



A publication of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Williamsburg, Iowa

No.1 January 2026

## *Grace and peace to you!*

Advent has come and gone. Christmas has been celebrated. Many of you have already boxed up the decorations and put the tree to the curb. Likewise New Years' parties, most of the bowl games, and gatherings of all kinds are over. Most of all, family, and friends we gather with during these past few weeks have all returned to their places. January has arrived...but, oh what a January it is!

I am very eager to join you as we turn from the holiday season to normal routines, and into the deep midwinter. I am overjoyed to receive confidence from the Bishop and her cabinet for appointment to this blessed community. As I spend time catching myself up to speed, watching your worship services and listening to your leadership, I find a passionate worship community readied to step with me into a new journey.

Let me assure you, there is no preparation for this journey; come...just as you are.

Beginning January 4th, we will be spending time in the gospel of Matthew, chapter 5, where we find the beatitudes that begin the Sermon on the Mount. This is one of the most important moments in Scripture for it is the foundation for ministry of the people, by the people, for the people. It is also just what we need to hear as we enter these two long months (trust me, they aren't going to seem that long) of winter; a time of rest, recovery and preparation. Like the soil in the fields that surround Williamsburg, this church deserves to lay insulated beneath winter's snowy blanket, held beneath quenching moisture to soon be released as Spring arrives.

I look forward to knowing you and serving with you, not just learning your names but your history, your passions and your dreams. I look forward to walking the halls with you, sitting at tables learning from each other, and rolling up my sleeves with you to uncover what God has next for the people of SPUMC.

*My door and my email are always open.*

*Pastor James*

[pastor@stpauslumcwilliamsburg.com](mailto:pastor@stpauslumcwilliamsburg.com)



**“Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” Psalm 46:10**

# Fundraiser Concert for Haven Nunnelley

Please join

Haven Nunnelley

2nd Year Music Education Major  
at Wartburg College  
(Waverly, Iowa)

2024 Graduate of  
Williamsburg High School



★ Sunday,  
March 1st  
1 PM ★

St. Paul's  
United Methodist  
Church

803 CLEARVIEW DR.  
WILLIAMSBURG, IA



This Spring, Haven will travel & perform with two of Wartburg College's choral Ensembles. In April, he will sing with the Ritterchor, a Tenor-Bass Ensemble, in **New York** in a performance on stage at **Carnegie Hall**.

In May, he will join the Wartburg Choir on a **25-day international tour to Germany, Spain & Morocco**, sharing music with audiences around the world.



If you'd like to support **one dedicated singer** and **two unforgettable musical journeys**, you're invited to join us for an afternoon of music. This concert is a **freewill offering**, all donations will go directly toward supporting Haven's upcoming tours.



Can't Attend, but still want to support?

Venmo: @hnunnelley4



There will be an informational meeting for all students wishing to take Confirmation classes and their parents on January 25<sup>th</sup> after services at 11:00 AM.

## OFFICE HOURS

### Mondays

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

### Tuesdays

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

### Wednesdays

By Appointment

### Thursdays

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

### Fridays

By Appointment

## December Attendance

12/7 - 55 12/14 - 184

12/21 - 86 12/24 - 154

Prayer requests can be emailed to  
[office@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com](mailto:office@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com)

*The ANCHOR is a publication of  
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email: [spumc.childrens.ministry@gmail.com](mailto:spumc.childrens.ministry@gmail.com)

**Music Director:** Noah Cornelius

**Organist:** Sue Heitmann

**Custodian:** Melissa Savage

**Editor:** Shelley Berger

Deadline for news for next month's  
newsletter is the 20th of the month.

# January Sermon Series: Be-Attitude: Living Blessed



In Matthew's Gospel, the familiar words found starting chapter 5 are known as the Beatitudes. Yet, they are often quickly read through to get deeper into the larger work of Sermon on the Mount. These life-giving words are important to linger with, understanding their impact to the disciples, the crowd gathered and to this congregation of the United Methodist Church. Each sermon will focus on two of the statements. Come, be fed, and know you are blessed.

