

May
2025

The Samaritan

Worship Themes

May 4 - Communion /
"The Shepherd's
Care"

May 11 - "A New
Commandment"

May 18 - "Make a
Joyful Noise" / Music
Sunday

May 25 - "Peace Be
With You"



May 18 *During 10:00 a.m. Worship*

Big Music Sunday is coming up on May 18, and it's going to be a joyful celebration of music. That morning's worship service will feature all three of Good Sam's music ensembles, plus a string quartet. We've crafted this service to honor the beauty and power of music in our spiritual life - don't miss it!

Want to sing with us?
There's still time to join the choir! Rehearsals are on May 7 and May 14 from 7:00–8:00 p.m. Come raise your voice and be part of something special.

OUR STAFF

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Pastor's Page

*My heart, O God, is steadfast,
my heart is steadfast;
I will sing and make music.
~Psalm 57:7*



The psalms are the hymnbook of the Hebrew Bible, musical settings that cover the vast range of human experience from despair to joy, anger to comfort, and heartbreak to healing, just to name a few.

In our day-to-day lives, music revives the soul, energizes and centers us, gives space for grief and lament and brings hope and resolve as we continue to do God's work in the world together.

Here's a recap of a story I shared in my Easter sermon. My sister recently invited me to a joint concert of Singers in Accord, Kantorei and the South Suburban Chorale. One of the stunning pieces was "Do Not Be Daunted" by local composer Nancy Grundahl.

The song is a paraphrase of Rabbi Rami Shapiro's translation of Rabbi Tarfon's work on the Pirke Avot 2:20 and a commentary on Micah 6:8.

*Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief.
Do justly now, love mercy now, walk humbly now, with God/Love.
You need not finish the work
Neither can you abandon it.*

The words and music steady my heart. You can find a recording from the local Creekside UCC choir (formerly Mayflower UCC) at tinyurl.com/DoNotBeDaunted. I hope it is a blessing to you as well.

In the midst of tending justice, love and rest we continue to steady our hearts. May the promise of Christ's resurrection fill your heart and life, and may we continue to encourage and build up one another in love, for the healing of our world.

Yours together in ministry,

Pastor Max

Conference Love Offering



Love in Action

Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with our Annual Conference Session. The theme of the 2025 Annual Conference - which will take place June 11-13, 2025 at the St. Cloud Convention Center - is "Created for Love."

Our Love Offering theme this year is "Love in Action." Bishop Lanette Plambeck invites congregations to pray about and participate in the Love Offering as we put love into action. Donations to the 2024 Love Offering totaled \$142,963.40, a 78% increase from the 2023 total! How much will we raise this year?

This year's Love Offering will go to:

- Africa University for student scholarships (30%)
- Immigration Law and Justice Network (30%)
- OC Ministries (20%)
- Midwest Mission (20%)
- We will also collect supplies and kits for Midwest Mission and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

Descriptions of each of the recipients can be found at minnesotaumc.org/loveoffering.

Three ways to give:

We encourage each church to bring one check to Annual Conference for a collection of the Love Offering during worship. Checks can be written to Good Samaritan UMC with "Love Offering" in the memo line. Please submit payments to church by June 4.

Individuals can also securely give online. See the link at minnesotaumc.org/loveoffering.

Or you may mail a check to Minnesota UMC, 122 W. Franklin Ave., Suite 400, Minneapolis, MN 55404. Be sure to put "Love Offering" in the memo line.

Music



Join us at this year's Spring Social!

Friday, May 2
7:00-9:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

This event features Good Samaritan'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. They will also welcome two more band alumni to the stage, as well as our own Pastor Max on vocals!

Coffee, lemonade and desserts will be served. A free-will offering will benefit our music department. All are welcome.

Come Ring with Us!

Chancel Chimes welcomes the opportunity to participate in worship with the Good Samaritan congregation. We enjoy sharing our music with all of you, not just on Big Music Sunday, but every Sunday. We are always welcoming new ringers, so if you are interested in joining this spirited group, please reach out to any one of us or Director Kate Graber at the church - kate@good.org.

See you at Big Music Sunday, May 18. We will be the ones with bells on!



HOMEWARD BOUND

homewardboundband.com

Homeward Bound is also excited to announce their summer outdoor concert series, which they hope will be another opportunity for our Good Samaritan friends to hear us in a couple of fun settings around the area! See more details on the facing page.

The Lake Harriet Bandshell
Sunday, June 1, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
4135 W Lake Harriet Parkway, Minneapolis

Centennial Lakes Edina
Monday, July 28, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Maetzold Amphitheater, 7499 France Avenue S, Edina

Music

Homeward Bound This Summer!

