

CIRCLE TIMES

September 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.*

Rev. Paul Scaringi, Ph.D.

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Terry Eggum, Church Council Chair

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TEXTS AND TITLES

September 1 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

2nd Reading: James 1:17-27

Title: *Finding the Balance*

September 8 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a

2nd Reading: Mark 7:24-37

Title: *The Ol' Finger in the Ear . . .*

September 15 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading: Mark 8:27-38

2nd Reading: James 3:1-12

Title: *Time to Check the Rudder*

September 22 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading: Psalm 1

2nd Reading: James 3:13 – 4:3, 7-8a

Title: *The Wise Path*

September 29 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

1st Reading: TBA

2nd Reading: TBA

Title: TBA



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

So faith, hope, and love endure. These are the great three . . .

- I Corinthians 13.13a

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. . . .
The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their
brothers and sisters also.

- I John 4.16b, 21

Over the last several months we've been exploring the "great three" the apostle Paul names in I Corinthians 13 – faith, hope, and love. Those familiar with this famous chapter (I Corinthians is often read at weddings, never mind all the times it is quoted) know that the chapter ends with Paul proclaiming that the greatest of the three is love. It is a proclamation that is affirmed throughout scripture.

As this is a passage that is often associated with weddings, we can sometimes lose sight of the chapter's focus. I believe Paul's primary emphasis here is not the love celebrated at a wedding but rather the love that is central to our faith and thus central to our lives. Now don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that this passage should not be read at weddings. It is a wonderful chapter with evocative imagery proclaiming a truth that provides a solid foundation for married life. But, and this is a big 'but,' it also sets the standard for any who would want to follow Jesus – married, unmarried, young, old, female, male, etc.

What Paul proclaims in this passage (as he deals with an unruly congregation in Corinth) is the central truth that the life of faith finds its grounding in love – God's love for us, our love for God, and our love for one another. Any approach to faith within the Christian church that does not begin with this absolute basic truth is nothing but a "noisy gong" (v. 1). When Paul writes that love is the greatest of the three he is not saying that faith and hope are unimportant – they are so important they form the triad that is meant to be the keystone for our lives. Yet, if we try to understand faith without understanding why faith is offered to us – because we are God's beloved children – or how faith grows – it is meant to be an outgrowth of God's love for us and our love for God – then our faith will eventually stagnate. Similarly if we try to hold to hope without realizing that hope is assured because our Lord will not abandon those who exist as God's beloved, then our hope will fade away.

Love – for some it sounds simple, for others it is naive, and for others it sounds weak. Paul, like the other apostles and early followers of Jesus, knew that it was, and is, the only way to live out the life that has been gifted to us. Our lives find their fulfillment in being loved by our Lord and loving God and others in a way that reflects this Divine love. As I write this I cannot help but reflect on the years we have walked together in this ministry. As I look back I can clearly see now many joys and sorrows and through all of it what shines through is how God's love has been made manifest in our lives – in our love for our Lord, which was expressed in numerous and varied ways, and in our love for one another.

Thank you for calling me to be your pastor and thank you for your graciousness as I have heeded the Lord's call to move to a new ministry setting in Des Moines, Iowa. This has been a challenging 15 months for Eileen and me as we discerned the Holy Spirit's leading. As I prepare to go I do so with great hope knowing that the Lord is with us as our paths diverge. This hope is based on the faith we share in our risen Lord and although this is a trying time, because of the love we share as brothers and sisters in Christ, I am confident all will be well because of God's great love for us and the world which we've been gifted.

"Faith, hope and love, these three remain, and the greatest of these is love."

Blessings,
Paul

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

August 13, 2024 6:00 pm

ATTENDEES: Ed Maki, Jim Martineau, Jean Williams, David Moore, Dedie Moore, Lynn Anderson, Phil Christman, Shirley Whiteford, Brenda Larson, Terry Eggum, Ruth Eggum, Pastor Paul and Eileen Scaringi (Zoom).

