

July
2025

The Samaritan

Worship Themes

July 6 - Communion /
"Time to Get Out of
Our Boats" / Pastor Jim
preaching

July 13 - "Being OK
with NOT Knowing the
Way" / Pastor Jim
preaching

July 20 - "Being
Present" / Pastor Max
preaching

July 27 - Outdoor
Worship / "Ready or
Not" / Pastor Jim
preaching



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

Kate Graber
Chancel Chimes Director
kate@good.org

Brad Carlin
Homeward Bound Director
bradleycarlin@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
Website Administrator
dandy@good.org

Good Samaritan UMC
Office: 952-929-0049

Pastor's Page

Dear Good Samaritan Family,

As we go to print, Pastor Jim Beard, Jan Russell, Brian Boysen, and I have just returned from a powerful week of the Annual Conference in St. Cloud. It's always a highlight to be part of this big family reunion across the state, see treasured colleagues and friends and do the sacred work of holy conferencing together.



You'll find a link to the entire session in this issue of *The Samaritan*, including outstanding teaching from Dr. Tim Eberhart of Garrett Evangelical Seminary on the gifts of our Wesleyan tradition for this time in history, inspiring preaching from Bishop Lanette and other wonderful colleagues, photos galore, and music to inspire your soul.

One of the most poignant moments during Annual Conference was Bishop Lanette announcing she would be traveling right after our session to ordain an elder named Richard Huskey who had been discontinued from the process fifty years ago for coming out as a gay man. Dr. Huskey served Good Samaritan in youth ministry many years ago, and some of our current congregation members have fond memories of him. In a historic act of reconciliation and repentance, Bishop Lanette made it to Rick in the hospital to ordain him the day before he died on June 16. You'll find the whole story in the link as well.

I commend all of the articles from our excellent Conference communications staff to you and thank Jim, Jan, and Brian for their leadership in helping represent Good Samaritan this year.

In other news, on June 19, Tony Branch, Jan Russell, and I attended the Church Council meeting of Aldersgate UMC to begin relationship building, ask and answer questions, and take our next steps exploring the potential merger between the congregations. I will be attending their July 27 worship service along with David and Charisse Litteken, representing Staff Parish Relations and Missions. The Aldersgate congregation will be coming to Good Samaritan for worship on August 6 for our Communion Sunday. Please keep both churches in your continued prayers as we discern the future together.

Yours together in ministry,

Pastor Max

Online Ministries

Online Ministries How & Why: Why Quality Matters, Part 1

Over the next few months, I will be offering a series of articles about our Online Ministries. I would like to clarify our strategy and why we're doing the things we do. I've received questions about why and how quality matters and its impact on our outreach. There are two main areas to consider: technical quality and quality of experience. Let's start by talking about why technical quality matters.



For our Online Worship, we use mostly freestanding cameras that are near broadcast quality. We also use mics and recorders that aren't usually part

of our built-in sound systems. After we record content, I'm able to carefully edit in multiple cameras and mix the sound for an optimum sound with presence and the best mix after recording is complete. You may have heard the music and film phrase "fix it in post", which means work can be done to improve the sound after it's recorded, provided the equipment caught the basics well enough. The ability to do post-production and editing for an on-demand service means a far better experience for a tiny fraction of the expense and people needed to produce a live stream. The ratio of effort and expenses to quality for an on-demand worship versus livestreamed isn't even close.

From a technical standpoint, live streaming is a far inferior product because of its live nature. We can't fix problems as they arise, we can't move the built-in mics and cameras for the best angles, and the signal is very compressed. That compression is why, as some have noted, you

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



see strange video artifacts and blurred faces in the stream. This is also a result of the video conference-grade livestream cameras, which are the best a church of our size can afford. Compared to the high definition of our Online Worship, livestreaming is not something most people will engage with for long. As a music therapist, I've spent time studying psychoacoustics: the science of how we perceive sound. I know that warm, intelligible, and higher quality audio will sustain the brain's attention much longer than poorer quality. This applies to music, speech, and even sounds from nature. It doesn't have to be perfect, but good enough to draw you in. Higher-quality video, focused more clearly on the people singing, speaking, praying, or preaching, will also make a more interesting and immersive experience.

The online video platforms automatically detect technical quality and use that in determining how many, if any, new people they'll show the video to. More lower-quality content will negatively impact the overall standing of our account. These are a few reasons churches and church outreach specialists are moving away from livestreaming, toward what we're already doing here at Good Samaritan.

