

May
2026

The Samaritan

Worship Themes

May 3 - Easter 5 /
Communion / "A
Place for You"

May 10 - Easter 6 /
"Spirit of Truth"

May 17 - Big Music
Sunday / "Better
Together"

May 24 - Pentecost /
Filled with the Spirit"

May 31 - Trinity
Sunday / "With You
Always"



Sunday, May 17

During 10:00 a.m. Worship

Come together, right now...for Big Music Sunday!

Join us for Big Music Sunday, a joyful celebration of unity, togetherness, and the power of music in our shared life of faith. This special annual service will feature all of our musical ensembles - Faith Alive, Jubilee!, Chancel Chimes, Chancel Choir, and Homeward Bound—coming together in one uplifting experience.

As we continue to grow as one united community, these ensembles beautifully reflect the gifts, traditions, and spirit each congregation brings. Big Music Sunday is more than a musical event; it is a meaningful expression of who we are together.

Looking to get involved? Contact Carey@good.org to learn more about joining an ensemble or supporting the music ministry financially or in other ways.

OUR STAFF

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

Rev. Jim Beard
Director of Congregational
Care
jim@good.org
(952) 452-9396

Jan Russell
Director of Children, Youth
and Family Ministries
jan@good.org
(952) 452-9398

Noemi Dooley
Coordinator of Online
Engagement
noemi@good.org

Carey Shunskis
Director of Music Ministries/
Chancel Choir
carey@good.org

Cynthia Betz
Organist/Accompanist
cynthia@good.org

Kate Graber
Chancel Chimes Director
kate@good.org

Christina Herold
Jubilee! Bell Choir Director
christina@good.org

Brad Carlin
Homeward Bound Director
bradleypcarlin@gmail.com

Serena Steffenhagen
Small Groups/Faith Alive Director
serena@good.org

Cindy Bergstrom
Office Manager
cindy@good.org
(952) 952-0049

Kim Hill
Bookkeeper
kim@good.org
(952) 452-9394

Dan Green
Building Engineer
danrg@good.org
(952) 452-9400

Dandy Lewis
Website Administrator
dandy@good.org

Pastor's Page

The Psalms are the hymnbook of the Hebrew Bible, giving voice to the vast range of human experiences: grief, fear, comfort, praise, isolation, joy, and everything in between. One of the texts we are using for Big Music Sunday is Psalm 121.



Psalm 121 (Updated New Revised Standard Version)
Assurance of God's Protection

A Song of Ascents.

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?

2 My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

4 He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

5 The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

6 The sun shall not strike you by day
nor the moon by night.

7 The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

8 The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.



I invite you to pray these words with me in the promise and renewal of these Spring Days as we move into May and continue moving forward as the community God is calling us to be as the new Good Samaritan United Methodist Church. Read through them slowly three times and see what words and images speak to your soul. We call this practice "lectio divina" or holy reading. There may even be some words that shimmer off the page to you or strike your ear in a certain way.

May you rest in God's presence in the energizing renewal of Spring.

Yours together in ministry,

Pastor Max

News & Events

Spring Luncheon

Tuesday Bible Study invites you to the annual Spring Luncheon on Tuesday, May 5, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., in the Fireside Room. Please come to this informal gathering to catch up with friends, make new ones, and visit with staff who can be there. There's no cost. Please RSVP to Lynn Timmer (timmerlynn@gmail.com).



Wesley/Neon Celebration Dinner at Good Samaritan

Thursday, May 7, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
with Homeward Bound
Please RSVP by Sunday, May 3
at neontogogether.org/rsvp.



Neon, the Methodist Campus Ministry at the University of Minnesota, invites you to their annual Wesley Celebration, hosted by Good Samaritan. The annual dinner is to celebrate stories, students, and supporters who make Neon possible, and spread the good news about the ministry.

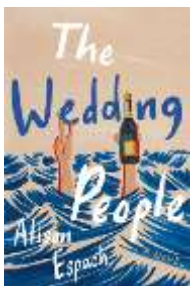
A milestone has just been reached of 1,000 students who have come to Neon events this past school year! The student group has grown from only a half dozen during COVID to 50-60 at weekly meetings and up to 100 at monthly events.

