

January 21, 2021

outlook

St. Paul's United Methodist Church: a people GATHERED, FORMED, and SENT by God's grace.



When we are forced to slow down (and who hasn't lately?), it provides a chance to notice where we've come and where we'd like to go. St. Paul's lay and clergy leaders have been doing just that for the last several months. And, for the next three Sundays we will be sharing more about it. Join us in worship, as we dream together.

-Pastor Jonathan

prayers

What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light. --John 1:3b-5

Light of the world, hear our prayers:

- In hope, through vaccines developed to protect against Covid-19
- In care, and concern for those impacted financially, physically, and emotionally by the pandemic and derecho

In Your Healing & Grace for:

- Duane Nesetrl (Kay)
- John Curry (Carol Curry's son)
- Marianne Mickle
- Pat Bolton (Sherri Bolton's mother)
- Leona Hastie
- Sally Ford
- Gottlieb Bollin (Kristin Simon's son)
- Rev. Melisa Bracht-Wagner
- Judy and Bill Schatz

- Harry Baumann (Mark Baumann's father)
- Larry Jensen (Brice Anton Jensen's father)
- Angie Stookey
- Mary Gade (Milt)
- Charles Edwards (Lora Lea); Esther Miceli
- Charman Banks (John)
- Marti & Spence Grayson (Dave Mahlke's sister and brother-in-law)
- Quinn Anton Jensen (Nancy & Brice Anton Jensen's son)
- Cheri Young (Gene & Carrie Young's daughter)
- Linda Hadley
- Ryan Vick
- Kris Yahn (Steve)

In Hospice Care:

- Alice Hart (Brad Hart's mother)

In Compassionate Memorial Prayers for the Families & Friends of:

- Mel Struthers (Ann)

thank you

I wanted to thank all those who participated and the team that developed our Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration on Monday. While collaboration and participation can be more complicated when everything must be done virtually, a large team of people came together to make sure we had a meaningful, challenging, and uplifting evening. Thank you!

Our hope for this event each year is that it will spark new conversations among us, be a witness to the beloved community, and invite new commitment to love all our neighbors. May it be so!

And, in case you missed it, below you will find a bit more about the Dr. Percy & Lileah Harris 'Who Is My Neighbor' Award recipients.

If you want to see the service from Monday evening, you can find it here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rAFRUTd_hjg.

-Pastor Jonathan

2021 Award Recipient Dr. Nate Klein

Dr. Nate Klein married up and is fortunate to be the husband of Jenny Klein. He loves being an engaged father to his young girls Lily and Ellary. He is a passionate educator at Mount Mercy University serving as Vice President for



Student Success. He is also a servant leader in the community giving back to various not-for profits. His life mission is to inspire people to lead a courageous life.



2021 College Award Recipient Diamond Roundtree

Diamond Roundtree is currently a freshman at the University Of Northern Iowa Majoring in Digital Media Production. Diamond has had many accomplishments from writing her first book “Words From My Heart” at age 15 to being Awarded the “Service Above Self Award” by the Cedar Rapids Rotary Club! Diamond has had a major impact on the Cedar Rapids

community! She enjoys helping and mentoring others. She understands the struggles of life, being a black woman in America being raised in a predominantly white environment she finds joy in helping others find their voices! Diamond hopes she can continue to help her community in Cedar Rapids and hopefully in other areas as well! She is always thinking of ways to make an impact, she is proud of her accomplishments but is always striving to be better! Her faith in God is what keeps her going. She believes that what she does in this world is not for her own benefit but for the glory of God alone! Diamond is honored to be a recipient of this award and hopes she continues to serve her community in great ways!



2021 Youth Award Recipients Raafa & Rahma Elsheikh

Raafa and Rahma Elsheikh are seniors at Kennedy High School in Cedar Rapids Iowa. They are first generation Sudanese Americans who continue to fight for liberation of all marginalized communities through spoken word and reformation of the education system. They are cofounders of

their high schools first Black student Union and President/Vice-President

of the NAACP Youth Council. Both Rahma and Raafa will be attending Princeton University next fall, where Raafa hopes to study Bioengineering undergrad and will later be attending law school and Rahma will pursue Mathematics/CS with a minor in African American studies.

serve

Thank You!

Our Sending to Serve team wants to thank you for your generous response in our special Christmas offering.

Together, we collected \$21,000! This means \$7,000 was allocated to support African National members in a time of emergency; \$7,000 was directed to St. Paul's Early Learning Center for scholarships so more children could participate in our programs; and a \$7,000 check was sent to Willis Dady Homeless Services to support their work with homeless individuals in Cedar Rapids. It bears repeating: thank you!

update

on St. Paul's Response to the COVID Pandemic

On January 10, Bishop Laurie Haller of the Iowa United Methodist Church lifted her directive that churches be closed to all group activities. We are now allowed to follow local recommendations which take into consideration the amount of local positive tests, hospitalizations, and deaths.

Using guidelines from the Linn County Health Department, we will **return to allowing limited small group activities inside our church building.** Worship, however, will continue online only.

Be reminded that anyone over 65 or anyone with underlying medical conditions is still advised to continue with online participation or alternate methods which limit face to face contact. However, we also recognize that the choice is for each person to make.

