



We Are Growing—NOURISH YOUR SEED!

This month I am calling attention to a powerful shift in the momentum here at St. Paul's. The theme of this month's newsletter is "growth," and I invite and encourage you to seek out the evidence of it, as well as recognizing your own share with it. You will find warming messages from our N.O.W. Director and chairs of Nurture and Outreach. This is important as we work diligently to prepare for a busy fall schedule and engage the energy and opportunity this faith community is presenting.



There is much evidence of growth, and sometimes growth results in pruning. I am mindful in this moment of the great joy it has been for this family to grow with Brian and Molly Bishop. Their legacy of leadership and energetic passion will not soon fade as they take a piece of St. Paul's with them to their new home. Let's send them off well. Likewise, Lois Miller has given so much of herself through her passion for music excellence, and she too now leaves for her new home. Both are examples of how growth and pruning results in new starts. Growth also comes in changes in color, detail, a filling out. Our directory is one example of this. Have you finished your contribution to our new directory for this body of Christ?

When I consider what growth means to me, I am also mindful of John Wesley's ordo salutis, the "way of salvation." I have preached some on this and will invite you to know more about it. Our faith lives are initiated by baptism, where God's "yes" is firmly implanted in us. Then, our entire lives are a journey of sanctification. Wesley is noted as having described this as going on to perfection, though he would clarify that perfection is only likely achieved when we are glorified with Christ. Growth is not about the arrival; it is about the journey. That is what I am so passionate about in this moment, the journey we are taking together. While you are in the midst of your summer vacation, your pause, your moment of breath, I'm sensing the gearing up for another great leg of our journey.

What do you want your part in this journey to look like?

Pastor James

pastor@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com

"what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." Mat.13:8



For the last few years First Presbyterian Church has been collecting loose change on the first Sunday of the month. We call it Change for Change. We rotate between local, national and international missions. This year is a local mission. We have selected the Iowa County Ministerial Alliance to receive these funds.

The mission of the Iowa County Ministerial Alliance is to help care for the poor by helping those with housing issues. Because of your gracious giving, so far this year 8 families were given help with their rent and 6 families were able to keep their utilities on. In 2025, 22 families were given help with their rent, 2 families were given help to find a new place to live and 17 families were able to keep their utilities working. We gave away over \$7,000.00 in support of families who were struggling financially.

In this past year, 15 congregations, or individuals and organizations gave gifts to help people in need of Jesus's love. At worship services held at Highland Ridge, residents give offerings that are given to ICMA to help support this work we do together. Also, we received great offerings from our community events. In total, our income for 2025 was \$8,831.00.

Since we will be worshiping together on the first Sunday of July (July 5th), we would like to extend an invitation to join us in saving your change and bringing it with you to our joint service in the park. We have metal pails all the children will walk around with to collect your change. Help us fill those pails to help our neighbors in need in Iowa County.

OFFICE HOURS

Mondays

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Tuesdays

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Wednesdays

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Thursdays

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Fridays

By Appointment

June Attendance

6/7 - 122 6/14 - 86

6/21 - 116 6/28 - tbd

Prayer requests can be emailed to office@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com

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St. Paul's United Methodist Church
803 Clearview Drive, PO Box 559,
Williamsburg, IA 52361
Phone: 319-668-2288

Website:
www.stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com

Pastor: James Baty, LLP
email: pastor@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com

Administrative Assistant: Shelley Berger
email: office@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com

N.O.W. Director: Kristin Scandridge
coordinator@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.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.



ST PAUL'S IS HIRING A NURSERY SUPERVISOR



Estimated Hours per Week: Three hours each Sunday A.M, year-round.
Three hours each Wednesday P.M., September—April.

Position pays: \$15.00 per hour.
Paychecks issued bi-weekly according to completed timesheets.

