube through the Good Samaritan United Methodist Church Edina channel. Twenty-seven Good Samaritan folks registered for this class in order to enhance their spiritual health – may you too be finding ways to live out your faith in “Everyday Justice” ways!



Take a Hike

It's not too late to join the fun! These outings are open to those who wish for a heart-pounding-hike, a leisurely-stroll, or a sit-on-a-park-bench type of experiences. Some have suggested going out for a meal afterwards. Others just liked seeing each other and sharing some simple spiritual reflections together out in nature. Over 30 Good Samaritan folks are signed up, so you are likely to find a few familiar faces with whom to share the beauty! May's outings took us to Hyland Park Reserve in Bloomington and Minnehaha Regional Park in Minneapolis; on future outings, we are looking to possibly visit Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Lake of the Isles, and Theodore Wirth Regional Park. For further information or to register to receive details, maps, and devotional podcasts go to tinyurl.com/GSTakeaHike.



Photos by
Jim Beard

Congregational Care

God's All-Inclusive World

"The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it."

Psalm 24:1 (NIV)

The images displayed in the lower level lobby are meant to remind us that "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." We have intentionally not displayed photos of familiar people as that could distract us from seeing the big picture, the broadness and diversity of creation.

You are encouraged to take time to view and embrace all of the images and think of how they might be a small sample of what our scripture represents. Then, go forth celebrating God's all-inclusive world.



Photographer/Photo ID

Robert Collins 8; Dave Hoefler 3; Dandy Lewis 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 14;
Duy Pham 16; Neil Thomas 11; Deposit Photos Purchase: 13, 15, 17; Not Known: 9

Thanks is extended to the committee members who worked on this project: Margie Soran, Mary Lewis, Beth Hutson, Lynn Oehlke, and Cynthia Kapke. Thanks also to Mark Oehlke, Phil Soran, and Mac Lewis for mounting all the photos included in the full display in Good Samaritan's lower entrance. ~ Dandy Lewis



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Children, Youth and Family Ministries

In looking for words of wisdom for you for the summer, I ran across this article from Traci Smith that was everything I was looking for, so I am sharing it with you! Happy Summer! I am praying for you and your family. ~ Jan

Three Ideas for A Faith-Filled Summer!

By Traci Smith

As Summer draws near, we have the opportunity to nurture our faith at home with our children in new ways. Here are three easy ideas for you to use to incorporate faith moments into your Summer routine:

Rainbow Nature Walk — This is so simple, and it invites mindfulness and gratitude into the hearts and minds of us all. Go on a walk through a natural area near you. Invite your children to look for something in nature that's all the colors of the rainbow. As you find the items, take a photo. When you're done, print out your "nature rainbow" and hang it somewhere in your house. If you do this each time you take a rainbow nature walk, you have a house full of rainbow memories.

Spreading Summer Sunshine — This activity allows you to think of others during the summer. Who needs extra love and sunshine this summer? How can you share love to them? Perhaps it's baking a treat or a meal or making a card? Perhaps it's returning the shopping cart to where it belongs or lending a helping hand. Make "summer sunshine" a theme for your household this summer.

Summer Family Reading Challenge — Summer is a great time to read through a special book together. I recommend *Sing, Wrestle, Spin* by Jennifer Grant or the *Celebrate Wonder* Storybook Bible. For older kids, I recommend *Holy Troublemakers and Unconventional Saints* by Daneen Akers. You could also do a summer fiction challenge by reading one (or all!) of the *Chronicles of Narnia* book. Start with the *Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*.

As you share these ideas at home and create meaningful memories at home, don't forget to report back to your friends at church what you're doing! Together we can share ideas, encourage one another, and learn from each other!



Jan M. Russell (she/her)

Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries

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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, re-connect 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 to attend or volunteer at <https://goodsamaritanedina.mycokesburyvbs.com/>.

Missions

Celebrate with VEAP!



Good Samaritan has a long history of working with VEAP (Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People) providing food, back-to-school items, and financial support. Many Good Sam folks

have also volunteered at VEAP. So now is a time to celebrate!

Since 1974, their mission has been clear: building pathways to stronger, more hopeful communities. Through providing access to healthy food, ensuring housing stability, and offering supportive services, they have made a lasting impact.

As part of this Anniversary Year, VEAP has put forward the following monthly challenges:

- June - \$50 in honor their 50th Anniversary
- July - School Supplies
- August - Condiments/Spices

For June, you can donate through Good Samaritan with a check marked for VEAP in the memo line or online by selecting GS Missions as the Fund and VEAP Foodshelf from the Sub Fund. Watch for more details on the July and August challenges.

VEAP's 50th Anniversary Summer Celebration is happening the evening of Tuesday, June 11, from 5:00 – 8:00 pm behind their building in the parking lot.

This event is open to all, featuring food trucks, music, craft beer, wine, and family-friendly activities and games. There will be a short program at 6:30 pm.

While not required to attend, RSVPs will help with planning the event. More information and RSVP can be found at veap.org/june-11.

