

June  
2025

# The Samaritan

## Worship Themes

June 1 - Communion /  
Becky Jo Messenbrink  
preaching - "These  
Bones Will Live!"

June 8 - Pentecost /  
Senior Recognition /  
"One in the Spirit"

June 15 - Trinity  
Sunday / "Hope in the  
Lord"

June 22 - "A New  
Start"

June 29 - "Don't Look  
Back"



## *When We Breathe Together*

### *A Blessing for Pentecost Day*

**This is the blessing  
we cannot speak  
by ourselves.**

**This is the blessing  
we cannot summon  
by our own devices,  
cannot shape  
to our purpose,  
cannot bend  
to our will.**

**This is the blessing  
that comes  
when we leave behind  
our aloneness  
when we gather  
together  
when we turn  
toward one another.**

**This is the blessing  
that blazes among us  
when we speak  
the words  
strange to our ears**

**when we finally listen  
into the chaos**

**when we breathe together  
at last.**

*~ Jan Richardson*

## OUR STAFF

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# Pastor's Page

## June Worship Highlights

As we begin June, we'll welcome our conference superintendent, Becky Jo Messenbrink, as our guest preacher on June 1. Becky Jo will preach on the valley of dry bones in Ezekiel 37:1-14 with her sermon titled "These Bones Will Live!"



We'll celebrate Pentecost on June 8 with Pastor Max preaching on Acts 2: 1-21 with his theme of "One in the Spirit." We'll remember the Pentecost story of the movement of the Spirit in the early church where a diverse people from all known parts of the world were given the ability to understand one another in their respective languages.

Wear something red on Pentecost Sunday to celebrate the birthday of the church! We'll also recognize our church family graduates and pray God's blessing on the next chapter of their lives.

Carey Shunksis will be our soloist on Father's Day June 15 and Homeward Bound will be our music leaders on June 22.

As we prepare for the Pentecost Season, see the cover for an invitation to soak in these words from UMC pastor, poet and artist Jan Richardson.

*Pastor Max*

## Church Conference Reschedule

Our June All Church Conference congregational meeting has been rescheduled for June 22 following worship in the sanctuary for approval of lay leadership list for 2025/26 program year.

## Good Samaritan Outdoor Summer Worship

Mark your calendars for two fun-filled outdoor services featuring our house band Homeward Bound: July 27 and August 24. Weather permitting we will be in the outdoor amphitheater.

Cover Poem: Jan Richardson on *The Painted Prayerbook*: <https://paintedprayerbook.com/2013/05/14/pentecost-when-we-breathe-together/>.

Cover Image: *Tongues as of Fire* by Jan Richardson. Purchased from Jan Richardson Images: <https://www.janrichardsonimages.com/product/tongues-as-of-fire/>.

# Online Ministries

## Adding Livestreaming to Our Online Mix

Starting in May we're offering a livestream of our In-Person Worship on the first Sunday of each month. I've received some questions about this, and I want to clarify some aspects of Livestreaming vs. Online Worship.

Our Online Worship is an intentionally crafted, immersive space, tailored specifically for those who connect online. Our worship leaders work through the camera to connect to people wherever and whenever they may be. It is a unique, meditative, and intimate worship experience. The audio and video are high quality, which enhances the service and makes it more immersive. Many churches are striving toward the standard we've set, which is a quality, on-demand worship.

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Livestreaming is a view into a worship service that is created for an in-person experience. Worship leaders can't put much attention into connecting with people online, which makes the online congregant secondary to the in-person congregation. It's produced on the fly, which means there will be technical problems, glitches, odd silences, and camera angles. We're also limited in what we can show by the built-in cameras. An adequate livestream takes planning and prep, and for three technicians to be present during

worship. To meet the demands of streaming, the audio and video are compressed and poor in quality. For the effort it requires, the product is quite low quality, is less engaging, with a flow that doesn't translate well online. For those reasons livestreams don't get many views, don't tend to retain or attract new congregants, and can sometimes be a detriment to building an online presence.