Job Summary:

Provide supervision and care of infants, toddlers and preschool-age children during Sunday morning worship services and Wednesday Family Night activities. Sunday morning hours include 8:15 to 11:15 am and/or until all the children are back with their guardian(s). Wednesday evening hours include 5:00 to 8:00 pm and/or until all the children are back with their guardian(s). Establish a welcoming and safe environment for families to entrust their children to play while parents attend worship and/or study and community activities.

Email pastor@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com or director@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com



School Supply Ministry

It's the time of year where we start collecting school supplies for the students in our community. On August 16th, we will be partnering with First Presbyterian Church and St. Mary Catholic Church to provide backpacks of supplies for any student who needs it.

We need your help!

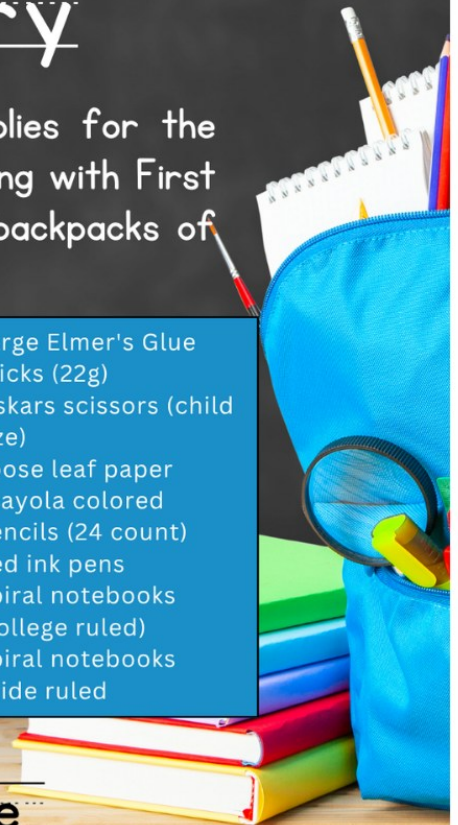
Monetary donations are welcome and can also be left at the church or mailed to the office.

Scan the QR code to purchase items online and have them shipped to the school.



- 24 count Crayola Crayons
- Dry Erase Expo Markers (4 count)
- Pencil boxes
- Pencil bags
- 10 count Crayola broad line classic color markers
- Elmer's Washable glue (4 oz. bottle)
- Elmer's glue sticks (7g)
- Large Elmer's Glue Sticks (22g)
- Fiskars scissors (child size)
- Loose leaf paper
- Crayola colored pencils (24 count)
- Red ink pens
- Spiral notebooks (college ruled)
- Spiral notebooks (wide ruled)

Supplies will all need to be dropped off at church by July 31st





GROWING DEEPER

Kristin Scandridge, Director of N.O.W.



When I first walked through the doors of St. Paul's in the summer of 2010, I was searching for something. Looking back now, I know my soul was searching for connection, community, and a place to grow.

As a young mom with two little ones, I was hungry for an adult faith, though I didn't fully understand what that meant yet. I had witnessed a local family walking through unimaginable circumstances with a trust in God that left me in awe. Their faith made me realize that I wanted roots that ran that deep.

Friends invited us to St. Paul's, promising a contemporary service with guitars, drums, and music unlike anything I had experienced growing up. We came, and we stayed.

I started serving in the preschool room one Sunday each month and eventually taught a third-grade Sunday School class complete with paper guitars, VIP passes, and "rock band" teams. Over the years, I served in many different roles and under many different titles, but the mission always remained the same: helping kids know that God loves them.

Today, many of those little kids are grown. Some are finishing college, beginning careers, or chasing dreams of their own. There is something incredibly special about watching children who once painted tractors in Sunday School sit across from you as young adults; talking about college, life, and the future. There is no greater privilege than watching little kids grow into teenagers, then spread their wings and fly.

When I first began serving, I know I measured success by attendance numbers and perfectly planned lessons. When those weren't met, it felt like failures. But over the years, God has changed my perspective.

