

June
2026

The Samaritan

Worship Themes

June 7 - Communion /
"Do We Want to Be
Well?"

June 14 - "Shake It
Off"

June 21 - Good News
from the Good
Doctor: "Who Do You
Hear?," based off of
Dr. Seuss's *Horton
Hears a Who*

June 28 - Good News
from the Good
Doctor: "Crashing
Down, Down, Down",
based off of Dr. Seuss's
Yertle the Turtle



Dr. Seuss is on the Loose!

This summertime worship series will engage both the whimsical child and the deep-thinking spiritualist in each of us! Dr. Seuss' characters have the ability to reveal the lessons of our Christian faith with freshness and joy. From our not-so-commendable sides of humanity, through acts which transform us, to the admirable qualities we'd all strive to emulate, Seuss' menagerie of tales speaks to the depths of who we are and who God intends for us to become.

Starting this Father's Day, June 21, the Good News of Christ comes alive through Matthew, Mark, Luke, Horton, Yertle, and Sam-I-Am! Pastor Jim will lead worship for this four-week worship series.



OUR STAFF

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Pastor's Page

Come As You Are

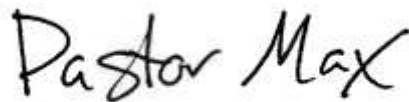
One of the variables people consider when looking for a church home is what the vibe of the congregation feels like. The energy and vibe of both space and people are quite primary. Does the space feel warm and inviting? Do the people as well?

In checking out a new church (or any social occasion, truly), one wonders what do I wear for the event? Back in the day, it was very common for men to be in suits and ties, women in skirts and heels, and no one would ever wear jeans or shorts to church. Times have changed, and each generation and time in history brings its own vibe to style and fashion. These matters are ever evolving.

Recently, I've heard some conversation about the vibe of our community as far as formality or informality goes, whether that be in clothing choices, worship style, or overall vibe. I hear a wide range of what feels "formal" or "informal" for each person. "Business Casual" now might include shorts on certain days or for the summer.

When it comes to our faith community, I think the most important thing is that folks wear something authentic and comfortable for each person. Everyone has their own sense of style. This might change by the season of the year as well. Whether jeans or jackets, something sparkly or more subdued, we all have our favorite colors and fabrics. Pride month seems like a great time to remember that the rainbow of everyone's style should be celebrated. We're glad that you are part of this community and want everyone to come just as they are.

Yours together in ministry,



Please note that Pastor Max will be on vacation from June 28, following the Pride parade, through July 12. Pastor Jim will be preaching and is on call for pastoral emergencies.



News & Events

Church Conference

A church conference congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, June 14, at 11:45 a.m. to approve the nominated leadership list for the 2026-27 program year. Church Leadership terms run on the Annual Conference year of 7/1 to 6/30. We are planning for a shorter service to care for this church business immediately following, to allow transition time for the Meets and Eats lunch to follow (see the article on page 5).



Thursday Afternoon Book Group

The group will take June off, but join them on Thursday, July 9, 1:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room to discuss *The Watsons Go To Birmingham - 1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis. This historical fiction novel is about the Watson family from Flint, Michigan, as they take a road trip to Birmingham, Alabama, in the summer of 1963. There they encounter the harsh realities of the Civil Rights Movement, culminating in the tragic 16th Street Baptist Church bombing. Narrated by 10-year-old Kenny Watson, the book blends humor and family life with serious themes of racism, injustice, and the impact of violence.



Conference Love Offering

Each year, churches in the Minnesota Annual Conference take a Love Offering for missions in conjunction with our Annual Conference Session. The 2026 Annual Conference will take place June 16-18, 2026, at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud, with a theme of "Created to Serve Joyfully."

This year's Love Offering will go to Midwest Mission, Love Boldly Mental Health Ministries Grants, the Endowment for Ministerial Education, the Minnesota Conference's Emergency Response Fund, and Volunteers in Mission (VIM) Scholarships.

Ways to give:

- Make out a check to Good Samaritan UMC with "Love Offering" in the memo line.
- You can give online at good.org/give. Select the Fund "Financial Gift" and type "Love Offering" in the "Gift For:" box that pops up. We will send a single check to the Annual Conference Session.
- Give online directly 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.

Donations through Good Samaritan should be received by June 8.

Congregational Care



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BWCA Wilderness 2010
photos by PJ Beard

Is This a Terminal Condition?