However, for people who have a long connection to the church who are unable to be present due to distance or health status, livestreaming can be a point of connection to community, and that's important. Our hope is that a monthly livestream, as a supplement to our Online Worship, will offer that connection. The monthly livestreamed service will be available on our YouTube channel on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. You can join starting at 9:45 a.m. The link will go out in our weekly Highlights email and will be on our [good.org](http://good.org) "Watch & Listen" page beneath our usual Online Worship for the week. Online Worship will continue to be available weekly after 6:00 a.m.





# Congregational Care

## More Life Can Be Yours

*My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent Father who parcels out all heaven and earth. I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in. And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you'll be able to take in with all followers of Jesus the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God. ~ Ephesians 3:14-19 MSG*

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(he/him)

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Paul is writing such a beautiful, clear-cut, encouraging letter of reassurance to the new church in Ephesus. Here are people who are just beginning to understand what living in the Spirit of God means. Paul patiently explains the mystery of God to them with words that are easy to understand but also filled with his passion for Christ. I'm not sure which is more essential, instructions for the head or inspirations for the heart; probably the combination of both.

Paul captures my own heart's desire when he wishes for all followers of Jesus to know the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love personally. I can gift nothing better to another than to have them experience the depths of this amazing grace for themselves. My life is indescribably wider, longer, deeper, higher, and fuller in God and this same love is available to all who choose to pursue and live in it. Open your hearts, I pray, and let more Life! fill your life.

*God of passion and love, I love you so deeply. How could I let myself stay away from You for so long? Being in your presence is the best place to be. You give me the peace, joy, clarity, and confidence I need daily. I do pray, O Holy One, that all may know for themselves what I have with you. You are the best gift anyone could ever receive. Amen.*

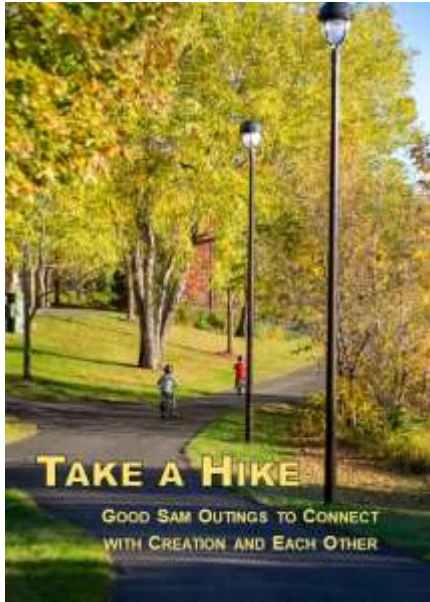


*Tulip Explosion, University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, 2025 photo by PJBeard*

# Congregational Care

## Take a Hike: Revisited

Last summer, a series of ten meditations (each 8-10 minutes in length) was created by Pastor Jim Beard and Christian Nielsen which could be used to enrich your outdoor times with God. They remain available on the Good Samaritan YouTube site and may be tapped onto once again. Immerse yourself in God's wonderful creation and let these devotional pieces center your senses on the wonders which are all around you. Access the entire playlist with the QR code or at [tinyurl.com/GSHikePlaylist](https://tinyurl.com/GSHikePlaylist).



## Peace Garden Conversations

Join Pastor Jim this summer in Good Samaritan's beautiful Peace Garden for a short time of reflection and guided conversations on sabbath renewal. Pastor Jim will share a thought-of-the-day, open up space for easy sharing, and close off each time with a simple prayer. Like clusters of day lilies, irises, and bleeding hearts, these conversations will be strewn across the landscape of the summer months, occurring twice monthly from June to September; these peace-filled times will take place for approximately 30 minutes after worship on Sunday mornings. Adjustments will be made, of course, whenever inclement weather occurs. No need to pre-register – everyone will be welcomed as a drop-in guest! Pastor Jim is also willing to facilitate other times, dates, and locations for any group of seven or more; contact him directly to check out availability.

June's Sunday Gathering Dates: June 15 and June 22.





# Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Continuing from *The Hopeful Family* book study:  
Chapter 3 - Sabbath

Here is the synopsis:

- Creating time for Sabbath is very difficult in our world that praises busyness.
- Finding rest in the week can look different depending on the age of your children. Preschooler family sabbath is very different from highschooler family sabbath.
- You may not be able to have a 24-hour electronics-free day, but could a four- or five- hour chunk of time work?
- Here are some thoughts:
  - Make a list of things that bring you joy. How can you incorporate more of these things in your life?
  - Some activities aren't easily defined as rest or work. What activities help you feel refreshed? Which ones makes you feel keyed up or restless? (Example: volunteering at a food bank - refreshed or stressed?)
  - What activities are rejuvenating for your family members? Are there differences?
  - How do the rhythms of rest, play, and work happen in your life?
  - Do you enjoy a solid routine or do you like more flexibility?
  - When are you able to be most present? What makes that possible?

I hope you find some Sabbath this month!

I am praying for you and your family. ~ Jan



Jan M. Russell (she/her)

Director of Children, Youth  
& Family Ministries

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For Summer

*Savor Summer: 50 Ideas for Summer* booklet. 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 if you would like a copy.



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 May, we supported Beacon Interfaith Housing's lobbying efforts on Supportive Housing Services by sending emails to key legislators as the final bills were being considered during the month and attending their end-of-session wrap-up gathering at the end of the month.

Feed My Starving Children – In April and May

Date	Boxes	Meals
4/2	96	55,296
4/11	85	48,960
5/9	19	10,944
5/14	102	58,752

we helped pack a lot of meals. Many people from around the area from many places and many ages show up to make all of this happen, and Good Samaritan is part of this people puzzle.

For perspective, May 14's meals are enough to feed 161 kids for a whole year! Thanks to Jane Heimerl and the packers who make this happen.

Good Samaritans drove on both May 16 and May 30 for Edina Meals on Wheels. Thanks to Vicki Dunn, Jane Heimerl and all the drivers.



Meals on Wheels dates will be Fridays, June 20 and July 18. Interested in being added to the list of potential drivers? Contact Vicki Dunn at victoria.dunn@q.com, 952-930-3431.

June is Pride Month and Twin Cities PRIDE will take place June 28 and 29. PRIDE is an opportunity for LGBTQIA+ persons to celebrate their true selves and for their allies to celebrate with them. As part of Minnesota Reconciling Congregations, we can help make this another great PRIDE celebration!



How can you help? You can help staff a booth in Loring Park to let attendees know that there is a place for them in United Methodist congregations. Jobs are available for both introverts and extroverts! And you can march in the parade with other members of the Minnesota Reconciling Congregations on Sunday.

Watch the e-news Highlights for the link to sign up or contact Brian Boyson - (952) 937-0624 or 612-220-3795 or bteambackup@earthlink.net.

## Coming Up in June:



Serving  
Opportunity

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

Wednesday, June 11 @ 9:30-11:15 a.m.

Friday, June 13 @ 7:00-8:30 p.m.

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



## It's Time to Support our Trans Siblings



As we celebrate Pride month, Minnesota Reconciling Congregations shares the following resource to further support our transgender siblings, since so many restrictions are being enacted to take away their rights and humanity.

Our trans siblings are under attack like never before. Since January 20, the current administration has been on the attack, erasing the mention of trans people in our nation's history, dismantling protections for LGBTQ+ youth in schools and spreading lies and misinformation about the trans community. Since the beginning of 2025, 36 anti-trans bills have been introduced in the US Congress and 28 in the Minnesota legislature. The United Methodist Church supports the transgender community (and the entire LGBTQ+ community) in our Social Principles:

Because all people are of sacred worth and certain basic human rights are due to everyone, we are committed to supporting the equal rights, liberties and protections of all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

### **I don't understand how a person can be transgender?**

A person is transgender (trans), when the gender they feel that they are is different from the gender they were assigned at birth. Some individuals realize this as young children, others not until later in life. Some feel that they are "not right" in their body, but don't know what is wrong. Others know it for a long time before they are able to acknowledge it. You don't have to understand what it's like to be trans in order to be an ally!

