

July/August  
2024

# The Samaritan

## Worship Themes

July 7 - Communion /  
"Travel Lightly"

July 14 - Outdoor  
Worship / "Holy  
Legacies"

July 21 - "Holy Rest"

July 28 - "Enough"

August 4 -  
Communion / "Bread  
of Heaven"

August 11 - Outdoor  
Worship / Guest  
Preacher

August 18 - "Seeking  
Wisdom"

August 25 - "Dwelling  
Place"

## *For Equilibrium, a Blessing*

Like the joy of the sea coming home to shore,  
May the relief of laughter rinse through your soul.

As the wind loves to call things to dance,  
May your gravity be lightened by grace.

Like the dignity of moonlight restoring the earth,  
May your thoughts incline with reverence and respect.

As water takes whatever shape it is in,  
So free may you be about who you become.

**As silence smiles on the other side of what's said,**  
May your sense of irony bring perspective.

As time remains free of all that it frames,  
May your mind stay clear of all its names.

May your prayer of listening deepen enough  
to hear in the depths the laughter of God.

~ **John O'Donohue**

*To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings*

## OUR STAFF

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# Pastor's Page

Welcome, Pastor Max!

Hello Good People of Good Samaritan!

I am looking forward to joining you soon as we begin our ministry together. I want to say a word of thanks in advance to our Staff Parish Relations Committee and the hosts of the Meet & Greets (see page 3) for their leadership and hospitality as we start getting acquainted.



Here's some questions I'd like you to ponder for our Meet & Greet conversations:

1. What brought you to Good Sam? What keeps you here?
2. What do you enjoy in your free time?
3. What would you like me to know about your family/friends?
4. What do you see as three of Good Sam's best strengths and three of its greatest challenges?

Depending on the discussion length, we can also do a round of "what's your favorite musical and/or sports team?". Those are great to know anytime.

Let's plan for a half hour for simply socializing, then a 45-minute discussion with 15 minutes of wrap up. Each host, please invite someone to take notes in advance so I can gather these conversations as we go.

On another note, I also wanted to add a word about worship themes. We'll be following the lectionary throughout the summer as I discern the course for Fall/Advent. The lectionary is a three-year cycle of Biblical readings used throughout the world. I find that over time, the lectionary grounds us in a wide variety of the Bible so that we continue to learn the depth and breadth of our tradition and how the Spirit is speaking to us today.

Once again, I am looking forward to meeting all of you soon. Have a wonderful summer of renewal and fun. I'll see many of you on Sunday, June 30, and the rest throughout the summer as we gear up for fall.

Warm regards,  
**Pastor Max**

# Staff Parish Relations Committee

## Get to Know Pastor Max!



The Staff Parish Relations Committee invites you to a Meet & Greet with Pastor Max! There are several options for different days and locations at host members' homes. Day and evening times are available. Each 90-minute event has a host and address listed, so sign up for what works for you. Light refreshments will be served. See your options and sign up with the QR code or at [tinyurl.com/GSMeetGreet](http://tinyurl.com/GSMeetGreet). Questions? Contact Cindy Bergstrom in the church office at 952-929-0049 or [cindy@good.org](mailto:cindy@good.org). You can also reach out to Candy Fox at 612-790-3212 or [cansfox@aol.com](mailto:cansfox@aol.com).



## Marketing

### A New Page, A New Beginning

For several years, JoAnn and I have attended the Leadership Institute at Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. Last year, I attended a presentation put on by a company called "Reach the Lost." This company works with churches to help get their message out to as wide a population as possible. Last week, the Church Council unanimously voted to hire Reach the Lost to work with Good Samaritan as we begin the next chapter in our storied existence.



Reach the Lost will do two things for us:

- Google has a program that gives free ads to charitable organizations that meet Google's requirements. Reach the Lost will ensure we meet the requirements that Google has set out.
- Reach the Lost will also work with us to maximize search engine optimization. Presently, when someone searches for a church near us or for a progressive theology church, Good Samaritan comes up on the third, fourth, or fifth page. Unfortunately, no one continues into those pages of search returns. Reach the Lost will help that Good Sam comes up much earlier in the search.