I've learned that growth isn't always about getting bigger. Sometimes it's about growing deeper.

Growth looks like relationships.

Growth looks like belonging.

Growth looks like seeds

planted years ago that

have grown into something

far bigger than I could have imagined.

Our church and many of us personally have weathered difficult seasons. Through it all, God has remained faithful. The young mom who walked through the doors of St. Paul's in 2010 was hungry to learn and seeking something she couldn't quite name. The woman standing here today knows that prayer and community matter, that God is faithful even in the stormiest waters, and He often shows up in the faces of His people.

And just when I thought I had laid down my leadership titles and was ready to simply worship and volunteer again, God began nudging me in a new direction. I certainly wasn't seeking the Director of N.O.W. position, but God had other plans.

The kids and youth curriculum the Nurture Team has chosen is called Grow, and I can't help but smile at the name. Growth looks different for each of us. Some of us are planting new roots. Some are weathering storms. Some are discovering gifts they never knew they had. Yet when pieced together, God is weaving us into something bigger than ourselves—a church family where every person has a place and every story matters.

When I think about the future of St. Paul's, I don't simply dream about bigger numbers. I dream about busy families exhaling after long days. I picture children laughing and learning. I picture meaningful conversations and Bible studies for every age.

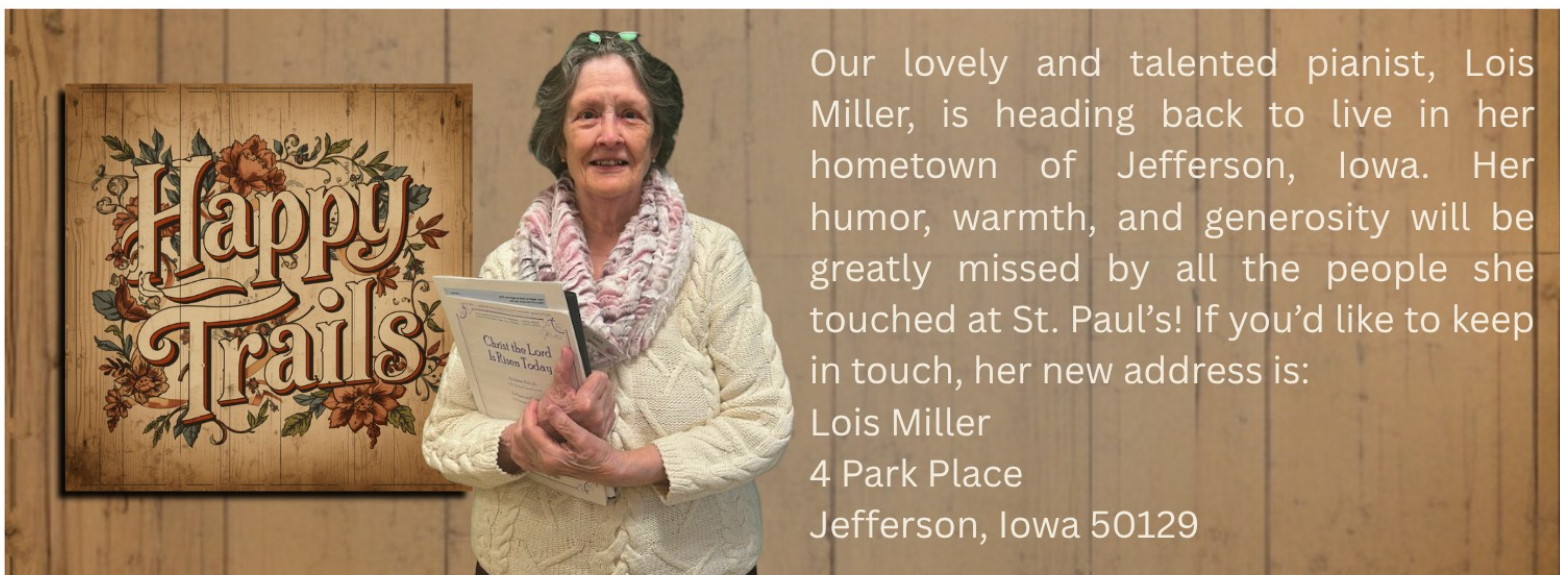
I picture delicious EPIC meals shared around tables. I picture people discovering that church isn't just something they attend, but a family where they belong, contribute, and are deeply loved.