Next month, we'll address the content itself. Please stay tuned.

Caring for Creation

Organic Recycling Program Update



You may notice some green organics recycling bins next to our blue recycling bins around the church. Posters and a few more bins are coming. We have a number of plastic bags for each organic bin as well. These have been given to us by a grant from Minnesota Waste Wise. A Veikant outdoor bin with weekly pickup will be delivered shortly, a gift from Edina Recycling. A kick-off meeting and an educational presentation on how we can be a part of the organic recycling efforts at Good Samaritan is tentatively planned for the fall. Contact Kathy Clark with questions - 952-913-6998 or kjclark@comcast.net.

A Success Story

We honored Earth Day in April but we can carry the sentiment throughout the year. When we work together to can do great things. Here is a success story about conservation efforts from Dandy Lewis. Watch for more of Dandy's stories and wildlife photos in the coming months.

The Bald Eagle – an American symbol

Bald Eagles were on the brink of extinction 40 years ago due to habitat destruction, illegal shooting, and contamination from DDT. Conservation efforts successfully led to their removal from the Endangered Species Act list in 2007. The National Eagle Center located in Wabasha, Minnesota, is a great place for eagle watching! It also offers an opportunity to see these majestic birds up close.



News & Events

Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously

This year's session of the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, "Created to Love Boldly," took place last month in St. Cloud. The scripture focus was 1 John 4. Pastor Max Richter, Pastor Jim Beard, and Jan Russell attended, along with Brian Boysen as our delegate. A highlights summary can be found at minnesotaumc.org/newsdetail/2025-ac-highlights-19121244.

Information, photos, videos, and other resources from the session can be found at minnesotaumc.org/resources.

A beautiful article about the ordination of Rev. Dr. Richard Huskey can be found at minnesotaumc.org/newsdetail/ordination-of-rev-dr-richard-huskey-19122083.



Homeward Bound in Concert!

Monday, July 28, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Centennial Lakes
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 nonalcoholic beverages. This is our final concert of the 2025 summer season, so don't miss it. See you there!



Website: homewardboundband.com



Facebook: facebook.com/HomewardBoundMusicians



YouTube: youtube.com/HomewardBoundBand



Congregational Care



Rocky Hillside, Devil's Lake State Park, Wisconsin, 2025 photo by PJBeard

Pastor Jim Beard
(he/him)

Director of
Congregational Care

jim@good.org
952-452-9396



Legislating Evil

*Doom to you who legislate evil,
who make laws that make victims—
Laws that make misery for the poor,
that rob my destitute people of dignity,
Exploiting defenseless widows,
taking advantage of homeless children.
What will you have to say on Judgment Day,
when Doomsday arrives out of the blue?
Who will you get to help you?
What good will your money do you?
~ Isaiah 10:1-3 MSG*

This first section from the prophet Isaiah is filled with words of doom and gloom for Israel. Back in Isaiah's time, "my god is better than your god" used to be the way they understood their world. But the Lord Almighty is not falling to the gods of the neighboring super-powers; on the contrary, in the prophet's eyes, God is in control of it all, therefore God was believed to be using the enemy, in this case the Assyrians, to punish Israel for its disobedience, after which the Assyrians too would feel God's wrath (Isa. 10:12ff). What an interesting way of theologizing acts of war! But of equal interest is why God is upset with Israel. Legislating evil ... passing laws which create victims ... governing in such a way that essentially robs the down-and-out of the little dignity that they have. I don't agree that God uses war as punishment, but I can see how Israel's behavior would break the heart of our Lord.

Looking back, we Americans might see in our ancestral past echoes of legislating evil through slavery and Jim Crow Laws, and of robbing the dignity from our indigenous brothers and sisters as we pushed westward and made claims of ownership on lands which weren't ours. Today, what might our laws on immigration and abortion be doing to the defenseless?

This passage makes me pause and reflect on the boards I have sat upon, the boards which have set policies and approved strategic plans. Though never the overt intent, did the "laws" we approved ever legislate evil? Did we even stop to consider the impact our actions might have, not only on the bottom line but on issues of dignity and hardship? Our agendas should include time for these considerations.

Holy One, may our entire lives reflect your goodness, justice, and grace. Help us to see that it's not just what we do on Sunday mornings that matters to you, but what we also do in our homes, in our neighborhoods, and in our boardrooms. Help me to live with a heart for others, just as Jesus did. I want to live like that. Amen.