This is an exciting time for us. We are all apprehensive about our future. The Church Council thinks this is a good expenditure of our resources and hopefully will result in growth for Good Sam. We will commit to a minimum of six months with Reach the Lost at a monthly rate of \$1,500.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 612-859-2940 or [dhknutson73@gmail.com](mailto:dhknutson73@gmail.com). Feel free to say a little prayer for this! ~Dave Knutson

# Worship



## Outdoor Worship

July 14 and August 11  
10:00 am  
(weather permitting)

Join together for worship in our outdoor amphitheater.  
Homeward Bound will lead our music on July 14.  
On August 11, the Open Choir and Brad Carlin will lead our music.

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### We Need You!

It takes many volunteers on Sunday mornings to make worship happen. Do you notice the same names on the back the bulletin every week? That's because we need more of you to step up! Here are the many areas where you can lend your support:

- Usher
- AV Tech (training provided - it's easy!)
- Liturgist
- Communion Server
- Sunday School Teacher (materials planned and provided)
- Fellowship Host (coffee & donut holes)



If we don't have enough volunteers, these things will not happen (what? no coffee?!) Sign up at [good.org/news-events/volunteer-signup-opportunities](http://good.org/news-events/volunteer-signup-opportunities).

# Minnesota Conference of the UMC

## Annual Conference Recap



Thanks to all of you Good Samaritans for providing me the opportunity to be a lay delegate to Minnesota Annual Conference in May 2024. It was convenient being at the Doubletree by Hilton in Bloomington. The theme was “Jesus Redeemer” and the gathering was punctuated by hope and expectation. Display space was available and the Minnesota Reconciling Congregations had a table. One of the changes to come from the conference gathering was a change to four districts in Minnesota. We were invited to lunch with our new District and received the contact information for Rev. Becky (Becky Jo) Messenbrink, our new district superintendent.

In other action: Members approved legislation denouncing hate crimes, opposing Israeli apartheid, and creating a Board of Lay Ministry.

You are invited to go to the Minnesota Annual Conference website at: [www.minnesotaumc.org](http://www.minnesotaumc.org) and explore for more information including facts about the 2024 Love Offering:

“The main collection of the Love Offering took place during Annual Conference, where \$103,368 were given, a 29% increase from 2023 giving! Thank you for your generosity. Funds

will still be accepted in the coming months.” Love Offering donations can still be made at [www.minnesotaumc.org/loveoffering](http://www.minnesotaumc.org/loveoffering).

You may also contact Brian Boysen, the thankful delegate, at [bteam@earthlink.net](mailto:bteam@earthlink.net).

All of the resources from this year’s Annual Conference, including photos, videos, and more recap can be found at [www.minnesotaumc.org/resources](http://www.minnesotaumc.org/resources). ~Brian Boysen

## Summer Fun

S B G T P E L S E U C E B R A B C H H P  
 X L P A M M U R K I L H Q G O I Y A C A  
 A M A D R N A B I E B A M O N R I M A R  
 L T M D S D A C H A D Z K C X V L M E K  
 E H H H N S E M I X X A I E P G J O B Y  
 R J I G E A K N M Q X P N M S Y D C Q D  
 K N U B L C S V A C A T I O N I R K E I  
 E H A H L O O P T J R W I A M W D G L Z  
 M L I C E C R E A M S U N U H E S E J C  
 L H B S E S S A L G N U S B B O L J L X

- BARBECUE
- BASEBALL
- BEACH
- CAMP
- GARDEN
- HAMMOCK
- HIKE
- ICE CREAM
- LAKESIDE
- LEMONADE
- PARK
- PICNIC
- POOL
- RELAX
- SANDALS
- SUNGLASSES
- SUNSHINE
- SWIM
- VACATION

# Congregational Care

## The Times They Are A-**Changin'**

*You know that because of the wars waged against my father David from all sides, he could not build a temple .... But now the Lord my God has given me rest on every side, and there is no adversary or disaster. I intend, therefore, to build a temple ... 1 Kings 5:3-5 NIV*

Pastor Jim Beard  
(he/him)

Director of  
Congregational Care

jim@good.org  
952-452-9396



These words come from Solomon, David's son, who is now on the throne. Whereas David's reign was filled with accounts of battles and conspiracies, Solomon's reign is going to be filled with accounts of divine fulfillment, wisdom, teaching, and building projects. These are different times, indeed.

There is a great settling taking place, a movement from neurotic Saul, to warrior David and now to design-builder Solomon. How would Solomon have fared as king in a different time? Would his wisdom have been so noteworthy under different circumstances, when perhaps different leadership skills were needed? Solomon was able to get away with giving the orders that he did only because of the groundwork done before him by Saul and David. Solomon was able to build the great Solomon's Temple to the Lord only because the times were finally ripe for such things to come forth, and his skill set was a perfect mismatch for the tasks that needed to be done.