What is transitioning?

When a person begins to live as their internal gender identity, this is called gender transition. It can take many forms. Possible steps in gender transition include changing your name and/or pronouns, and the clothes you wear. These are changes in *gender expression*. Some people also take medications and/or have surgical procedures to bring their body into congruence with their gender identity. Not all trans persons choose to transition and transition looks different for each person.

How should I interact with a trans person?

- Treat them with respect!
- If you don't know the person's pronouns, ask. A trans person's pronouns may not match what you think the person looks like. That doesn't matter. Use their chosen pronouns.
- Don't ask questions about a person's transition. There are many things you may be curious about, but before you ask a question think, "Do I need this information to treat them respectfully and would I be comfortable answering this question"?

What should I do?

Educate yourself. There are many resources:

- [Transequality.org](https://transequality.org) has resources such as *Supporting the Transgender People in Your Life: A Guide to Being a Good Ally and About Transgender People*.
- *Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family* by Amy Ellis Nutt. Story of a family and their journey with a trans child. The book includes a lot of background medical information.
- *Getting To Ellen - A Memoir about Love, Honesty and Gender Change* by Ellen Krug. Story of a woman who transitioned at 51 years of age, after years of struggling.
- *Tomorrow Will Be Different: Love, Loss, and Trans Equality*, a powerful memoir by Sarah McBride, United States Representative from Delaware who is being bullied and targeted by some of her colleagues in the House.
- *Transforming: The Bible & the Lives of Transgender Christians* by Austen Hartke. A resource for trans persons and others about being trans and a Christian.

*Editor's note: Cindy Bergstrom, our church Office Manager, has a transgender young adult child and would be willing to talk with anyone about her experience and what she understands. Reach her in the office at [cindy@good.org](mailto:cindy@good.org) or 952-929-0049.*



# Missions

## Home Restoration with Volunteer Help

The Good Samaritan Hearts & Hammers Program Day is Saturday, September 6. It's not too soon to sign up now and put this on your calendars!

The Hearts & Hammers mission is to provide exterior home improvement for senior citizens, disabled individuals, and veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces or their surviving spouse so that they may continue living independently. Home improvements are limited to exterior painting and minor repairs. The purpose is to restore the character of a home and improve a home's weatherproofing and security. It consists primarily of exterior home and garage preparation, scraping, priming, painting and landscape renewal.



**HEARTS & HAMMERS**  
Restoring Homes. Touching Lives.



Good Samaritan's 2024 Crew

How can you help? There are volunteer opportunities before and on our program day. This is a great opportunity to invite friends and family members to participate! Many volunteers help to make a schedule that works for everyone. And there is work for all skill levels!

We need folks to assist with repair and prep work before our program day. Volunteers on September 6 can sign up for all or part of the day to scrape, prime and paint. Volunteers for landscape work are important to

enhance the appearance of the finished project. We also need volunteers to serve lunch to the workers on the program day.

How to sign up: Please contact Brian Boysen (952) 937-0624 or 612-220-3795 or email [bteamback-up@earthlink.net](mailto:bteamback-up@earthlink.net). Let him know your work preference – repair work, program day prep and painting, landscaping or lunch service.



Last year's home turned out beautiful!

# The Good Samaritan Foundation

## A Solid Foundation



In 1960, the cornerstone commemorating the building of the Good Samaritan church building was put into place. That building consisted of what is now Fellowship Hall, a narthex including the current fireplace area, a very small kitchen, a small meeting room, the pastor's office, and the front and back stairways that lead to the lower-level Sunday School wing. Oh, how our building has changed and grown in the last sixty-five years! Thanks to the

Trustees' oversight and the maintenance staff through the years, our building has been kept in excellent condition. Since 2009, our extremely capable Building Engineer, Dan Green, has been fully dedicated to making sure our building is a welcome space for our congregation and the many community groups who also enjoy our space.