Look for a sign-up in the Narthex or information in the e-news Highlights for going with fellow Good Sam folks to this event in the Good Sam van. ~ Janet VanBenthuisen

MN Reconciling Congregations

This year's Twin Cities PRIDE festivities will be the weekend of June 29-30 in Loring Park in Minneapolis. Minnesota Reconciling Congregations will once again have a booth and they need many volunteers for several shifts. See available times and sign up at tinyurl.com/MNRCPRIDE2024.



This is an important opportunity for us to let people know what is happening in United Methodist Churches that welcome and affirm persons of ALL sexual orientations and gender identities!



We also look forward to your presence at our next meeting on July 11, 7:00 pm on Zoom.

For questions, contact Brian Boysen at 612-220-3795 or bteam@earthlink.net.



Serving Opportunity

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

Wednesday, June 12 - 9:30-11:15 am

Sign up with Jane Heimerl at jane.heimerl@yahoo.com by Jun 10. Space is limited!

Missions

Hearts and Hammers Program Day



You are invited to volunteer:
Saturday, September 7, 2024
heartsandhammers.org

Hearts & Hammers is a local non-profit organization providing free exterior painting and maintenance assistance for income-qualified homeowners across the Twin Cities. Home improvements are limited to exterior painting and minor repairs. The Program Day is expected to consist primarily of exterior home/garage preparation, scraping, priming, painting, and landscape renewal. Volunteers are also needed to do repair and preparation work the week before the program day.

To volunteer for the Good Samaritan project, please contact Brian Boysen: (952) 937-0624 or (612) 220-3795 or email at: bteamback-up@earthlink.net.

Please provide the following information:

- Name
- Contact Info
- Work Preference (repairs, landscaping, prep and painting)

Go to Hearts & Hammers Website to review safety guidelines and electronically sign your waiver of liability. (Please note: *Paper copies are NOT available on Program Day*)

- Adults: heartsandhammers.org/adult-waiver/
- Youth (12yrs-17yrs): heartsandhammers.org/youth-waiver/

Finance Team

Financial Update

Thank you to everyone for your continued financial support. We are currently ahead of our plan year-to-date by \$23,226.

As the warm weather begins, revenues typically cool off during the summer months – please keep Good Sam Church in mind. Your continued contributions are much appreciated as our Church expenses remain fairly even over the summer months..

Also, we are looking for candidates to join our Finance Committee. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please let us know. We have a great team.

Here are the financial results through April 2024:

	YTD Actuals (thru April 2024)	Plan thru April 2024
Revenue	\$267,684	\$263,968
Expenses	\$214,401	\$233,911
Net Result	\$53,283	\$30,057

The Good Samaritan Foundation

Investing in Our Future

Many thanks to Peter Komarek and Mary Lach for this look at the work of the Investment Committee.

The Investment Committee (IC) of Good Samaritan makes the investment decisions for the assets of the **three funds of The Foundation and the church's Reserve Fund**. The members of the committee are Peter Komarek (Chair), Mary Lach, Bill Beardsley, and Mac Lewis. Bob Haddorff often attends the IC meetings as an interested and involved member of the congregation. Anyone is welcome to attend one of our quarterly meetings which are on the Good Samaritan calendar on our website – good.org.

The investment needs of The Foundation accounts have important differences given their different purposes. The Outreach Fund makes charitable grants of approximately 5% of its assets each year, while The Evergreen Fund contributes approximately 5% of its funds annually to Good Sam's operating budget. The Cornerstone Fund was established to help fund major maintenance and physical improvements to Good Sam's property. The amount and timing of outlays are uncertain throughout the year, which affects the asset allocation of stocks, bonds, or cash in each fund.

Similar to one's personal investing, the IC has several goals it tries to accomplish in the investment process. One is matching the assets of each account to its liabilities (what the money will be spent on) and the timing of when the funds will be needed. Others are to earn reasonable returns within the context of preservation of capital, and to minimize the investment fees for each account. The IC is not trying to "beat" the market, but rather set appropriate asset allocation targets and accept the return that the markets provide.

Since the Outreach and Evergreen Funds are expected to have ongoing 5% disbursements every year, the IC uses a more traditional asset allocation model of stocks, bonds, and cash. There is a tilt towards stocks that pay dividends which helps fund

their expected disbursements. These accounts have an overall yield of approximately 3% which provides about 60% of the expected distribution each year. They generally try to keep cash equivalents in the Outreach and Evergreen funds that will provide the next 12-18 months' worth of expected disbursements. This avoids last-minute selling in a distressed market.

Setting asset allocation in the Cornerstone Fund is different since the amount and timing of disbursements are uncertain. The Cornerstone Fund is invested in 100% cash equivalents since there is the possibility that all of the assets in the account might be spent in the next 12-18 months.

The Foundation Board appreciates the knowledge and guidance of the Investment Committee. The Investment Committee members welcome any questions you may have. ~ Claudia Boysen, Foundation Board Chair



Spring Planting

Our Glorious Gardens

Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who turned out to plant the church gardens. We had a nice turnout of both repeat gardeners and a few new recruits as well. Some old connections were renewed, some new ones made, and the gardens began a new season in great style! Great job, volunteers, and thanks again! ~ Steve Schultz and Mary Lach



Photos by Dandy Lewis
and Christian Nielsen



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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

Programming will resume in the fall.

GOOD SAMARITAN OFFICE HOURS

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