Sunday, June 1, 5:30-7:00 p.m.: HB Live at the Lake Harriet Bandshell!
4135 W Lake Harriet Parkway, Minneapolis

HB is excited to once again be a part of the Minneapolis Music in the Parks concert series! This year, we'll be back at the magnificent Lake Harriet Bandshell, the crown jewel of the city's outdoor music venues, on the northwest shore of Lake Harriet in nearby southwest Minneapolis, and with plenty of parking nearby. Come to hear two



big sets of music from your favorite band on a late Sunday afternoon in a beautiful outdoor setting. Use the "state fair-type" bench seating, or feel free to bring a lawn chair or blanket, and food and nonalcoholic beverages as you wish. Invite a couple of friends to join you at this fun, free outdoor event, and we'll see you there!



Monday, July 28, 7:00-8:00 p.m.: HB Live at Centennial Lakes Edina!
Maetzold Amphitheater, 7499 France Avenue S, Edina

HB looks forward to its annual appearance at the Centennial Lakes amphitheater on Monday, July 28 this year! One 60-minute set of music from your favorite band in a big, beautiful venue we always enjoy playing.

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 non-alcoholic beverages. This is our final concert of the 2025 summer season, so don't miss it - see you there! ~Brad Carlin



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HomewardBoundMusicians>

Website: <https://www.homewardboundband.com/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/HomewardBoundBand/>

Congregational Care



The Empty Shroud, 2023 photo by PJBeard

Pastor Jim Beard
(he/him)
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Bedrock Crazyiness

*Now, let me ask you something profound yet troubling. If you became believers because you trusted the proclamation that Christ is alive, risen from the dead, how can you let people say that there is no such thing as a resurrection?
If there's no resurrection, there's no living Christ.*

~ 1 Corinthians 15:12-13 MSG

Paul asks his young church in Corinth, and us, to look back. We are asked to look inside ourselves to the point when we first became believers. He's saying that we most likely became believers when we first believed that the resurrection story was real. It was this crazy story about a dead man, Jesus, being alive again that probably changed us, that made us have faith, that made us put our hearts and lives in God's hands. Now, he says, how can you let others just say there is no such thing as a resurrection? Don't pass this off as being a trivial issue! If you let them win this point of faith with you, just what are you basing your faith upon?!

It's easy for me to avoid religious arguments with people. I am afraid of losing the debate. I am afraid their logic will win over my less eloquent words, and I will look foolish. Worse yet, I am afraid my beliefs will be shot down as wrong and then what will I have? Maybe I can ignore their points on some issues of faith, and concede some other points to tolerance, but we just cannot brush off the resurrection. Their skepticism does not make their arguments valid. We must hold fast to this foundational idea, even if we do look and sound crazy, even if we don't win the day. Resurrection is the heart of what our faith is truly all about!

God of miracles, Your resurrection act is incredible, and yet I believe it! Help me never to deny it in the face of confrontation. My life is so full because of your crazy love. Your love makes me claim the craziest things, because your love is real, and I know it because of the resurrection! That Easter restoration to life is the bedrock of my faith in you! Amen.

Congregational Care

Thursday Afternoon Book Group



Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 8, at 1:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Our discussion title is *The Guncle* by Steven Rowley. The story centers around a retired sitcom star and gay uncle who unexpectedly becomes the primary guardian

for his niece and nephew. We will also vote on titles for next year!



Peace Garden Planning & Planting

We are looking for new ideas! If you're interested in helping plan what flowers to plant this spring, please let us know. We'd love your input!

Peace Garden Planting
Saturday, May 17 at 10:00 a.m.

Planting the annuals in the Peace Garden is a fun Spring gathering of digging in the dirt and fellowship with other Good Samaritan folks. Even if you only have an hour in your schedule, come and plant with us. Of course there will be coffee and treats as an enticement! Please bring your own gloves and trowel. We hope you can join us.

If you have questions or ideas, please contact Steve Schultz (shschultz5@hotmail.com) or Mary Lach (mary@marylach.com).

Good Samaritan Adds Organic Recycling

Why: Good Samaritan has always valued being a good steward of our earth. We are now upping our game and including recycling organics into our daily efforts. Food waste is the single most common material sent to landfills (24% EPA 2023). When food decomposes in a landfill, it traps heat and creates methane gas. Food waste is responsible for 58% of landfill methane emissions (EPA Landfill Emissions from Land filled Food Waste 2025), contributing to global warming (UN Environment Program 2022).



How: We are able to bring organic recycling to Good Samaritan at no cost to our church by securing grants for over \$2,000: from the state of Minnesota for bins, signage, and bags from the city of Edina for weekly organics pickup for six months. Then a new comprehensive recycling company will begin organic waste collection at a savings over our current non-organics hauler.

