



THE ANCHOR

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

No. 6 June 2024

A Letter From the Pastor

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:2.



"Friends in Christ. In this final month of my intentional interim ministry with you, I want you to know how much you have blessed us. Your faith is genuine and strong. Your support of the ministry God has for SPUMC is generous. Thank you and thanks be to God for a fruitful time of ministry together.

I cannot improve on the timeless words of thanksgiving from Paul in Philippians 1:3-11, but I will paraphrase:

I thank God for every time we have prayed, worshipped, worked, and represented Christ together in the past 2 years! We shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In our own ways, we became the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the sake of the world. I am confident and joyful that God will bring your faith to completion on the day of Christ Jesus.

I pray that we hold each other in our hearts, but even more so that you join your hearts of faith with your new pastor, Rev. Beth Harbaugh. This is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to assist you to remember who you have been, are, and who you shall be with Pastor Beth and, of course, the presence of the Holy Spirit to guide, inspire, and sustain you.

I have been honored to visit with you, pray with you through deaths of loved ones, illness, and recovery, in hospitals, care centers, assisted living, and in this community. We have worshipped together, celebrated, and mourned with each other. We have held on to hope together.

Thank you for your partnership in Christ Jesus. Thank you for your willingness to allow us to be with you in all things.

I long for you to be fruitful in ministry, to grow in your devotion to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and to put your trust in his grace.

I thank God for the many people who have shared leadership with and for the church. You have been a blessing.

You are a congregation who is resilient because of God's constant presence and abiding love. You are able to do more things than you realize, and thanks be to God for this. By the Holy Spirit, you will increase in love and faithfulness to Jesus Christ who will equip you to be an even greater church. Thanks be to God.


Rev. Dr. Harlan Gillespie



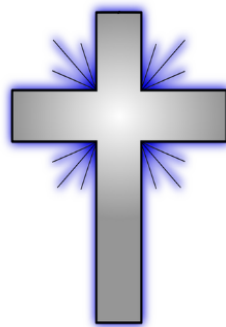
MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR JUNE 23RD

A farewell potluck will be held for Pastor Harlan, Deb, and Aaron after the 10AM service on June 23th. This will be Pastor Harlan's last Sunday in the pulpit.

CARE CONNECTION NEWS

JUNE 2024

Care-Team Members: Kim Ebsen, Laura Gustafson, Donna Heitman, Bonnie Kinkead, Kelly Loftus, Karen Phelps, Roger Rathjen, Delores Reinhart and Beth Schlesselman.



FAREWELL FRIENDS...

Wow, where does the time go...we are almost halfway through the calendar year.

I want to pause on my last few articles and devote this one to Pastor Harlan and Deb and Aaron. I am not sure if there's a right and wrong way to say farewell and offer much thanks for the work that you did at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Williamsburg. Many of us have had the end of your interim on our minds and in our hearts the last 6 months, unsure of how to feel about another change in leadership. You chose to come out of retirement and put back the pieces of a once broken church and you did a very professional job. I believe our church will be able to function now as pastors come and go. Policies, job descriptions, committees, protocols, the church board along with other volunteers and staff have been put into place.

You did not live in the community, yet you became part of the community and you will hold a special place in the hearts of many. We saw how you invested and supported our youth programs and were often part of the crowd at school functions of all sorts. We appreciate your willingness to spend countless hours working on worship, choir and music, church board work, funerals, confirmation and the many other duties that come with being a pastor. Personally, I respect the knowledge and experience you brought to the table. I think I can speak for all, when I say that you have worked very hard and left the church in a better place. Deb's time volunteering with the youth, serving in the kitchen and baking delicious homemade cookies to share at fellowship time, as well as making countless gorgeous prayer shawls for the care-team ministry has been so appreciated. Aaron will be greatly missed too; it is easy to see the great love between a father and son and the bond with all three of you. We will miss Aaron's benedictions at the end of service, and his "Go Hawks" cheer and his willingness to serve in any job. The clock is ticking and it is almost time to restart your retirement and relax. But, I could be wrong...

