



# CIRCLE TIMES

**May 2023**

**United Protestant Church Newsletter**

**Silver Bay, Minnesota**

## **The United Protestant Church Mission Statement**

*We are an open-minded Christian fellowship. We seek to follow  
the Word of God and to pass God's love on to others  
as we actively welcome them into our church family.*

**Rev. Paul Scaringi, Ph.D.**

**Pastor's e-mail : [upcpaul@tutanota.com](mailto:upcpaul@tutanota.com)**

**Lynn Anderson, Church Secretary**

**Dedie Moore, Church Council Chair**

**Church Office: 218-226-3973**

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**U P Church web site: [www.unitedprotestant.org](http://www.unitedprotestant.org)**

### **NOTE FROM PASTOR PAUL**

As I take my sabbatical leave, I want to express my deep gratitude to you for granting me this time. I pray that our ministry together will be enriched through these days apart. The Rev. Kathryn Bell has accepted the call to be your interim minister while I am away and I trust you (and she) will know a special measure of God's grace and blessing in this time.

For any questions or concerns that may arise in these months ahead, please contact either Dedie Moore or Peggy Jo Osmundson or Lynn Anderson

I look forward to being back with you on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

Peace,  
Paul



**We chose the name "Circle Times" for our first U.P. newsletter 62 years ago.**

**It was a way of reminding ourselves that we are a united group of several denominations.**

**This is a much needed witness in our world filled with diversities.**



## From the Pastor

Pastor Paul is on sabbatical. For his monthly article he decided to dig back in the archives and share a previously published piece. The following is from April 2013.

*He is not here; for he has been raised . . .*

- Matthew 28:6a

This may be the only time in the Bible (at least that I can think of) where God's absence is a good thing. The above verse from Matthew's gospel recounts the dialogue between the women who have come to Jesus' grave and the angel who sits on the stone that has been rolled away. The angel tells the women that he has been raised, thus Jesus is absent from the grave.

We live in a world where many talk about the seeming absence of God. Maybe you have wondered yourself, "Where is God?" This is a reasonable question as we hear news of terrible tragedies and encounter difficulties in our own lives. The question stems from the belief that if God was present, then these terrible things would not have occurred.

The Easter story gives us an altogether different understanding of God's presence. In the story of Jesus' passion we see that God does not avoid suffering and pain but rather walks right into it and bears that pain for the liberation of creation and for our liberation. In Jesus' final days we see that it is in the midst of pain and chaos where God is found, for Jesus willingly and obediently enters into that sorrow. Where do we find Jesus on Good Friday? In the most God-forsaken place history has ever known, hanging from a cross on Golgotha.

This is not something that Jesus' followers expected. When he tells his disciples that he is going to suffer and die they could not understand and they were afraid to ask what it all meant (Mark 9:32). The same is true for us today. We often fall prey to the common and erroneous belief that difficulties in life are a sign of God's displeasure and absence from our lives. We forget that God knows what it is like to feel pain and absence and that the trials we face in life do not necessarily mean God is absent. Indeed, in our darkest times we can be confident that God goes with us and can deliver us. This is one of the glorious truths that Easter proclaims.

Jesus takes the sin of the world – becomes sin for our sake (2 Cor. 5:21) – and dies. But that is, of course, not the end of the story. Easter proclaims that he has risen, there is no grave, no darkness or evil that can contain him. He is the One we follow. He is the One who forgives us our sins and, then, calls us 'sisters' and 'brothers.' He is the One who goes *with* us through our trials and can deliver us to goodness and life, for he has conquered the greatest foe, which is death.

This profound truth is captured in of the simplest liturgies within the Church: *He is risen; He is risen, indeed!* As we go through this Eastertide season may we cling to this truth, placing our hope in the One who knew forsakenness and absence on our behalf and who rose from the grave to lead us into God's presence this day and in the days to come. May we be a people who joyfully proclaim, He is risen!

Blessings,  
Paul

## UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

April 11, 2023 6:00 pm

**ATTENDEES:** Dedie Moore, David Moore, Mike Osmundson, Peg Osmundson, Shirley Whiteford, Agnes Gilson, Terry Eggum, Ruth Eggum.

Council Chair Dedie Moore called the meeting to order at 5:52 pm and opened in prayer.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** Pastor Penny's funeral; donation to Hanna Searls.

M/M/S by Peg Osmundson/David Moore to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

**TREASURERS'S REPORT:** M/M/S by Terry Eggum/Agnes Gilson to approve the Treasurer's report from March, 2023 for audit. Motion carried.