Congregational Care



Upcoming Worship

“The Path Forward: When the Landscape Changes”

Although explorers Lewis and Clark were prepared to find a waterway to the Pacific Ocean, instead they found themselves facing the Rocky Mountains. You too may discover that the landscape in front of you has changed: the ways of connecting with God and with others have shifted, the ways of “doing” church have morphed, and therefore, new approaches for spiritual vitality are required. Pastor Jim will be leading us in worship for three Sundays in July; we’ll look together for pathways forward on our journey to follow Christ.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2 NRSV

- Sunday, July 6 -- “Time to Get Out of Our Boats”
- Sunday, July 13 – “Being OK with NOT Knowing the Way”
- Sunday, July 27 – “Ready or Not”



Peace Garden Conversations

A short time of reflection and guided conversations on sabbath renewal continues to be offered in our beautiful Peace Garden throughout the summer. Pastor Jim will share a thought-of-the-day, open-up space for easy sharing, and close off each time with a simple prayer. Each starts 15 minutes after worship ends and lasts only half an hour. No registration is necessary. July conversations will take place on July 6 and July 13.

Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Continuing from the book study of *The Hopeful Family*
by Amelia Richardson Dress
Chapter 4 - Sharing the Table

Is there anything family dinner can't fix? Except we are too busy to eat!

This month's chapter is all about sharing meals and how important they are and how difficult it is to be able to have meals as a family. Here are some great suggestions from Amelia:

- Plan meals a week at a time.
- Cook several meals at once to cut down on cooking time and increase time at the table together.
- If dinner doesn't work, try having breakfast together instead.
- Try having a theme night, Taco Tuesday or Meatless Monday to make planning easier.

My family tried having everyone pick their favorite meal and then we all learned to make it. It was surprisingly fun!

Food is the great connector. To connect us to our community we will be serving dinner with Simpson Housing Services on July 27 from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. The location is Zion Lutheran Church at 128 W 33rd St. in Minneapolis. We start cooking at 5:30 p.m. and serve dinner for 50 people at 7:00 p.m., followed by clean up. We plan on making breakfast for dinner. We need 6-10 people to sign up. Contact Jan if you and your family are interested.

I am praying for you and your family. ~Jan



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

jan@good.org
952-452-9398



Transforming Houses and Lives

The ASP Mission Trip is July 12-20 in Kentucky. Please pray for our mission team of 33 people! If you are able to contribute to the gas can fundraiser, the collection can will be in the narthex after the service on June 29 and July 6. Donations can also be made online at good.org/give/give-gift. Choose "GS Missions" as the Fund and "ASP" as the Sub Fund (the last choice).



Adaptive Vacation Bible Camp

August 4 - 7
10:00 a.m. to noon.

We are happy to partner with Eden Prairie UMC this summer. This camp is for children 3.5 years and up who would benefit from support with social, communication, and sensory needs. Embark on an exciting journey based on Joshua 1:9 – "The LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Discover God's presence everywhere as we explore new places, make new friends, and experience God's goodness together. Contact Jan for more information.

Missions

What Have We Been Doing?

In June, Beacon Interfaith Housing celebrated the success of a bill at the Minnesota state legislature to fund supportive housing services. This was a huge win for people coming out of homelessness, helping them to be successful in their new homes. Good Samaritan members are also attending Beacon sessions in June and July to learn about federal funding cuts being considered in Washington, DC, and the impact they will have on affordable housing.

Feed My Starving Children – In June, we helped pack meals to be sent around the world to help those who don't have enough to eat. Many thanks to those who packed and to Jane Heimerl for coordinating.

Good Samaritan drivers delivered meals to homebound folks for Edina Meals on Wheels on Friday, June 20. Thanks to Vicki Dunn, Jane Heimerl and all the drivers.

Pride Month – June was Pride Month and the Twin Cities Pride Festival took place June 28 and 29. Pride month is an opportunity for LGBTQIA+ people and their allies to celebrate their true selves. Minnesota Reconciling Congregations sponsors a table at the festival and several Good Samaritan members and staff are proud to be a part of the celebration each year.



Minnesota Reconciling Congregations also sponsored a table at this year's Minnesota UMC Annual Conference in June, reaching out to those in attendance and encouraging participation the Twin Cities Pride Festival. A vote to ratify the constitutional amendment on regionalization in the UMC happened as part of the process to implement changes approved at last year's general Conference. That process continues, so please stay tuned and stay supportive of the change we seek.

