

CIRCLE TIMES

August 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

Lynn Anderson, Church Secretary

Dedie Moore, Church Council Chair

Church Office: 218-226-3973

Church email: upchurch1956@gmail.com

U P Church web site: www.unitedprotestant.org

TEXTS AND TITLES

August 6th – 10th Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

2nd Reading: Jonah 1:17 – 2:10

Title: *Belly Prayers*

August 20th – 12th Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading: Philippians 3:12-21

2nd Reading: Jonah 4:1-8

Title: *Holding out*

August 13th – 11th Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading: Philippians 2:12-18

2nd Reading: Jonah 3:1-10

Title: *Ashes All Around*

August 27th – 13th Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading: Philippians 4:4-9

2nd Reading: Jonah 4:9-11

Title: *Left or Right?*



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

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats throughout the whole land of Egypt.'" And they did so; Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and gnats came on humans and animals alike; all the dust of the earth turned into gnats throughout the whole land of Egypt.

- Exodus 8:16-17

It is good to be back from sabbatical. It was a blessed time for Eileen and me – a time of renewal that was restful and enjoyable (and at times challenging) and a time to reflect on the wonders of God's presence in our ministry and in the larger world. While there is much I could share (which would most likely lull you to sleep) there is one moment that comes to mind as I think about this newsletter space. If you've read the verse above you'd be right to assume it has to do with bugs.

As many of you know during the sabbatical we took two trips. One trip was right after Easter where we back to Great Britain. It was a great time and all went well, we even managed to avoid the crush of a coronation. For the second trip I hitched up our small tent camper and drove to Massachusetts where I saw family and friends from years ago. It was really nice to have the time to camp along the way. On the way back Eileen met me in Chicago and we enjoyed a few days there before heading home. The moment that comes to mind is the first night of my camping trip where I spent the night at a small campground in Germfask, Michigan.

I left the day after Memorial Day and it was warm. By the time I got to the campground, which is right on the Manistique River, it was 92 degrees. I think you know what came next. When I first stepped out of the vehicle there were one or two mosquitoes flying around. Within ten minutes I was moving around in a cloud of bugs. While Moses and Aaron were not staying at the campground, it certainly felt like they had struck the ground and turned the air into bugs. I spent the time swatting bugs while I set up camp, and when I went to bed it appeared that every square inch of screen was covered with mosquitoes who wanted in. I slept (or should I say tried to sleep) to a constant buzzing.

When I woke early in the morning they were just as eager to see me as they were the night before. I skipped breakfast, packed as quickly as I could, and got on the road. As I was driving along, I was bitten and tired and wondering whether I should just give up and head back. At that moment I was thinking I couldn't do another three nights like what I just experienced.

As I drove along, praying and pondering over my frustration, I realized that what I just experienced was not a promise of what the days ahead would be – it was simply one trying moment on a long road before me. I'm thankful for the Spirit's prompting to press on, for the days ahead went really well. The camping in Ontario, New York, and Massachusetts was all I hoped it would be. Looking back on it on now I see how my limited vision affected my view of the future.

I'm fairly certain when the plagues were descending on Egypt, the Israelites might have been rather concerned where it was all leading, if not downright miserable from the experience. Their experience is not unique within scripture. Throughout the Bible we find this theme of how to acknowledge and respect the trials of a present moment, all the while living in the hope of God's promises and presence. My silly little trial certainly does not compare to Egyptian captivity, the persecutions many Christians in the early church faced, the news of a troubling medical diagnosis, or the harsh words spoken in a fractured relationship. That said, my buzzing enemies flying around me on a hot summer night certainly reminded me in a vivid way that the Lord is not bound

by the present or past but is always moving through the events we experience to bring about God's reign and blessed shalom. Thus, my one miserable night was not a predictor of what the next day would bring.

The end of the plagues resulted in freedom for the Israelites, but there would be other trials to face and the challenge before them was the challenge that has rumbled down through history – the challenge of deciding in whom will we place our trust. It is quite easy to look at our difficulties and say that it is beyond the power of the Divine, some of you may even be tempted to listen to those around us who buzz in our ear and tell us, "It is what it is," meaning there is nothing to be done for it. While this is understandable, it is not a position that leads to God working in our lives and in our world.

Our calling is to be a people of courage, love, and hope. It is a calling that requires us to acknowledge the deserts we may be walking through, all the while fixing our gaze on the One who is present with us and breathes new life into our days. As the apostle Paul said, "So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For our slight, momentary affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen, for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal."

I pray we're able to live out this calling and place our trust in the One who is able to make all things new (Rev. 21:5).