Checking Account: \$25,116.05	Memorial Fund: \$29,682.95	
Ministry Fund: \$72,376.01	House of Love: \$7,709.68	AmazonSmile:
\$417.76	Checking SS: \$3,114.61	YTD Food Shelf: \$290.00
YTD Income: \$21,869.91		
YTD Expense: (\$24,960.43)		
YTD Net: (\$3,090.52)		

**DIACONATE REPORT:** Peg Osmundson reported Communion will be May 7 by Intinction. There will be a Split Rock service and picnic on June 18. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be June 25 and will go to earthquake relief in Turkey and Syria through the American Baptists. This will be announced in the bulletin and newsletter.

**TRUSTEE REPORT:** Mike Osmundson reported that there will be a workday on May 20 and there will be a sign-up sheet. The new website is up and running ([unitedprotestant.org](http://unitedprotestant.org)) and is set up so people can donate with credit cards through PayPal. Philip Christman continues to work on a general policy for the church keys disbursement. The locks will be changed and new keys distributed. The Trustees will be in charge of distributing the new keys. Highway clean-up is May 13-28 and we are also scheduled for October. The discussion on whether we will continue to do this project in 2024 was tabled until the June meeting. M/M/S by Terry Eggum/Ruth Eggum that we purchase an extra microphone for \$500. Motion carried.

**CHRISTIAN ED REPORT:** Dedie Moore reported that we will begin a new Bible study on the New Testament on April 19.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There was no report on the Tabitha Ministry. David and Dedie Moore reported on the progress being made in sponsorship of a Ukrainian refugee family through Alight, an organization based in the Twin Cities. They are interested in knowing if there are people interested in helping and whether the church will help in welcoming them to the United States. Dedie also said she will contact other churches in the area to see if they are interested.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The Council decided to remove the Covid Protocols from the Sunday bulletin. We will continue to keep the offering plate at the rear of the church, rather than passing the plates through the pews. Peg Osmundson will call Split Rock Park to see if we can get discount park passes for the June 18 service. The shelter has already been reserved for UPC. Ruth Eggum will call Helen Stronach and try to find out details of the funeral for former Pastor Penny Fritze-Teitz. The church will decide whether to send flowers or a memorial gift when we know the details. M/M/S by Shirley Whiteford/Ruth Eggum to send Hanna Searls \$50 to be used towards the ballet camp she will be attending this summer. Motion carried.

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The next Council meeting will be May 9, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

M/M/S by Peg Osmundson/David Moore to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 pm. Motion carried. Chair Dedie Moore closed in prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ruth Eggum, Council Secretary

Note: April minutes are approved at the May meeting.

### ***Taking 5***

Below you will find the Taking 5 scripture and prayers for this month. I encourage you to take 5 minutes each day to read the scripture closely, pray the prayer attentively, and spend the remaining time in prayerful silence, seeking out God's presence and prompting in that time. Thank you for being part of this important discipline for our church and for you.

Peace,  
Paul



#### **The week of May 7<sup>th</sup>**

Scripture: John 14:18-20

Prayer: On this day, dear Father, help me to see you and to know by your love and grace that you have swept me up into your life. Amen.

#### **The week of May 14<sup>th</sup>**

Scripture: Psalm 93:1-2

Prayer: Even though I am mortal, O Lord, open my eyes to see you are everlasting and you keep my life. Amen.

#### **The week of May 21<sup>st</sup>**

Scripture: I Corinthians 12:4-7

Prayer: Holy Spirit, you create variety and complexity in life. Broaden my mind and heart so I may appreciate all the gifts you place on my path. Amen.

#### **The week of May 28<sup>th</sup>**

Scripture: II Corinthians 13:11-13

Prayer: Lord, you who are Three in One, guide me to act in grace-full ways, to love as you love me, and to live into communion with you and others. Amen.

## HOUSE OF LOVE UPDATE

### *Sa Wat Dii!*

*Hi there! Welcome to the email journal for Alise and Mark Juanes. We are Global Servants for International Ministries living in Chiang Mai, Thailand with our three kids. We work with two primary ministries, both of which are staffed by and serve minority hilltribe groups. The House of Blessing is a charity preschool and the House of Love is a youth home which supports children, college students, and families. These journals are where we share news and updates on the House of Blessing, the House of Love, and our family.*



### *Smokey Season*

Hello from Chiang Mai,

It is hot, smokey season here, our least favorite weather, but thankfully it doesn't last for more than a few months. I personally struggle this time of year as we find ourselves "stuck" indoors often while it's really hot. I really have to be intentional about looking for, and identifying, the things that are good. I find that there are always things that are good and to be thankful for, even in the midst of a season of "yuck".

