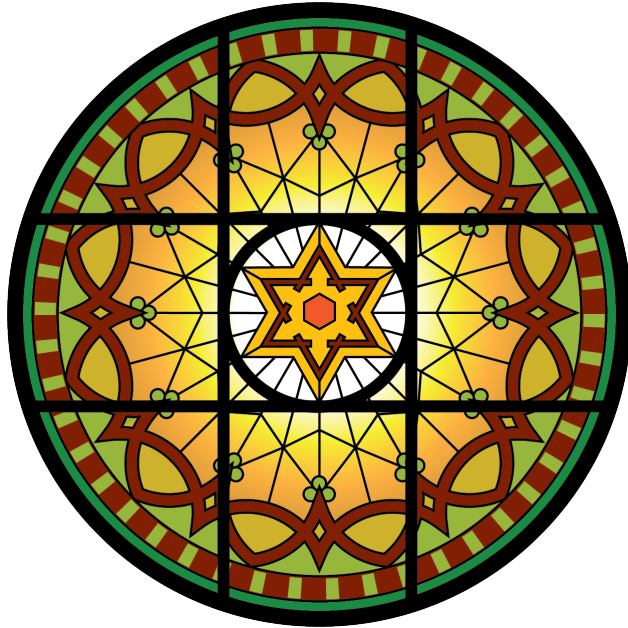


THE LINK



**St. Anthony Park
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Christian Tradition ❖ Progressive Faith ❖ All Are Welcome

April

2024

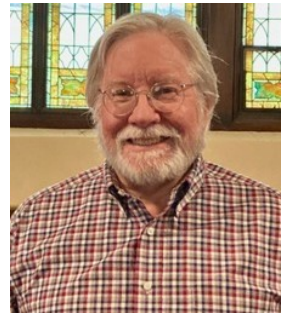
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**We are handicapped accessible and
An Open and Affirming congregation.**



MODERATOR'S COLUMN ~ Mike Smith



Greetings and Hallelujah - Christ is Risen!

We have closed out the month of March. Beginning with the introspection of Lent, the passion of Holy Week, and leading to the Hallelujah! of Easter, we have taken a time and faith journey followed and experienced by Christians everywhere.

April brings Spring, a time of new beginnings.

- ◆ Plans are in the works for some new and different gardens in the church yard as part of the Christian Education program and our church's awareness and role in climate and environment.
- ◆ We are replacing the booster water heater for the downstairs kitchen dishwasher.
- ◆ We are grateful for the generous donation of a new freezer from the Larson family.
- ◆ A process is underway to form a girl troop of Scouts BSA that will partner with our church in addition to the long-standing partnership of Troop 17.

To new life and new beginnings!

Mike

PASTOR'S COLUMN ~ Rev. Victoria Wilgocki

Happy Eastertide, one and all.

One of the ways we can live into “resurrection madness” is by extending care and compassion to others.



The Board of Mission & Witness and I have decided to organize a donation drive for people right here in the Twin Cities who need some tangible support. Specifically, refugees.

In partnership with the Minnesota Council of Churches' Refugee Program, we will be collecting household and hygiene items throughout the month of April. The Refugee Program is experiencing high demand for the following:

- Feminine hygiene products
- Bed pillows (new)
- Laundry detergent
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Bars of soap
- Disposable razors
- Dish soap
- All-purpose cleaner

So let's do it up in a big way! Please bring donations of any of the above items to the church and put them on the designated table in Fellowship Hall. (Please do NOT bring items other than what is on the list.)

We will likely never meet the recipients of our donations, but trust that your generosity will matter in big and small ways. Christ is risen! Alleluia!

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Victoria". The signature is enclosed in a thin purple rectangular border.

**FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY
MINISTRIES ~ Liam Magistad**



Welcome to the season of Easter!

As we turn our minds to rebirth and new life, we are still enduring snowy conditions outside. I am personally glad to have more time in winter given that it has been rather mild so far.

One particular highlight last month was the **Breakfast Club Lock-in**. We had nine students join in for a marathon evening of fun, food and games. This included three students who had never done a lock-in before. We played capture-the-flag on the U of M campus, and later we played tag at the playground in College Park. As always, we would not have been able to pull it off without our wonderful adult volunteers: Jason Mitchell, Phillip Snoxell, Ellen Snoxell, and Ann Frances Gregg.

