

March
2025

The Samaritan

Worship Themes

March 2 -
Transfiguration /
Communion / "After
the Mountaintop"

March 9 - Lent 1 /
"Jesus Sought Me"

March 16 - Lent 2 /
"Do or Do Not..."

March 23 - Let 3 /
"Who Do You Say That
I Am?"

March 30 - Lent 4 /
"Clinging to What We
Know"



Feast and Fast for Lent

**Let us feast on simple pleasures,
and fast from all that gets our bodies and souls out of balance.
Let us feast on kindness, and fast from sarcasm.
Let us feast on compassion, and fast from holding grudges.
Let us feast on patience, and fast from anxiety.
Let us feast on peace, and fast from stirring up needless conflict.
Let us feast on acceptance, and fast from judgment.
Let us feast on joy, and fast from jealousy.
Let us feast on faith, and fast from fear.
Let us feast on creativity, and fast from all that deadens our souls.
Let us feast on social justice, and let us fast
from negligence of the most vulnerable.
Let us feast on service to others, and fast from selfishness.
Let us feast on delight, and fast from despair.
Let us feast on bread and wine in spiritual communion,
and fast from all that keeps us from communing deeply
with each other and with God.
So that our lives might be sufficient, fulfilled, complete,
whole, enough.
Amen!**

~ Rev. Jim Burklo
*From Birdlike and Barnless:
Meditations, Prayers and Songs
for Progressive Christians*

Photo by PJBear

OUR STAFF

Rev. Max Richter
Lead Pastor
max@good.org
952-452-9395

Rev. 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
952-221-1857

Carey Shunskis
Chancel Choir Director &
Music Coordinator
carey@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

We begin the season of Lent on March 5 with our 7:00pm Ash Wednesday service. There will be an opportunity to write down prayers of things we want to let go of to be safely burned. These are confidential prayers between you and God. We'll also share Communion and imposition of ashes as we remember the gift of our mortality.



Lent is a historic time of taking stock of our spiritual lives. The practice of fasting from certain foods in late wintertime for cleansing is one way. One can also fast or re-examine time allocation with many other practices for your well-being. Lent can also be a time of trying something new rather than giving something up. Do any of these need some attention for you this year? How about prayer, meditation, exercise, time with the Bible and other sacred texts, technology practices, time spent with loved ones and alone, dedication to life-giving hobbies and acts of service and justice?

The small groups that Pastor Jim is forming are an excellent opportunity to do this work together in community. The class that Jan is offering on Wednesday night for caregivers is another.

In my own practices, I am deeply grateful for the clergy groups that I am part of for support, accountability, learning and growth. The difference these relationships make in both my professional and personal life continue to be life changing.

As we enter the Lenten season, these days are tumultuous for our nation, local community and world. We need frequent reminders that we are on the path of following Jesus together. We need time together in community to pray, sing, renew and ask questions of our faith. We need times and places to bring our doubts, fears, hopes and joys.

Blessings for a rich and meaningful Lent as we continue to walk these days together.

Yours together in Christ,

Pastor Max

Please note that Pastor Max will be on vacation March 12-18. Pastor Jim will be on call for pastoral emergencies at 763-300-9626. Christian Nielsen will be preaching on March 16.

Worship

Lent at Good Samaritan



This year Ash Wednesday is on March 5. We will gather for worship at 7:00 p.m. You'll have the opportunity to write down something you want to release for the Lenten season that will be safely burned. This is a confidential prayer between you and God. We remember our mortality as we receive the sign of the cross on our forehead or hand. We'll also celebrate Communion as we begin the Lenten season together.

Our Lenten/Holy Week theme is "Wandering Heart" from the Sanctified Art series based on the life of the disciple Peter. Each week features a theme phrase from the beloved hymn "Come Thou Fount of Many Blessings."



Holy Week Schedule



Sunday, April 13

10:00 a.m. Palm/Passion service with Chancel Chimes and Chancel Choir
From the palm processional to the beginning of Jesus' final journey toward the cross, we begin Holy Week together.



Thursday, April 17

7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday service with Holy Communion
We remember Jesus' last night with his disciples around the table.



Friday, April 18

Good Friday Worship will include our tradition of a special online film experience, featuring the practices of *Visio Divina* ("Holy Seeing"), *Lectio Divina* ("Holy Reading"), and music. We're also offering an additional self-guided stations component for those who can attend in-person on Good Friday (hours TBA).