I hope we continue to discover and celebrate the unique gifts God has given each person. Like pieces in a quilt, each of us brings a different story, different experiences, and different gifts. Yet together, God creates something beautiful—something none of us could create alone.

My prayer is that we continue to grow—not only individually, but together. That we help one another grow roots deep enough to weather life's storms. And that all who walk through our doors, particularly those who are tired, messy, or feeling lost, will find the same peace and purpose I found all those years ago:

A place to belong. A place to grow.

A family to walk alongside. Just as they are.



Our lovely and talented pianist, Lois Miller, is heading back to live in her hometown of Jefferson, Iowa. Her humor, warmth, and generosity will be greatly missed by all the people she touched at St. Paul's! If you'd like to keep in touch, her new address is:

Lois Miller

4 Park Place

Jefferson, Iowa 50129

Nurture Notes

As a member of St. Paul's for more than 20 years, I've witnessed many ebbs and flows in our ministries. Through it all, one thing has remained constant: the deep sense of community this congregation provides. Even in difficult times, we've never hesitated to reach out—both within our walls and beyond them.

In 2026 many of us are yearning for more of that connection. As leader of the Nurture Team, I've heard that desire clearly and we've responded by bringing back Adult Bible Study. Since March, more than 20 people have been joining each week, and it's been a joy to see familiar and new faces together.

Growth often requires change, and change can feel uncomfortable. I invite you to lean into that discomfort over the next few months and try something new. If you have ideas for the Nurture, Outreach, or Witness teams, please share them—we'd love to hear what you'd like to see at St. Paul's.

Jenn Lane

Nurture Committee





What is Outreach Team at SPUMC?

Outreach Team is a collective effort among SPUMC members and friends to ensure that we are bringing Christ's light to those outside our congregation. Projects range from local to international, single-event to multi-year, and individual to large group opportunities. Anyone may propose an outreach project, volunteer to lead a project, or serve in any capacity to complete the project. Outreach efforts are coordinated by the Outreach board member (Erica Wilkinson) and the Director of N.O.W. (Kristin Scandridge), who both work closely with Shelley and Pastor James.

What has the Outreach Team been up to?

The most visible outreach program at SPUMC is The Attic clothing mission. Since 2008 SPUMC has hosted "The Attic" where anyone may come and receive free clothes, shoes, outerwear, and bedding. We are known as "the church who gives away clothes" and we love that! Currently there are groups of volunteers who sort donations and host visitors to The Attic on Monday mornings from 9-11am, and the first and third Thursdays from 5:30-7pm. Anyone is welcome to join The Attic. Some volunteers help every Monday, others help one Thursday a month, and you never have to work alone!

The Attic also depends on volunteers who bring excess donations to either Stuff Etc or Goodwill. Stuff Etc accepts in-season, high quality clothing for consignment, and SPUMC uses proceeds to purchase high-demand items like men's button down shirts. Goodwill accepts out-of-season donations, and we often get donations that cannot be put out because it is the wrong season.

Some fun facts about The Attic:

- The Attic can hold over 1000 pieces of clothing at a time
- Visitors to The Attic can receive clothing for themselves and any family members.
- It costs hundreds of dollars each year to supply new socks and undergarments to visitors (that's why donations of cash or socks/undies are always appreciated!)
- Denim and sheets too worn to be used in The Attic are donated to a rug-making group in the Amana Colonies.
- Raider shirts and black dress shirts/pants are donated to WHS for students to use in the One Stop Shop at the high school.

