

CIRCLE TIMES

October 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

Rev. Paul Scaringi, Ph.D.

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TEXTS AND TITLES

October 1 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

2nd Reading: Matthew 21:23-32

Title: *A Rock and a Hard Place*

October 8 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

2nd Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

Title: *The Press*

October 15 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading: Matthew 22:1-14

2nd Reading: Exodus 32:1-14

Title: *When God Remembers*

October 22 – 21st Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Title: *In Spite of . . .*

October 29 – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

2nd Reading: Matthew 22:34-46

Title: *Stumped*



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 Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his staff; water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their livestock drank. But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me, to show my holiness before the eyes of the Israelites, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them."

- Numbers 20:11-12

I'm thinking that if we were to poll people who regularly attend or who grew up in a church and asked the following questions, they'd be able to get a majority of them correct: (go ahead, give it a try)

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 1.) The story of Moses is in the New Testament | True | False |
| 2.) Moses' mom put him in a floating basket on the Nile | True | False |
| 3.) Moses real name is Charlton | True | False |
| 4.) God spoke to Moses from within a burning bush | True | False |
| 5.) Moses led the Israelites out of captivity | True | False |
| 6.) Moses received the 10 commandments from God | True | False |
| 7.) Moses drove a chariot through the desert | True | False |
| 8.) Moses led the people into the Promised Land | True | False |

Now there are some trick questions in there (I trust you answered #3 correctly – if not, we need to talk) but overall I think most would do fairly well with this basic quiz. If there was one question that is going to trip a person up it would most likely be #8. I say this because it is easy to forget that Moses *never* entered the Promised Land. He led them to the border but died before they entered. The only reason for this is found in the above verses and it has led to much pondering and debate as to why God would do such a thing.

God's action is puzzling because of who Moses was and all that he did – his close communion with God, the number of times he led the people to safety, the trials he faced and overcame through God's presence and the Lord working through him. It is little wonder that he is considered one of the two greatest prophets of the Old Testament (the other being Elijah). Moses was someone, as Deuteronomy 34:10 says, "whom the LORD knew face to face." And now, on the cusp of entering the land after 40 long years of leading the people through the desert, he is denied. This seems a little harsh, doesn't it? Especially when we consider that when he strikes the rock at this point in the story he is doing almost exactly what he did he earlier in Exodus 17:1-7.

This is a fairly complex issue. You may say I've bitten off more than I can chew in one newsletter article and that would be a fair observation. Yet, as complex as this situation is, I do believe there is one observation we can focus on as we prepare to enter the last months of 2023 – it is the lesson of how we walk with God.

For all that can be said about this moment in the life of Moses and the life of Israel, for all the questions that have been (and will continue to be) asked, we would do well to not lose sight of the basic element of what is told. It is easy to become focused on the outcome (Moses dying within sight of the goal), so easy, in fact, that we lose sight of what is central to this episode – the theme of trusting in God. The Lord is direct in verse 12: ". . . you did not trust in me."

Continued from page 2

God gave Moses specific instructions – he was to take his staff, and along with Aaron, go to the rock and Moses was to command the rock to bring forth water. In so doing God would provide what the people needed, which was water to drink, as well as yet another vivid lesson of God's presence and power. Moses, however, walks into the moment, it would seem, more focused on the people's complaining than God's presence. Thus he uses the opportunity to gather them together in verse 10 and call them "rebels," and it is in that spirit that he strikes the rock. In that moment it seems to me that Moses moves from walking with God to walking out on his own, fueled by his anger and maybe even his own sense of power.

After all those years of wandering with a people who complain and fail to wholeheartedly place their trust in the Lord, his frustration is certainly understandable. But we can see other times when he was fed up with the people's antics and took his complaint to God. From there God worked through him to address their rebellious ways. Numbers 11 is a fine example of this. As I read this episode, I find a man who lost sight of God and instead took matters into his own hands.

If I'm honest, I cannot recall all the times I've done this in my own life, whether out of frustration, impatience, or fear. I've struck out on my own, not only forgetting or ignoring God's presence in my life but also ignoring the people God has placed in my life to carry me along. In other words, I've failed to trust. There are all sorts of reasons why we stop trusting in the Lord's presence in our lives and God's ability to provide for us. Some of the most tempting reasons are the ones that make the most 'sense' to us (e.g., "God's too busy" or "I'm supposed to take care of this on my own" or "Water doesn't come from rocks these days"). Whatever our reasons, the call remains upon our lives to place our trust in the Lord each day. This is not a one-off statement we commit to on New Year's Day but rather a commitment we are meant to nurture daily through prayer, worship, and loving God and one another.