Who: Good Samaritans can help by learning which organic or compostable items are recyclable and how to dispose of them. In fact, **the children attending Creekside Children's Place at Good Samaritan** will begin lessons on recycling daily food waste and compostables with this program, teaching our youngest how to be good stewards of the earth they will inherit.

When: The Organic Recycling coordinator for Edina will conduct an in-person presentation at church of how to identify and easily recycle food wastes and compostables. This will be scheduled after the bins are delivered and we can start organic recycling, in late spring or early summer.

Questions? Contact Kathy Clark at kjcclark@icloud.com.

Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Learning to Forgive

Greater Good Magazine defines forgiveness as:

“... a conscious, deliberate decision to release feelings of resentment or vengeance toward a person or group who has harmed you, regardless of whether they actually deserve your forgiveness.”

In *The Hopeful Family* by Amelia Richardson Dress, the author details what makes a good apology:

- It names the wrong. A real apology acknowledges the wrong, specifically, not a general, “I’m sorry.”
- It does not blame the other person. It names the behavior you exhibited, not the cause of your response.
- It offers a way of repair. For example: “I am sorry I yelled, that was not fair.” “I will try to remember to breathe when I start to get frustrated.”

How to accept an apology. Saying “it’s okay” or “It’s fine” is really not true. Instead, “I appreciate your apology.” “Your apology means a lot to me.” “I hear you.” “It will be okay, I accept your apology.”

Kids need to see good examples of apologies and acceptances. As their grown-ups, we need to model them and help them learn to do both.

I am praying for you, Jan



For May - **“Mindful Movement”**

You can pick up a copy at the Welcome Table in the Narthex or Jan can email it to you! Let her know at jan@good.org.



Jan M. Russell (she/her)

Director of Children, Youth
& Family Ministries

jan@good.org
952-452-9398



Vacation Bible Camp
June 23-27, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Join us in a fun-filled adventure on the open road. 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!

The cost is \$25 for one child or \$50 for a family - scholarships are available. Register to attend (4-years - 4th grade) or volunteer (5th grade and up) at goodsamaritanedina.mycokesburyvbs.com/.

Missions

What Have We Been Doing?

In April, Good Samaritans continued to tackle food insecurity with not just two, but three Feed My Starving Children food packing events, delivering Meals on Wheels and a very successful Minnesota Food Share project. YOU donated food and then packed 32 Express Bags (317 pounds of food) to support VEAP Food Shelf, **and the extra food that didn't fit in those bags** was donated to Joyce Uptown Food Shelf. There were also money donations for the food shelves that allowed us to donate \$1,500 to each shelf in addition to the food. THANK YOU!!

We continued to focus on housing insecurity by attending the Rent is Due online Zoom meeting with Beacon Interfaith Housing and following through with emails to key legislators in support of their efforts on supportive housing.

Several Good Samaritan folks attended the Minnesota Reconciling Congregations' Annual Spring Gathering at Eden Prairie UMC where they learned about Regionalization and other Constitutional Amendments coming before the Annual Conference in June and their impact on inclusion.

Coming Up in May

Wednesday, May 7 - Beacon Interfaith Housing: **'Rent is Due' Zoom meeting** – first Wednesday of each month, 8:30-9:00 a.m. It's always just half an hour and packed with info and an easy task to assist with their lobbying efforts. To learn more or register go to www.beaconinterfaith.org.



Friday, May 16 - Meals on Wheels. Good Samaritan drivers deliver meals on the 3rd and 5th Fridays of each month. The pickup from Normandale Lutheran is at 10:45 a.m.

We now have six routes each month, so additional drivers are welcome! Contact Vicki Dunn if you are interested in being added to the list of potential drivers each month - victoria.dunn@q.com or 952-930-3431.

Missions Spotlights



Imagine a Youth Group with **40 to 50 Kids...**

Neon, the Wesley Campus Ministry at the University of Minnesota, has probably the largest group ever! Neon has a new director, Jean

Carlos Diaz, who is dynamic, with lots of great ideas and tech talent, and is gathering all **these students at Coffman Student Union**. "If you feed them, they will come!" Raising Canes and Jimmy Johns are favorites.



In March, Jean Carlos put on an event called **"Trans Stories are Sacred"** with two ministers and six students telling their stories. 130 people attended and loved the presentations!

Our Mission Team supports the Wesley Campus Ministry, and two Good Samaritan members, Kent Holmes and JoAnn Knutson, serve on the Wesley Foundation board. We also hosted their annual celebration dinner on May 1. Your generosity has created a community that's colorful, bright, and new because of Jesus. Together we can help mold future leaders of the United Methodist Church!



