



Good Samaritan welcomes and affirms all persons regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race or socioeconomic background. We seek to reconcile any differences that divide us.

PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

- Rev. Max Richter**, Lead Pastor (952) 452-9395, max@good.org
- Rev. Jim Beard**, Director of Congregational Care (952) 452-9396, jim@good.org
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- Rev. Dandy Lewis**, Website Administrator dandy@good.org

E-News
Email cindy@good.org to receive the weekly e-news.

Prayer Chain
Email jim@good.org for prayer requests or to receive the weekly prayer chain email.



Thank you...

- Usher:** Jane Heimerl
- AV Techs:** Jeff Jelen, Noemi Dooley
- Liturgist:** Mary Olson
- Special Music:** Homeward Bound: Scott Card, guitars; Brad Carlin, keyboards; Josh Carlin, drums; Nate Carlin, bass; Emma Huson, vocals
- Nursery:** Shelley Scharping
- Fellowship Hosts:** Jeff Jelen, Rod Pedley

WORSHIP
10:00 AM

March 22, 2026
Lent 5

Our Vision

Inspiring
Joyful Faith

Building a
Loving
Community

Serving
Neighbors
Near and Far

Today's
Scripture
John 8:2-11
Matthew 23:23



Who we are. What we do.



Good Samaritan United Methodist Church
5730 Grove Street, Edina, Minnesota 55436
(952) 929-0049 ~ good.org

WELCOME !

Nursery care is available for ages 6 weeks-3 years.

Large print hymnals and bulletins are available from the ushers.

Hearing assist devices are available at the sound booth.

Thank you for supporting our ministries!
Offering plates are available by the Sanctuary doors as you exit or scan this QR code to give securely online.



Please join us for refreshments in Fellowship Hall after worship.

*Standing or sitting.

PRELUDE "Walk a Mile in My Shoes" JOE SOUTH

If I could be you, if you could be me, for just one hour
If we could find a way to get inside each other's mind
If you could see you through my eyes, instead of your ego
I believe you'd be surprised to see, that you've been blind

Chorus: Walk a mile in my shoes,
Walk a mile in my shoes,
Hey before you abuse, criticize and accuse,
Walk a mile in my shoes!

Now, your whole world you see around you is just a reflection
And the law of karma says you gonna reap just what you sow, yes you will
So unless you've lived a life of total perfection
You better be careful of every stone that you should throw, yeah
And yet we spend the day throwing stones at one another
'Cause I don't think or wear my hair the same way you do
Well, I may be common people, but I'm your brother
And when you strike out and try to hurt me, it's hurfin' you -- Lord have mercy! **Chorus**

There are people on reservations and out in the ghettos,
And brother, there, but for the grace of God, go you and I -- yeah, yeah
And if I only had the wings of a little angel, yeah,
Don't you know I'd fly to the top of the mountain, and then I'd cry, hey,
Chorus

GREETING & WELCOME

*HYMN "Praise the Source of Faith and Learning" FWS 2004
vs. 1, 2, 4

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Welcome to the weary and the worn.
All: Welcome to the wiggly and the eager.
Welcome to the skeptical and the seeking.
Welcome to the early risers and those still trying to wake up.
Welcome to the rule followers and the rule breakers.
Welcome to those hungry for justice and those desperate for mercy.
Welcome to the sinners and the saints.
This is God's house.
You can make yourself at home here.
Let us worship our just, merciful, and faithful God!

HYMN "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" UMH 140

CHILDREN'S TIME Jan Russell
After Children's Time, children are invited to Sunday School in 200.

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

SPECIAL MUSIC "Quality of Mercy" MICHELLE SHOCKED

All you hypocrites and liars in the temple seeking gain
All you senators and lawyers with your motives to explain
All you victims and you heroes, your petitions to complain
All you murderers and martyrs on the fields where you lay slain

Chorus: On the just and unjust alike it doth rain,
And the quality of mercy is not strained,
Yes, vengeance and revenge are just two words for pain,
And the quality of mercy is not strained!

Did not I crucify my Lord? Did not I bind Him in chains?
Did not I three times betray Him? Three times deny His name?
Did not I cast the first stone, then justify the blame?
Did not He die for my sins, but never would I do the same?

Chorus: Oh I've been three times a sinner, and two times a saint,
And the quality of mercy is not strained,
Yes, for Love, if it's Love, is changing but unchanged,
And the quality of mercy is not strained!

Hypocrites and liars -- senators and lawyers,
Victims and heroes -- murderers and martyrs,
Crucify my Lord -- bind Him in chains,
Three times betray Him -- justify the blame,

Chorus: On the just and unjust alike it doth rain,
And the quality of mercy is not strained!

SCRIPTURE John 8:2-11; Matthew 23:23 (NRSVUE)
The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE Rev. Max Richter
"The good news is...rooted in justice, mercy and faithfulness"

*HYMN "Change My Heart, O God" FWS 2152

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our God*, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

(*Mother, Father, Creator, etc. - use the word that is most meaningful for you.)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY

*HYMN "Go Ye, Go Ye into the World" FWS 2239

*BLESSING

As we leave this place, when you meet anger, speak with love.

When we meet fear, **speak with hope.**

When we meet pain, **speak with gentleness.**

But no matter what, speak this good news.