The Good Samaritan Foundation Cornerstone Fund has helped to finance repairs and improvements that were not in the general operating budget or whose costs were so large that it required additional funding. Those projects included roof repairs, repairs to the bell tower area, an electronic door locking system, repairs to the stained-glass windows, and recently repairs to cement sidewalk areas in the lower parking lot and gym door entryway and fireplace safety repairs. A look around the building suggests that some expensive improvements are on the horizon. With the need for some projects in excess of the current balance of \$75,077, a donation to build The Cornerstone Fund would be greatly appreciated. Checks made out to Good Samaritan UMC with Cornerstone Fund on the memo line will designate your donation and help grow this fund. Thank you!

## Finance Team

### Finance Update

April was a solid Financial month for Good Samaritan! The numbers below reflect a good start to the year, with many members pre-paying their pledges early. As we enter the summer months, please be mindful of giving to your church as our expenses don't take the summer off.

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

	April Actuals	April Plan	Year-to-Date Actuals
Income	\$45,960	\$45,663	\$272,699
Expense	\$52,051	\$57,379	\$222,171
Net	-\$6,091	-\$11,716	\$50,527

# Trustees

## Maintenance Minute: Getting Outside

Happy summer! It's a change of pace of work for me when more grounds work is needed, but I enjoy the change. It's always something different with my job and I love that fact!

Dan Green  
(he/him)

Building Engineer

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612-889-4015

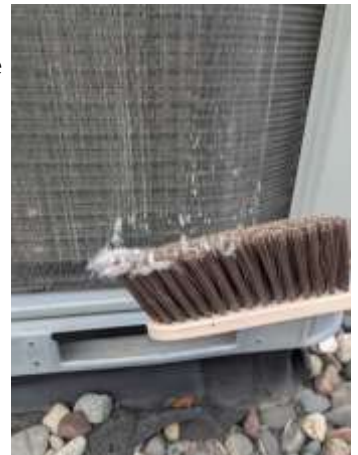


I started by getting our outside irrigation up and running. Usually we hire a company to do this to make sure all heads are set properly and changed as needed, but with everything I've learned about irrigation throughout the years I decided to do it myself and save the church a little money at the same time. It takes some time and a bit of care to do the start up. You can cause major in-ground pipes to burst if the water valves are not turned on properly. After testing all 17 zones with a total of 119 sprinkler heads that we have, I only found two heads that needed to be replaced and thankfully no pipe bursts. I did have many minor adjustments on the heads needed to make sure they are hitting the grassed areas evenly and not the pavement or cement at all.



Another thing that always happens this time of the year is the cotton trees start shedding! It gets pretty bad around the building with all of the nearby cottonwood trees. It's like snow that constantly falls during the day. This is a big problem because it causes the cotton to build up on our AC condenser fins and filters like a blanket. For any AC unit to run the most efficiently and properly, you do not want any type of build up on the fins. The fins help expel all of the heat that the compressor makes during cooling. If they are bent or have build up of any kind they are essentially blocked from getting rid of that excess heat, causing excess strain on all components, the most important being the

compressor. I lightly brush the cotton off with a handheld broom. The fins can bend very easily so you want to make sure you do this with care. If you do happen to bend them, there is a special tool called a condenser fin comb you can purchase to straighten them out. You can also use a hose and lightly spray them off to clear any build up. I do this on my AC unit at my home a couple times each year too. Next time you are outside doing chores, take a look at your AC unit to make sure the fins are clean.



Have a great summer everyone!





Good Samaritan United Methodist Church  
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	<p><b>SUNDAYS</b></p> <p>Worship 10:00 a.m. (In-person and Online)</p> <p>Nursery 9:45-11:30 a.m. Infants - Age 3</p> <p><b>Children's Sunday School</b> Held during worship following Children's Time. All are welcome!</p>	<p><b>WEDNESDAYS</b></p> <p>Wednesday Evening Programming resumes in September.</p>
<p><b>OUR VISION</b></p> <p>INSPIRING Joyful Faith</p> <p>BUILDING a Loving Community</p> <p>SERVING Neighbors Near and Far</p>	<p><b>GOOD SAMARITAN OFFICE HOURS</b></p> <p>Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Phone (952) 929-0049</p>	