*Earth is polluted by its very own people,
who have broken its laws,
Disrupted its order,
violated the sacred and eternal covenant.
Therefore a curse, like a cancer, ravages the earth.
Its people pay the price of their sacrilege.
They dwindle away, dying out one by one.
all I can see is doom, doom, and more doom.*
Isaiah 24:5-6, 16b MSG

Chapters 24-27 have been labeled, "Isaiah's Little Apocalypse," that is, his symbolic description of the final events, the end of the world. In recent years, scientists and activists around the world have been crying out with similar words of doom, doom, and more doom. Global warming due to greenhouse gases and fossil fuel emissions is causing catastrophic temperature rises, leading to intensified weather phenomena. Just this past April, the US Senate approved legislation allowing mining operations on the edge of Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area, which



has a high potential of releasing toxic copper into our pristine wilderness area. I cannot read Isaiah without thinking of these things.

The earth is polluted because of us; the natural order has been disrupted because of us; the consequences are spreading everywhere and cannot be contained by us. But the one sentence that really jumps off the page at me from this scripture is this: we have "...violated the SACRED and ETERNAL COVENANT." Oh ho! So, this is more than a scientific concern; global warming is a spiritual issue!

Isaiah's exhortation to all of us is that the world itself is holy, reasserting that humankind has been given a divine responsibility to care for this consecrated and blessed planet (cf. Gen. 1:26-28 and Gen. 2:15), and forewarning us that failing to do so is a sacrilegious act of neglect. Beyond science, global warming is a crisis of the spirit.

Creator God, you have brought forth such a beautiful world and placed us in the midst of it so that we might tend and care for it with you. Instead, we have ravaged its resources for our own benefit and shirked our responsibilities as stewards of the earth. Lead us, we pray, to amend our hearts and actions before it is too late. Heal our world by first healing our spirits. 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.

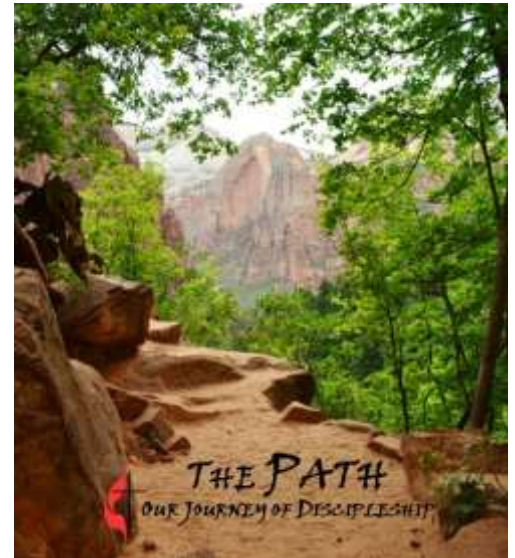


Our first gathering will be Sunday, June 14

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!

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: Curiosity

The big takeaway for this month's chapter is replacing anger and frustration with curiosity. From page 87, "Curiosity helps us discover the roots of our problems rather than just focusing on the symptoms." We don't need to shy away from feelings of anger or frustration, but we can approach these feelings with an attitude of, "Hmm, I wonder why I am feeling this emotion." or "What is the trigger for my child's angry or frustrated response." When we ask, "I am wondering why you are yelling," it gives them a chance to explore what is going on in their minds and bodies and helps them build agency. This kind of contemplative communication requires trust. Our children need to know, just like Jesus, we are with them through difficulty and joy.



Jan M. Russell (she/her)

Director of Children, Youth
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Pages 98-100 give examples of how to practice curiosity - Reflective Listening, Explore Wonder, Curious Observation, Compassionate Questions.

I found this chapter really beneficial. This style of communication is really helpful with all kinds of relationships - coworkers, committee members, aging parents, siblings, partners and children!

I am praying for you and your family.
Jan

ASP Updates Team Building!

Our next Intergenerational Mission Trip will be June 20-28, 2026.

Our next gathering is a Team Building meeting for all participants on Sunday, May 31, 4:30-7:00 p.m.



More details about the trip can be found at good.org/event/appalachia-service-project-asp.

Vacation Bible Camp 2026 June 15-18, 2026, 9:00 a.m.-noon

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: tinyurl.com/GSVBC2026.

Music



HOMeward BOUND

homewardboundband.com



facebook.com/HomewardBoundMusicians



youtube.com/HomewardBoundBand/



Homeward Bound in Concert!

