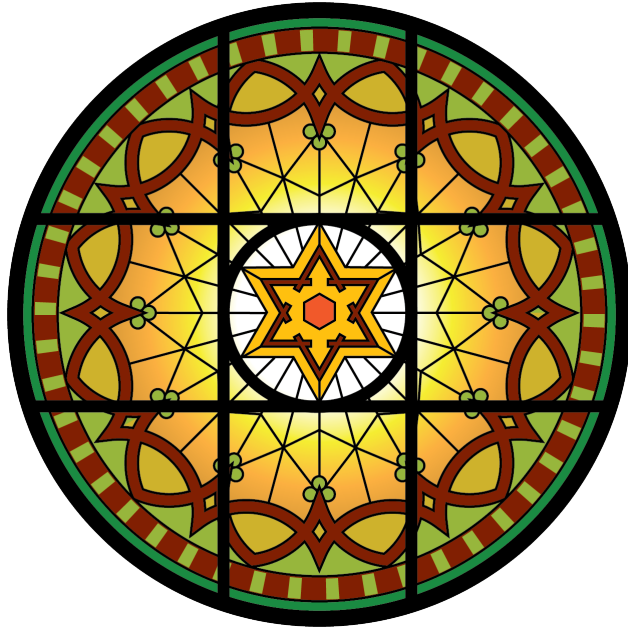


THE LINK



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

Christian Tradition ❖ Progressive Faith ❖ All Are Welcome

March

2024

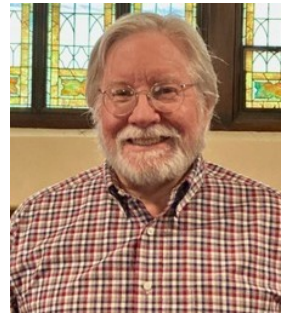
The Link is published every month (except July) by
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Volume 24, No. 03
www.sapucc.org



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



MODERATOR'S COLUMN ~ Mike Smith



What a different Winter we are still having! Though as I write this message it is only 4°, much of our weather lately has been more Spring-like, to go along with our early Lent and Easter season.

Easter is a season that we often associate with Spring. Birds and squirrels are acting like it's springtime, and I've already heard reports of maple sap running. Nature moves by light and temperature, not a calendar. Activity is increasing!

I was amazed recently by the amount of activity in our church building. Scouts meeting on Mondays, Church Council on Tuesday, the Preschool in the mornings, choir rehearsal on Wednesday, other meetings in the days and evenings. On Saturday, February 24, the Minnesota Boychoir held an all-day retreat in the building, and on Sunday the 25th, they brought their ministry of music to us in our worship service. That afternoon, there was a wonderful Music In The Park concert in the sanctuary, with so many of our neighbors and long-time concert-goers coming to our building for the umpteenth time.

Our church is both a building – a meeting place, worship place, concert hall, community center — and a community of people who come together here for worship, for activities, for learning, for fun, for music, for the things that nourish our souls and get us through the days and weeks of our lives.

Praise God for this place, and for these people!

Mike

PASTOR'S COLUMN ~ Rev. Victoria Wilgocki

Palms. Hosanna.

Last Supper. Hand-washing.

Extinguished light. Cross.

He is risen. Risen, indeed.

Holy Week is the most dramatic, challenging and awesome stretch of days in the Christian church year. Every year, we retell the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, the crucifixion and resurrection. Although the stories stay the same, *we are changed since Holy Week 2023*. How will you hear, see, and experience Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday or Easter at this time in your life? In the life of our church? In the life of our city, state and country?

Please make time and attend these Holy Week and Easter worship services:

- **Palm Sunday, March 24, 10:30 AM**
- **Maundy Thursday, March 28, 7:00 PM**
- **Good Friday, March 29, 7:00 PM**

NOTE: The Good Friday service will be held at Macalester Plymouth United Church, 1658 Lincoln Avenue, St. Paul. This is a combined service for members and friends of SAP UCC, Falcon Heights UCC and Macalester Plymouth.

- **Easter Sunday, March 31**
 - 9:00 AM Pancake Breakfast
 - 10:15 AM Egg Hunt on the front lawn
 - 10:30 AM Worship! Alleluia! Wear an Easter bonnet!



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 Magstad**



Dear Members and Friends,

As we continue to be perplexed by the weather, March still brings with it a sense of reflection and anticipation. We are laying plans for exciting things ahead in April and beyond even as we pick up old traditions through the observation of Lent, the Palm Sunday Parade, and the Easter Morning Pancake Breakfast and Egg Hunt.