Sunday, April 20

Easter Morning Sunrise Online Service
10:00 a.m. Easter Festival Worship with Chancel Choir and Brass Ensemble
11:00 a.m. Fellowship time with full-size donuts!*

Please note there is one in-person Easter service this year.



(*donut not actual size)

Online Ministries

Reviews Needed!

Our digital and marketing teams have been working to improve our visibility on Google. One easy way you can help us increase our visibility and reputation on Google is to leave a review.

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



On a desktop computer, enter Good Samaritan UMC in the Google search box (not Good.org) You'll see the search results on most of the screen, but on the right (in most browsers), you'll see our Google listing. If you scroll down, you'll see a button that says, "Write a review"

On a smartphone, you can search for Good Samaritan in Google Maps and tap the "Review" tab. You can leave a star rating (5 stars being the best), and you can type a review. Google likes certain keywords, such as "awesome", "wonderful", etc. Also, words and phrasing like "progressive Christian", "inclusive", "welcoming", "looking for a church" are also helpful in reaching out to our target demographic. Also, feel free to upload your Good Samaritan photos.



Tap the stars in Google Maps to write a review.



While you're at it, if you could copy your Google review and go over to our Facebook page and paste it in their "review" section, that would help our standing on Facebook. Thank you for supporting our online and marketing efforts!

Congregational Care



Crested Butte, Colorado, 2012 Photo by PJBeard

Pastor Jim Beard
(he/him)

Director of
Congregational Care

jim@good.org
952-452-9396



It's an Inside Job

A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly,
nor is circumcision merely outward and physical.

No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly;
and circumcision is circumcision of the heart,
by the Spirit, not by the written code.

Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God.

~ Romans 2:28-29 NIV

Paul is responding with sharp pen to those who are critical and judgmental of all these new people coming into their Jewish-Christian church. He turns the table on these holier-than-thou religious folks at the beginning of Chapter 2 by pointing out how their judgment of others is actually a judgment of themselves. He holds the mirror up for them to cringe at their own imperfections. He then proceeds to draw parallels between all those who are good or evil, whether they be Jews or Gentiles. Finally, he comes to the above concluding statement: One is not a Jew by what shows on his outside, but rather what is going on inside his soul.

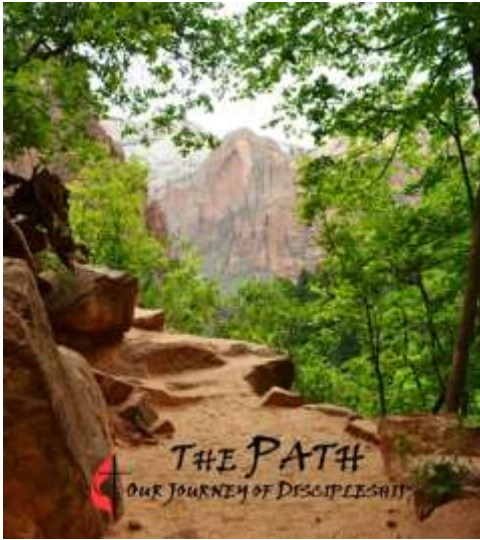
Today's younger generations wave the same banner of hypocrisy in front of church folk. And many older generations cast judgments on newcomers as they did in Paul's days. In modern language, Paul might say, "You who claim to be Christians, Christ's followers, aren't really.

Just because you wear that cross around your neck, carry that Bible around, have a Jesus bumper sticker on your car, and have your name on a piece of paper entitled Membership List, does not make you a Christian. You may have all the outward signs of being a follower, but your hearts are nowhere near the Spirit of God. A Christian is not merely one who outwardly follows the rules, but rather, one is truly a follower of Christ when one has a proper love of **God and love of neighbor first and foremost.**" The challenge for all of us is to not fall into the trappings of hypocrisy, saying one thing, yet doing the opposite. Lord help us!

God of love, help us to love as you love. Keep us from fooling ourselves into thinking we are being so holy, when we really are not. Cleanse us of our hypocrisies, forgive us our sins, and renew in us a right Spirit in you. Amen.