Giving Matters

A big thank you to all who contributed to Missions through the Easter Offering and beyond. Your generosity made the following donations in June possible.



Donations that were designated to specific groups are listed below, with extra contributions from the "Missions - Where Needed Most" (WNM) fund added by the Missions Team to get the final totals.

Additionally, \$995 was given for the Minnesota Conference Love Offering. The Missions Team added \$205 to make the total \$1,200.

Your generosity is making a difference!

Edina A Better Chance	
Designated	\$400
From Missions WNM	\$100
Total	\$500
UMCOR	
Designated	\$200
From Missions WNM	\$800
Total	\$1,000
Baiwalla School	
Designated	\$500
Designated to Library	\$250
From Missions WNM	\$500
Total	\$1,250
Feed My Starving Children	
Designated	\$100
From Missions WNM	\$400
Total	\$500
Joyce Uptown Food Shelf	
Designated	\$500
Total	\$500
Grand Total	\$3,750

Missions

Coming Up in July and Beyond

Our Meals on Wheels date will be Friday, July 18. Interested in being added to the list of potential drivers? Contact Vicki Dunn at victoria.dunn@q.com. 952-930-3431. Our Meals on Wheels site also uses SignUpGenius for volunteering to drive on other days during the month. Another way to get involved is to help with heating up and packing meals for the drivers. Talk to Vicki or Jane Heimerl for more information.



Good Samaritan is observing its 30th year as a Reconciling Congregation this year. You are invited to do something to personally recognize that milestone: make a donation to Minnesota Reconciling

Congregations to support their work, share your own story of the impact of being part of a reconciling church, attend an online meeting of the Minnesota Reconciling Network (next meeting is July 10 at 7 p.m.), or even consider attending the Reconciling Network Ministries (the national group) Convocation in Madison, Wisconsin, July 24-27. Go to the Minnesota Reconciling website, mnrucmc.org, for more information or to sign up for regular email update on their activities. Contact Brian Boysen 952-937-0624 or 612-220-3795 or bteambackup@earthlink.net for more information.



Serving Opportunity

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

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

Friday, July 25 @ 5:00-6:30 p.m.

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



Feeding Others

Volunteer to serve dinner with Simpson Housing Services on July 27 from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. The location is Zion Lutheran Church at 128 W 33rd St. in Minneapolis. We start cooking at 5:30 p.m. and serve dinner for 50 people at 7:00 p.m. followed by clean up. We plan on making breakfast for dinner. We need 6-10 people to sign up. Contact Jan if you are interested - jan@good.org or 952-452-9398 - for even part of the time.

Another Opportunity to Help!



HEARTS & HAMMERS
Restoring Homes. Touching Lives.

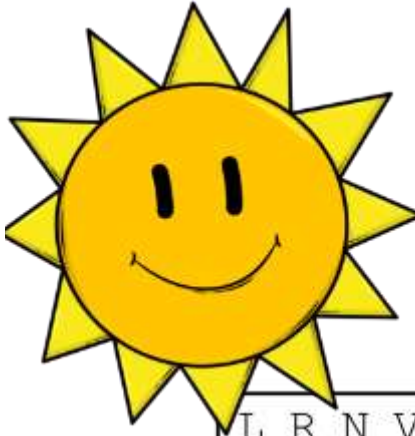
The Good Samaritan Hearts & Hammers Program Day is Saturday, September 6 with prep work the week before.

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!