On February 4, we had the pleasure of hosting the high school senior brunch, a special gathering with our graduating seniors and their parents. On February 11, I had the honor of being asked to sit on a panel for the Adult Forum with Emma North and Claire Radtke — all of us are in our 20s. Providing this space for meaningful dialogue and sharing our perspectives hopefully helped many of the older members of the church get a sense of what our lives are like and why we choose to make this our home church. In late February, I had the privilege of attending a Young Adult Leaders retreat with three others from the Minnesota Conference UCC, where we engaged in enriching discussions and planning sessions.

Looking ahead to March, for the 9:15 AM faith formation hour, we have several plans lined up. Karen, our artist-in-residence, will lead us in creative endeavors, allowing us to express ourselves and explore our artistic talents. The Breakfast Club is now learning about watersheds and pollution. These sessions will deepen their understanding of environmental issues and empower them to make positive changes in our community. I am also working with the other teachers to get ready for some major planting in the spring. We will learn about gardening practices and how we can contribute to a greener, more sustainable future.

As we embark on these activities, let us continue to support and uplift one another on our spiritual journeys. Your presence and participation enrich our community, and we look forward to sharing these experiences with you.

Peace,

Liam



OWL CORNER

By Liam Magistad

Our Young Adult OWL Cohort will be coming to a close this month with a shared meal and conversation about the cohort as a whole. I am so glad this group made YA OWL a priority. We have spent so much time getting to know each other and this material better. Please reach out if you have questions about this year-long program as it wraps up.

The 7th-9th Grade OWL Cohort has now completed the third unit of their curriculum, addressing relationships and relationship skills. These conversations help the students understand that many communication skills and traits overlap between good friendships and romantic relationships. Next, we will be moving into “contemporary issues,” which address bullying and online safety.

ADULT FORUM

The Adult Forum meets in the Parlor on Sunday mornings, 9:15-10:15 AM. BYOCovered beverage if you'd like.

March 3

Climate Solutions Surround Us: Starting and Sustaining Your Climate Solutions Journey
with guest speaker Heidi Roop, Assistant Professor of Climate Science



March 10

Congregational-Based Spiritual Direction
with guest presenter Rev. T. Michael Rock

March 17

Restorative Justice, Restorative Practice
with guest speaker Brenda Burnside, CEO, Let's Circle Up

March 24

YouTube: Stephen Colbert & Anderson Cooper on Grief
facilitated by Mary Divine Myers

March 31

The Forum will NOT meet on Easter Sunday.

TREASURER'S NOTES

By John Blair, Treasurer



Hello SAP UCC community,

I am excited to be Treasurer and to work with you all to keep SAPUCC running well. I would like to make some introductory comments.

It is pleasing how well SAP UCC is running. I have worked with multiple organizations, and we are among the best. Our boards, committees, by-laws, procedures, etc. are well organized and well run. More importantly, we are a very friendly and supportive community. Every organization claims to be a “family;” SAP UCC truly is an excellent family. Our finances are also in good shape. We pay all our staff, on time, twice each month. We pay all our bills, on time, each month. At the end of every month, we still have thousands of dollars in our bank account. You might say “of course we do, what else??” Well, for many organizations paying bills on time and having money in the bank is not a given. Our good organization and good finances are a tribute to everyone who has taken a leadership position, now or in the past, and to everyone who has contributed money. In other words, praise to all of you. Thank yourself and each other.

Of course, we live in a complicated and challenging world. SAP UCC will face challenges and possibly even minor disagreements on how to overcome challenges. In future Treasurer communications, I may point out some specific issues. However, I have a secure faith that we will continue to be a loving and supportive community and overcome any challenges we face.

I have been spending much time learning; David Misemer and Jim Woodcock have done a great job teaching me details of being Treasurer. I have been getting up to speed since late October, and now I am confident I am ready to go forward. Being confident is different than being perfect. If you notice something that is wrong or confusing, please let me know. I am glad to make corrections and/or work with you to solve any issues, either large or small.

E-mail is great; if you want my attention quickly, please call or text me, at any time at (651) 472-4221. And feel free to chat with me any time about anything, even if you do not have a precise “agenda.”