Enjoy a dinner catered by Soul Bowl with vegetarian and gluten-free options available. We'll enjoy live music from Good Samaritan's own Homeward Bound band and hear heartwarming stories from students and their experience with Neon. Life can be busy, but we promise you will leave with more hope and a bigger heart for the next generation.

To learn more about this ministry, the people behind it, or how you can become involved:

- Come to the dinner on May 7, 6-8 pm at Good Samaritan UMC (RSVP at neontogogether.org/RSVP)
- Visit their website, neontogogether.org, or
- Contact Good Samaritan members involved with Neon:
 - * Kent Holmes (Wesley Board Member, & Finance Committee Chair) at kent.l.holmes@gmail.com
 - * Linda Hammersten (Program Events Assistant) at lindahammersten@msn.com
 - * Joann Knutson (former Board Member) at joannknutson@hotmail.com
 - * Dave Knutson (former Board Member) at dhknutson73@gmail.com
- Become a member of the Board of Directors. We are currently looking for new members. There is a minimal amount of commitment needed. Contact Kent Holmes (see above) to learn more.

Thursday Afternoon Book Group



Our next meeting will be on May 14 at 1:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Our discussion title is *The Wedding People* by Alison Espach, a story of an unexpected wedding guest and the people who helped her start anew. Please join us for fellowship, discussion and refreshments! Contact Vicki Dunn, 651-249-6948, victoria.dunn@myctl.net with questions.

Music

As we look forward to Big Music Sunday on May 17, here is a little history of a couple of our music groups.

Chancel Choir

by Katie Braddock and Shirley Braddock

For over 60 years, Good Samaritan has enjoyed anthems and hymns performed by the Chancel Choir. Originally led by director and organist Marjean Postlethwaite, the Chancel Choir has been blessed with many amazing directors and talented organists throughout its tenure. While steeped in traditions such as the "Hallelujah Chorus" every Easter, the choir has never been afraid to try something new! In the summer of 1992, the choir embarked on a tour of England, including singing at Coventry Cathedral. One of the fundraising efforts for this tour was the famous cookbook that many of us still use to this day. The choir loves to sing with the Chancel Chimes, Homeward Bound, and other community and church groups in the area. Once, we sang with the Sumunar Gamelan group, working alongside traditional Indonesian bronze gongs and metallophones. Some of our larger works have included the *Requiems* by Mozart, Brahms, Faure, and Rutter, along with Handel's *Messiah*. There is an unmatched joy in leading worship through song.



Choir 1964

Chancel Chimes 2009



Music



Homeward Bound
by Brad Carlin

Homeward Bound has served as the “house band” for Good Samaritan UMC in Edina for nearly 40 years. The band formed in the late 1980s as a “pick-up” group of volunteers providing musical leadership for an annual outdoor “Camp Meeting” worship service, patterned after Methodist camp meetings of early 19th-century America. The senior minister at that time, Gordon Minehart, would actually arrive on horseback dressed as a “circuit rider”, the name for early Methodist pastors who rode from town to town, preaching in large tents and revival meetings. Founding members of the band at that time included Jim Fuller on guitar, Colin Nelson on bass, and LaGretta Stegner and Karen Anderson on vocals. Current HB bandleader Brad Carlin joined this effort in 1992, and for many years, the band existed only as a summer volunteer activity. Over time, HB started to contribute to regular Sunday worship services in the sanctuary. Rehearsing was a problem, since there was no dedicated “band room” back then; the band simply kept their gear in a storage room and unpacked it into the Fellowship Hall when they needed to practice. When the building expanded and the new Gym and Youth Rooms were added, the band finally got its own room, a former Youth Room underneath the Sanctuary (in what is now called “the Music Wing”).