God Bless You All

Kelly Loftus/Congregational Care Coordinator & SPUMC, Williamsburg

OFFICE HOURS

Mondays

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Tuesdays

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Wednesdays

Closed

Thursdays

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Fridays

By Appointment

Vital Statistics

5/5 - 130 5/12 - 109

5/19 - 105 5/26 - 104

Prayer requests can be emailed to
office@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com

The ANCHOR is a publication of
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spumc.childrens.ministry@gmail.com

Music Director: Noah Cornelius

Organist: Sue Heitmann

Custodian: Melissa Savage

Editor: Shelley Berger



We are happy to announce the appointment of Rev. Beth Harbaugh as pastor to St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Williamsburg, Iowa beginning July 1, 2024.

Beth began her ministry like most laity, serving UM churches where she lived after having been raised in Waverly and baptized as a baby at Trinity UMC. She went to Trinity until she was confirmed, but she remembers asking the pastor's wife a question in the white collar church when she was about 6-7 that was very theological. Ask her to tell you about it.

She began her candidacy for ministry in 1994. While still working full time managing a large sport shoe dept. at Cedar Falls Scheels, she earned her Bachelor of Arts in World Religions with minors in Anthropology and Ethics at UNI.

She often tells people that work in shoe stores to be careful, because if you sit at people's feet for 10 years, it turns you into a pastor...

She then earned her Master of Divinity degree at University of Dubuque Theological Seminary while serving as half-time Associate Pastor for Heritage UMC in Waverly. After graduation in 2001 she received her probationary membership and her first full time two-point appointment at Mount Hope UMC (the church in the movie 'COUNTRY' about the farm crisis) near Waterloo and Dunkerton UM church. In 2004, she was ordained. She then completed her Doctor of Ministry degree right before she was appointed to St. James UMC in Cedar Rapids. After almost a year, the church and city were flooded and her D-Min project with it. She focused on flood recovery and rebuilding for the remaining 5 years of her ministry there. She has also served at Union Church in Lake City, Fairfield UMC, Women at the Well, and is currently serving Christ through Van Meter UMC until June 30th.

Beth has 5 daughters who, with their families, have shared a meaningful family life, along with the church family life in the churches that she has served. Her beloved husband, Blair, died while they were in Lake City in 2014. She was very grateful that Rev. Harlan Gillespie was able to come to Lake City to officiate at his funeral, because Blair considered him his pastor.

Beth's life and ministry have been very diverse with changes in each church that she has served. She has also just taken the position of Co-Chair for the Iowa Conference Board of Discipleship.

Rev. Beth is very grateful as she looks forward to serving St. Paul's UMC and is already listening for where the Holy Spirit might lead us to respond together. She feels that she is simply a Christian who has stepped out into the mystery of faith and taken the time and energy required to be set aside for ministry of Christ in the grateful spirit of joy. She quotes Frederick Buechner, *"Your vocation in life is where your greatest joy meets [one of] the world's greatest needs."*





FROM THE OFFICE OF
**BISHOP
KENNETH J. BIGHAM-TSAI**

www.bighamtsai.org/letters-to-iowa/2024/5/13/tilling-the-soil-for-gods-kindomreflections-on-the-general-conference



2024 IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
June 7-9, 2024
RecPlex in West Des Moines
<https://www.iaumc.org/ac2024>



**Volunteers needed for
Thursday Evenings**

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES



Best wishes to
our class of 2024
graduates: Lilly
Andrews, Macey
Kent, Haven
Nunnelley, and
Cael Steckly

(unable to attend)
Lilly, Macey, and
Haven were also
the recipients of
the Jenifer
Miller Book
Scholarship.




Free Family Concert & Activities!
Friday, May 3rd at 5:30 PM



Youth MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

 Mental Health **FIRST AID**[®]
from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL WELLBEING[®]



This very important training will be available

Saturday, July 13th at St. Paul's

Time: 9am-4pm, with break for lunch

Open to the public for ages 18yrs and up.

Contact Shelley in the office to register or get information.



Scan the QR code or go to <http://bit.ly/4anOaXy> to register. Use the code **ECR-YMHFA to bypass the \$75 fee. There are only 30 spots available so register soon!**

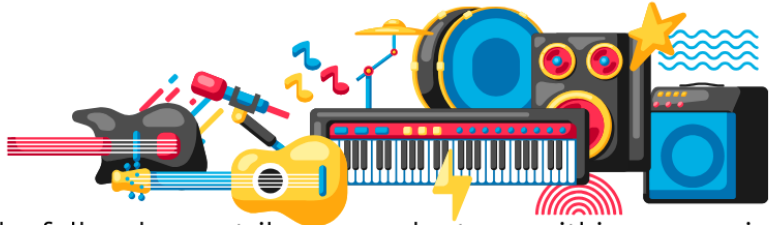


SAY CHEESE!