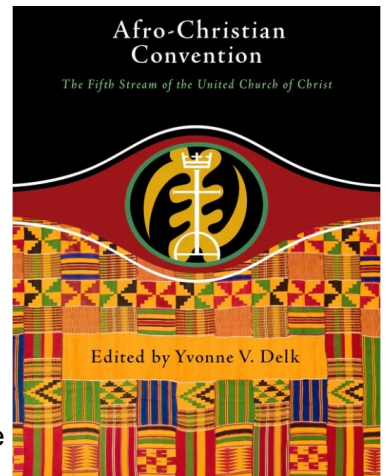
I look forward to good and productive year(s) as Treasurer,

John Blair

AFRO-CHRISTIAN CONVENTION: 5th “STREAM” of the UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

UCC parishioners and seminary students have been taught for decades that four “streams” or “strands” came together to form the United Church of Christ in 1957: Congregational & Christian, Evangelical & Reformed. That is correct, *but only partially so!*

From 1892 to the 1960s, the **Afro-Christian Convention** was composed of 150 churches and 25,000 members, located primarily in North Carolina and Virginia. The tradition of the Afro-Christian church, too long ignored and under-celebrated, now takes its rightful place in the canon of UCC history. It's the story of how an independent Black Church helped to form the UCC.



Two UCC clergy – editor Yvonne V. Delk (the first Black woman ordained in the UCC) and contributing writer Henry T. Simmons – will join us via Zoom. They'll tell stories, teach us some of our history, and invite us into conversation with one another.

Find out about the 5th “Stream”

Thursday, March 7

5:30 PM Soup & bread

6:30-8:00 PM Program

Held here; We are hosting

Co-sponsored by Clark-Grace UCC, Falcon Heights UCC, Macalester-Plymouth United Church, and SAP UCC. We're asking people from all 4 congregations to *sign up in advance* so we know how much soup to provide. Sign up on-line, on the kiosk, or contact the church office 651 646-7173, office@sapucc.org.

We're encouraging people to read part or all of Yvonne Delk's book (~150 pages) that was published last year. It's also available on Kindle. Rev. Jeremiah Wright wrote the Forward.

Why should you attend? Because:

- This is a Big Deal
- It's an honor for SAP UCC to host
- You'll get to meet other UCCers and make connections
- You'll learn some of the history of our remarkable denomination

WOMEN'S RETREAT 2024: PUTTING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS INTO ACTION

Please join us in person for this year's Women's Retreat - *Putting Your Spiritual Gifts Into Action* on Friday evening, March 15 and Saturday, March 16 at SAPUCC.

In the midst of so many big and heart-wrenching problems in the world — climate change, white nationalism, dysfunctional immigration systems, war, poverty, and all varieties of othering — it is easy to feel powerless to make a positive impact. And yet, each of us have innate spiritual gifts that can do good in the world.



What sort of difference could we make if we were grounded in our spiritual gifts and had confidence in our ability to impact change?

Join us for a time of fellowship, self-reflection, mutual encouragement, intention setting, action planning and fun, facilitated by Chelsea Forbrook, Enneagram educator, coach and spiritual director. Chelsea will guide us through a process of identifying our unique spiritual gifts and envisioning ways to unleash them into the world. Knowing your Enneagram type is helpful but not required for this experience.

<http://tinyurl.com/SAPUCCwomensretreat>

Suggested cost is \$60, which will help us cover our facilitator and food/supplies. We do not want the cost to be a deterrent to anyone's participation. You may choose to pay more or less as your situation allows. Full scholarships are available (see Pastor Victoria). Register in person after church or sign up online.

Please sign up by Monday March 4. Talk to Wendy Berg, Reagan Schirber, or Beth Magistad for more information.

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.



OGHS = ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

We have an opportunity to move beyond ourselves and give to others through the annual UCC special offering called "One Great Hour of Sharing offering" (OGHS). This year is the 75th anniversary of OGHS (!) and the theme is "It's Time To Share The Light." OGHS supports the disaster, refugee and development ministries of the UCC in the U.S. and abroad. Its reach to the human family in over 80 countries is extraordinary.

We will receive this offering – one of our "5 for 5" special offerings – throughout the month of March. If you are able and would like to make a gift, please make a check payable to SAPUCC with "OGHS" in the memo line OR donate on-line at sapucc.org by March 31st. Please know that your financial gift to OGHS, no matter what the size, is a witness to Biblical teachings.