## Financial Report

### CURRENT HILLS BANK BALANCE AS OF December 30, 2025

\$213,700.94 which includes the following breakdown:

- \$92,196.46 General Fund from Offerings
- \$48,459.15 Capital Improvements account
- \$15,842.99 in designated amounts such as missions, scholarships, etc.
- \$6,252.67 Memorial Fund account
- \$50,949.67 6-month CD which matures in May 2026

This leaves \$65,633.5876,353.47

### Edward Jones, Williamsburg Summary

Funds to be invested - \$41,593.48

### YEAR TO DATE SUMMARY - 1/1/25 to 12/30/25

(52 weeks)

- Total offering given to the General Fund received YTD: \$275,811.17  
(\$5,304.00 average weekly offering)
- Total Capital Improvement offering YTD: \$19,675.00  
(\$378.00 average weekly offering)
- Total Interest Income YTD: \$13,720.11
- Total expenses paid YTD: \$273,954.78  
(\$5,268.00 average weekly expenses)

### Iowa Methodist Foundation Fund

(From Marilyn Tanner Memorial) as of 11/30/25  
Balance \$103,721.44 (\$100,000 of this money is designated by the family for a future sanctuary)



Every Monday 9am - 11am

1st & 3rd Thursday of each month

5:30pm - 6:30pm

January 15th & 29th



**EPIC MEALS**

**JANUARY 7TH SPUMY**

- SLIDERS, CHIPS, LETTUCE, COOKIES

**JANUARY 21ST SPUMY**

- CHICKEN & NOODLES, CORN, POKE CAKE

**JANUARY 14TH SPUMY**

- GUMBO BURGERS, GREEN BEANS, CHIPS, DESSERT

**JANUARY 28<sup>TH</sup> SPUMY**

- SPAGHETTI, GARLIC TOAST, DESSERT

**STAY  
CONNECTED**

[www.stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com](http://www.stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com)

Facebook - @STPAULSUMC803

<https://www.youtube.com/c/stpaulsumcwburg>



# You're Invited

*to an*

## ONBOARDING CONVERSATION

*To welcome Pastor James Baty to  
St. Paul's UMC and begin our journey  
together with clarity and hope.*



**Why Onboarding Matters:** Onboarding is a one-time, guided conversation that helps our new pastor and our congregation build relationships more quickly. Led by a trained facilitator, it creates space for honest sharing, deep listening, and a shared vision for the future of our ministry together. There is nothing you need to prepare in advance – just come ready to listen and share.

**What to Expect:** A relaxed, 3-hour gathering with a simple meal provided by the church. Everyone is invited; leaders and committee members are especially encouraged to attend. The session is broken into two parts:

**Part One:** The congregation will walk through a series of questions with the facilitator while the pastor is not in the room. Responses will be recorded on the flip charts.

**Part Two:** The pastor will return, walk through what is on the flip charts, and respond to what has been shared. This process helps both pastor and congregation hear one another clearly and begin this new season of ministry on the same page.



**Join Us!**  
**January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 11:30 AM**

*Childcare will be provided*



All are welcome – please come, listen, share, and pray with us as we begin this new chapter in ministry.  
Sponsored by the Iowa Annual Conference Office of Congregational Excellence & New Communities of Faith



# The 12 Symbols of Christmas

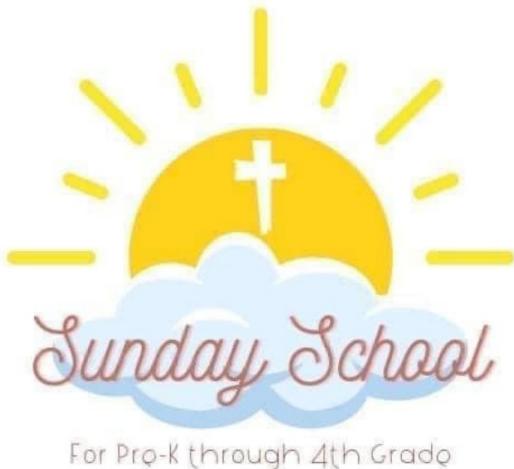




## SPUMC Children & Family Ministries

JOYFULLY GROWING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

January 2026



### ★ Sunday School ★

We're excited to be back in the classroom on Sunday, January 4th—a new year, a new unit, and the same great love of God! All students Pre-K through 3rd grade are invited to join us on Sunday mornings from 8:45–9:45 for learning, fun, and faith-building together.

We are also looking for volunteers to help support this ministry. If you're willing to plug in, please reach out to Sarah Lentz. We'd love to have you be part of this important work!

### ★ Children's Church ★

Most weeks during our 10 AM service, we're excited to offer Children's Church for our youngest friends—from birth through 1st grade.

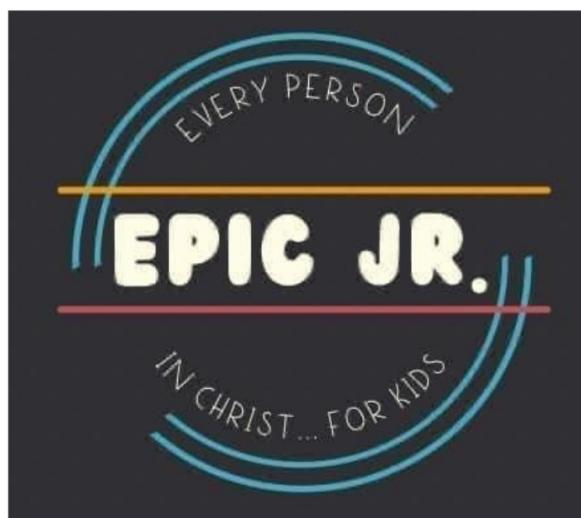
To keep this ministry frequent and thriving, we're looking for a few more Helping Hands! This is simple and \*VERY\* low-time-commitment!