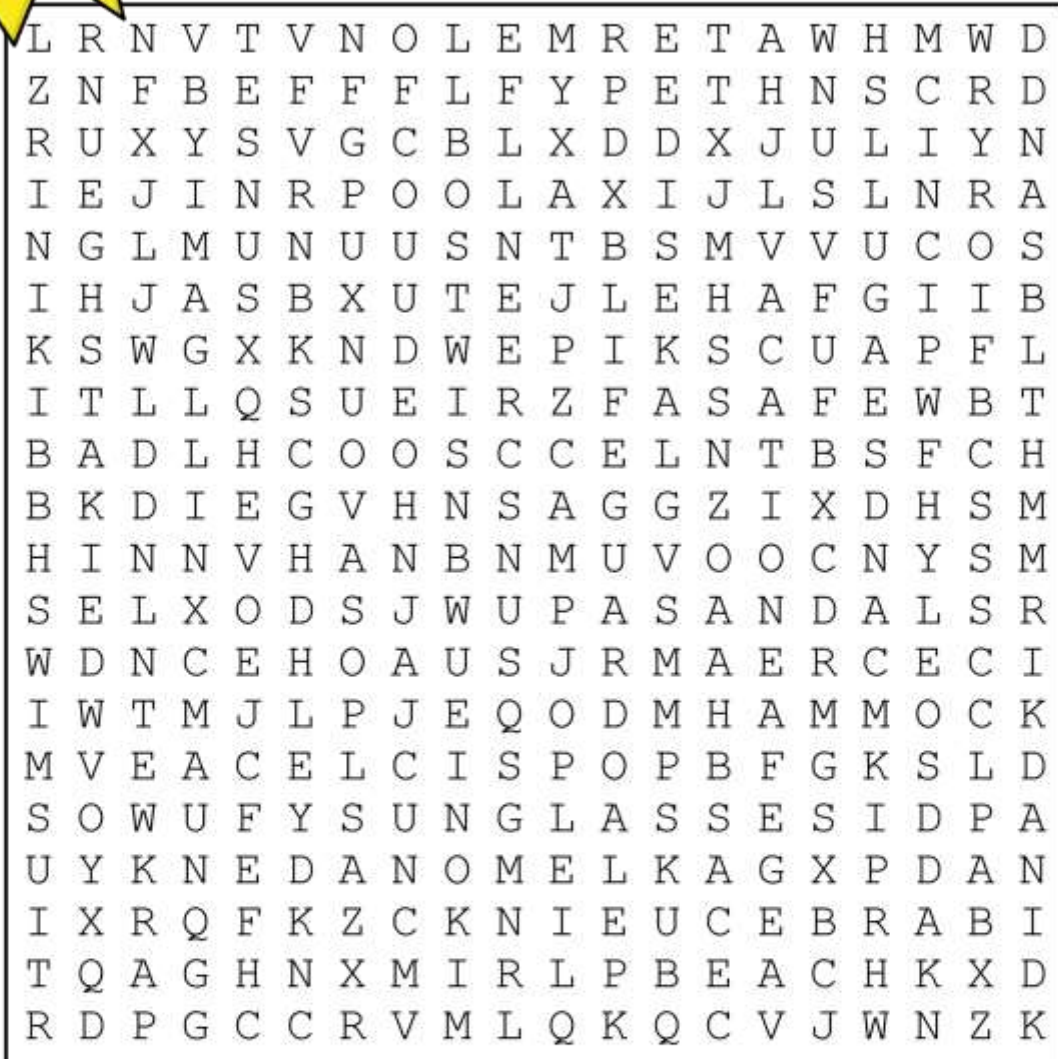
We need folks to assist with repair and prep work before our program day. Volunteers on September 6 can sign up for all or part of the day to scrape, prime and paint. Volunteers for landscape work are important to enhance the appearance of the finished project. We also need volunteers to serve lunch to the workers on the program day.

To sign up, please contact Brian Boysen at 612-220-3795 or bteambackup@earthlink.net. Let him know your work preference – repair work, program day prep & painting, landscaping or lunch service.

Word Search

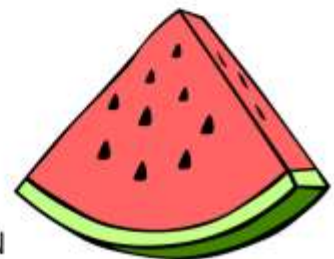


Summer Fun



Word list:

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| BARBECUE | LAKESIDE | RELAX | SUNSET |
| BASEBALL | LEMONADE | SAND | SUNGLASSES |
| BEACH | LIFEGUARD | SANDALS | SUNSCREEN |
| BIKINI | PARK | SEAGULLS | SUNSHINE |
| CAMP | PICNIC | SEASHELLS | SWIMSUIT |
| HAMMOCK | POOL | SHADE | VACATION |
| ICECREAM | POPSICLE | SUN | WATERMELON |





Good Samaritan United Methodist Church
 5730 Grove Street
 Edina, MN 55436

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 TWIN CITIES, MN
 PERMIT NO. 2518

Electronic Service Requested



**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

Wednesday Evening Programming
 resumes in September.

GOOD SAMARITAN OFFICE HOURS

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