*"Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty,
shade from the sun, shelter from the wind,
for the Compassionate One guides them,
takes them to the best springs."*

~ Isaiah 49:10

SCOUTS BSA: FORMING A GIRL TROOP AT SAPUCC

By Mike Smith

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has been becoming increasingly inclusive for many years, beginning with Explorer posts in 1971 and Venture crews in 1976. Girls were added to the Cub Scout program and the Boy Scout program (now Scouts BSA) in 2018. Some time ago the Scout leaders of Troop 17 and members of the congregation made a proposal to the Church Council and received approval that the church may charter a Girl troop.

In Cub Scouts, Venturing and Explorers, the girls and boys are completely mixed in their units, separated only by their ranks of advancement. In Cub Scouts girls meet in their own dens, as part of a pack. The Scouts BSA program is set up differently. While the boys and girls may meet together, do many events and camping together, they are required to be organized as separate Girl troops and Boy troops, which requires separate adult leadership for each unit. Boy troops and Girl troops can have leaders both male and female, however a Girl troop requires at least one adult female over 21 years old to be a Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster, and to be present at all meetings and events where girls are participating.

We currently have two girls who are interested, both having been Cub Scouts in our neighborhood Pack 22, and we are actively recruiting their friends and schoolmates. We need several girls to join to make starting a Girl troop a success. We'd like to invite the girls in our congregation, local schools, and neighborhood to check out Scouting here at SAPUCC!

To join Scouts BSA, a person needs to be 10 years old and in 5th grade, or 11 years old. And if you know of others who might like to give Scouts BSA a try, please have them get in touch with us, or come to a meeting, which are on most Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30 PM here at the church. We have Scouts who live all over St. Paul and the Twin Cities area.

Adults, if you have interest in participating and volunteering in Scouting and would be interested in working with a Girl troop, we invite you to contact us. FYI, we have had and still have a number of Scouts who also participate in Y camps and various sports teams, and have been successful in all. You can do Scouting along with school and other activities.

For more information, contact:

Chris Jacobsen, Scoutmaster (612) 414-6601; christian.jacobsen@gmail.com

Mike Smith, Asst. Scoutmaster (651) 398-5552; johnmichaelsmith@comcast.net

Jason Mitchell, Asst. Scoutmaster (612) 208-5898; jasnmitchell@gmail.com



SPRING FORWARD

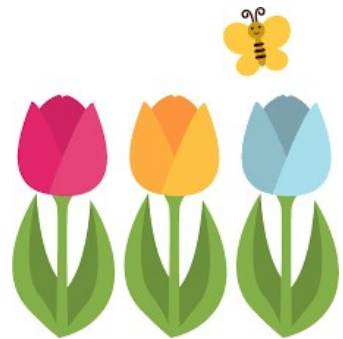
Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 10.

Set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night.

FLOWERS, FLOWERS, FLOWERS for EASTER

Would you like to help beautify our worship space for Easter Sunday, March 31st? The Deacons are taking orders for flowers:

\$12	Easter lily
\$17	Begonia – yellow, orange, pink
\$17	Kalanchoe – yellow, orange, pink
\$24	Hydrangea – pink, blue, white



- Please sign up on the kiosk or contact the church office
- Make check payable to SAPUCC with “Easter flowers” in the memo line
- Order and pay by Sunday, March 10
- You may take your plant with you on Easter Sunday after the service

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- Susan Schnasse, at the death of her dad, Beryl Clotfelter, age 97, on February 9
- Steph Goese, who will have cornea transplant outpatient surgery on March 6
- Anders Himmelstrup, who is experiencing serious medical issues



LOAVES & FISHES – SUNDAY, MARCH 24

It's time once again to cook and serve for people who are homeless or food-insecure. The Board of Mission & Witness is in need of people to volunteer:

- ◆ 2:00-4:00 PM 5 people to do hot and cold food prep
- ◆ 4:15-5:30 PM 6 people to serve
- ◆ 438 Dorothy Day Place, downtown St. Paul
- ◆ Ages 14 and older
- ◆ Please sign up on the kiosk. It will save the Board time (and worry)

We always welcome first-timers, and we welcome back others who have cooked and served in the past.



LOAVES & FISHES FUND

Thank you to everyone who gave money toward replenishing our Loaves & Fishes Fund. We received \$1,798, which will cover the cost of groceries for our two dates this year (March 24 and October 27) when we cook and serve at Dorothy Day. Thank you!

THANK YOU

- Leslie Amundson, Molly Marshall, Deb Heuwinkel and Mark Hughes for making delicious soups for our soup & bread Lenten suppers
- Dan Larson & Family who purchased a new freezer for the downstairs kitchen
- Everyone who made cookies and bars and helped at the memorial service for Dan's sister, Miriam Stohl, on February 17
- 4th grader Shea Jacobsen for assisting with the Prayers of the Church on February 18

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



April 2024 LINK deadline
Wednesday, March 20
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



PRAYER CHAIN

Remember we have an active
Prayer Chain.