Blessings,
Paul

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 August 6th

Scripture: Romans 10:11-13

Prayer: Generous Lord, I call on you today to ask that you would save me from myself and from this world, so I might know true fellowship. Amen.

The week of August 13th

Scripture: Genesis 45:1-5

Prayer: Faithful God, it is sometimes hard to see the ways in which you move. Increase my faith so I may go forth in joy knowing you will preserve my life. Amen

The week of August 20th

Scripture: Philippians 4:8-9

Prayer: God of peace, grant me the strength to praise you by keeping my eyes and my mind focused on the goodness you have placed in my life. Amen.

The week of August 27th

Scripture: Jeremiah 15:19-20

House of Love update

The House of Love (HoL) is our partnered mission. It is a Christian orphanage in Chiang Mai, Thailand that is a home for women and children affected by HIV/AIDS. Its mission is to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of each resident. Mark and Alise Juanes are American Baptist missionaries working with the local administrators and staff to further this ministry.



The following is an inspiring story that was highlighted in the 2022 annual report for the IMEMF (the foundation that oversees the House of Love).



"Dontrii" does not remember much of her life before she came to the House of Love. She was just 3 years old and remembers that her twin sister "Sakara" and older sister "Rongpleng" came to the House of Love at the same time.

While Dontrii had challenges growing up at the House of Love with so many other kids, God also provided many brothers and sisters to be close to. She was very shy growing up, but one day when she was 15, she had an experience where God asked her to just take one step of faith. She was at a local youth camp held by a mentoring foundation. On the first day of camp, she made the decision to be baptized. The camp leaders saw something special in her and challenged her to take lead on some group activities before she was baptized. She was nervous and shy, but once she took that first step to lead, her confidence grew. After camp and baptism, her confidence continued to grow and she even began volunteering to lead worship at church.

When Dontrii was accepted to university in town, her sister Sakara came up with the idea of moving into an apartment together instead of living at the House of Love. This was a new idea and they were nervous about talking to the staff about it. However, everything the two sisters had learned about growing up was at the House of Love with many other children around and the staff guiding them. This was an opportunity for them to develop some independence skills and to see what life was like outside the home. The staff loved the idea and thought it would help transition from youth home to independence. The sisters worked with staff to find a small apartment in town where Dontrii, Sakara, and two other students from the House of Love could live together and walk to their universities. The House of Love helped the women with furniture and supplies, continued to provide funding for schooling, food, rent, and made visits to the girls to make sure they were doing well.

Now a young woman in her 20's, Dontrii is active in church and spends time at the House of Love helping out. She also works with the staff to lead get togethers for the college students and graduates. This year, she graduated from university with a degree in English Business. Fresh out of college, she was able to get a job at a Christian coffee shop which trains interns from all over the world. The coffee shop also is a social work foundation. Dontrii is not sure what the future holds for her but she does know that she wants to follow God's lead. Please pray that she can see and follow the path as God presents opportunities for her.



Parish Nurse Notes

Dedie Moore R.N.

*O Lord, with thee are the days of my life, thine alone
is the life of my spirit. Oh, restore me to health and
make me live!*
Isaiah 38:16

August is National Immunization month, so I hope everyone is up to date on their immunizations. Boosters may be needed for diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough, and for COVID. Your health provider will know what you need, but it may be good to ask.

I looked up recommendations on COVID boosters and did not get a clear answer. The booster after having had the full schedule of vaccines for the vaccine you received is recommended. The newer bivalent vaccine is more effective against newer variants. All the vaccines and boosters' effectiveness declines over time, but they still provide significant protection against serious illness and death.

In April it was OKed for adults 65 and older and those who are immunocompromised to get a second bivalent booster, as long as it had been at least 4 months since their last booster. Your provider will know what is best for you.

And we know that the days of our lives are with our Lord, who is the life of our spirits. We can be healed even if we still have some disease. Supporting each other and sharing our joys and concerns boosts our health. We are blessed to have such a supportive church family.

GLAD now is meeting in person in the hospitality room the second and fourth Mondays at 6:30pm. It has been so good to see people in person! All are welcome. It is a very supportive group. Thanks to Cindy for keeping everything going!

Enjoy the rest of our summer. At least we are not having the terrible heat others are getting.

PLEASE NOTE:

The Church Council did not meet in July.
June minutes will be approved at the next meeting
on August 8th

A NOTE OF THANKS

We extend our well wishes and blessings to
Rev. Kathryn Bell for her service to our
church during Pastor Paul's sabbatical leave.



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.