Serving Opportunity

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

Friday, May 9 @ 7:15-8:45 p.m.
Wednesday, May 14 @ 9:30-11:15 a.m.

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

Missions

What if ...

What if Church educated and fed 500 children in Baiwalla, Sierra Leone. Would you be a part?

Judith Gaima had a dream. She dreamt that one day she would return to her home village of Baiwalla and start a school for the children of her village. She has done that and so much more. Judith spent 18 years in the United States graduating from Divinity School and becoming an ordained elder in the United Methodist Denomination. At last, in 2019, she opened that school in Baiwalla with 124 7th through 12th grade students. It is the Richard Ormsby School. She continually added grades, and now the school has 500 students in grades 1-12!



You may remember Rev. Gaima – she spoke at Good Samaritan in 2024. She has done more than establish a school. She has started two United Methodist congregations. She started a farm to help feed the children. She started a store to sell excess produce and supplies to help the school. She

started a girls' dormitory because of fear for the safety of the female students going to and from the school every day. She started a canteen as a meeting place for the villagers. She feeds the students every school day. We call her Judith of Baiwalla!

“I have been seeing myself as an early dropout of school because of family finances, but with your support, I am confident I can complete school.”

~ Vandi, a student

dents is far in excess of what the parents can afford. That is where Good Samaritans come in. So how much does all this cost?

- Sponsor a student for a year: \$620
- Sponsor lunch for one student: \$300 per year
- Sponsor a teacher for a year: \$1500 - \$2500
- But any amount is appreciated!

Minnesota United Methodists have been instrumental in the success of the Ormsby School. The average wage in Baiwalla is \$2.00 per day. The cost to educate, feed and house the stu-

“My parents pay more attention to education for boy children than females. It has not been easy with my schooling. Your support has helped a lot.”

~ Miatta, a student

Our support is needed now more than ever. Rice makes up 45% of the residents' diet. Yet rice has doubled and tripled in price in the last couple of years.

A dream and a dreamer can change the world.

Please help us keep the dream continuing! You may contribute online at good.org/give/give-gift/ Select the Fund “GS Missions” and the Sub Fund “Baiwalla Sierra Leone School.”

“The school feeding program has greatly improved my performance at school.”

~ Martha, a student

The Good Samaritan Foundation

Hope Blooms



As the saying goes, "April showers bring May flowers." One might wonder what will really make a springtime appearance. Will the bulbs planted last fall come up? Will the perennials be as robust as last year? Hope abounds in the spring.

For many folks, hope is what gets them through the day. When the Foundation Board members consider grant requests to be awarded from the Outreach Fund, we consider what the mission of the organization is. What is the hope of the organization? What is the hope of the individuals who are helped by the organization? Does that hope bloom into reality and grow into opportunities that make a positive change? In February, the Board awarded a grant to Oasis for Youth that serves youth ages 16-24 years, many whose hope is to make it on their own after leaving the foster care system. So many hopes and dreams! Hard work too!

The Foundation Board will meet for its second quarter meeting on Thursday, May 15 at 5:00 p.m. We will consider new grant requests for global, national, and local projects and organizations. Do you have a recommendation of a recipient? Please contact Claudia Boysen at claudial-boysen@gmail.com.

Would you like to join the Foundation Board? New members are welcome. Please contact Claudia if you are interested in learning more.

Music

When I was a child
I once sat sobbing on the floor
Beside my mother's piano
As she played and sang
For there was in her singing
A shy yet solemn glory
My smallness could not hold

And when I was asked
Why I was crying
I had no words for it
I only shook my head
And went on crying

Why is it that music
At its most beautiful
Opens a wound in us
An ache a desolation
Deep as a homesickness
For some far-off
And half-forgotten country

I've never understood
Why this is so

But there's an ancient legend
From the other side of the world
That gives away the secret
Of this mysterious sorrow

For centuries on centuries
We have been wandering
But we were made for Paradise
As deer for the forest

And when music comes to us
With its heavenly beauty
It brings us desolation
For when we hear it
We half remember
That lost native country

We dimly remember the fields
Their fragrant windswept clover
The birdsongs in the orchards
The wild white violets in the moss
By the transparent streams

And shining at the heart of it
Is the longed-for beauty
Of the One who waits for us
Who will always wait for us
In those radiant meadows

Yet also came to live with us
And wanders where we wander.

~ Anne Porter

www.saltproject.org/progressive-christian-blog/music-by-anne-porter



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5730 Grove Street
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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. (2nd & 4th Wed.) • Youth Group
	GOOD SAMARITAN OFFICE HOURS	
	Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Phone (952) 929-0049	