We want to create a new (digital) directory before Pastor Beth arrives. Please submit a recent family photo to Shelley in the office at office@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com. Photos can also be dropped off at the office to be scanned.

OR

We will have volunteers snapping photos in the fellowship hall before and after worship.



JUNE'S APPRECIATION HONOREES

The care-team and SPUMC would like to recognize all the folks who contribute as volunteers within our music ministry. We started in May identifying our pianists and organists, and my original intention was to do each group individually. However, it was brought to my attention that we should celebrate them all at one time so for the month of June, we are adding the praise band, choir and those who work with the children and youth preparing music for various times during the year.

If you have ever gone to a church service without music or even spent a day without any music; there is a void and incomplete feeling that can only be filled by music itself. There's no substitute. If I have mistakenly left anyone out from our sanctuary listing please make me aware of this, so I can make it right. It is awesome to see all the names included on our board. We certainly have a lot of gifted young and not so old people in our church. Thank you all for sharing your talents and time with us, whether you are doing so currently or you have done so in the past; we want you to know **YOU ARE APPRECIATED**.

Kelly Loftus & Care-Team



General Fund as of May 29th:

Offerings - \$104,141.29

Expenses -\$104,558.14

Bank balance - \$155,339.24

Building:

Building Mortgage Balance - \$154,764.70

Building Fund Account Balance \$ 36,825.86

Monthly Mortgage Payment - \$3,509.70

Approximate monthly offerings: \$2,990.00

Support St. Paul's

Through Your Busy Summer

If you would be interested in adding a weekly or monthly tithe to the building fund, please contact Shelley in the office to fill out a 1-page form to authorize Electronic Funds Transfers (EFT's) from your checking or savings account.

office@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

JUNE 2024 EDITION



COME GET WILD AT VBS, JUNE 22ND!!

We have a fun-filled day of WILD Animals, Adventures and God's Love in store for you on June 22, 2024! We have planned so many fun activities, games, crafts and more! It will be a day filled with friendship, fun and learning about God's WILD love! We can't wait to share the day with you!

We can't wait to share the day with you!



REGISTER THE KIDS



JOIN THE VOLUNTEER CREW



JOIN US FOR A FULL DAY OF FUN!

Our current 2023-24 SPUMY group (exiting 7-12th graders) are invited to the church for:

SPUMY BONFIRE & GAMES NIGHT

June 28, 2024

6pm-10pm

Hot dogs, sides & s'mores provided!



Calling Artists of ALL Ages! Help us create a WILD Art Exhibit!


We are looking for original art pieces featuring wild animals or insects!

Here are the rules:

- Create artwork that is between 8.5"x11" and 22"x28"
 - Art piece must be able to be hung on the wall
 - Artwork must feature your interpretation of WILD LIFE
- You may use any art material, recycled material and/or natural resources.
- You may submit more than 1 piece. Please include name & age on the back.
 - Art must be submitted to Sarah / Kristin by June 16th.

• Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 favorites, as voted on by those attending VBS!

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SUMMER SCHEDULE

MAY	5TH CLOSED	12TH SARAH	19TH CLOSED	26TH SARAH	
JUNE	2ND CLOSED	9TH SARAH	16TH CLOSED	23RD KRISTIN	30TH CLOSED
JULY	7TH CLOSED	14TH KRISTIN	21ST CLOSED	28TH SARAH	
AUGUST	4TH CLOSED	11TH KRISTIN	18TH CLOSED	25TH SARAH	

Due to a sparse amount of volunteers willing to help out in Children's Church, our schedule will be limited during the summer months.

Here are the planned Sundays that we will hold Children's Church during the 10:30am service

We invite all families to join us for a Farewell Potluck celebrating Pastor Harlan and Deb's time here with us. Please mark your calendar for Sunday, June 23rd! Let's come together in gratitude and appreciation for their time, leadership, and talents shared with SPUMC during their time with us!



Photos Wanted!

Do you have photos of Pastor Harlan that you'd like to share? We'd love to have them!