Interested? Chat with Sarah Lentz or email: [SPUMC.Childrens.Ministry@gmail.com](mailto:SPUMC.Childrens.Ministry@gmail.com) to learn more



### CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FOR INFANTS-1ST GRADE



### ★ Epic Jr. ★

Epic Jr. will remain on break through January, with Spring Sessions returning in early February. Please mark your calendars for these dates: Feb. 11, Feb. 25, March 11, March 25, April 6, and April 22.

We need volunteers to make these sessions possible.

If you can help, please contact Kristin Scandridge at 319-389-7505 or [SPUMC.Childrens.Ministry@gmail.com](mailto:SPUMC.Childrens.Ministry@gmail.com).

Thank you for supporting our children's ministry!



## SPUMY UPDATE!

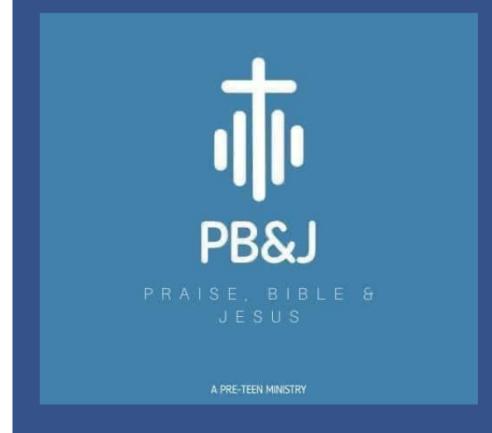
December was a joyful and successful month for SPUMY! Our youth enjoyed celebrating together at the Christmas Party, serving our church family by helping with brunch between services, and spreading holiday cheer during our annual Cookie Delivery Night. It was a meaningful end to a great semester of fellowship, service, and faith formation.

We invite all students in grades 7–12 to join us on Wednesday evenings from 6:30–7:30 PM as we continue our Full Story unit and grow together in faith in the new year. We'd love to see you there!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL : PRE-K THROUGH 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE

PB&J Middle Ages has had an amazing start to the year, and we're so thankful for the tight-knit group that's forming! As we kick off January 2026, we invite all students in 4th–6th grade to join us as we begin a new unit called Stick Together, where we'll dive deeper into friendships, faith, and growing together.

We'd love to welcome new faces as we continue building this fun and meaningful community!



## \*\*Thank You for an Amazing Christmas Program\*\*

This year's annual Christmas Program, \*The 12 Symbols of Christmas\*, was truly amazing. It came together because of the time, effort, and love poured in by so many, and we want to take a moment to share our heartfelt thanks.

**\*\*PB&J Kids\*\*** — You stepped into your roles from the very first script read-through with focus and enthusiasm. You took your parts seriously and filled rehearsals, lines, and characters with heart and joy. Thank you for being the heart of the program and bringing the story to life.

**\*\*Sunday School Kids\*\*** — Thank you for the energy and dedication you gave to the music. The songs are such an important part of the program, and we are so grateful for your talents and hard work.

**\*\*Ms. Jenn, Ms. Molly, and Ms. Sarah\*\*** — Your time, dedication, and leadership are unmatched. None of this would happen without your hearts saying, \*“This is important—let’s make it happen.”\* Words cannot fully express how thankful we are for you.

**\*\*SPUMY & Leaders\*\*** — Thank you for providing a delicious brunch and such warm, welcoming hospitality.

**\*\*Parents, Grandparents, Guardians, and Friends\*\*** — Thank you for making sure kids made it to practices, learned their lines, worked on music, and handled all the behind-the-scenes details that helped everything run smoothly.

And finally, thank you to our **\*\*church family\*\*** who braved the cold to come and share in this sweet Christmas message. Your love and support mean more than we can say.



## WINTER WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

Since Winter has decided to stick around, here are some reminders on St. Paul's Weather Cancellation Policy:

- School starts late - morning church activities cancelled
- School cancels or lets out early - all church activities cancelled
- Check KCRG, Channel 9 & their website for Sunday cancellations
- Church service cancellation announcements will be posted to Facebook and emailed to those receiving the Weekly Update

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