In the late 1990s, Good Sam started a weekly third worship service, using a nontraditional format

focused on discussion of challenging issues in the faith; the service was led by Dutch Handlang and held on Sunday nights in the Fireside Room. Homeward Bound was chosen to provide music leadership for this service. This marked a turning point for the band, in the sense that the need to prepare material and play every single week (instead of just at irregular intervals throughout the year) forced the band to dramatically upgrade both its repertoire and musicianship. While the third service, unfortunately, did not generate enough attendance to last more than a couple of years, it solidified HB as an important, standing musical group in the church. Around this same time, the band began playing gigs outside of Good Samaritan, including worship services at other churches, free summer outdoor concerts at Centennial Lakes Edina and Minnehaha Falls in Minneapolis, and even the occasional coffeeshop or bar gig (including a New Year's Eve show at Tuttle's Eat Bowl Play). The band's personnel has changed quite a lot over the years, but its basic mission to provide a very broad range of uplifting contemporary music (i.e., not restricted to traditional praise and worship material) with a message matched to the week's primary worship theme has remained unchanged.



Congregational Care



Pastor Jim Beard
(he/him)
Director of
Congregational Care
jim@good.org
952-452-9396



A Missing Petal
2016 photo by PJ Beard

[Peter] said, "Friends, long ago the Holy Spirit spoke through David regarding Judas, who became the guide to those who arrested Jesus. That Scripture had to be fulfilled, and now has been. Judas was one of us and had his assigned place in this ministry." - Acts 1:16-17 MSG

Judas is so often cast in our minds as the bad guy, the evil one who betrayed Jesus. This passage at least gives us a glimpse into the hearts of others with regard to Judas. Peter's words are not tinged with accusation or anger, nor with disgust or righteousness. Rather, we might even hear notes of sadness and grief for Judas here – How could he take his life this way?! Certainly, the disciples have recently gone through emotions of agony and grief over Jesus' death, but they may also be grieving the death of one of their closest friends as well, namely Judas.

Joyfully, Jesus has returned, but not Judas. There is a hole in their communal lives, not merely a vacancy in their corporate structure. How tragic that Judas never got to witness the risen Christ and feel his reconciling forgiveness as Peter did. Peter finally stands and addresses the situation, and with comforting words, he points out how prophecy has again come true, that Judas had a fateful (even faithful) role to fulfill for God, and he did so as predicted long ago. Judas was an invaluable part of the ministry and the story of God.

Fifteen years or so ago, a very close friend of ours died unexpectedly of a heart attack at age 56. The fabric of my life felt like a part of it had been torn out. Tears for this friend, who would be with us no more, welled up daily. I now imagine Peter, John, and all the rest grieving in a similar way, for this must have been such an intimate group of friends those last three years with Jesus. To callously villainize Judas is probably an injustice; to ignore the depth of grief of anyone who has lost a friend, regardless of circumstances, is insensitive. Next time I am about to peg someone as a Judas, I need to stop and remember the aching hearts of Peter and his friends.

Mothering God, thank you for all the friends who are woven into the fabric of our lives. Forgive our quick judgments and negative projections. Guide us with hearts of compassion for all who grieve and help us to sensitively reach out with words and actions of comfort to all who remain behind in this world. Lead us out of our darkness and help our hearts to beat again. Amen.

Congregational Care



Summertime Meets & Eats

Let's get together this summer, have a picnic, meet some new friends, and simply enjoy being God's family! Plan to stay after worship on the second Sunday of each month this summer and join the fun. The intent is to keep building the

relationships among our Aldersgate folks, our Good Samaritan families, and the any other new faces who have been coming through our doors. A simple cookout will be provided; something interactive will be offered to help build community around each table; and of course, ice cream treats will be on hand! Freewill offerings will be accepted to cover costs; no pre-registration will be necessary; all ages will be welcome. What do you need to do? It would be great if you could lend a hand or bring food to one or more of the gatherings. Use the QR code, go to tinyurl.com/GSSummertime, or use the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