Congregational Care

The Path: Our Journey of Discipleship

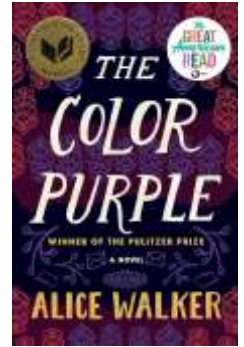


Have you ever found yourself asking, "How do I follow Jesus in a practical, tangible way? What might I be doing to experience a more vibrant spiritual life? Am I just not spiritual if I don't get spiritually filled like other people? I'm not even sure what to do next!" The destination of every disciple's path is a life centered on and living like Christ, but your path may be quite different from another's path. And reaching that destination need not feel like a directionless pursuit through a foggy countryside of indistinct spirituality; there have been paths laid forth by others who have gone before us. This series will break open the possibilities, connect you to fellow travelers, and help you to claim what makes YOUR spirit thrive!

Small groups are still being formed and will start after Ash Wednesday, March 5. Go to www.tinyurl.com/GSThePath today to take that next step along your path of discipleship! Contact Pastor Jim with questions - jjm@good.org.

Thursday Afternoon Book Group

Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 13 in the Fireside Room at 1:00 p.m. The discussion title is *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker. This Pulitzer Prize winning and often challenged novel is an eloquent portrait of black women's lives that are sustained by faith, love, and trust in the face of brutality, poverty, and racism.



Please join us for the discussion, fellowship and refreshments. Questions: contact Vicki Dunn, 952-930-3431, victoria.dunn@q.com.



Mark your calendars and RSVP for your spot at this year's Spring Social!

This event features Good Sam's band, Homeward Bound, for an evening of family-friendly music, fellowship, and fun. The band will play two sets of music in Fellowship Hall with a short intermission. Coffee, lemonade and desserts will be served. A free-will offering will benefit our music department. All are welcome. RSVP at tinyurl.com/GSSpringSocial2025 or with the QR code above.

Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Florilegium: A Book of Little Flowers

(This idea comes to us from the book *The Hopeful Family* by Amelia Richardson Dress. It is one example of what we will be exploring in the Parent/Caregiver book study in Lent.)

A Florilegium is “a collection of the flowers of literature” according to the Oxford English dictionary. Really, it is a favorite quote book. I wish I had known of this idea earlier! I absolutely love it!

If you'd like to create one, you could start with everyone's favorite Bible passage. If you don't have one, here are some suggestions from the Good Sam staff: Pastor Max – 1 Corinthians 12:7; Pastor Jim – John 10:10; Cindy – Micah 6:8; Kim - 1 Corinthians 13:4-5; Jan - Philippians 2:1-5.

You can add in a collection of favorite sayings. For example, I love the quote from Helen James, “Love and Kindness are never wasted.” My kids and husband love the quote from George Carlin, “Don't sweat the petty stuff and don't pet the sweaty stuff.”

Then make it really personal. Add a section of your favorite quotes from your family. One from mine is from when Jacy toddled into the corner cabinet and had to get staples for the cut on the top of her head. When the ER Doctor had put the first one in, she raised both hands to stop everything and said, “Don't wike (like) that!” and then dropped her hands in resignation. We now say “Don't wike that” when there is something we would rather not do but do anyway.

Things that make you smile, bring fond memories, inspire you and make you grateful for your family are all things you can add to your Florilegium. It will be a great book to revisit on down days and at future events to strengthen the bonds in your family.

I am praying for you,
Jan



Jan M. Russell (she/her)

Director of Children, Youth
& Family Ministries

jan@good.org
952-452-9398



Lenten Book Study for Care Givers

Wednesdays, March 12-April 16
6:00-7:00pm in Room 201
Child care available

Join in a discussion of the book *The Hopeful Family: Raising Resilient Children in Uncertain Times* by Amelia Richardson Dress. Raise hopeful, grounded and action-oriented children in a time that feels full of uncertainty. Sign up with the QR code or at tinyurl.com/GSHopeful.



BFF – Building Faithful Families!

For March: Lenten to Pentecost Calendar

Available on the Welcome Table in the Narthex, or let Jan know at jan@good.org if you would like a copy emailed to you.

Children, Youth and Family Ministries



Vacation Bible Camp

June 23-27 2025

Join us in a fun-filled adventure on the open road! Led by the Navigator and an adventurous pup Scout, kids will learn that God is always with them. Through engaging stories from the Navigators' Guide (the Bible), Travelers will delve into timeless tales of faith from the Old and New Testaments. Get ready for twists, turns, and excitement as they face new challenges and find strength in God's presence on this unforgettable trip! Register your child to attend or sign up to volunteer at good.samaritanedina.mycokesburyvbs.com.



Missions

What Have We Been Doing?

In February, Missions members attended the "Rent is Due" online Zoom meeting with Beacon Interfaith Housing to learn about their efforts to lobby the State Legislature for Supportive Housing Services and followed through with emails to key legislators in support of these needs.