It can be challenging. That said, it is also a path of joy. As the Holy Spirit nurtures our trust we have the potential to know more fully the presence of the Eternal Love in our lives each day – the One who is still able to bring forth water from the rocky trials in our life.

Blessings,
Paul

PS

I'm fairly confident there is someone who is asking, "What are the answers?" Here they are:
1-false, 2-true, 3-false, 4-true, 5-true, 6-true, 7-false, 8-false

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY BEGINS OCTOBER 11TH



The Prayer Shawl Ministry at U.P. Church meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. We meet in the Hospitality Room at the church at 2:00 pm, crochet or knit for about an hour and a half, ending our meetings with coffee and some treats. At each of our times together, we always spend some time in prayer over each of the shawls or lap-ropes we are making. This, of course, does not bestow on them any kind of magical power, but is a reminder to us that someday this gift will be presented to some person, usually someone in need of prayer. Our prayer is that the shawl will be a comfort to the person, a reminder that we will continue to pray for them and as a symbol of God's love and care for them. When they wrap themselves in the soft yarn, we want it to seem like "a hug from God". We encourage anyone interested in our ministry, either by joining our group, or by requesting a shawl for themselves or someone else, to call the church at 226-3973 and speak with Lynn or Pastor Paul, or Ruth Eggum 226-3538.

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

September 11, 2023 6:00 pm

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

Council Chair Dedie Moore called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm and opened in prayer.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None

M/M/S by Peg Osmundson/EdMaki to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

TREASURERS'S REPORT: M/M/S by Agnes Gilson/Peg Osmundson to approve the Treasurer's reports from August, 2023 for audit. Motion carried.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Checking Account: \$18,495.24 | Memorial Fund: \$26,461.23 | Ministry Fund: |
| \$67,020.78 | AmazonSmile: \$463.66 | |
| House of Love: \$8,642.95 | Checking SS: \$3,241.63 | |
| YTD Food Shelf: \$983.00 | | |
| YTD Income: \$65,821.22 | | |
| YTD Expense: (\$74,655.05) | | |
| YTD Net: (\$8,833.83) | | |

DIACONATE REPORT: Ruth Eggum reported that we will ask Alis Stevens to submit a letter of resignation from the Diaconate since she has moved. We will continue with Communion by Intinction until the end of 2023. The chimes have not been working on the organ. Mike Osmundson remains in the hospital, Rebecca Snook will be having surgery in Colorado in October and Philip Christman and Serine Ege both have health issues going on.

TRUSTEE REPORT: David Moore reported that they are still waiting for the concrete work to be done by Van House. They are still on hold with Mike Tarolli about the windows. Eventually something will be done about the garden spot under the unity circle in the front of the church.

CHRISTIAN ED REPORT: None.

OLD BUSINESS: No report on the Tabitha Ministry. Mike Osmundson met with the people from the day care about using the church. Nothing was decided. An ad has been placed in the NS Journal asking for community interest in a Thanksgiving meal.

NEW BUSINESS: Pastor and Eileen will be hosting a lunch on September 30 at noon in Morgan Park. People are asked to bring a dish to share. For the Nominating Committee, Agnes Gilson volunteered to represent the Diaconate, Ed Maki will represent the Trustees, and Dedie will call about the Christian Ed Board representation for the Nominating and Budget Committees. For the Budget Committee, Peg Osmundson will represent the Diaconate and Philip Christman will represent the Trustees. Terry Eggum is the Chair-Elect for 2024. Chair Dedie Moore brought up the possibility of using UPC for a "Clubhouse" sponsored by the North Shore Mental Health Group. This matter was tabled for now. The pictures on the wall in the Fellowship Hall of Board members and staff need to be updated.

The next Council meeting will be October 10, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

M/M/S by Terry Eggum/David Moore to adjourn the meeting at 6:02 pm. Motion carried. Dedie Moore closed in prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ruth Eggum, Council Secretary

September minutes will be approved in October.

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 October 1st

Scripture: Philippians 3:12-14

Prayer: God of strength and power, I ask you that you would help me to press on towards the goal you have gifted to me. Amen.

The week of October 8th

Scripture: Isaiah 25:8-9

Prayer: There are times when it is hard to wait, dear God, for you to move in my life. Strengthen my faith and grant me the ability to hold fast to your promise. Amen.

