

CIRCLE TIMES



May 2024

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.

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TEXTS AND TITLES

May 5 – 6th Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

2nd Reading: John 15:9-17

Title: *The End Game*

May 19 – Day of Pentecost

1st Reading: Acts 2:1-21

2nd Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Title: *The Sound of Faith*

May 12 – 7th Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

2nd Reading: 1 John 5:9-13

Title: *This Life*

May 26 – Trinity Sunday

1st Reading: John 3:1-17

2nd Reading: Romans 8:12-17

Title: *The Inheritance*



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

When this perishable body puts on imperishability and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:
“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”
“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”
The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.
But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- I Corinthians 15:54-56

The verses above come from the most detailed teaching we have in scripture on the resurrection. In I Corinthians chapter 15 the apostle Paul writes to illuminate that which is, ultimately, beyond human description – the resurrection of Jesus. The chapter, though, is not only an attempt to describe what the resurrection is but, more importantly, to describe what it means for the created order, which includes you and me.

The chapter comes to a grand conclusion with the words above, words that almost have a taunting sound to them: "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" They are words spoken by someone who has known the power of Jesus' resurrection in his own life and for followers of Christ they can be a great encouragement for our daily walks. Yet, if we're honest, we can see how they might be challenging words for some. When we are confronted with death, either in the loss of a loved one or in acknowledging our own mortality, the 'sting' of death can seem all too potent. Indeed, some may say that Paul is taking the power of death too lightly. I do not believe he is.

Paul, like most of those early followers of Jesus, knew all too well the pain and torment of death. A number of them would lose their lives for their faith in Christ. Paul is not trying to deny the pain that death can bring. What he is being led to proclaim in these highly evocative verses is the reality that the power of death is no longer the final word in this world and thus it no longer need have absolute sway over our lives.

The grief we feel over the loss of a loved one is real and requires our attention. It is not something we're supposed to put out of our minds because our deceased is now in the blessed presence of God. When Paul says that we "do not grieve as others do" (I Thess. 4:13), he is *not* saying that we do not grieve but rather that our grief is different. In a similar fashion, when we are confronted with the death and destruction in the world around us – in war zones, in our own country – it is not a tragedy we're meant to ignore or look past. The 'sting' of those events rightly stabs at our hearts. Yet, Paul, and the larger witness of scripture, would say that this sting is not what it once was because there is the over-arching truth that Christ has conquered death, a defeat that reverberates down through history to who we are today.

Easter is not simply about new life, as in flowers bursting from a long dormant winter or trees coming to bud. Easter is the amazing promise and power of life being found where before there was only death. What our faith, therefore, proclaims is that there is always hope, always potential and possibility, because God is able to work through any trial, any difficulty, and transform it into something that is whole and good. Jesus rising from the grave is the sure sign that no matter what we face, in the end God can and will make all things well.

In his book, *The Magnificent Defeat*, Frederick Buechner describes this resurrection reality, *But the proclamation of Easter Day is that all is well. And as a Christian, I say this not with the easy optimism of one who has never known a time when all was not well but as one who has faced the Cross in all its obscenity as well as in all its glory, who has known one way or another what it is like to live separated from God. In the end, his will, not ours, is done. Love is the victor. Death is not the end. The end is life. His life and our lives through him, in him. Existence has greater depths of beauty, mystery, and benediction than the wildest visionary has ever dared to dream. Christ our Lord has risen.*

As we move through this season of Eastertide, I pray you'll encounter the power of Jesus' resurrection in these days, and you'll be blessed with an assurance that all will be well because Jesus has risen.

Blessings, Paul

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

April 9, 2024 6:00 pm

ATTENDEES: Ed Maki, Mike Osmundson, Peg Osmundson, Jim Martineau, Jean Williams, Agnes Gilson, David Moore, Terry Eggum, Ruth Eggum, Pastor Paul.

Council Chair Terry Eggum called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Pastor Paul opened in prayer.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Boy Scouts under New Business.

M/M/S by Ed Maki/Peg Osmundson to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

TREASURERS'S REPORT: M/M/S by Ruth Eggum/Peg Osmundson to approve the March Treasurer's report for audit. Motion carried.

Checking Account: \$29,552.73	Memorial Fund: \$26,791.67	
Ministry Fund: \$67,059.85	House of Love: \$8,337.86	AmazonSmile:
\$463.94	Checking SS: \$3,440.15	YTD Food Shelf: \$ 394.00
YTD Income: \$21,618.10		
YTD Expense: (\$24,710.17)		
YTD Net: (\$3,092.07)		

DIACONATE REPORT: Ruth Eggum reported the Health Ministry Team will be taking over management of the Tabitha Ministry.

TRUSTEE REPORT: Mike Osmundson reported that there will be a work day at church on May 18 from 10 am to 3 pm. Mark Ness will be doing our lawn mowing this summer. Details concerning payment for Mark are still being worked out. Mike O. will check with Steve Van House on when he will be replacing the sidewalk at the rear entry.