What new outreach projects are in the works:

First Presbyterian Church is once again organizing a School Supply Drive. For years we have partnered with them to ensure families who need assistance with back-to-school expenses may receive a backpack with all the correct supplies for school. School supply donations are due by July 31st.

SPUMY youth group will be serving at Safe Haven as their summer service project.

Service Sunday is BACK! Sunday, October 11 from 8:30-11am we will leave the church to be the church. Organization for this event has just begun, so ideas for locations to serve, people willing to lead groups, etc. are all welcome.

This holiday season, SPUMC will continue to support the L.O.V.E. Network as well as Operation Christmas Child (the shoeboxes)! Our congregation has a rich tradition ensuring that families near and far are able to celebrate Christ's birth, and we plan to continue that work.

Financial Report

CURRENT HILLS BANK BALANCE AS OF June 25, 2026

\$197,818.53 which includes the following breakdown:

- \$88,172.38 General Fund from Offerings
- \$50,627.85 Capital Improvements account
- \$14,924.12 in designated amounts such as missions, scholarships, etc.
- \$7,195.79 Memorial Fund account
- \$51,822.51 6-month CD

This leaves \$73,248.26 to pay regular expenses.

Edward Jones, Williamsburg Summary

Funds invested in a CD & Money Market - \$41,599.43

YEAR TO DATE SUMMARY - 1/1/26 to 6/25/26

(26 weeks)

- Total offering given to the General Fund received YTD: \$128,423.96 (\$4,939.00 average weekly offering)
- Total Capital Improvement offering YTD: \$8,120.00 (\$312.00 average weekly offering)
- Total Interest Income YTD: \$1,267.50
- Total expenses paid YTD: \$154,488.22 (\$5,941.00 average weekly expenses)

Iowa Methodist Foundation Fund

(From Marilyn Tanner Memorial) as of 5/31/26

Balance \$108,064.00 (\$100,000 of this money is designated by the family for a future sanctuary)



Summer Giving Options



Giving to the General Fund

Giving to Capital Improvements



Silver Cord Service Hours Available

Many volunteer roles at St. Paul's qualify for Silver Cord hours, and there are a variety of ways to serve throughout the year. Talk with Pastor James or Kristin about opportunities that match your interests and schedule.

Silver Cord forms are available by the church office.



An Invitation to Explore: Behind the Scenes of Worship

No experience needed.
No commitment required.
Everyone is invited.
Just bring your curiosity!

Join Pastor James on Wednesday,
July 1st at 5:30PM

- Explore the new sound board
- See how worship slides are run
- Check out our livestream camera
- Ask questions
- Try it yourself!



WE'RE PUTTING TOGETHER A NEW DIRECTORY! HELP US DESIGN YOUR PAGE.



We are putting together a new photo directory for St. Paul's! We are planning something different than the standard printed booklet which can become outdated quickly. Instead, we are creating individual pages for each person/family that will be added to 3-ring binders. With this format, pages can be created for new members or affiliates and added to existing binders. Please click the link, scan the QR code or go to our website to complete a fillable form. Paper forms will also be found at the back of the sanctuary along with sample pages. Please submit photos, which can include your favorite candid snapshots, to Shelley at office@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com.

[St. Paul's Directory Form Link](#)

JULY WORSHIP SERVICES

July 5th Proper 9

Worship In The Park

@ 10:00 am

Message: Pastor Dan Jessop

Psalms 145; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12th Proper 10

Discipleship: Soil Matters

Isaiah 55:10-13; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19th Proper 11

Discipleship:

Leave Your Grass Tall

Psalms 139; Matthew 13:24-30, 36

July 26th Proper 12

*Discipleship: Keeping the
main thing the Main Thing*

1 Kings 3:5-12; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52



**STAY
CONNECTED**

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