The week of October 15th

Scripture: Matthew 22:17-22

Prayer: Gracious Lord, out of the good gifts you have given me, lead me to see what I am called to give to you and to the world around me. Amen.

The week of October 22nd

Scripture: Leviticus 19:15-18

Prayer: Holy God, as you call me to be holy, bless me with the power to walk in the ways of holiness – to forgive, to be gracious and to love as you love me. Amen.

The week of October 29th

Scripture: Psalm 34:3-5

Prayer: I praise you, Lord. Deliver me from the fears that I'm loathe to admit. Illuminate my life so I may exalt your name. Amen.



Parish Nurse Notes

Dedie Moore R.N.

*Peace, peace, to the far and near,
says the Lord; and I will heal them.
Isaiah 57:19*

October 10 is Mental Health Awareness Day. We all are aware of the term mental health, and we all know people who have been impacted by serious mental illness. This is no different than physical health and serious physical illness. People can suffer from chronic serious mental illnesses, or from minor, transient episodes of less-than-ideal mental health. Our mental health strongly impacts our physical health. Most can remember a stressful time when the stress was felt in their abdomen or chest, or headache.

Just as recovery is possible from physical illness, it is also a goal for mental illness. Recovery might mean that an illness is under good control, such as a controlled insulin dependent diabetic. It can mean that the symptoms of illness are gone and do not impact a person's life. Just as with physical illnesses, good recovery depends on collaboration between health care providers and clients. A diagnosis does not define or limit a person. Activities such as walking outside, praying, meditation, sharing a good joke or a meal help to maintain and regain good health.

Mental diagnoses are not exact like physical diagnosis. They cannot be verified by lab values or scans. Diagnoses were developed to assist practitioners in choosing treatments that might be beneficial.

We have great, amazing abilities to heal physically and mentally. Our faith helps us to heal.

GLAD meets the second and fourth Mondays at 6:30 pm. We meet on Zoom or in person, please contact me or North Shore Mental Health Group through Facebook for more information. Contact me at dediedavid@yahoo.com, or 218-220-2048

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.



Lynn Anderson

I was born in South Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Raymond and Lillian Anderson on November 16, 1948. After paying \$66.18 for a 5 ½ day hospital stay, my parents brought me home to an eight year old sister, Geri and a four year old brother, Dan. Six years later my folks introduced us to a little brother, Lee, and 10 years later a little sister, Tina. Mother would refer to her children as a poker hand (full house-queens over kings). As I remember it, our household had baby to teenager issues going on all at once. I learned so much from my older siblings and taught as much to my younger ones. After all, I was the middle child. When I was of pre-school age our family went through a crisis. My dad became very sick and was diagnosed as having tuberculosis and was sent to a TB sanitarium for several years. It turned out that he was ill from chrome plating in an industrial plant that did not have good ventilation. During his absence, my beautiful mother had to find ways to provide for her children. She moved our family to the south side of Milwaukee to apartments that a welfare check could afford. As I look back, I marvel at how she managed to keep a roof over our heads and food to eat. I remember playing alone in the dirt in back of our two-story apartment building when, out of sadness, I looked up at the blue sky and said, “I don’t want to be here anymore, I hate this place, I want to go home.” I heard a kind voice say, “Everything will be all right, you must stay.” As though a curtain closed, I went back to my play, having been comforted by the voice.

Finally, my dad came home to our Polish flat apartment. On his first day home, I remember he was fixing a door knob. Looking up to him, I asked, “Will you stay, Daddy?” Yes, he did and through all my growing up years, I remember Dad as jovial and he was so gifted with musical ability that he played many instruments including string base, guitar, tuba and accordion. He supplemented his income by playing in dance bands on weekends. Everyone loved my mom and dad. Being 100% second generation Finnish, my parents could speak Finnish fluently. Unfortunately, they spoke their mother tongue only with each other or with my aunts and uncles. They did not want to confuse us. However, we learned a little when we would ask questions like “How do you say mother in Finnish?” During our summers, our family would travel “up north” to Ironwood, MI to stay with Grandma. It was there we learned about taking sauna and heard mostly Finnish being spoken and ate Grandma’s breads and jams. I loved going up north to be among the lakes and forests. Our parents kept their culture alive and we, in the third generation, try our best by attending Finnish-American cultural events and traveling to Finland to visit relatives and friends.