Council Chair Terry Eggum called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Pastor Paul opened in prayer.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Dedie Moore wishes to discuss fundraisers for church members in need and give an update on the North Shore Mental Health Group.

M/M/S by David Moore/Philip Christman to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2024 meeting. Motion carried.

TREASURERS'S REPORT: Approval of the July Treasurer's report was tabled until the September meeting.

Checking Account: \$27,097.73	Memorial Fund: \$27,455.90	
Ministry Fund: \$66,058.13	House of Love: \$8,569.29	AmazonSmile:
\$464.10	Checking SS: \$3,551.84	YTD Food Shelf: \$ 804.00
YTD Income: \$60,512.02		
YTD Expense: (\$66,273.56)		
YTD Net: (\$5,761.54)		

DIACONATE REPORT: Ruth Eggum reported Communion will be September 8, rather than the 1st. Jim Martineau will represent the Diaconate on the Budget Committee and Shirley Whiteford will represent us on the Nominating Committee.

TRUSTEE REPORT: Chair Philip Christman reported that Karsten Hogenson told him the lectern microphone need to be replaced. Gary Nicolai will be able to do the job for less than \$400, including \$175 for the mike. Mike O. was able to fix the kitchen stove with a new fuse. Because of the delay in Steve Van House getting the job done, the Trustees will be looking for a new contractor to do the concrete work needed. Mike Tarolli will be able to get the metal sheeting done on the church within 30 days. They are looking into finding a boiler service maintenance company, not for replacement, but maintenance. Phil shared his concerns over the health issues facing some of the Trustees and the impact it has on getting projects completed.

CHRISTIAN ED REPORT: Brenda Larson reported that even with Eileen Scaringi leaving they will continue to stay connected with the young people for Sunday School. The kids will be serving dessert (an ice cream social) at the potluck on the Scaringi's last Sunday, September 22.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Paul expressed his gratitude for the support he has received following his resignation. His last Sunday will be September 22. Pastor reported that Allison Oja and Mike Osmundson are both patients at St. Luke's. Agnes Gilson continues her rehab at home and Mary Jo Taintor will be having a procedure this week. On August 11, the offering for Post from House of Love raised her next year's tuition, minus a few hundred dollars which will come out of the House of Love account. There will be a Community Luncheon planning meeting on Wednesday (8/14) for the September 13 luncheon.

OLD BUSINESS: Pastor Paul and Dedie Moore will be meeting soon to discuss the Tabitha Ministry. Diaconate members who will serve on Committees will be Jim Martineau (Budget) and Shirley Whiteford (Nominating); Christian Ed—Brenda Larson will serve on both; and Trustees—Ed Maki (Nominating) and Philip Christman (Budget).

Continued from page 3

NEW BUSINESS: Dedie Moore discussed the possibility of holding a fundraiser for church members in need. This will be an ongoing discussion as the needs arise. Dedie also updated that the North Shore Area Mental Health Group is trying to become a non-profit. One of the group's members had voiced concerns whether the church's insurance would cover any accident sustained when the NSMHG meets at the church. It will. Pastor Paul recommended that we look into getting an Intentional Interim Minister, someone who is trained in working with churches in transition and who will not be the new minister. Pastor will send letters to the five denominations announcing his resignation. Council Chair Terry Eggum described the next steps in finding an interim pastor as well as a new pastor. A Board of Advisors needs to be established consisting of the Council Chair, the Chairs of the Boards, Women's Guild Chair and representatives from the five denominations. The Pastoral Search Committee will consist of five members elected by the congregation, plus 2 members appointed by the denomination representatives from the Board of Advisors. The Search Committee will select an interim pastor, select the denomination of the new pastor, prepare the church profile and ultimately make the selection for the new pastor. Chair Terry Eggum suggested putting a note in the bulletin for two weeks asking for people who might be interested in serving on the Search Committee.

