



A publication of St. Paul's
United Methodist Church,
Williamsburg, Iowa
No.10 October 2025

THE ANCHOR

I hope that you are enjoying the first few days of Autumn. Autumn is a life-giving time of year, as it is a time of entropy. One of the first signs is the falling of a few leaves from the trees. The bright summer sun and winds drying out the leaf and take away its green color. It is as though the tree makes a sacrifice of a few leaves for the sake of them all in order to stay a few more weeks in remission to the winter that will indeed arrive. I think remission is a unique word. Remission is a last ditch effort in the abatement of the dis-ease of knowing that we will all eventually succumb to the natural letting go of life. But, those that are truly human know that the Spring of new life is always coming allowing mission again.



We can review the mission of the Church as an ongoing encounter with the salvation of humanity. This rehumanizing effort allows for both the haves and the have-nots to become more human. The word salvation and the word wholeness have the same meaning as the word *sozo* in Greek, the original language of the New Testament. At the same time, there is sometimes a dehumanizing of some people, both the haves and the have nots, that get separated from the whole of humanity. This is caused by some people wanting to separate themselves by placing themselves above humanity, by thinking themselves a superman. When we don't see ourselves as subjected to the whole, it makes us an object, and incapable of healthy humankindness.

So while the rich sometimes try to objectify both themselves and the ones they want to separate themselves from, this separation from wholeness is the cause of the degradation of the world.

The mission of the church is then to save (make whole again) humanity. The rescuing of the perishing, by those that think of themselves as both the haves and the have nots, is the saving of humankindness. And so the mission of the church and the reason for our Christian stewardship is to rescue both the rich and the poor from dehumanization.

Jesus named Himself, Ben Adam, the Son of Humanity. As the Christ, Jesus knows that He is the offspring of humanity as a whole. Try imagining what might happen if we started organizing our Christian community, the church, around the common good. This radical inclusion of all of humanity, weaving and knitting (like our Creator) then becomes the centralizing focus of the church. Our mission together is the ongoing rebirth of humanity as the Christ within us.

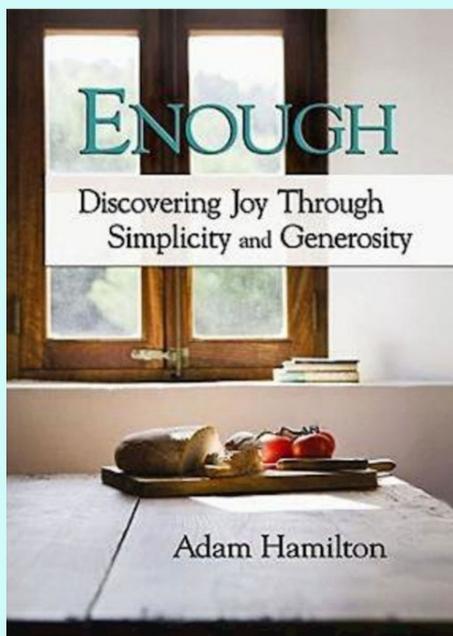
As human beings, we are stewards of that mission. During the month of October, our focus will be to help one another climb aboard this ship of Christian mission, for the sake of humankindness.

Be Blessed,
Rev. Beth

WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE

St. Paul's will have a church-wide study and worship series called *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*, written by Adam Hamilton. It will culminate on Consecration Sunday with a potluck brunch.

OCT 5	<p>World Communion Sunday Sermon: <i>When Dreams Become Nightmares</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Traditional service 8:45am..... "Enough" Bible Study 10:00am..... Contemporary service
OCT 12	<p>18th Sunday after Pentecost Sermon: <i>Wisdom & Finance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Traditional service 8:45am..... "Enough" Bible Study 10:00am..... Contemporary service
OCT 19	<p>19th Sunday after Pentecost Sermon: <i>Cultivating Contentment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Traditional service 8:45am..... "Enough" Bible Study 10:00am..... Contemporary service
OCT 26	<p>Reformation Sunday Sermon: <i>Defined by Generosity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Traditional service 8:45am..... "Enough" Bible Study 10:00am..... Contemporary service
NOV 2	<p>All Saints Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Traditional service 10:00am..... Contemporary service
NOV 9	<p>Consecration Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am One Combined service 9:45am..... Potluck Brunch



A churchwide Bible study will take place in October using "Enough" by Adam Hamilton.