On February 12: Ten Good Samaritans and friends gathered with many others at Feed My Starving Children to pack 128 boxes containing a total of 27,648 meals that provide 75 kids with a daily meal for a year at a cost of \$8,017.92. Thanks to Jane Heimerl and all for the leadership and support. See the March packing dates on the next page.

On February 21: Good Samaritans drove for Edina Meals on Wheels. Thanks to Vicki Dunn, Jane Heimerl and all the drivers.

What's Coming Up?



Beacon Interfaith Housing: "Rent is Due" Zoom meeting, Wednesday, March 5, 8:30-9:00 a.m. You can also tour one of their developments to learn first-hand about their impact: Wednesday, March 25, 1:00-2:00 p.m. at Emerson Village in Minneapolis. To learn more or to register for either event visit www.beaconinterfaith.org/events/.



Our next Meals on Wheels delivery date is Friday, March 21. Good Samaritan delivers meals on the 3rd and 5th Fridays of each month. The number of clients has increased, and routes have been added. We now need six drivers on our assigned days. Interested in being added to the list of potential drivers? Contact Vicki Dunn at victoria.dunn@q.com. 952-930-3431.

Missions

Minnesota Food Share Month



While we always welcome financial gifts to share with the food shelves supported by Good Samaritan - VEAP and Joyce Uptown Food Shelf - our Missions Team wants to give everyone a chance to have a more hands-on impact this March.

The need at all Minnesota food shelves has increased, and both VEAP and Joyce have people showing up without appointments but in dire need of food. Both organizations have created prepacked bags to help these people. VEAP alone has been handing out 30 to 40 of their "Express Bags" EVERY DAY.

Let's see how many of these bags Good Sam can provide for them by the end of the month!

Bring food items on Sundays, March 9 and March 16. The Missions team will tally and round out items before Sunday, March 23. On that Sunday, everyone will be invited to help fill bags after 10:00 a.m. worship for delivery to VEAP and Joyce Uptown Food Shelves.

How can you help?

- Check your pantry for items you haven't used and are not past their expiration date.
- Add needed items to your shopping list.
- Bring them to church on March 9 and 16.
- Too heavy to carry in? We'll meet you at the upstairs door prior to the church service to unload your car on those days!

Types of Items needed for each bag: cans of veggies (not green beans), cans of fruit, cans or packages of a protein, bags of rice and pasta (not mac and cheese).

Questions? Contact Janet VanBenthuyzen at jv.pandora@gmail.com or 612-229-8872. Financial donations can also be made at www.gmcc.org/march-campaign.

Reconciling News

The Minnesota Reconciling Congregations monthly meeting is on Zoom on Thursday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. For details visit their website at www.mnrcumc.org, and to receive email notices of monthly meetings contact minnesotareconciling@gmail.com.



In April, all are invited to the MN Reconciling Congregations' Annual Spring Gathering on Saturday, April 5 from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Eden Prairie UMC. This is an opportunity to gather with other Reconciling United Methodists to share lunch (bring a dish to share) and hear a program presented by Rev. Carol Zaagsma and Becky Boland. They will provide information about Regionalization and other Constitutional Amendments coming before the Annual Conference in June and about the next steps to take toward inclusiveness. More information is on their website at www.mnrcumc.org. Questions? Contact Brian Boysen 952-937-0624 or bteambackup@earthlink.net.



Serving Opportunity

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

Wednesday, March 12 @ 9:30-11:15 a.m.
Friday, March 21 @ 7:15-8:45 p.m. (new time)

Sign up with Jane Heimerl at jane.heimerl@yahoo.com by two days ahead. Space is limited!

Missions

Stonebridge Teacher Update

Minnesota, and all of the United States, has a teacher shortage. Stonebridge World School has two teachers who came from Iran. They both taught English there and in other countries' international schools. Our church has helped them get necessary documents and find an apartment. We've collected and delivered furniture and other items for their apartments, and are helping them see more of the Twin Cities since they don't have cars. They are doing well and loving the United States! Ni-yousha Monfaredmanesh, aka Miss M, teaches English. She is delighted to have her parents



coming to visit on a Visa this spring and stay with her for six months. She is also planning to go on the ASP mission trip with Good Samaritan and is looking forward to seeing more of the USA and another culture. The second teacher is Farnaz Shateri who teaches 5th grade. Her husband, Hamid, has since gotten a Visa and joined her. Farnaz came to our Hanging of the Greens service. Both ladies came to work with us at Feed My Starving Children. They are both so amazed at how much our church and our country do to help people and want to continue volunteering with our church! They are both delightful but so unhappy with their government. A third Iranian teacher will come to Stonebridge this fall if she is able to get a visa.

