

# CIRCLE TIMES

**August 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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**[@upchurchsilverbay](http://www.facebook.com)**

## **TEXTS AND TITLES**

**August 4 – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: John 6:24-35

Title: *Wonder Bread*

**August 18 – 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: John 6:51-58

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Proverbs 9:1-6

Title: *The Way of Insight*

**August 11 – 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: John 6:35, 41-51

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Kings 19:4-8

Title: *Enough*

**August 25 – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20

Title: *To Stand*



**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

...in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he [Abraham] believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So shall your descendants be.”  
- Romans 4.17b-18

Last month we explored the first of the apostle Paul’s ‘great three’ elements of the Christian life, the element of faith. This month we move onto the second, the element of hope.

I don’t think I’ve ever heard anyone say that hope is a bad thing. Indeed, when there is troubling news about the economy, politics, armed conflicts, etc., quite often the conversation will end with some mention of where hope may be found. This makes sense to me since I believe most people want to be able to find some type of hope in life. Thus hope, I think most people would say, is a good thing.

The irony, though, is when we consider hope from the perspective of our Christian walk, we often treat hope as a proverbial ‘second cousin’ to ideas and promises we deem more important. Some even go so far as to reduce hope to a personality trait, equating it with being a glass ‘half-full’ or ‘half-empty’ type of person – a ‘glass half-full’ type of person is more likely to have hope than their counterpart. The apostle Paul, following the grand witness of scripture, will have none of that.

Hope, scripture tells us, is essential to our walk with Christ and thus to how we live out our days. Most importantly, hope is not based on our abilities, our personalities, or how things are going on around us or in our world. Hope is not to be dependent upon the gifts God gives us (i.e., we are hopeful because we are blessed) nor who is “in charge” – whether they be a community leader, a governor, a president, or a pastor. Our hope is to be rooted squarely in one truth; the truth that we are created and called to be the beloved children of the Lord God Almighty, creator of heaven and earth, the One who creates, redeems, and sustains life. This type of hope, this hope that is one of the ‘great three,’ is meant to lead us into a life where we can be assured, as Romans 8:31 so boldly proclaims, that “If God is for us, who can be against us?”

This is what the apostle is driving at in the above passage from Romans 4. Abraham was able to hope against hope, that is, he was blessed with the gift to hope in something that seemed beyond reason and experience, to believe that God could bring life out of what he perceived to be a life-less future (a future without a child). Now we must exercise care here, scripture is not saying that whatever we hope for will come to be because God can do all things. Hope is not merely a wish list of what we want. The call to hope is the call to see that God can transform and re-create all things in life, even those elements of life that we believe are beyond hope.

This is the reason the apostle proclaims that hope, like faith and love, “endure,” since this type of God-gifted hope is the necessary and powerful force our Lord grants in order that we may walk the paths before us. It is not about our own capabilities but whether we can open our lives to God’s presence so that we may be the people of courage, grace, and joy we are called to be. Is this easy? No. Sometimes it may feel like we are hoping ‘against hope’ that God will move. But, in the end, we will be led onward because God’s gift of hope will endure, which means that we, too, will endure as we continually become the people of our Lord’s beloved reign.

Blessings,  
Paul

# UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

July 9, 2024 6:00 pm

ATTENDEES: Mike Osmundson, Peg Osmundson, Allison Oja, Jim Martineau, Brenda Larson, Shirley Whiteford, Terry Eggum, Ruth Eggum, Eileen Scaringi (Zoom), Pastor Paul. Council Chair Terry Eggum called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and Pastor Paul opened in prayer.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Kitchen stove (New Business)

M/M/S by Peg Osmundson/Allison Oja to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2024 meeting. Motion carried. (There was no Council meeting in June).

TREASURERS'S REPORT: M/M/S by Ruth Eggum/Peg Osmundson to approve the Treasurer's reports from May and June 2024 for audit. Motion carried.

	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
Checking Account:	\$31,407.72	\$31,139.02
Memorial Fund:	\$27,451.32	\$27,453.57
Ministry Fund:	\$66,047.17	\$66,052.54
AmazonSmile	\$464.02	\$464.06
House of Love:	\$8,379.25	\$8,468.29
Checking SS:	\$3,495.55	\$3,523.12
YTD Food Shelf:	\$474.00	\$534.00
YTD Income:	\$39,536.23	\$53,237.78
YTD Expense:	<u>(\$42,627.57)</u>	<u>(\$57,082.42)</u>
YTD Net:	<u>( \$3,091.34)</u>	<u>( \$3,844.64)</u>

DIACONATE REPORT: Ruth Eggum reported that Paul Taintor will be providing the music at the July 21 service at Dale and Vera Johnson's home.