[Read Complete Article on St. Paul's COVID Response](#)

visual ministry



"Look! I am doing a new thing. Don't you perceive it?" Isaiah 43:19

Paper cut banners in the 3rd Ave Upper Room windows by Stephanie Heifner

After the derecho, I was searching for a message that would bring hope. One that always brings hope to me is the idea of new growth coming from death. I also remember Christ, the "shoot from the Root of Jesse", who brings wholeness and healing, with the promise of Resurrection and New Creation. I cut this design from heavyweight paper and hung it in sight of the neighborhood and anyone who

passes by to encourage us all.

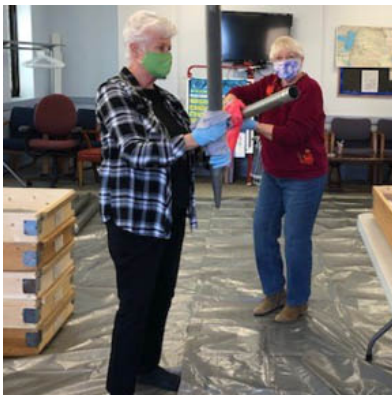
music ministry



A Pipe Organ Encounter

Four technicians from the Dobson Organ Company of Lake City, IA arrived at St. Paul's on Monday, January 11, to begin rejuvenation work on the pipe organ. Pipes were removed from the pipe chamber, cleaned, dents were removed, reed pipes disassembled and cleaned. Pipe racks were dusted and wiped down. Even the pipes that are visible inside the sanctuary were cleaned. Most of the pipes were returned to their homes before the end of the week...

[Read More](#)



worship

- Sunday Facebook Live Worship - 9:00 am
- African Nationals Sunday Facebook Live Worship - 12:30 pm
- **Past Sermon Videos**
- **Services on Cable TV**
- **Get Connected with St. Paul's UMC**

Pilgrimage Plans

Prayerful and creative plans for the next few years in our discipleship pilgrimage together are emerging out of our shared life this past year!

We trust that God's plans are for peace, not disaster or harm, for a future filled with hope.

- Where will you join the journey, walking through this liminal space and time?
- What will we discover along the way about life with Jesus?

Join us exploring the first chapter of Mark's Gospel.

- January 24: **Gathering**, Mark 1:12-20
- January 31: **Forming**, Mark 1:21-28
- February 7: **Sending**, Mark 1:29-39



Worship Guide for January 24

upcoming events

Valentine's Day!

**Deadline for orders:
February 4, 2021**

St. Paul's Early Learning Center Valentine's Day Fundraiser Parents, grandparents, and loved ones can send a special something to their favorite valentine! They can select a stuffed animal or box of candy. Pick one for \$3 or two for \$5. Email Julie Hanlin with your order



(jhanlin@stpaulsumc.org).

Deadline for orders: February 4.



Show Some **Love** in 2021

Deadline for orders:

February 8, 2021

We invite St. Paul's members to show some love to our children and youth by purchasing a mini Bundt Cake for \$6. Help the kids feel a connection to their St. Paul's family. St Paul's staff and helpers will be delivering them Valentine's weekend.

Additionally, purchase some for friends, parents, or a favorite teacher! Pickup for your order (anything beyond for the youth of St. Paul's) is on Sunday, February 14th from 10:30-12:00. Each bundt cake comes wrapped individual with a valentine's tag. [Click here for a list of flavors.](#)

Order Mini Bundt Cake

children & youth

Valentine for Vets

Children's Ministry families,

Help us send some of God's love to our vets this Valentine's Day. We will be participating in KHAKS annual Valentine for Vets (Learn more here: <https://khak.com/valentines-vets-2021/>)



Your children's ministry team has put together valentine kits for families to make valentines at home. The kit comes with all you need and has enough supplies for 5 valentines. ***Kits will be available for delivery or you can pick up at St. Paul's Sunday, January 24th from 9:30-10:30 am.*** Please sign up by following the link here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1E2hBf3V7Cp60ZYV6CIT-DE8ATZgHTkDpE1o-az746jQ/edit>

Valentines are due to KHAK by February 5th! Join us in spreading God's love to those who sacrificed so much for us.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Julie Hanlin (jhanlin@stpaulsumc.org).



Senior High Sunday Night Small Group January 27, 2021

GOALS: Nehemiah grew to understand the tension of having a dream and pursuing it, because he had a big goal inspired by a big problem. Big goals and big problems, these are things in life that will continue to exist together. And sometimes, like Nehemiah, we can get stuck because **God-sized goals require God-sized gratitude. Big difficulties can inspire God-sized goals, and God gives us strength to pursue God-sized goals.**

JOIN US ON SUNDAY NIGHTS AS WE TAKE A LOOK AT OUR OWN BIG GOALS.

Click below link to join Zoom meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85881625696>

Mid-Week Check-in: Wednesday's in January

Mid-High (5th-8th) and Senior High (9th-12th) join us on Wednesday nights at 7:00pm for games, a short devotion and a check-in on what's happening in our lives. We will be joined with our friends from Cedar Falls, First United Methodist.

Click below link to join Zoom meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89108263785>

stewardship

- [3 Ways to Give](#)
- [St. Paul's App](#)

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