- 8:45am on Sundays
- 10am & 6:30pm on Wednesdays
- **Books are available for \$10.00 each.**

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

September Attendance

9/7- 96 9/14 - 95

9/21 - 86 9/28 - 87

Prayer requests can be emailed to
office@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com

The ANCHOR is a publication of
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Custodian: Melissa Savage

Editor: Shelley Berger
Deadline for news for next month's
newsletter is the 20th of the month.

Financial Report

CURRENT HILLS BANK BALANCE AS OF September 29, 2025

\$152,994.43 which includes the following breakdown:

- \$81,311.33 General Fund from Offerings
- \$29,331.88 Capital Improvements account
- \$15,063.83 in designated amounts such as missions, scholarships, etc.
- \$6,251.10 Memorial Fund account
- \$50,472.60 6-month CD which matures 11/29/25

This leaves \$66,247.50 AVAILABLE to cover general expenses.

Edward Jones, Williamsburg Summary

4 MONTH CD MATURING 11/28/25: \$41,000.00

YEAR TO DATE SUMMARY - 1/1/25 to 9/29/25

(39 weeks)

- Total offering given to the General Fund received YTD: \$204,676.00 (\$5,248.10 average weekly offering)
- Total Capital Improvement offering YTD: \$15,595.00 (\$400.00 average weekly offering)
- Total Interest Income YTD: \$12,092.87
- Total expenses paid YTD: \$211,716.64 (\$5,428.63 average weekly expenses)

Iowa Methodist Foundation Fund

(From Marilyn Tanner Memorial) as of 8/31/25

Balance \$103,838.61 (\$100,000 of this money is designated by the family for a future sanctuary)

SHARE A LITTLE TIME

The N.O.W. (Nurture, Outreach, and Witness) committee has created an easy to use sign-up to help with scheduling worship assistants using Sign Up Genius. They are very user friendly and will send you a confirmation email when completed. Currently, the sign-up dates go through the end of the year. Sign-up links can be found on our website stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com or in the most recent weekly update email. Or you may scan the QR code below.

Not tech savvy? No problem!

You may also email Shelley in the office at office@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com, Erica Wilkinson at ericathorntonwilkinson@gmail.com, or Jenn Lane at jennlane1974@gmail.com with questions or let them know what date/task you would like to volunteer for.