We are excited to announce our summer outdoor concert series, which we hope will be another opportunity for our Good Samaritan friends to hear us in a couple of fun settings around the area!

HB Live at Centennial Lakes in Edina!

Monday, July 20, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Maetzold Amphitheater, 7499 France Avenue S, Edina



Homeward Bound looks forward to its annual appearance at the Centennial Lakes amphitheater on Monday, July 20 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 most popular concert of the 2026 summer season, so don't miss it - see you there!

HB Live at Lake Harriet Bandshell!

Sunday, August 23, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

4135 W Lake Harriet Parkway, Minneapolis

Homeward Bound 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. Conveniently

close to Good Samaritan on the northwest shore of Lake Harriet in nearby southwest Minneapolis, and with plenty of parking nearby. Come 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! - Brad Carlin



Missions & Reconciling

What Have We Been Doing?

Thank you! 

Thank you for your generous donations to the Easter Offering! In May, we made contributions to all of our food security-related organizations: VEAP, Joyce Uptown Food Shelf, STEP, Birdfeeder, Meals on Wheels, and Feed My Starving Children. We also made a donation to UMCOR for emergency response and to Stonebridge World School to help purchase new textbooks.

FOOD SECURITY: Good Samaritans joined with other volunteers to pack at Feed My Starving Children at two events, and May was a five-Friday month, so Good Samaritan drivers had two opportunities to deliver meals for Meals on Wheels.

HOUSING SECURITY: In May, we continued to follow and advocate for supportive housing with Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative at the state level. The legislature finished up its session with a mix of results. \$40 million was approved for rental assistance in response to the ICE surge in Minnesota, but only \$9 million of the funds needed to fill the gap of \$50 million from federal cuts for supportive housing was met.

NEON, the Wesley Campus Ministry at the University of Minnesota, held its annual Celebration on May 7 in Aldersgate Hall. They have had an exciting year of growth as a milestone was achieved in reaching 1,000 students over the school year. Attendees heard heart-warming stories of how Neon has impacted the lives of the students.



Coming Up in June

Wednesday, June 3, 8:30-9:00 a.m.: Beacon Interfaith **Housing "Rent Is Due"** update and advocacy action on Zoom. Register at beaconinterfaith.org/events.

Wednesday, June 10, 9:30-11:15 a.m. and Friday, June 12, 5:00-6:30 p.m.: Feed My Starving Children meal packing at the Chanhassen location (18932 Lake Dr E). Contact Jane Heimerl at jane.heimerl@yahoo.com to sign up.

Thursday, June 11, 7:00-8:30 p.m.: Missions Team Meeting in the Conference Room, with a Zoom link option.

Thursday, June 18, 5:00-8:00 p.m.: STEP Community Block Party (see next page)

Friday, June 19, 10:45 p.m.: Meals on Wheels delivery. Contact Vicki Dunn at victoria.dunn@myctl.net to volunteer.

Saturday-Sunday, June 27-28: Twin Cities Pride Festival and Parade (see next page)



Missions & Reconciling



STEP Turns 50!

Join the St. Louis Park Emergency Program in celebrating both 50 years of service to the St. Louis Park community and the completion of their 'Space to Serve' capital campaign. They will host a Community Block Party on Thursday, June 18, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at 6812 W. Lake Street in St Louis Park. The celebration will include food trucks, music, and activities for all ages! All are invited, whether you're a long-time supporter or new to the community.

STEP is an indispensable resource for the St. Louis Park community, adapting its offerings to meet the evolving challenges faced by residents dealing with economic hardships. Its comprehensive services include:

- Food Shelf
- Clothes Closet
- Social Work Services
- Rental Assistance
- Emergency Assistance
- Community Engagement and Education
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Partnerships



Twin Cities Pride Festival

June is Pride Month, and the Twin Cities Pride Festival will be held Saturday and Sunday, June 27-28. Minnesota Reconciling Congregations (MRC) will host a booth in Loring Park both days and participate in the parade on Sunday. Join fellow United Methodists to show support for the LGBTQ+ community and extend a welcome to our congregations. Volunteer sign-ups for the booth are open for set-up, 2-3 hour shifts, and clean-up. Sign up at tinyurl.com/MRCPrideTable2026.