The Good Samaritan Foundation

Keeping What's Important



When I graduated from college, I worked for a short time for a dentist setting up the operatories, lab work, seating

patients, and one afternoon a week, sitting chairside. A fairly common question to the dentist was "Do I really have to floss my teeth?" The reply was always "Only the ones you want to keep." I've kept that recommendation of caring for the things I want to keep with me since those days. While it is a bit of a stretch to say caring for The Good Samaritan Foundation is like flossing your teeth, the concept of caring for something that is such an asset to the financial well-being of Good Samaritan and supports worthy causes beyond our doors does apply.

Who cares for The Foundation? The Foundation Board, the Investment Committee, the Finance Committee, the Trustees AND all those who donate to The Foundation. The Foundation Board members have made sure that donor wishes are honored when they designate the fund they

wish to contribute to. For the last two years, the Board has steered most of the undesignated donations to The Evergreen and Cornerstone Funds in anticipation of the need to support the operating budget when income does not meet the cash needs, or a costly repair project is anticipated.

In 2024, all funds of The Foundation ended the year with a positive change in account value. The activity included withdrawals (\$13,900 from the Outreach Fund and \$15,000 from The Evergreen Fund), donations, and investment income. The total value of the funds on 12/31/2024 was \$719,340, an increase of \$63,961 over the 2024 starting value.

It is difficult to know for certain what 2025 will be like for The Foundation. What is certain is that with continued active care from many, The Foundation will provide a source of special funds for worthy programs and projects in the Church, the community, and the world, and provide a secure and financially stable vehicle to receive and invest funds derived from gifts and bequests to the Church. ~ Claudia Boysen

Finance Team

We are off to a good start for 2025! Thank you to all who "pre-paid" your pledge for 2025 in December. If you haven't turned in your pledge yet, it is not too late! You can either pledge online at good.org/give/make-a-pledge, email Cindy at cindy@good.org, or fill out a pledge card at church.

The table below reflects our financial status through the end of January.

	Jan Actuals	Jan Plan	Year-to-Date
Income	\$119,982	\$120,817	\$119,982
Expense	\$60,101	\$55,610	\$60,101
Net	59,882	65,208	(\$5,326)

THANK YOU, Bill Beardsley! Bill is retiring from the Finance Committee and deserves a BIG round of applause for his many years of serving on the committee and as Capital Fund treasurer. Thank you, Bill!

Easter Flower Order Form



2025 Easter Flower Order Form - *Help Beautify our Sanctuary!*

Order plants below. Orders and payment are due by Sunday, March 30. Fill out this page with payment and put in the offering plate or mail to the church office (5730 Grove St, Edina, MN 55436). Checks can be made out to Good Samaritan UMC with "Easter Flowers" in the memo line.

PLEASE NOTE! This year, we will not deliver these flowers to our homebound members, but our Caring Ministries team will be giving them other smaller plants. You may donate money for these plants (see below). All ordered plants should be taken home after the 10:00 a.m. Easter worship service.

Easter Lily	\$12	Quantity _____	\$ _____
		(white)	
Asiatic Lily	\$15	_____	\$ _____
		(yellow) (orange) (pink)	
Azalea	\$25	_____	\$ _____
		(pink) (white) (bi-color)	
Hydrangea	\$30	_____	\$ _____
		(blue) (pink)	
Tulips	\$15	_____	\$ _____
		(yellow) (purple) (pink) (orange)	
Mums	\$15	_____	\$ _____
		(yellow) (white)	
Donation for plants to deliver to our homebound members		\$ _____	
		ORDER TOTAL	\$ _____

YOUR NAME(S) (PLEASE PRINT)

PHONE NUMBER

IN MEMORY OF --- or --- IN HONOR OF (check one and fill out line below)



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 a.m. (In-person and Online)

Nursery
 9:45-11:30 a.m. Infants - Age 3

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

WEDNESDAYS

(Nursery care upon request)

6:00-7:15 p.m.

- Chancel Chimes Rehearsal

7:00-8:30 p.m.

- Chancel Choir Rehearsal

7:00-8:30 p.m.

- Youth Group - 3/12, 3/26

GOOD SAMARITAN OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 Phone (952) 929-0049