SUNDAY

Volunteers

8 30AM SERVICE



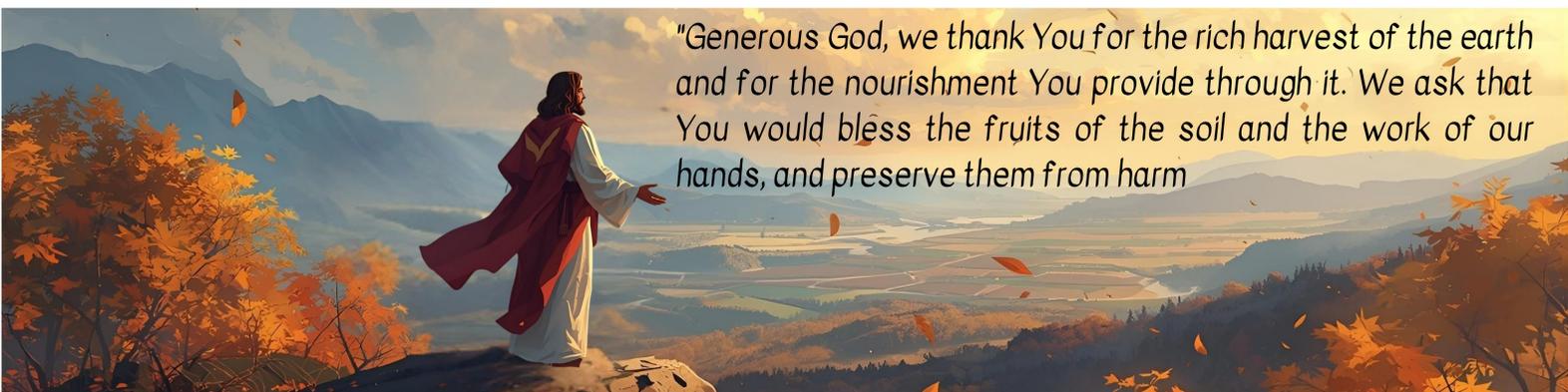
SUNDAY

Volunteers

10AM SERVICE



Contact Kelly Loftus at kellykloftus@gmail.com with questions.



"Generous God, we thank You for the rich harvest of the earth and for the nourishment You provide through it. We ask that You would bless the fruits of the soil and the work of our hands, and preserve them from harm"



Every Monday

9am - 11am

1st & 3rd Thursday

5:30pm - 6:30pm

October 2nd & 16th



Erica Wilkinson brought some of her high school students to help sort clothing in the Attic as part of Homecoming Week activities.

DESPERATELY NEEDED: MALE SINGERS!

The St. Paul Chancel Choir finds itself entering the fall season with NO MALE SINGERS! We are seeking some males to fill out the bass section of our choir! No experience necessary! All you need is a voice and a little time! Rehearsals are generally Wednesday night and we currently perform 2 Sundays per month at the 8:30 service. Ages high school and up are welcome! Of course, if there are any ladies who would also like to join us, the more the merrier! St. Paul has a long tradition of a strong music program. We will continue to sing with whoever is willing to join us! That said, we want to continue our strong musical tradition of mixed choral singing, and to do that, WE NEED MEN! Please consider joining us! If you have any questions or want to express your interest in joining us, please reach out to the St. Paul office with your name, phone number, and email, and Noah Cornelius will get in touch with you.

Ages 14 yrs. and up are welcome!

EPIC MEALS

OCT 1ST HOMECOMING WEEK!

DRESS FROM ANOTHER DECADE

- BAKED POTATO BAR W/TOPPINGS
- LETTUCE SALAD
- COOKIES

OCT 8TH EPIC & EPIC JR

- SCRAMBLED EGGS
- SAUSAGE & HASHBROWNS
- MINI MUFFINS

OCT 15TH EPIC & EPIC JR

- CROCKPOT MAC-N-CHEESE
- CORN
- ICE CREAM FLOATS OR SUNDAES

OCT 22ND

- SLIDERS - HAM OR EGG
- CHIPS, GREEN BEANS
- DESSERT

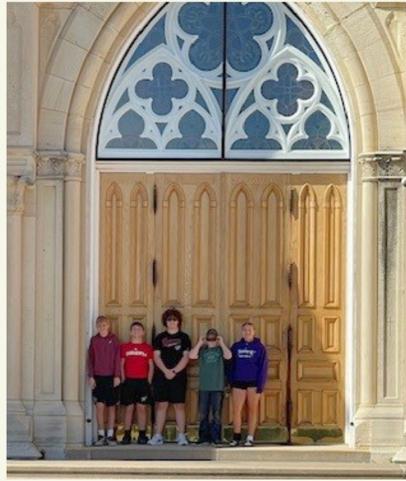
OCT 29TH EPIC & EPIC JR

WACKY WEDNESDAY!

WEAR A COSTUME

- PIZZA
- LETTUCE SALAD
- ICE CREAM

CONFIRMATION FIELD TRIP



Rev. Beth and Kasey Jones spent the day exploring eastern Iowa with 5 Of the 10 confirmation students; Nolan Jones, Noah Altenhofen, Paige Von Stein, Brody Andrews, & Joesyn Patterson.