The next Council meeting will be September 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

M/M/S by Phil Christman/Jean Williams to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm. Motion carried. Chair Terry Eggum led us in Leah's Bible study prayer in closing.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ruth Eggum, Council Secretary

Note: the August minutes will be approved at the September 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 September 1st

Scripture: Mark 7:32-35

Prayer: Dear Jesus, I pray for the faith to believe that you can touch my life. Open my ears to hear your words of console and challenge so I may follow you. Amen.

The week of September 8th

Scripture: Psalm 19:1-5

Prayer: Creation is telling of your glory, Holy God. Unstop my ears so I may hear that glorious song of praise and join in the chorus of wonder and awe. Amen.

The week of September 15th

Scripture: James 3:13-17

Prayer: Wise and wonderful God, it is challenging for me to be peaceable and gentle. Bless me with your wisdom so I may bear your good fruits. Amen.

The week of September 22nd

Scripture: Psalm 23:1-4

Prayer: Lead me this day, Good Shepherd, through my dark valleys to the still waters where I may abide with you and be a place of refreshment for others. Amen.

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.

For this month's update we have an update on Fai – the young girl we support – and her cousin, Binmuk:

Thank you so much for your support of the House of Love, Binmuk, and Fai. Your support is not specifically for the both of them, but they are cousins and your support affects them both so we feel it is appropriate for you to get to know both of them. The girls currently live at the House of Love and are cousins but since living here, the two of them have become best friends and as close as sisters. We do stay in contact with their family and community however, the most recent assessments show that it is still not a safe enough environment for them to live long term. However, during the school break this year, they will be spending a week or two with a family in the community so they can keep in touch with their culture and be close enough to spend time with their own family and have a safe place in the evenings. Community is very important in Thai culture and we want to do everything we can to keep the girls in touch with their community.

Binmuk (9) is a very sweet, smart, and driven young woman. She is assertive enough to take the initiative to try to speak English with any visitor who can speak English. Though her English is very limited, she is still making the effort and trying to practice as much as she can. In Thai schools, English is taught but there is not much opportunity to practice. While she gets along well with the other kids here, she has a special bond with Fai and the two of them are usually playing together even though they have very different personalities and interests.

If there is one trait which stands out about Fai (8), it would be her nurturing nature. She loves to take care of dolls and stuffed animals; there is even a stray kitten who found its way to the House of Love and Fai has claimed the cat as her “child.” Recently, one of our graduates visited the House of Love with his new baby and since seeing them, Fai has used a blanket as a sling to hold a stuffed animal as one would carry a baby - and she takes it with her everywhere!

Thank you so much for your ongoing prayers and support of Binmuk and Fai as well as all of the children and families we work with here at the House of Love.

*I am very happy, my name is **Binmuk** and I would be very happy to hear from you. | hope that you are well. I am doing very well right now. It is very hot and I am happy to be on school break now. I am going to be going to grade 5 after the break. In my studies I received a GPA of 3.6 in my studies. This semester break I will go to my village and see my mother. This week, the house mother took us to see fish and go swimming and then we went to camp at the church. I really liked it and had a lot of fun. What kind of fish do you like to see? I want to thank you for supporting me and helping me to go to school. Thank you very much. I hope God blesses you very much and your family with good health and happiness. May God bless you all. (translated from Thai)*

*My name is **Fai** and I am from the Lahu tribe and I am practicing my writing to you. The weather in Thailand is very hot right now and there is a lot of smoke also. Now I am done with grade 3 and I can read alot more this year. I am studying very hard. This year I liked to go see the koi fish at the park and I got to go swimming and go to the market. I really liked the market. I want to thank you for supporting me. May God bless you with lots of happiness and money and good health. (translated from Thai)*

Photos are not available



Parish Nurse Notes

Dedie Moore Retired R.N.

Be still and know that I am God!