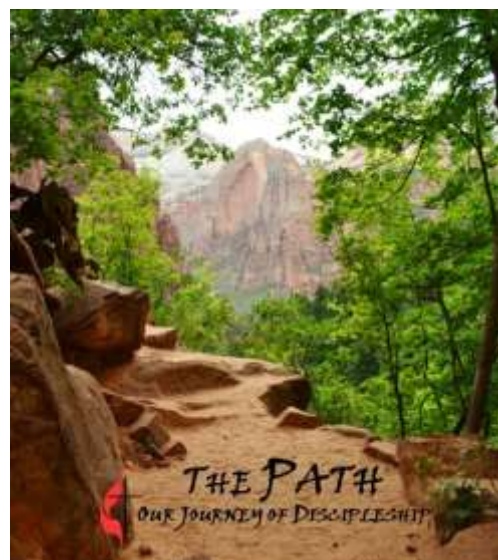


Our first gathering will be Sunday, June 14

The Path: Our Journey of Discipleship

For those who weren't able to participate in this small group experience the first time it was offered, no worries - it is back by popular demand this summer! The Path is a 6-session series that empowers you to be honest, to explore, to experiment. Each session opens up a different United Methodist practice to help empower your spiritual growth and vitality.

- What kind of prayer works for you?
- Is your Bible an untouched relic on your shelf or a useful life-giving manual? What other holy readings are there for your spiritual style?
- Why is belonging to a faith community vital to your spiritual health?
- What's all this about tithing?! Is there more to it besides paying the church's bills?
- What are your spiritual gifts and where can you share them?
- How do you let others know what God has done for you without freaking anybody out (including yourself)?



Small groups of 8-10 people will meet throughout the summer. Timing is flexible, as is location. Use the QR code or go to tinyurl.com/GSThePath2 for further information and to get started. This has been one session that many enjoyed in the past; it is anticipated that it will be just as impactful for you!

Missions & Reconciling

What Have We Been Doing?

FOOD SECURITY: Over 160 lb of food and \$535 were delivered to STEP (St Louis Park Emergency Program) from the March Minnesota Food Share drive. Thank you!



Feed My Starving Children – In the last two events, Good Samaritans joined with other volunteers to pack 70 boxes of food – that is 32,040 meals, enough to feed 87 children for a year. In April, FMSC announced that they have packed and provided over five billion meals. Wow!



HOUSING SECURITY: In April, we assisted a Stonebridge School family coming out of homelessness with part of their damage deposit and assisted them as well as another family with finding beds and other household needs.

NEON is the Wesley Campus Ministry at the University of Minnesota. Their annual Celebration is happening on Thursday, May 7, in Aldersgate Hall (see page 3). They have had an exciting year of growth as a milestone was



achieved with reaching 1,000 students over the school year. Food and programs that focus on students' lived experiences have drawn them to the program. At the Celebration, we are promised to hear heartwarming stories from students and their experience with Neon and to leave with more hope and a bigger heart for the next generation

Coming Up in May

Wednesday, May 6, 8:30-9:00 a.m.: Beacon Interfaith Housing "Rent Is Due", monthly update and advocacy action on Zoom. Register at www.beaconinterfaith.org/events.



Thursday, May 7, 6:00–8:00 p.m.: Wesley Celebration, Aldersgate Hall (see page 3).

Friday, May 8, 7:15–8:45 p.m. and Wednesday, May 13, 9:30–11:15 a.m.: Feed My Starving Children meal packing at the Chanhassen location. Register with Jane Heimerl at jane.heimerl@yahoo.com.



Thursday, May 14, 7:00 p.m., Minnesota Reconciling Congregations regular meeting, online. Contact Brian Boysen at bteambackup@earthlink.net or visit the reconciling website at www.mnrcumc.org. You can also follow them on Facebook!

Thursday, May 14, 7:30–8:30 p.m.: Missions Team meeting in the Conference Room, with Zoom link option

Friday, May 22 10:45 a.m.: Meals on Wheels delivery. Contact Vicki Dunn at victoria.dunn@myctl.net to get involved.



Missions

Thank you!

We often send out requests for funds or items from the congregation to help those in need. It is great when we hear back from the organizations and people we help. Here are two recent thank-you letters received by the church that we wanted to share.

Pastor Max Richter,

I am sending this letter in hopes that you can acknowledge all with connections to Aldersgate Methodist UMC for the huge gift received by Dinner at your Door (DAYD), our local Meals on Wheels.