If you have joys or concerns,
contact Katie Herman
or 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.

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday February 20, 2024

6:30 PM at St. Anthony Park UCC

Council Members Present: Mike Smith - (Moderator); Glenn Poser - (Moderator-Elect); Jenny Rowe-Johnson - (Clerk); John Blair - (Treasurer); Ali Akbari - (Member-at-Large); Elisha Jacobsen - (Christian Education); Deb Heuwinkel - (Church Growth); Charlie Swanson - (Community Life); Leslie Amundson - (Deacons); Mike Cain - (Mission and Witness); David Leitzke - (Stewardship); Cassie Iverson (Trustees)

Others Present: Victoria Wilgocki (Ex-Officio); Liam Magistad (DCYFM);

Unable to Attend: Mark Scott - (Member-at-Large)

Meeting Called to Order (Mike)

Approval of Agenda - Approved

Approval of January 16 Council Minutes - Approved

Relationship Building/Leadership Development (Pastor)

Attendees worked together to list qualities of good leaders, then discussed the differences between leadership in our day-to-day lives and church leadership.

Staff Reports

NOTE: Staff Reports and Worship Attendance are sent to Council Members in advance of the meeting.

Pastor's Report: 6 worship services, 5 pastoral visits, "field trips" to Queerspace Collective" and "Ujamaa Place" to give ERC money; 137th Annual Meeting of the Congregation; Leadership Retreat; High School Senior/Parents Lunch; Collaborating with area UCC's; meeting with seminary advisee; attended "Christians Against Christian Nationalism" event Hennepin Ave UMC; Personnel Committee meeting of the MN Conference UCC; Hosted SAP Faith Coalition Meeting; Meetings with Moderators and new Treasurer; website tutorial with Adam Gordon

DCYFM Report (See DCYFM Report January 2024)

Worship Attendance	Pews	Zoom	TOTAL	
January 14, 2024	55	28	83	Baptism of Christ
January 21	87	28	115	
January 28	80	23	103	Annual Meeting
February 4	113	22	135	Scout Sunday
February 11	86	23	109	Transfiguration
*February 14	32	2	34	Ash Wednesday

Treasurer's Report: John introduced himself as the new Treasurer and gave an overview of church finance basics: reviewed concept of cash flow and how to read the Treasurer's reports. Overall, the church finances are in great shape. He also notes that he and Mike Smith have been added as signers to the checking account at Sunrise Bank.

MOTION: Approve the signing of the Merrill Lynch agreement to add John Blair and Mike Smith as the signatories to the church account. Moved (Mike), 2nd (Deb) - Approved.

Current Business:

Music in the Park/Schubert Club Raffle (Mike)

Mike and Carole Smith will sell raffle tickets for Music in the Park at the Schubert Club events Feb 25 and March 24. Leslie Amundson will also sell tickets at the Feb. 25 concert. The drawing will be done at the March 24 concert. MOTION: Mike and Carole will sell raffle tickets at the Feb 25 and March 24 Schubert Club events. Moved (Mike) - Approved.

New Business:

Air Hockey Fund (Liam Magistad - DCYFM)

There is currently \$325.74 in a fund designated for the air hockey table. These are the funds leftover from purchasing the table and was kept in case further maintenance was needed. However, that is not a foreseen need, and has never been used since the purchase of the table.

MOTION: Close the air hockey fund by moving \$325.74 to the Faith Formation Memorial fund. Moved (Liam) - Approved.

Card for David Misemer (Victoria)

Jacob made a card. Victoria would like every Council member to sign the card, thanking David Misemer for his service as the Treasurer.

Moderator Absent for March Council Meeting (Mike Smith)

Mike is unable to attend the March Meeting, so it will be led by Moderator-Elect Glenn Poser.

Motion to adjourn (Mike) Meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Next Council Meeting - Tuesday, March 19, 6:30 PM

Minutes submitted by Jenny Rowe-Johnson, Clerk

Change Service Requested

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

High School seniors with their parent/s behind them on February 4th. We ate a yummy lunch. Then students and parents met separately, reflecting on the high school experience and anticipating the end of senior year and whatever comes next. We love these young people so much. We celebrate each of them and bless their journeys!