Jim Martineau

Jim began his life journey when he was born to “Bugs” and Gail Martineau in 1963 in Superior, Wisconsin. Jim said his dad, known by everyone as “Bugs”, came to Silver Bay in 1966 to work for Reserve Mining Company. Silver Bay is where Jim spent the rest of his childhood being the middle child of 5. Jim recalls how different the town was when he was a boy. Trees were just sticks in the ground and the houses looked so small in this new company town. The three schools were full of students and the churches had many children enrolled in Sunday schools. Jim attended United Protestant Church Sunday School and recalls the church being full with about 100 kids. Jim remembers that the teachers were very much in control and the students did not get away with very much. When Jim was around 11 years old, his father left their home which left his mother, Gail, to raise the children. Jim recalls that during this time of his life he was aware of the struggle the family had to make ends meet. Jim worked as a newspaper delivery boy to help out. Unfortunately, carrying the heavy bag on his shoulders caused a compression injury. At that time, it was not known that children who carry heavy backpacks can have injuries. This injury was the beginning of a lifetime of painful spinal difficulties.

During his teens, Jim worked at the school doing custodial work at night. He also noted that his mom married Dave Gustafson creating a blended family. Jim remembers that Gail and Dave’s wedding was held at a hall that was located near the commissary on Reserve Mining’s property. After graduation from high school Jim worked on a IRRRB project in which they would use aerial maps to locate certain parts of the forest for clearing management to improve wildlife habitat. This was the beginning of many new adventures. When that job had ended, Jim paid \$75.00 for a Nash Rambler and took off for Duluth where his world expanded as he met many diverse people of many different ethnic backgrounds. After two years of schooling, Jim earned a two year degree as a certified auto mechanic. He then worked for four years for Firestone and Montgomery Wards. When Jim was receiving therapy for spinal contractions, he met Dave Collette and they became friends. Jim worked a few years for Collette Transmission. When he was about 28 years old, Jim received his merchant marine seaman’s license. This was a big surprise to his mother who did not see much of her son already. Jim got a job as a deck hand with the American Steamship Company. He then became a porter and because the boss liked his baking skills, he was promoted to second cook. Jim says that all of the experiences of 8 years as a seaman and the stories of the people he met could fill a book.

After a time, Jim got married and had two children. They lived on a farm that was about 12 miles from Two Harbors. They had a livestock, hens, gardens and raised hay. They heated their house with wood. The marriage was ended and Jim moved back to Silver Bay where he worked for the Veteran’s Home. Jim has had to struggle through a multitude of physical/medical challenges that would bring him to the brink of death and darkness. He believes, with all his being, that if it were not for God’s grace and intercession he would not be here. He was pulled out of a deep dark hole of pain into a faith that has taken him to a place where he says, “I am grateful for each beautiful day.” Jim learned through the years that when you are in trouble you cannot get relief without the help of others and, likewise, you need to be the help that others need. Now, Jim wonders, “Why am I here? What is God’s purpose for me?”

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.

August Birthdays

Mike Osmundson	8
Bonnie Anderson	10
Dan Bzdok	11
Barb Hron	12
David Moore	13
Cooper Goutermont	14
Grace Kelley	17
Scott Searls	21
Terry Thompson	23
David Colby	26
Dedie Moore	27
Ray Burge	28
Ruth Koepke	30

August Anniversaries

Paul and Mary Jo Taintor	8
Dale and Vera Johnson	11
Chris and Nancy Viola	16
Mike and Peg Osmundson	20
Marlin and Carol Bakken	26

Pastor's Office Hours

During August Pastor Paul works from the church office on Wednesday. He works from his home office on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and can be reached at 218-626-1528.

Potluck

Plan to join us after church on Sunday, August 13th, for a summer potluck after Sunday morning worship. Beverages provided. If you have any questions please contact Irene Johnson. See you around the table.



Wednesday Morning Bible Study 9:30 am

Everyone is welcome to share time and refreshments while we study the wisdom from the Bible.

Check out our new website:

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

August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Sunday Worship 10:30 am Communion	7	8 Boards meet 5:00 pm Council meets 6:00 pm	9 WMBS 9:30 am	10	11	12
13 Sunday Worship 10:30 am Potluck	14 GLAD 6:30 pm	15	16 WMBS 9:30 am	17	18	19
20 Sunday Worship 10:30 am	21	22	23 WMBS 9:30 am	24	25	26
27 Sunday Worship 10:30 am	28 GLAD 6:30 pm	29	30 WMBS 9:30 am	31	Pastor Paul will be in the office on Wednesdays Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at home. Lynn in office Wed & Thurs 1:30 -4:00 pm	

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH
17 HORN BOULEVARD
SILVER BAY, MN 55614

Postage Paid Permit No.2
A Non-Profit Organization
Silver Bay, MN 55614

Return Service Requested