Aldersgate was a part of DAYD from the very beginning as they joined with other community churches back in the mid 1960's! Much has changed over these many years but our mission remains the same - volunteers providing a nutritious meal, short visit and safety check.

Even officially after the church closed, Aldersgate volunteers still served.

We credit Ann and Sid Wood with long St. Louis Park connections with the church and community for making this gift possible. It is a huge responsibility to use this gift wisely.

With gratitude,
Carolee Hanks, our staff & Board & all the people we serve.

The income her family depended on was gone, but her bills didn't stop. Her boys missed the lunches they usually got from school. She was doing everything she could to hold it together, but she didn't really have any options left.

Today, Maya's family has enough food. Maya received groceries from VEAP – fresh food she could put on the table that night. For the first time in weeks, she could take a breath, knowing her children wouldn't be hungry.

That moment happened because of you.

Your recent gift made sure that when Maya reached out, there was food on the shelves for her.

And because you gave during the March Food & Fund Drive, your gift helped unlock the full \$100,000 matching gift, doubling the support available for families in moments like this.

This wouldn't be possible without amazing people like you. Thank you for showing up for our community, for families like Maya's.

Thank you for making moments like this possible.

With gratitude,

Kari

Kari Thompson | President & CEO | she/her

Dear Good Samaritan United Methodist Church,

I'm reaching out to share a story that highlights the difference you're making for families right here in our community.

Less than two months ago, Maya wasn't sure how she'd feed her family. She hadn't worked for weeks, afraid that if she left the house, she may not return. That's what happened to her cousin this winter.



Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Sacred Parenthood: Acknowledge

Our parenting book for 2026 is *Sacred Parenthood: Spiritual Practices for the Highs and Lows of Parenting* by Aizaiah G. Yong and Nereyda Yong.

In this book we will look at a contemplative parenting practice. It uses an acronym SACRED: settle, acknowledge, curiosity, restore, enjoy, and dance.

This month's practice: Acknowledge

Dear ones,

The biggest "ah-ha" moment for me in this chapter was on page 72. Whenever God spoke about Jesus, it was to acknowledge that God was proud of Jesus and was his beloved. WOW! It reminds us that "our lovability is a free gift from God."

The biggest takeaway from this chapter is to remind us that our children are learning, growing and relying on us to show them how to respond in love. We can acknowledge that things are new, different and sometimes very hard, but we are there for them when they are experiencing hardship and pain.

There is a great list of how to practice acknowledgement on pages 80-84. If you try one of these practices, I would love to know how it turns out for you and your family.

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

ASP Updates Tool Time!

Our next Intergenerational Mission Trip will be June 20-28, 2026. Our next gathering is Tool Time! Saturday, May 16, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for all participants. Learn about the tools we will be using, and how to use them. More details about the trip can be found at good.org/event/appalachia-service-project-asp.



Vacation Bible Camp 2026

June 15-18, 2026

This program invites kids to an exciting winter sports event, where they become Challengers, gearing up for frosty games, snowy surprises, and hands-on lessons



about resilience and faith. We will be partnering again with Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran! Jan will be looking for volunteers for snacks, science station, set creation, Friday clean-up, Recreation leader, and group guides. Register here to attend or volunteer: goodsamaritanedina.mycokesburyvbs.com

Finance Team

Finance Update

Income was below expectations in March, while expenses were as expected. Details can be found in the table below.

Fortunately, Pledge payments were strong in January and February. Pledge receipts were low in March and some other income was delayed and has now been received in April. We ask everyone to stay current on pledge payments.

Thank you for your continued support of our church!

| | March Actuals | March Plan | Year-to-Date Actuals |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Income | \$41,094 | \$71,819 | \$235,187 |
| Expense | \$67,830 | \$71,156 | \$198,175 |
| Net | (\$26,736) | \$644 | \$37,011 |





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

9:45-11:30 a.m.

Nursery - Infants - Age 3

10:00-11:00 a.m.

Worship - In-person and Online

Children's Sunday School

Held during worship following Children's Time.

All are welcome!

4:30-6:00 p.m.

Youth Group - 1st & 3rd Sundays

GOOD SAMARITAN OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Phone (952) 929-0049