### *Graduation Time 2023*

This month it was easier to find things to celebrate because it's graduation time! The Thai school year begins in mid-May and ends in mid-March (I'm still not used to that yet!). On March 17th we enjoyed celebrating the 11 graduates of House of Blessing daycare. These students worked hard learning the Thai and English alphabet, basic math skills, classroom behavior, personal hygiene, and loved learning about Jesus through Bible stories and songs. Our House of Blessing teachers are amazing! These graduates have all been accepted to continue their education in the Thai public school system at the first grade level and we know they are well-prepared for their next step in education. Please pray for these graduates and their future endeavors, and that most importantly they will always remember that they are loved by God. We will miss having them at the daycare this next school year but we look forward to welcoming 15 new level-one students bringing our enrollment to around 45 students for the 2023-2024 school year



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The following week, on March 23, we gathered together at the House of Love to honor the 7 graduates from this school year. Four of our residents graduated from college, two from middle school, and one of our staff members completed her high school equivalency certificate. We are super proud of all of them and their hard-work in persevering to complete the tasks required for each of their levels of achievement. Would you please continue to pray for our House of Love graduates? We especially ask that you hold our college graduates in your prayers as they launch into the workforce. Though they have college degrees it can still be quite challenging to find a full-time job, especially one within their fields of study. They know that God is their provider and we all trust in His plans for each of their lives. Psalm 25:4-5 "Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long."

Thank you for celebrating these precious people and their accomplishments with us. Thank you for your continued provision, love, and support that makes it possible for these students to have a solid education and firm foundation in the Lord. We thank you for walking the journey with all of us.

-Alise & Mark Juanes



Our House of Blessing Daycare graduates and their amazing teachers. Just look at those beautiful smiles!

All of the House of Blessing members enjoying the celebration.



Some of the House of Love residents who graduated from middle school and college.



**Parish Nurse Notes**  
**Dedie Moore R.N.**

*Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.*

Nehemiah 8:10

The joy of the Lord is our strength, the Lord delights when we turn towards him. We can always turn that way and choose to remember and store up our joys for our strength. May is Mental Health Month. Just as we all desire optimum physical health, we all want optimum mental health. We desire to be the most authentic, unique self that God made us to be from the time we were in the womb. We want to be able to think clearly, make good decisions. To love and be loved.

When we store up times and memories of joy, we build connections in our brain. We are then able to draw on this store when we feel angry, sad, ashamed, frustrated, afraid. This does not mean we deny or ignore these feelings. We should acknowledge them, but not be stuck in a reactive mode where we are unable to relate to those around us. We can be able to receive the strength of the Lord, and the love and strength those around us offer. This leads to much better mental health. We can be the best person we can be and enjoy the wonders surrounding us. We are more resilient when we are faced with fear, anger, pain, loneliness. We always have the scriptures to call on. They remind us that all feel angry, alone, but that we are never alone. We are so fortunate to have our church family as well as God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We have so much to be grateful for.

And, yes Virginia, there will be spring and summer.

Group Living with Anxiety and Depression meets the second and fourth Mondays by Zoom. This is a peer support group, not therapy. Contact me at [dediedavid@yahoo.com](mailto:dediedavid@yahoo.com), or Cindy Tackett, or check out the North Shore Mental Health Group Facebook page for more resources and information.

### **Ukrainian Refugees**

*You shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.*  
Leviticus 19:34

David and I are investigating the possibility of sponsoring Ukrainian refugees. We have started the process by filling out a profile on WelcomeUS, the government site which coordinates this process. Alight, formerly the American Refugee Committee, is also assisting us in the process. After filling out the profile, then potential beneficiaries can contact us if it seems like a good fit, and we would set up conversations with them to see if it might work for both of us. There are definite limitations here: small area, housing shortage, jobs, and no Ukrainian community. So far no one has responded. We are also considering other ways to help. If we find a good fit with a beneficiary, then we fill out the government forms to apply for sponsorship. If we do find a beneficiary that seems a good fit, then the church will set up a separate account that people could donate into and be tax deductible. Mostly we are looking for a welcoming community. We thought people might want to be updated on the process. If you have questions, you can contact us at [dediedavid@yahoo.com](mailto:dediedavid@yahoo.com), David cell 218-220-0319, Dedie cell 218-220-2048. David and Dedie Moore

## OUR CIRCLE

“OUR CIRCLE” is a news article that features a member or friend of U.P. Church. The article is based on conversations and written answers to questions. We hope you will enjoy learning about the folks who are familiar participants in our church life.



**David Moore**

David Moore spent his first five years living in Tennessee and later until the age of 23 years in the Chicago area. His dad, Jerry, and his mom, Reba, provided a structured clean and orderly home with a strong religious and work ethic. Reba was a stay-at-home mom who made his and his sister Emily's clothing, curtains for the home and was the family carpenter. Dave's dad worked long hours for the Redi Mix Company that provided all the concrete for the tallest U.S.A. skyscraper at the time of its completion in 1974 (Sears Tower in Chicago).