For the good news of the gospel is love and justice for all. It is joy that surprises, and nonviolence that transforms.

The good news of the gospel is alive in the world, so go forth speaking.

For if we won't, then who will? Thanks be to God for this good, good news.

Amen.

*POSTLUDE "Yes We Can Can" ALLEN TOUSSAINT

Now's the time for all good men to get together with one another
Iron out our problems and iron out our quarrels, and try to live as brothers
And try to find peace within without stepping on one another
And do respect the women of the world, just remember we all had mothers

Chorus: Make this land a better land than the world in which we live
And help each man be a better man with all the kindness that we give
I know we can make it (I know that we can)
I know darn well, we can work it out
(Oh, yes, we can, I know we can, can
Yes, we can, can, why can't we if we wanna, yes, we can, can!)
I know we can make it (I know that we can)
I know that we can make it if we try
(Oh, yes, we can, I know we can, can
Yes, we can great-gosh almighty yes, we can, I know we can, can!)

Take care of all the children, the little children of the world
They're our strongest hope for the future, all the little bitty boys and girls **Chorus**

Call to Worship: by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Blessing: Adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.



Epilogue

by T. Denise Anderson

Inspired by John 8:2-11

14"x18" Acrylic on canvas

I often wonder about the backstory of the woman from John 8:2-11. What were her circumstances? How did they “catch” her in the act of adultery? *In flagrante delicto*?¹ Was it less graphic than that? Was she allowed to explain herself? Did she protest? If she was about to be stoned, what happened to the person with whom she was accused? Was this a loving relationship? Was it even consensual?

Whatever her story, the Pharisees bring her to Jesus expecting him to uphold the law’s punitive prescription. Jesus knows it’s a trap. If he concurs with the law, he initiates and must bear witness to an act of extreme brutality that would traumatize anyone who had to watch. If he counters the law, he’s a heretic and should probably be stoned himself. But he outsmarts them and turns their self-righteousness and rage back onto them.

In what should have been the end of her life’s story, this woman now finds herself standing. Whole. Alive. Freed to a new future. And through it all, Jesus is just drawing on the ground—like you do!

I wanted to show this woman standing in her wholeness, right after the crowds have dispersed and right before Jesus rises to meet her as an equal. She’s backlit in a way that suggests the sun has set, indicating the end of a saga. What will she do at the end of a nightmare with a new life ahead of her? What decisions do we face at the dawn of a second chance? —Rev. T. Denise Anderson

Look

Contemplate the woman in the image. What do you imagine is her backstory? What do you dream for her future?

¹ This is a Latin phrase often used in legal contexts that can be translated to: “in the very act of committing an offense.



Good Sam Happenings

You're in a GOOD place to ... connect, grow, worship ...

March is Minnesota Food Share Month



This year, we are highlighting the food shelf at **STEP** (St. Louis Park Emergency Program).

STEP provides emergency food packs for clients who are in immediate need of food. Some of these clients are unhoused. STEP provides easy to use, small-sized options, which are not often donated. We would like to create a supply of these items so STEP can meet the increasing requests for emergency food. We will be collecting your

donations through the month of March. Look for the collection basket in the Narthex.

Items needed:

- mac & cheese cups
- easy-open canned vegetables
- individual cereal boxes/cups
- tuna or chicken pouches (unflavored)
- chicken salad pouches (unflavored)
- snack-sized trail mix/nuts
- shelf-stable almond milk



Serve a Meal at Simpson

On **this Thursday, March 26 at 5:00 p.m.**, we will serve a meal at the newly opened facility (2740 1st Avenue S, Minneapolis). They will have all the food ready for us to prep and serve, then we clean up and we are done by 8:00 p.m.! Youth aged 16 and up are welcome. Sign up at tinyurl.com/GSSimpsonMeal. Contact Jan at jan@good.org or 952-452-9398 with any questions.



FMSC Meal Packing



Upcoming Feed My Starving Children date: **This Friday, March 27, 7:15-8:45 p.m.** Contact Jane - jane.heimerl@yahoo.com. - to sign up.

Parenting Workshop "5 Keys to Raising Resilient Kids"

Next Sunday, March 29, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Room 201



Parents, teachers, and other caregivers can learn proven strategies to help kids handle stress, anxiety, and life's ups and downs with confidence. There is no charge for this workshop; however, there is a limit on the number of attendees. Please reserve your spot at tinyurl.com/GSResilient or with the QR code.



Trans Day of Visibility Event

Celebrate Trans Day of Visibility with Prism Network and other folks in the West Metro on **Tuesday, March 31, 6:30 p.m.** at the Plymouth Community Center (14800 34th Ave N). Together we'll gather for simple refreshments and a powerful community experience, learning from a panel presentation by "Mama Bear" parents of trans folks. We'll also take action by creating affirming artwork and contacting legislators about the importance of supporting trans Minnesotans. Allies are encouraged to attend. There is no cost, but please RSVP. Visit tinyurl.com/TDOVWM to learn more and RSVP.



At Lake Harriet UMC 4901 Chowen Avenue S, MPLS

Join us for a service of music, Scripture, prayer, and Communion as we stand at the foot of the cross.