TRUSTEE REPORT: Mike Osmundson reported that Steve Van House is waiting for the concrete to dry before he begins his work on the sidewalk. The boiler has been turned off for the summer. Mark Huss has mowed the lawn four times, but needs to do a little more weed work.

CHRISTIAN ED REPORT: No report.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Paul reported that Agnes Gilson remains in the Two Harbors hospital for rehab following her surgery. Continued prayers for Mike O., Phil Christman, Jean Wagner and Don Runnberg. Joe Youngberg has been notified that the Boy Scouts are welcome to use our facilities, but that we will not host a scout troop. There will be a special offering for Post, our House of Love nursing student, on August 11 to help pay for her tuition. Bay Days is July 12-14 and there will be an ecumenical service Sunday, July 14, at 10:30 a.m. at the City Hall venue. Pastor will e-mail the other churches to ask for help at 9:30 a.m. to bring chairs to the venue. On July 21, our service will be held at Dale and Vera Johnson's property at Lax Lake. Archer and Nora Goutermont will be baptized and there will be a potluck lunch. Wednesday morning Bible study has been discontinued for July, but may meet in August. The Bibles were distributed to the young people in June, but Jace and Danielle still need to get theirs. In Pastor Paul's absence, Paul Taintor will be taking the service July 28, Von Borg on August 4 and Sara Lund on September 1. Greg and Nancy Christenson have requested use of the church on July 26, 2025 for their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary celebration.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: M/M/S by Ruth Eggum/Peg Osmundson to send \$100.00 to Hanna Searls in support of her ballet program. Amy Wasson, Lynn Anderson and Serine Ege are the at-large members of the Nominating Committee. Each Board should supply a name from their Board to serve on the Nominating Committee at the August 13 Council meeting. One of the kitchen stoves (16 years old) has quit working. Mike O. will check it out, then call a service person, if needed. Further discussion

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on the stove will be held at the August Council meeting.

The next Council meeting will be August 13, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

M/M/S by Ruth Eggum/Allison Oja to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 pm. Motion carried. Pastor Paul closed in prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ruth Eggum, Council Secretary

Note: July minutes will be approved at the August 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 August 4<sup>th</sup>**

Scripture: I Kings 19:4-5

Prayer: Lord of Mercy, there are times when I struggle to see the way forward in life. Forgive my despair and empower me by your gracious presence in my life. Amen.

#### **The week of August 11<sup>th</sup>**

Scripture: John 6:57-58

Prayer: Gracious God, help me not to fear taking the bread of life that you offer to me. May your gifts quicken me so I may be your gift of life to others. Amen.

#### **The week of August 18<sup>th</sup>**

Scripture: Joshua 24:14-16

Prayer: Ever-present Lord, show me the way. On this day I choose to serve you and stop following the gods in which I sometimes place my trust. Amen.

#### **The week of August 25<sup>th</sup>**

Scripture: James 1:19-22

Prayer: I confess, faithful Father, that I often think my anger is 'righteous.' Forgive me and create in me the patience I need to be a doer of your word. 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 Post from Mark and Alise and we have a note from Post (the translation is a little awkward at points).

### **From Mark & Alise:**

Thank you so much for your support of Post, both financially and in prayer. We are so proud of Post and what she has accomplished so far. When she was a young girl, she went with her grandmother to the hospital and the nurses made such a positive impression on her. As you can imagine, we do not see Post very often at the House of Love as her studies take up so much of her time - but she is loving it and doing very well. This year she graduated from the first part of her schooling which has mostly been general education. Now she will spend the next two years focused on nursing classes. She has also been approved to intern at a local hospital which is a great opportunity to make connections. Please continue to pray for Post - she is doing great but that does not mean that it is easy. She is putting in a lot of hard work so please pray for her ongoing determination.

### **From Post** (translated from Thai):

I still remember well the first year I received the scholarship support. To this day, I still feel excited every time I write a letter to my sponsor. I am determined to use this opportunity to its fullest, I have now reached the final two years of my university studies. This is my dream career path and though I am alternately happy and tired I get to live university life to the fullest. That you have supported me I am very grateful to be able to make my intentions and dreams come true and create their own future so that they have the opportunity to study until they complete their bachelor's degree. and wrote a thank you letter to him as well During the study period, you must study hard. Do various activities of the university

I have the intention of continuing my studies at the higher education level. Nursing field because I want to help others and be a part of it. To improve the quality of life I believe that nursing is an honorable profession and is very important to society. Nurses have a duty to take care of patients both physically and mentally. Help patients return to good health and a good quality of life. I have determination to study hard and work to achieve my goals. I will study hard to have full knowledge and ability. To become a qualified nurse and be able to help patients effectively I also intend to work to help society in other areas at the same time, such as volunteering or doing various volunteer work. I would like to thank the scholarship funder for giving me the opportunity to receive this scholarship. I will study hard and work hard to achieve my goals. To repay the fundraiser and to develop oneself into a person who is useful to society. I would like to thank you again for giving me this opportunity.