An exciting new project is starting to get underway! **A garden and grounds "makeover"**! Even with snow still on the ground, our planning is off to a strong start. I'm working with Zach (a Scout from Troop 17), Mike Smith (mentor to Zach), Judi Petkau (Master Gardener), Cassie Iverson (Trustee), John Blair (Treasurer), and Jacob Ristow (Office Manager with lots of gardening knowledge) and Beth Magistad (Breakfast Club teacher). The Breakfast Club kids (4th thru 8th grades) will begin to take their knowledge from the water stewardship curriculum and apply it to the project on the church grounds. Stay tuned for what comes next, and feel free to share suggestions or ask any questions.

On April 14th and May 19th, I am inviting **high school students** to stay after worship from 11:45 AM-1:00 PM for a "Brunch Bunch." It's time for us to get together for a meal and conversation. I am asking seniors in particular to join us to share wisdom from their experience with younger students who are still navigating high school. I believe this will be a meaningful experience both for seniors and younger students.

I hope you find ways to enjoy the snow while it lasts!

Peace,

Liam



OWL CORNER

By Liam Magistad

The 7th-9th grade cohort has now completed the fourth unit of their curriculum which addressed social media and bullying. These sessions give students resources to draw on if they are struggling and to set boundaries for themselves with technology.

We will be moving into the “Responsible Sexual Behavior” unit next. This is what the curriculum builds towards so that students are prepared to handle more challenging topics when they arise.

ADULT FORUM

The Adult Forum meets on Sundays, 9:15-10:15 AM in the Parlor; please be prompt out of respect for the speakers. BYOCovered beverage if you'd like. It's a wonderful time of adult faith formation, conversation and learning.



- April 7 “*Daily Work: What Is This Terrific Non-Profit & Whom Do They Serve?*” with Julie Hoff, Daily Work Executive Director
- April 14 “Native Gardening: Learn from a Master Gardener,” with Judi Petkau
- April 21 “Consider Multiple Funerals,” with Ted Bowman
- April 28 “Compassion & Choices; MN Legislature End-of-Life Discussion” led by Harlan Limpert, co-founder of Interfaith Clergy for End-of-Life Options
- May 5 “Ujamaa Place = New Life, New Hope, New Being,” with Chris Manor, Ujamaa Place Executive Director

EXPLORING THE BIBLE — THURSDAY, APRIL 4

“Exploring the Bible” will meet on Thursday, April 4 from 6:30-8:00 PM in the Parlor. What did Jesus mean when he said “the kingdom of heaven has come near” (Matthew 4:17)? We will begin a study of Jesus’ “Sermon on the Mount” (Matthew chapters 5-7). Led by Ken Gowdy, this Bible conversation group meets on the first Thursday of the month. Newcomers are welcome.





BLUEGRASS MUSIC

A bluegrass band of local musicians called
“43 Degrees” will lead our worship service on
Sunday, April 7, 10:30 AM.

Let your spirit be buoyed by guitar, mandolin, fiddle,
bass, banjo and voices as we live into the Easter Season.
A perfect time to invite a guest to join you in the pews!



100 GALLONS

SAPUCCer David Leitzke is the 18th person in the history of the Memorial Blood Centers to have donated 100 gallons of blood (and counting). For the past 23 years, Dave has given blood twice a month. His extraordinary commitment to donating blood is truly the gift that keeps on giving.

Congratulations, Dave! And WOW!





Dear friends,

We hope you can join us on Thursday, April 18, for a day of connection and advocacy. Breakfast at 8:00 AM, Programming at 8:30 AM; at Christ on Capitol Hill Church, 105 University Ave W, St. Paul.

We define “faith leaders” as clergy, community organizers, faith organization leadership, actively engaged congregants, and congregational leadership and staff. Does that sound like you? Please join us!

We have heard from various religious communities that connecting across traditions has been more challenging due to the difficult moment in which we find ourselves. Our goal is to provide an opportunity for faith community leaders to reconnect over their shared values and work together on advocating for social justice at the Capitol.

In Prayer and Partnership,
Leah Patton, Executive Director of JRLC

A MEMORABLE EVENING — FOUR CHURCHES TOGETHER

By Rev. Adam Blons

Four congregations gathered for food, fellowship and learning about the important new UCC history book, *Afro-Christian Convention: The Fifth Stream of the United Church of Christ*, edited by Rev. Dr. Yvonne Delk. Dr. Delk and Rev. Dr. Henry Simmons, who is also a contributor to the book, Zoomed-in to the event attended by over 50 members from Clark-Grace UCC, Falcon Heights UCC, Macalester Plymouth United Church and St. Anthony Park UCC. The pastors from all four congregations conceived of the event. St. Anthony Park UCC were amazing hosts.