What work are we able now to do because of the efforts of those who have gone before us? How do the times and circumstances that surround our "temple-building" activities today both limit what we will be able to accomplish and also expand the opportunities that are possible?

What about these times, which are far different than previous times, are ripe for new God-projects to be undertaken?

*Lord God, give us wisdom to know the answers to these questions for this time and place. May we be about building your kin-dom in never-before-seen ways so that all may come and be blessed by you. Grant us peace to accept what we cannot change, the courage to change what we can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.*



photo by Jim Beard

# Congregational Care

## Might You Be Interested?



A suggestion for an adult class was recently raised during Coffee Hour ... "Could Pastor Dandy (or Pastor Jim) share with us how to take better photographs with our phone/camera, since they seem pretty good at this sort of thing?" This got the brainstorming cells spinning! Why not?! Perhaps it could involve three to four short sessions which are two to three weeks apart. Possible game plan: learn a focused lesson; go out and try it for a while; bring back your results for further coaching; learn another lesson... repeat; at the end, blow up the favorites and have a

mini-art show by Good Samaritan folks. Sounds like a great opportunity when the fall colors and harvests are at their peak. But there is no sense in offering this if only a couple of people are truly interested. So, would something like this be of interest to YOU? Of course, it depends on timing and availability, etc. but does the idea even appeal to you and would you consider participating? If so, please send a simple **"I'm interested in the photography class idea"** to Pastor Jim by mid-July (jim@good.org). If a dozen or more responses come in, this program just might "develop" into something! ~ Pastor Jim

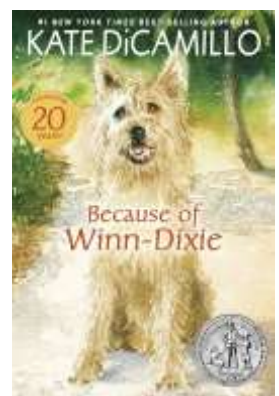


photos by Jim Beard

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## Thursday Book Club

We will have our summer gathering on Thursday, July 11 at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room. Our discussion title will be *Because of Winn-Dixie* by local author Kate DiCamillo, a coming of age story that follows ten-year-old Opal as she rescues a scruffy looking dog. All are welcome! Please join us for discussion, fellowship, and refreshments. Questions: Contact Vicki Dunn, 952-930-3431, victoria.dunn@q.com.



# Children, Youth and Family Ministries

## "Just Like Me"

Adaptive Vacation Bible Camp  
July 29 - August 1, 2024 | 10:00am - noon



We are partnering with Eden Prairie UMC to offer an Adaptive Summer Bible Camp. This experience supports kids with social, communication, and sensory needs. Children will enjoy games, fun, and creative learning with trained volunteers. Adaptive Camp is for children

3½ years and older. There is no charge for this camp. If you wish to volunteer or know someone who would like to attend, contact Jan!

## 2024 ASP Mission Trip Recap

Our 43rd ASP Mission Trip in June was an amazing experience for us all. We worked on installing soffits and fascia to make a home safer and drier. The wonderful homeowner, Margie, was a very kind and generous host. We also got the opportunity to save a turtle crossing the road! Hooray, Jack!! On top of Tip



Top Mountain there is a heard of wild horses that we were able to see. It was amazing! I believe we all felt we were in the right place at the right time. We were truly called to be in Magoffin County, Kentucky. Thank you for your support in getting us there!



Jan M. Russell (she/her)  
Director of Children, Youth  
& Family Ministries

jan@good.org  
952-452-9398



Rally Sunday, September 8  
For All ages!

Plan on bringing your backpack, diaper bag, craft bag, lunch bag, briefcase, or work bag to be blessed and to make a luggage tag after the service. The 2024-2025 school year is going to be great!





# Missions

## Spotlight on Beacon



# Beacon

INTERFAITH HOUSING COLLABORATIVE

Good Samaritan has supported Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative for many years. Many of you have attended their annual fund-raising luncheon in the fall. The next one is "Light the Way Home," September 30, from noon to 1:00 pm, at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. SE, at the University of Minnesota. If you would like to carpool with other Good Samaritans, please call Dave Knutson at 612-859-2940.