SPUMC Children & Family Ministries



SUNDAY SCHOOL - PRE-K THROUGH 3RD GRADE

THE NEXT UNIT WE WILL EXPLORE IN SUNDAY SCHOOL IS CALLED "TRAILBLAZER", WHICH FOCUSES ON THE GOSPELS. JESUS WAS A TRUE TRAILBLAZER! HIS TEACHINGS OFTEN SURPRISED PEOPLE, SHOWING A NEW WAY TO LIVE AND LOVE. OVER THIS 4-WEEK SERIES, KIDS WILL EXPLORE WHAT IT MEANS TO TRUST JESUS EVEN WHEN IT'S HARD, GUIDE OTHERS TOWARD GOD'S WAYS, LET GOD'S LOVE LEAD THEIR ACTIONS, AND PRAY IN THE WAY JESUS PRAYED. THROUGH THESE LESSONS, CHILDREN WILL SEE HOW FOLLOWING JESUS CAN CHANGE THE WAY THEY LIVE EACH DAY.

WE'RE STILL WELCOMING VOLUNTEERS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL FROM 8:45-9:45 AM! IT'S AN EASY WAY TO PLUG IN, WITH MINIMAL TIME COMMITMENT—BUT THE REWARD OF HELPING KIDS GROW IN FAITH IS PRICELESS.



☀️ CHILDREN'S CHURCH NEEDS YOU! ☀️

DURING OUR 10 AM SERVICE, WE'RE EXCITED TO OFFER CHILDREN'S CHURCH FOR OUR YOUNGEST FRIENDS—FROM BIRTH THROUGH 1ST GRADE. IT'S A JOYFUL, SAFE SPACE WHERE LITTLE ONES CAN DISCOVER GOD'S LOVE THROUGH PLAY, AND HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES CREATED JUST FOR THEM.

TO KEEP THIS MINISTRY THRIVING, WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW MORE HELPING HANDS! THIS IS A SIMPLE, LOW-TIME-COMMITMENT WAY TO SUPPORT FAMILIES AND MAKE A MEANINGFUL IMPACT ON A CHILD'S FAITH JOURNEY.

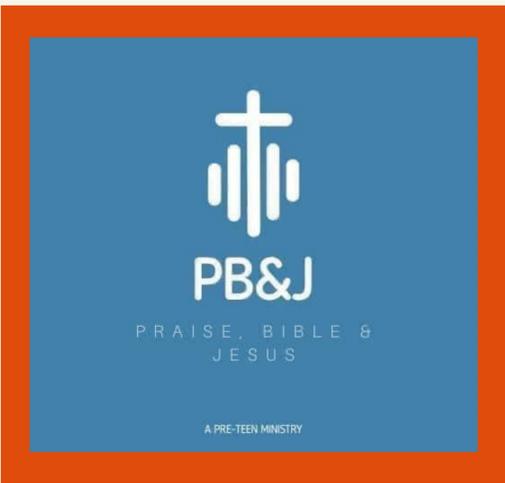
INTERESTED? CHAT WITH SARAH LENTZ OR EMAIL SPUMC.CHILDRENS.MINISTRY@GMAIL.COM TO LEARN MORE ABOUT JOINING THE TEAM!



🌸 EPIC JR. (PRE-K-3RD GRADE) 🌸

EPIC JR. IS OUR AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN IN PRE-K THROUGH 3RD GRADE! WE MEET UNTIL 5:00 PM, WITH SUPERVISION AVAILABLE UNTIL 5:30 PM. OUR OCTOBER SESSIONS ARE ON OCTOBER 8 AND OCTOBER 15—WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOUR KIDS THERE!

THIS MONTH WE'RE CONTINUING OUR FIRST SERIES, "YOU'RE INVITED!" KIDS WILL DISCOVER THAT JESUS ALWAYS INVITES US INTO HIS LOVE AND JOY—NO ONE IS EVER LEFT OUT. IN OCTOBER, WE'LL EXPLORE HOW WE'RE INVITED TO EXPERIENCE HIS MIRACLES AND TO ASK FOR HIS HELP. EACH LESSON REMINDS CHILDREN THAT JESUS' INVITATION IS OPEN TO EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE.