Psalm 46:10

This is a familiar verse and one of my favorites, probably because I frequently need to be reminded to just be still". In our modern lives there is so much stimulation, so many calls to respond to, it can be very difficult to just be still. Or from T.S. Eliot: "Teach us to care and not to care, teach us to sit still. Calming is an essential part of mental health. We need joy, activity, connections, and we need time and space to be calm and recover.

Quieting is a skill that can be learned and practiced. If a person was raised, or has been in an environment where there was the constant demand to be on guard, the ability to calm and quiet can be very difficult. To be still and trust that God has us, has our backs, that we are not in control can take practice. On You Tube Jim Wilder has simple exercises to "Shalom My Body". These are a physical way to calm our bodies so that we may be present in our present, instead of responding in fear or anger.

Especially in an election year this is important. What really makes us, our country great? Our best selves, our charity, our respect for each other, our working for the best good for the most people, this is what makes us great. We are all better than this name calling, and sky is falling rhetoric. Our God has us. Jesus did not get embroiled in the politics of his day. He fed the hungry, healed the sick and took time for himself to quiet and be still. Not a bad example.

Also, update on COVID vaccines. The new vaccine is more effective against the current strain of COVID, and I am hearing about more COVID cases. Check with your provider or pharmacy to get the new vaccine.

GLAD continues to meet on ZOOM the second and fourth Mondays at 6:30 pm. The North Shore Mental Health Group meets at UP and on Zoom the third Tuesday at 6 pm. Contact NSMHG at nsmentalhealth@gmail.com for more information, or contact me at 218-220-2048.



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

Keep these folks in your thoughts and prayers:

Ellen and Karsten Hogenson, Phyllis Pearrow, Ray Burge, 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, Ruth Koepke, Carol Bakken, Mary Jo Taintor and Allison Oja of our congregation as they deal with health-related changes and recoveries.

All the caregivers.

September Birthdays

Carol Bakken	4
Agnes Gilson	8
Nora Goutermont	8
Ruth Eggum	12
Chris Viola	16
Carol Harrison	21



September Anniversaries

John and Carol Harrison	11
Von and Karen Borg	17

After the Sunday, September 22nd service, we will have a potluck lunch. May we join together to bless Paul and Eileen's new calling. Note: Our youth will be providing dessert.

Our Community Luncheon will be served on September 13th. Please see ad on next Page.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study 9:30 am

Please join our Bible study and discussion of the Upper Room message for the day, as well as the Lectionary texts for the coming Sunday. Pastor Paul will preside on September 11th



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.

U. P. CHURCH
Community Noon Luncheon
Friday, September 13th
NOON

FREE



FREE

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH

17 Horn Blvd., Silver Bay

U.P. Church Provides
Ham balls, Cheesy hashbrowns,
Baked Beans, Bread and Beverage

Salad or dessert to share is welcomed.

CALL FOR A RESERVATION
BY SEPTEMBER 10TH

U.P. Church : 218-226-3973
Ruth Eggum: 218-226-3538

September2024

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday Worship 10:30 am Rev. Andrew Filkins	2	3	4 WMBS 9:30 am	5	6	7
8 Sunday Worship 10:30 am Communion	9 GLAD 6:30 pm	10 Boards 5:00 pm Council 6:00 pm	11 WMBS 9:30 am	12	13 Community Luncheon Noon	14
15 Sunday Worship 10:30 am	16	17 NSMHG 6:00 pm	18 WMBS 9:30 am	19	20	21
22 Sunday Worship 10:30 am Potluck	23 GLAD 6:30 pm	24	25 WMBS 9:30 am	26	27	28
29 Sunday Worship 10:30 am _____	30			<div>Pastor Paul will be in the office on Tuesday and Wednesdays . He will be in his home office on Thursdays and Fridays. Lynn in office Wed &Thurs 1:30 -4:00 pm</div>		

UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH
17 HORN BOULEVARD
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