The Parade down Hennepin Avenue will be on Sunday, June 28. It officially begins at 11 a.m., but parade organizers want everyone there by 8:30 a.m. There will be time to get to know other parade participants, sing, and have communion before our group begins to walk. Tyler Sit will bring the "catchy" signs that New City produced a couple of years ago for people to carry in the parade, along with the MRC banner. Wear a T-shirt with our Good Samaritan logo & website (contact JoAnn or Dave Knutson) or an inclusive-themed shirt. Look for a sign-up in the Narthex to join others from our congregation.



If you have any questions about volunteering or the parade, ask Pastor Max (max@good.org) or Brian Boysen (bteambackup@earthlink.net) about their prior experiences.

There are other Pride events around and outside the Twin Cities where you can show your support, and if you go, wear your Good Samaritan T-shirt (contact JoAnn or Dave Knutson)! Links to events can be found on the MRC website, mrcumc.org, or on the Twin Cities Pride website, tcpride.org/events.

The Good Samaritan Foundation

Cornerstone Fund Donations at Work

The Trustees have been hard at work walking through the Good Samaritan building and grounds, identifying necessary repairs and safety hazards that need immediate attention. Several projects are high priorities. In consultation with the Finance Committee, the two groups have reviewed funding options and agreed on the sources of funding, including the use of the Cornerstone Funds.



The projects to be paid using Cornerstone Funds are:

- Replacement of a frequently malfunctioning heat pump at a bid cost of \$5,800
- Replacement of the 5-ton heating and cooling unit at a bid cost of \$17,705
- Sidewalk repair and leveling at several spots at a bid cost of \$8,600

The expected total request is estimated to be ~ \$32,105. The Foundation Board is happy to be a part of the process using Cornerstone funds. These withdrawals will bring the value of the Cornerstone Fund to approximately \$56,900. The Foundation Board members give thanks for the work of the Trustees and appreciate the cooperation of the Finance Committee and our Building Engineer, Dan Green, in the efforts to keep our church building and grounds attractive, in top shape, and safe.

Many thanks to long-serving Foundation Board members Caroline Carlin and Byron Olson who are moving on to new endeavors. We will miss them! We are very excited to add two new members starting July 1!

Do you have questions about The Foundation or great grant ideas for the Outreach Fund? Please contact Claudia at claudiaLboysen@gmail.com. The Foundation's Q3 meeting is scheduled for August 20.

Finance Team

Looking Up

April was a strong month financially. Income was above expectations, while expenses were about as expected. Details can be found in the table below.

The main drivers of our income in April were several folks pre-paying their annual pledge in full, and a large payment from the Edina Basketball Association for 2025-26 Gym usage. These two items helped drive a strong month, and that's great, though we can't expect these every month. We are in very good shape, and as we approach the summer months (where income can often drop) we appreciate everyone's strong support with pledges.

Thank you for your continued support of our church!

	April Actuals	April Plan	Year-to-Date Actuals
Income	\$114,638	\$57,040	\$349,825
Expense	\$84,914	\$80,327	\$283,089
Net	\$29,725	- \$23,287	\$66,736

Trustees

Maintenance Minute: Out with the Old

Happy summer to all!

As soon as the air gets warm enough, I change our thermostats from heat to cool and make sure all the AC units are running as they should. All the compressors and AC units were starting well until I realized the Fireside Room AC compressor was just making a clicking sound and not starting up. I got our HVAC company out to diagnose the issue. The compressor was done for! It had locked itself up from either leaking refrigerant or just due to its age. All 17 of our AC/HEAT HVAC units were installed at the same time, brand new in 2005. The life expectancy for a commercial 5-10 ton HVAC unit like the ones we have is about 10-15 yrs. We have gotten more than that at this point, so you can say we are on borrowed time for most of these.

It's a tough call when replacing these because they all are still using R-22 refrigerant. R-22 has been phased out and was banned in 2020 due to its ozone-depleting properties. Now, most new AC units dated after 2020 use R-32. You can still get R-22, but it is expensive to replace. When it first came out, you could get a pound for about \$10. Nowadays it costs about \$150 per pound. If you still have a system on R-22, it can still be used, and you may be able to find it for cases of leaking out, but it is highly recommended to switch to a new system that uses newer R-32 refrigerant.

Our Board of Trustees approved the replacement of a new system instead of just replacing the compressor. It was the right call since we have multiple HVAC units at the age they are at.

Dan Green
(he/him)

Building Engineer

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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!

Youth Group - on summer break

GOOD SAMARITAN OFFICE HOURS

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

Phone (952) 929-0049