Dave enjoyed attending five different school by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. At that point his parents had saved enough money for a down payment on a house. His childhood years were filled with sports, music and the Boy Scouts. Later, Dave attended the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana from 1969 to 1971. He then attended College of Du Page. Some of Dave's fond memories recall skating on the local pond especially in the moonlight. There were no streetlights or businesses where they lived. At that time it was still country with farms around. Dave remembers ice skating on the road to church one Sunday night. He also recalls getting the family car stuck in the mud on Prom night. Dave says, "Paul Harvey has the rest of the story." Thinking of his dad, Dave remembers his father, being exhausted, would fall asleep on the couch after supper. His sister, Emily, and Dave would wake him up to go to bed.

Once David realized a suit and tie kind of job was not for him, he studied at College of Du Page to learn the HVAC trade. He could use his mind and body in that field. Later he migrated into electronics and spent 16 years working on/managing medical equipment. After working in those fields, David and his wife, Dedie Moore, moved to Silver Bay where David worked as General Manager of Wilderness Family Food manufacturing. Through his work experiences, Dave says one important skill is "how to be wrong, gracefully." He has found that it is more important to learn how to manage folks in the workplace than learning technologies. Dave found it to be gratifying to enable people to have ownership of their jobs and allow them to grow and make mistakes along the way. As manager, underpinning the staff helps them to become all they can be.

When Dave was asked what he does in his free time, his response was, "What free time? Whoever said retirement was easy, well, they hadn't been retired yet." His days are filled with people care, music practice, maintaining three properties and watches an occasional movie on Youtube. Dedie and Dave do go out to eat frequently and sometimes lose pool games to Ruth and Terry Eggum. Dave likes small town life. He says whether going to Zups, Julies, the bank, the auto parts store, the library, town hall, police station etc. there always are friends and neighbors- this is true of the U P Church family as well. When asked what wisdom he can share for those of us who are struggling with some issues. Dave wrote, "All misery is temporary, but in that moment, who cares? The sun will rise again."



# What's up now with U.P. folks!!!

## **Keep these folks in your thoughts and prayers:**

**Pat Viola** is at home in the Silver Bay, MN Veteran's Home (56 Outer Drive).

**Ellen and Karsten Hogenson, Phyllis Pearrow, Ray Burge, Dave and Kay Colby, Irene Johnson, David Prestidge, Mary Aijala, Mary Carroll, Chuckie Knutson, Ed Maki and David Gustafson** of our congregation as they deal with health-related changes and recoveries. **All the caregivers.**

**We extend our sympathy to the family of Rev. Penny Fritze-Tietz who passed away on April 6th. She served as pastor of our church for 9 years (1988-1997).**

### **May Birthdays**

Marion Burge	1
Terry Hron	3
Allison Packard	7
John Harrison	9
Irene Johnson	9
Paul Kolojeski	9
Patsy Betzler	15
Philip Christman	16
Pat Viola	19
Dan Clark	22
Betsy Myers	25
David Gustafson	26
Mary Aijala	27
Dale Pederson	28
Maggie King	31



### **May Anniversaries**

Ed and Cindy Maki 3

### **Wednesday Morning Bible Study 9:30 am**

Our current study is  
*The New Testament You Never Knew*  
CD sessions by  
N.T. Wright and Michael Bird  
All are welcome.

### **Check out our new website:**

<https://www.unitedprotestant.org>.  
You can download the latest news-  
letter and sermon as well as keep  
up to date with what is happening  
here at UPC.



Hanna Searls is the youngest daughter of our custodian, Sharon Searls. She has helped her mom work at the church for 10 years. She has developed a deep interest in ballet, learning and performing in local dance classes.

It is time for her to further challenge herself. She has been accepted in an intensive summer professional workshop in Jackson, MS.

If you are interested in helping her out with expenses please contact her at

107 Hays Circle

Silver Bay, MN 55614

### **Note of Thanks from Pastor Paul**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the unexpected and wonderful gifts you gave as you sent us on this sabbatical. You'll certainly be in our thoughts as we enjoy the high tea and the book is a much welcomed addition to my library. I pray all will be well with each of you in the days ahead. May the Lord bless you through the ministry of Pastor Kathryn and your presence in each other's lives.

With gratitude,  
Paul

# May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Sunday Worship 10:30 am Communion	8 GLAD 6:30 pm Zoom	9 Boards Meet 5:00 pm Council Meets 6:00 pm	10 WMBS 9:30 am Prayer Shawl 2:00 pm	11	12	13
14 Sunday Worship 10:30 am	15	16	17 WMBS 9:30 am	18	19	20
21 Sunday Worship 10:30 am	22 GLAD 6:30 pm Zoom	23	24 WMBS 9:30 am Prayer Shawl 2:00 pm	25	26	27
28 Sunday Worship 10:30 am	29	30	31 WMBS 9:30 am	<div>                     Pastor Paul will be on Sabbatical 4/11-7/11/23                      Lynn in office Wed &amp; Thurs 1:30 -4:00 pm                 </div>		

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