Over the past two years we have supported Post to attend university for her nursing degree. We have received word from Mark Juanes that regarding the tuition cost for her 3<sup>rd</sup> year, which will be \$4,872. We will take an offering on August 11<sup>th</sup> for her tuition. Please prayerfully consider how you may contribute to her education



**Parish Nurse Notes**

**Dedie Moore Retired R.N.**

*As pressure and stress bear down on me,  
I find joy in your commands.  
Your laws are always right;  
help me to understand them so I may live..*

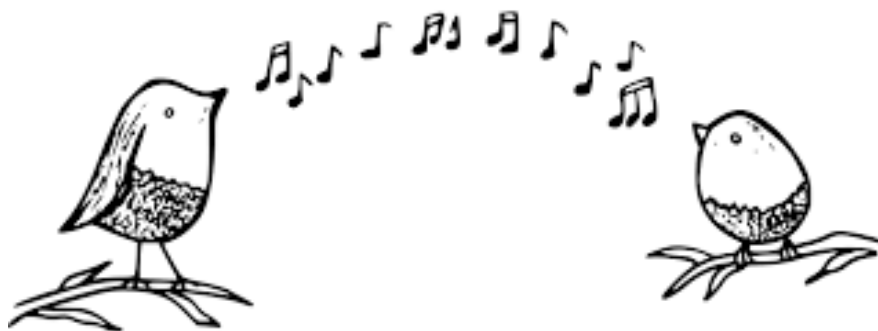
Ps 119:143-144

It can be difficult during an election year to avoid stress. If the rhetoric is to be believed, the sky is falling whichever side seems to win. I think we are better than this. As we were well reminded during the Bay Days ecumenical service, let us depend on who is really in charge. Who has given us instructions to follow so we may choose life over fear and death, and laws which lead us to joy.

Fear and stress are bad for our health, can affect our immune systems, cause muscle tension, headaches, and encourage addictions to relieve the stress. Taking time each day to watch for and celebrate joy increases joy. What gives me joy in this instant? A bird singing. What gave me joy yesterday, and what may bring me joy in the future? God desires us to live in his joy, to settle into his instructions.

August is immunization month. so a quick update on COVID vaccine recommendations. Those 65 and older who have had one dose of an updated 23-24 vaccine should receive one more dose at least 4 months after the first dose. Those 5 years and older should receive one dose of updated vaccine, people who are immunocompromised should check with their providers for recommendations. People who are up to date on vaccinations are at lower risk for severe illness, hospitalizations and death. They may still contract COVID.

North Shore Mental Health Group meets the third Tuesday at 6pm in person at UP and by ZOOM. GLAD meets the second and fourth Mondays at 6:30pm by ZOOM. All are welcome. Any questions, contact North Shore Mental Health Group or me at [dediedavid@yahoo.com](mailto:dediedavid@yahoo.com), or 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, Don Runnberg, 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.**

## 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
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

## Wednesday Morning Bible Study 9:30 am

Pastor Paul will resume WMBS in the fall.  
Summer schedule will be announced.

## A BIG THANK YOU

goes out to the Wm. Kelley H.S.  
Class of 1974 for their  
generous donation to  
U.P. Church  
We are pleased that the  
meeting and dinner were  
great successes.



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.

August2024

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<div>Pastor Paul will be in the office on Tuesday and Wednesdays . He will be in his home office on Thursdays and Fridays.</div> <div>Lynn in office Wed &amp;Thurs 1:30 -4:00 pm</div>			1	2	3
4 Sunday Worship 10:30 am  Communion	5	6	7 WMBS 9:30 am Tentative	8	9	10
11 Sunday Worship 10:30 am	12 GLAD 6:30 pm	13 Community Luncheon 1:00 pm Boards 5:00 pm Council 6:00 pm	14 WMBS 9:30 am Tentative	15	16	17
18 Sunday Worship 10:30 am	19	20 NSMHG 6:00 pm	21 WMBS 9:30 am Tentative	22	23	24
25 Sunday Worship 10:30 am  _____	26 GLAD 6:30 pm	27	28 WMBS 9:30 am Tentative	29	30	31

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