The State of Minnesota is providing an opportunity to help Beacon and benefit yourself at the same time. Briefly, the State of Minnesota will provide an 85% state income tax credit for every dollar you contribute to the Housing Tax Credit Program (minimum of \$1,000.00, maximum of \$2,000,000). You will receive an 85% tax credit on your state income tax. For instance, if you contribute \$2,000 to the program, you receive a reduction of your state income tax of \$1,700. Information about the program can be found at: [www.mnhousing.gov/shtc-contribution.html](http://www.mnhousing.gov/shtc-contribution.html)

You can benefit Beacon by specifying that your contribution goes to Prairie Pointe or Bimosedaa. Check out the information at Beacon Interfaith Housing: [www.beaconinterfaith.org/mnhousingtaxcredit](http://www.beaconinterfaith.org/mnhousingtaxcredit). Any contribution not directed to a specific program goes into a general fund for affordable housing. As of May 28, 2024, \$1,284,500 has been contributed to fund affordable housing. At present, the program is funded through 2028.

The contributions and applications for the tax credit must be made by early December. ~ David Knutson



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## Serving Opportunities



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

Wednesdays, July 10 & August 14  
9:30-11:15 am

Sign up with Jane Heimerl at [jane.heimerl@yahoo.com](mailto:jane.heimerl@yahoo.com)  
by two days before.

# Missions

## Good Samaritan Hearts and Hammers Program Day



You are invited to volunteer:  
Saturday, September 7, 2024  
[heartsandhammers.org](http://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 consist of 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 during the week before.

We start at 8:00 am and are usually done by 4:00 pm or sooner. You can work for a couple of hours, just in the morning or afternoon, or all day. Coffee, water, donuts, and lunch are provided. All materials are donated including paint, brushes, rollers, ladders, and rags. You just need to wear clothes you don't mind getting paint on. It is quite satisfying seeing a house

badly in need of a fresh coat of paint in the morning and, by the afternoon, there is a beautiful-looking home!

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](mailto:bteamback-up@earthlink.net). Or contact Roy Moeller at 952-237-7088 or [rmoelle1@gmail.com](mailto:rmoelle1@gmail.com).

Please provide the following information:

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

Go to the 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/](http://heartsandhammers.org/adult-waiver/)
- Youth (12yrs-17yrs): [heartsandhammers.org/youth-waiver/](http://heartsandhammers.org/youth-waiver/)

Our group is: Good Sam  
The house we will paint is in Bloomington.



Photos from last year's project day - before and after.

# Missions

## A Chance to Make a Difference



Edina A Better Chance provides educational and leadership opportunities to deserving high school students. They support these students in their educational and extra-curricular pursuits and support their growth to eventually become leaders in the community. The Edina ABC scholars are high-achieving Edina High School students of color who are invited into the program due to their stellar academic and leadership records. Good Samaritan has supported this organization for many years.

Edina ABC is looking for host families. A host family hosts a scholar from Saturday to Sunday (12 pm -12 pm) every other weekend during the school year. They help provide a family away from home, allowing the scholars to experience Minnesota life. Host families are encouraged to do their regular weekend routines and include the scholars in the activities, from running errands, cooking dinner together, watching movies, and even attending family events. These scholars end up creating lifelong connections with their host families, becoming one of the family over their high school careers and beyond.

Please contact Betsy Kumagai at 612-220-9699 if you have questions or know of a family that might enjoy this experience.

# Finance Team

## Financial Update - Join Us!

Thank you to everyone for your continued financial support. We remain ahead of our year-to-date plan. Because of expected higher expenses in May, we are only slightly ahead of breakeven through May 2024 – (see “YTD Actuals”, below).

Revenues are coming in as expected. Please keep Good Samaritan in mind with potential accelerated pledge payments this summer, when contributions occasionally slow down. If you are able, consider an extra contribution in July or August. Your support and contributions are much appreciated. Thank You.

All of us enhance our Good Sam Church community experience by serving and helping as we can – “You get out of it, what you put in.” With that in mind, we are looking for candidates to join our Finance Committee. Prioritizing budgets and monitoring Church finances is a satisfying way to support our Church. 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 May 2024:

	YTD Actuals (thru May 2024)	Plan – Thru May 2024
Revenue	\$304,390	\$299,079
Expenses	\$294,669	\$324,638
Net Result	\$9,721	(\$25,559)



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  
 10:00 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

Regular programming resumes  
 in September.

GOOD SAMARITAN OFFICE HOURS

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