The evening started with a simple meal of bread and soup. Members of the four churches spread out and got to know each other. We then heard from Drs. Delk and Simmons, who spoke passionately about the hidden history of a group of churches present during the founding of the United Church of Christ called the Afro-Christian Convention. This group is now being referred to as the fifth stream of the UCC. Its history as a group begins in the late 1800s, but these vital faith communities trace their histories back much further; their roots go back to Africa.

We heard how the churches of the Afro-Christian Convention have been safe places where dignity, respect, resistance, and resilience is nurtured through a faith that is holistic, God-centered, deeply spiritual, communal, and family-oriented. They supported one another as they faced racism in society, and later within the United Church of Christ itself. They see worship as more than an intellectual exercise. It is a time to feel and experience God's Word with body, mind and soul; a time that the spirit of God restores and liberates them from all that holds them captive. And in response, they give God praise with their entire being, with joy, thanksgiving, and gratitude.

In reflecting on their history and present-day witness in the UCC, the speakers spoke of "Ubuntu," a Zulu word that refers to humanity's interconnectedness, sometimes translated as "I am because we are." The spirit of Ubuntu was felt throughout this inspiring event, from our shared meal, to the teaching and learning, to our joyful singing together at the end led by Rev. Oliver White.

Photo by Don Breneman



AED = AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

The church now has an AED device -- an Automated External Defibrillator. It is located inside the church building next to the front/main doors above the small table in the corner. We purchased it with some of the ERC (Employee Retention Credit) money.

Nick Stager will give a "Bystander CPR and AED Management" training here at the church on **Tuesday, April 2, 10:00 AM**. The training is 60 to 90 minutes long, with the goal of equipping attendees to know how to use the AED and perform CPR if needed. (NOTE: It will not be basic life support training, which is much more complicated and is the kind of training that medical personnel receive.)



This is the one and only training the church will offer. There is no limit to the number of people who can attend; all are welcome to get trained.

SERVICE PROJECT at "FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN" — FRIDAY, APRIL 26

We get to pack food for international hunger relief again, this time in partnership with folks from UCC New Brighton.

There are 40 slots reserved for our two congregations. Friday, April 26, 7:00-8:30 PM, 401 93rd Ave NW, Coon Rapids. It's gratifying and fun. And it saves people's lives.

FMSC requires that we sign up on-line through their portal. Here's the link:

<http://www.fmsc.org/join-group?joincode=6BG6KM>



WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE PRAYER TEAM?

By Leslie Amundson

The Prayer Chain – now called the Prayer Team -- has been operating for 40+years. It enables us to pray for others.

Here's how it works: anyone wanting a prayer contacts Katie Herman and/or Pastor Victoria with a prayer request. The request is emailed to Prayer Team members. Prayer requests can be for yourself, for a loved one, for a situation or circumstance, or for any burden on your heart.

Prayer requests are confidential. As a member of the Team, all you do is receive the request and pray - in your own way, in your own time. You can do this any time. This is one more way we can be in community with one another.

If you'd like to be on the Prayer Team or request prayers, contact Katie Herman or Pastor Victoria.



TOUR OF HINDU TEMPLE



I've scheduled this tour two previous times. The first was cancelled due to the pandemic; the second was cancelled due to a major snow storm. Third time's a charm?!

The Hindu Temple of Minnesota, 10530 Troy Lane North in Maple Grove, is one of the largest in the country.

Are you interested in learning about Hinduism, meeting people who practice Hinduism, and getting a tour of the temple?

Our tour will be on **Saturday, April 27, 9:30–11:00 AM**. They can accommodate up to 25 people (maximum). If more than 25 SAPUCCers are interested, I will work to schedule another tour later this spring or summer. Please sign up on the kiosk or on the google doc on-line. ~ Pastor Victoria

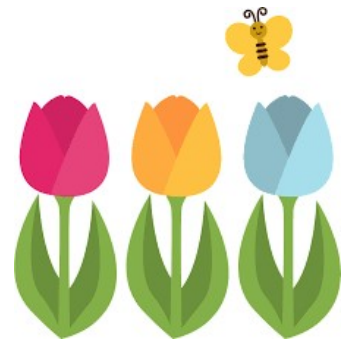
REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS



- Barb Billington, at the death of her father, Wally Billington, age 83, on March 1
- Joanna Foslien, at the death of her brother, Martin Haynes, age 85, on March 2
- Steph Goese, recovering from cornea transplant surgery
- Anders Himmelstrup, transitioning into memory care
- Ruth Hoffman, whose father, John, age 94, is recovering from gall bladder surgery

THANK YOU

- Many thanks to Mike Smith, Carole Smith, and Leslie Amundson for staffing the sale of Raffle Tickets at the two most recent Music in the Park Series concerts. The sale raised \$763 toward our fundraising goal for the year—yay!
- Gratitude to the Schubert Club, as well, for supporting the raffle. The winner of the drawing won a pair of seasons tickets to the 2024-25 Music in the Park Series concert season.
- Thank you to the many SAPUCCers who made soup for either of the Lenten evenings, the Afro-Christian Convention event, or the soup and bread supper at Macalester Plymouth on Good Friday. Nourishing and delicious.
- Many thanks to folks who responded to the special appeal to replenish the church's Loaves & Fishes Fund. We received \$2,794, which will cover the cost of the next three times we cook and serve at the Dorothy Day Center.



MEN'S COFFEE & CONVERSATION

FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH
8:30 AM 'TIL WHENEVER
via ZOOM

Contact Tim Wulling or
the Church Office if interested

KNITTING GROUP

The Knitting Group meets on the
fourth Tuesdays most months.

Email Sue Grove
suegrove@comcast.net
for information.

March & April 2024 Service Group

Captain: Beth Magistad

Andy Banks
Pam Barnard
Maja Beckstrom
Wendy Berg
Becca Emmons
Steph Goese
Ted Bowman
Erik & Cris Lien
Beth & Steve Magistad
Lorne & Judi Petkau
Betsy & Scott Radtke
Sue Grove & Paul Scherrer
Annette Spencer
Caitlin & Sam Van Hefty

WOMEN'S COFFEE HOUR
1ST FRIDAY
8:30 AM AT MIM'S CAFÉ

**THE BEST BREW CREW
AROUND!**



May 2024 LINK deadline
Wednesday, April 17
12:00 noon

Green Sheet deadline:
Thursdays by 12:00 noon

PASTOR'S HOURS & MORE

I work Sunday through Thursday;
Friday is my day off. I am available
for appointments during the day or
early evening.

Please note that in an effort to keep a
clear boundary between my work life
and home life, I do not check
E-mail or voice mail from home.
I also do not take part in social media.

Also please note that, as a clergy
person, I am a mandated reporter of
neglect or abuse of children or
vulnerable adults.

~ Pastor Victoria

COPE & HOPE

Support group for people living with cancer or in remission. Cope & Hope meets bi-monthly.

Contact Deb Heuwinkel
763-780-2825 / dlheuwin@iphouse.com

ARE YOU A THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBER?



THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®

If so, you are able to recommend/request that SAPUCC receive "Choice Dollars" through the Thrivent Choice program. This may be done any time of the year. Visit www.Thrivent.com, click on "Making a Difference," and then "Thrivent Choice."

Meetings of the Church Council and Boards are always open for SAPUCC friends and members. Meeting dates and times are included in the LINK, green sheet, and on SAPUCC.org. Council minutes are printed in every LINK, and board minutes are available in the church office.

*The Council chose not to meet in March.
It will resume its regular meeting schedule in April.*

LINK MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT Through 02/29/2024

	Year-to-Date Activity	Year-to-Date Budget	2023 Annual Budget
Pledges Received	\$ 36,603	\$ 40,302	\$ 236,413
Unpledged Contributions and Cash	\$ 1,013	\$ 3,782	\$ 23,000
Use of Memorials & Other Designated Funds	\$ 284	\$ 157	\$ 4,026
Non-charitable Income, Gifts & Fees	\$ 10,876	\$ 11,427	\$ 39,641
<i>Subtotal All Income</i>	<i>\$ 48,775</i>	<i>\$ 55,668</i>	<i>\$ 303,080</i>
<i>All Expenses</i>	<i>\$ 49,802</i>	<i>\$ 51,551</i>	<i>\$ 313,590</i>
Excess Income over Expense	\$ (1,027)	\$ 4,116	\$ (10,510)

"But in this incredible kind of way...you give and it then seems like in fact you are making space for more to be given to you." - Desmond Tutu in *The Book of Joy*
Thank you for your generosity

ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2129 Commonwealth Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108
(651) 646-7173
www.sapucc.org
Change Service Requested