During my college years at University of Wisconsin-Madison, my dad retired and moved the family to a rural home on 30 acres of woods south of Hurley, WI. At the age of nineteen, I got married and we loved to visit my folks and younger brother and sister. We felt like it was going home. I attained a BA-Elementary Education. Instead of teaching, I worked as an accountant for the University Student Union. I enjoyed that job because I enjoyed working with the students. During that time a wonderful thing happened. My ex-husband’s parents gave us a trip around the world. We traveled for four months visiting England, France, Greece, Switzerland, Yugoslavia, Thailand, Singapore, Sumatra, Taiwan and Japan. It was a wonderful experience. As time went by, we congenially divorced and I, simply said, had a wanderlust for adventure that took me to many places and introduced me to many people who taught me many things. It took me years to sort out my spiritual side of life and all that meandering eventually led me to meet Larry Longmore. After one break-up, we got together and married in 1989. So, here I am, 34 years later doing just fine. I have been blessed. I found an excellent job at Northshore Mining Co. where I made lifelong friends. I live in the most beautiful place of natural beauty. I’m with Larry and I attend UP Church, my spiritual home where I stand on a rock rather than shifting sands. I am able to freely create artwork, cards, and poetry. I am surely blessed. As I look back at my life I realize that the grace of God has somehow straightened my path to discover that it is not what I have been that matters; it is what I am to become that matters. Also, I have come to believe that one should never underestimate God’s loving presence, power and plans. So now, I look up at the blue sky and whisper to the voice that spoke to me as a child and say, “Yes, you were right, everything has turned out all right.”

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, Mary Aijala, Mary Carroll, Chuckie Knutson, Ed Maki, Mike and Peg Osmondson, David Gustafson, Rebecca Snook, Phil Christman and Serine Ege of our congregation as they deal with health-related changes and recoveries.
All the caregivers.

October Birthdays

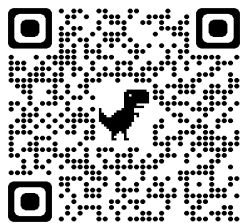
| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Nancy Christenson | 3 |
| Karen Bzdok | 4 |
| Terry Eggum | 7 |
| Ben Goutermont | 8 |
| Ernie Kelley | 10 |
| Helen Stronach | 16 |
| Paul Taintor | 19 |
| Karen Borg | 31 |



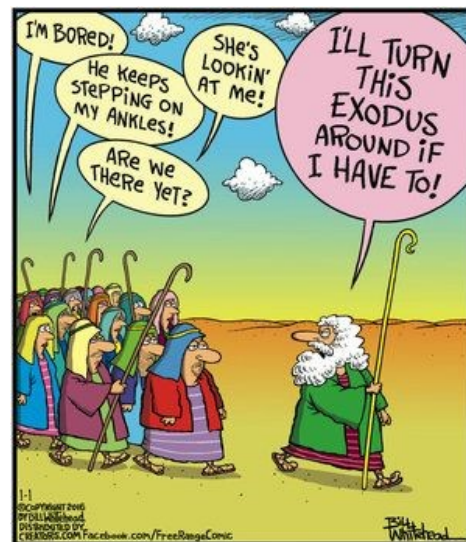
October Anniversaries



We are going forward to restart UPC community dinner for Thanksgiving. If you are interested in volunteering the day of Thanksgiving, please sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall or call the church office (218-226-3973).



For those who would like to support the UPC ministry electronically, please scan this code to access our website's online giving page:



Wednesday Morning Bible Study 9:30 am

Join us as we explore the Gospel of Mark in our fall study.
Everyone is welcomed.

Check out our 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.

October 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|----------------------|---|--|--|-----|-----|
| 1 Sunday Worship 10:30 am Communion | 2 | 3 | 4 WMBS 9:30 am | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Sunday Worship 10:30 am | 9 GLAD 6:30 pm | 10 Boards meet 5:00 pm Council meets 6:00 pm | 11 WMBS 9:30 am Prayer Shawl 2:00 pm | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Sunday Worship 10:30 am | 16 | | 18 WMBS 9:30 am Thanksgiving Committee 2:00 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 Sunday Worship 10:30 am | 2 GLAD 6:30 pm | 24 | 25 WMBS 9:30 am Prayer Shawl 2:00 pm | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Sunday Worship 10:30 am | 30 | 31 | | <p>Pastor Paul will be in the office on Tuesday and Wednesdays . He will be in his home office on Thursdays and Fridays.</p> <p>Lynn in office Wed & Thurs 1:30 -4:00 pm</p> | | |

**UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH
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