PB&J (4TH, 5TH AND 6TH GRADERS)

PB&J IS OUR GROUP FOR 4TH–6TH GRADERS, MEETING WEDNESDAYS FROM 6:30–7:30 PM IN THE BRIDGE. THIS FALL WE’RE KICKING OFF A 4-WEEK SERIES CALLED “WE ARE FAMILY.”

FAMILY LIFE CAN BE MESSY—JUST LOOK AT ABRAHAM’S! THROUGH STORIES FROM GENESIS, KIDS WILL SEE HOW GOD’S LOVE STAYS CONSTANT EVEN WHEN FAMILIES AREN’T PERFECT, CONFLICTS ARISE, OR CHANGES HAPPEN. AND NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF FAMILY THEY COME FROM, EVERY CHILD IS WELCOME IN GOD’S FAMILY.

JOIN US FOR A PB&J PARTY ON OCTOBER 29—COSTUMES ENCOURAGED!



SPUMY YOUTH GROUP (GRADES 7–12)

SPUMY IS OFF TO A GREAT START! THIS FALL WE’RE DIGGING IN DEEP WITH OUR THEME, “THE FULL STORY”—CONNECTING THE OLD TESTAMENT TO THE NEW.

A QUICK REMINDER: PLEASE TURN IN ALL REGISTRATIONS AND PERMISSION FORMS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE’LL BE HEADING OUT ON OCTOBER 15 FOR A GAME NIGHT AT HIGHLAND RIDGE, AND WE’LL NEED THOSE FORMS ON FILE BEFORE WE GO.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR ANNUAL SPUMY HALLOWEEN PARTY ON OCTOBER 29—COSTUMES ALWAYS MAKE THIS EVENT EVEN MORE FUN!



🍁 FALL IS HERE—LET’S GET REGISTERED! 🍁

A BRAND-NEW SEASON OF KIDS’ ACTIVITIES IS JUST BEGINNING AND WE COULDN’T BE MORE EXCITED TO SEE SO MANY SMILING FACES! FROM EPIC JR. TO PB&J AND MORE, OUR FALL PROGRAMS ARE DESIGNED TO HELP KIDS GROW IN FAITH, MAKE FRIENDS, AND HAVE FUN ALONG THE WAY.

REGISTRATION IS QUICK AND EASY—JUST SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE TO SIGN YOUR CHILD(REN) UP FOR ALL THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE NOW UNDERWAY. REGISTER SOON AND GET READY FOR AN AMAZING YEAR TOGETHER!

WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP MAKE THIS FALL SEASON A SUCCESS. IF YOU’RE INTERESTED IN SERVING, WE’D LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN OUR TEAM. ALL VOLUNTEERS WILL NEED TO COMPLETE A BRIEF TRAINING, WHICH WE KEEP TO ABOUT 30 MINUTES. WE CAN SCHEDULE THIS TRAINING TO FIT *YOUR* SCHEDULE.

IF YOU’RE READY TO PLUG IN AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE, PLEASE REACH OUT TO SARAH LENTZ OR KRISTIN NUNNELLEY FOR MORE INFORMATION. WE CAN’T WAIT TO HAVE YOU ON BOARD!



STAY
CONNECTED

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



OCTOBER WORSHIP

Oct 5 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY Sermon: *When Dreams Become Nightmares*

1 Timothy 6:10b; Matthew 16:26; John 10:10; Luke 8:14

Oct 12 Sermon: *Wisdom and Finance*

Proverbs 21:5; Proverbs 21:20; Luke 15:11-16

Oct 19 Sermon: *Cultivating Contentment*

Hebrews 13:5-6; Luke 12:15-20; Ecclesiastes 2:10-11; Philippians 4:11-12; Psalm 63:1, 5-6

Oct 26 Sermon: *Defined by Generosity*

1 Timothy 6:17-19; Proverbs 11:24-25; 2 Cor 9:11; Exodus 35:5; Proverbs 3:9; Proverbs 22:9
Genesis 14:20b, 28:18-22; Acts 20:35; Leviticus 27:30-33; Luke 6:38; Psalm 24 :1;
Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 21:4

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