If you have photos of special moments, events, services, service projects, etc that you've shared with Pastor Harlan (or Deb!), please submit those to: spumc.childrens.ministry@gmail.com We'd prefer to have them by June 15.



Wesley Woods, located near Indianola, Iowa, will begin summer camps June 11, 2024. Dates are available for ages 4 through 17. Family camps are available too. Register at <https://wesleywoodsiaowa.org/summer-camp/>



Lake Okoboji UM Camp holds family and day camps as well as week-long adventure camps for ages 6-17 yrs. Camps begin June 17th and go through the beginning of August. Find more info or register at <https://okobojicamp.com/summer-camps/>.



Eastern Iowa Bible Camp, located in Deep River, Iowa, is open to families and children in 1st grade through high school. Camps are available beginning June 5, 2024. Their best deal on camp ends March 31, 2024 with \$50 off registration AND a summer themed t-shirt for FREE when your registration is paid in full by March 31, 2024. \$50 off registration continues until April 30th. To register, go to <https://loveeibc.org/summer-camp/>. Contact Shelley at office@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com for a \$100 promo code for St. Paul's UMC.



Summer Games will be held July 8-12, 2024 in Grinnell and is for students who have completed 6th grade through completed 12th grade. To get registered go to <https://sgu.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1830168>: A non-refundable \$80 deposit is required for each camper to reserve their spot. That is part of the camp cost. The regular price of \$380, when you pay \$80 now, you'll have a remaining balance of \$300.

**SPUMC
WILL COVER
\$150 PER
CAMPER
CONTACT
SHELLEY**

WORSHIP SERVICES IN MAY

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>June 2 <i>Then the Lord Called [insert your name here].</i>
 1 Samuel 3:1-10 and 2 Corinthians 4:5-7
 2nd Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>June 9 Rev. Don Bardole will bring the message!
 <i>Consider</i>
 Matthew 6:25-34 & John 8:2-11
 Iowa Annual Conference Sunday
 3rd Sunday after Pentecost</p> | <p>June 16 New Creations in Christ
 2 Corinthians 5:14-17 & Mark 4:30-32
 4th Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>*June 23 Going on... Generously
 2 Corinthians 8:7 & Mark 4:35-41
 5th Sunday after Pentecost
 Pastor Harlan's last Sunday in the pulpit</p> <p>June 30 Delores Reinhart will bring the message!
 6th Sunday after Pentecost</p> |
|---|---|

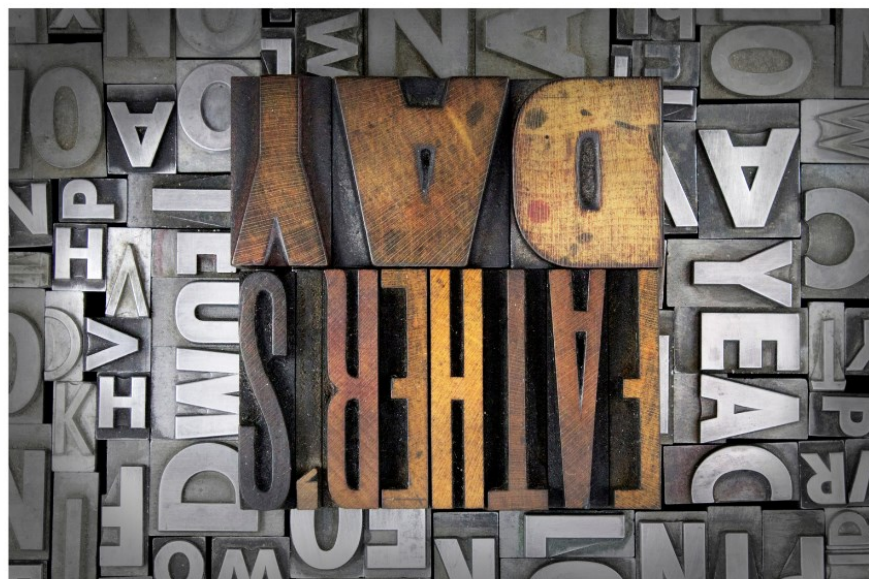
**STAY
CONNECTED!**

www.stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com
 Facebook - @STPAULSUMC803
<https://www.youtube.com/c/stpaulsumcwborg>



St. Paul's Vision Statement:

...to be a church where you can S.E.E. (Serve. Experience. Embrace) Christ



St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Williamsburg, Iowa

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