CHRISTIAN ED REPORT: Jean Williams reported that they will be purchasing 5 Bibles for the Sunday School kids. The Bible translation they will purchase has yet to be decided. A white board will be purchased for Sunday School and stored in the church library. There will be a lock-in game night for the youth on April 19. Wednesday morning Bible study will resume April 10.

PASTOR'S REPORT: There is no one in the hospital at this time. Treatments continue for Jean Wagner, Mike O. and Philip Christman. Nancy Cooper's memorial service will be held May 4 at UP. There will be a private graveside service for Pat Viola. The annual Split Rock service is scheduled for June 16. The temporary Silver Bay postmaster stopped by and would like us to help spread the word of employment opportunities with the Post Office.

OLD BUSINESS: The Health Ministry Team will be taking over management of the Tabitha Ministry. Ruth Eggum will check with Julie at the Vet's Home to get an estimate of how many from there will be attending the luncheon on April 19. There are sign-up sheets for those willing to help with the luncheon on April 18 and 19. M/M/S by Terry Eggum/Ruth Eggum to give Angie Goutermont signatory authority at the North Shore Federal Credit Union for the church accounts. Motion carried. Mike O. will speak with the credit union about this. There was discussion with no decision concerning the new sound system that is needed. KSG Sound and Video could do an initial consultation for a \$1200.00 fee. Jerry and Dusty LaVigne could also be consulted.

NEW BUSINESS: M/M/S by Mike O./Ed Maki to change Sunday worship time for the summer from 10:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. M/M/S by Terry Eggum/Jean Williams to table this motion until the May Council meeting and provide a ballot to the congregation (April 21 & 28) letting them weigh-in about the time change. Motion carried. M/M/S by Ruth Eggum/Peg Osmundson to NOT renew our CCLI

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copyright license which expires in October 2024. Motion carried. Pastor Paul received a call from Joe Youngberg concerning whether our church would be interested in hosting a Boy Scout troop, which is re-starting in Silver Bay. This would include have a church liaison available at all meetings. M/M/S by Terry Eggum/David Moore to allow the Scouts to use our building and to provide a bulletin insert advertising for an interested person being the liaison. Motion carried. Mike O. will speak with Seth Thun about any liability for the church if the Scouts meet here.

The next Council meeting will be May 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

M/M/S by Peg Osmundson/Ruth Eggum to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm. Motion carried. Pastor Paul closed in prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ruth Eggum, Council Secretary

April Council minutes will be approved at the May Council 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 5th

Scripture: I John 5:11-13

Prayer: Eternal Lord, thank you for blessing me with the great gift of life in your Son. Lead me to see the light of this life in all that I do and in everyone I encounter. Amen.

The week of May 12th

Scripture: Psalm 104:28-30

Prayer: Gracious Lord, thank you for the good things you offer to me. May your good gifts open my life to your renewing Spirit and power. Amen.

The week of May 19th

Scripture: Romans 8:15-17

Prayer: Abba, Father, open my heart and mind to realize that I am yours, an heir with Jesus, so I may rejoice in you and follow you. Amen.

The week of May 26th

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:7

Prayer: It is difficult, dear Father, to see myself as a brittle clay jar. I ask for your grace to see my vulnerability in the light of your love and presence within me. Amen.

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

Keep these folks in your thoughts and prayers:

Ellen and Karsten Hogenson, Phyllis Pearrow, Ray Burge, Dave and Kay Colby, Irene Johnson, Mary Aijala, Mary Carroll, Chuckie Knudson, Mike and Peg Osmundson, David Gustafson, Rebecca Snook, Phil Christman, Serine Ege, Deanne Reiten, Agnes Gilson, Jean Wagner and Ruth Koepke of our congregation as they deal with health-related changes and recoveries.

All the caregivers.

Our sympathy to the family of Nancy Cooper who died on March 1, 2024

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
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

Join us as we explore the book:
The Other Half of Church.
All are welcome.



For those who would like to support the UPC ministry electronically, please scan this code to access our website's online giving page: Note: There is a fee associated with using this application.

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.

May

2024

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<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>		1 WMBS 9:30 am	2	3	4 Nancy Cooper Service 11:00 am
5 Sun. School 9:30 am Sunday Worship 10:30 am Communion	6	7	8 WMBS 9:30 am Prayer Shawl 2:00 pm	9	10	11
12 Sun. School 9:30 am Sunday Worship 10:30 am	13 GLAD 6:30 pm	14 Boards 5:00 pm Council 6:00 pm Com. Lunch Group 2:00 pm	15 WMBS 9:30 am	16	17	18 Church Workday 10:00 am
19 Sun. School 9:30 am Sunday Worship 10:30 am	20	21	22 WMBS 9:30 am Prayer Shawl 2:00 pm	23	24	25
26 Sun .School 9:30 am Sunday Worship 10:30 am	27 GLAD 6:30 pm	28	29	30	31	

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