

HE IS RISEN!



Grace and peace to you,

What a way to usher in the month of April. Holy Week is right here! When I began my appointment, Advent had just wrapped up. I was learning about you and you were learning about me. While each day brought much energy and excitement for me as I stepped into this community, I immediately held one eye open to the first week of April, knowing it would be here as quickly as we could snap our fingers.

Well, here we are, and traditionally Easter brings the largest attendance of the church calendar, closely compared to Christmas Eve. As March ends like a lamb this year, triumphantly Jesus arrives into our midst with Palm Sunday.

It is fitting that April showers us first with the heaviness of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, the hollowness of Holy Saturday where different traditions have their ideas of “where is Jesus.” Then, with the fullness and brilliance of the Son rising on Easter morn, what we felt as humanly triumphant the week before is gloriously divinely triumphant! We have prepared well and we will honor this most holy of weeks completely, beginning with Communion and palm branches waiving on Palm Sunday, Communion and Gethsemane on Maundy Thursday, the passion and Tenebrae on Good Friday, and Communion with our expanded family Easter morning...oh, what a glorious day!

But I want to also think about this. April could not begin with a bigger moment than Holy Week and Easter that first Sunday. What will you do with the rest of April? We mustn't let the energy of Easter dissipate while our attention is drawn to fields, flowers, pitches and home runs. Easter is not an ending, it is a beginning. And here, at St. Paul's, we continue to celebrate new beginnings and restored flourishing. What new energy do you want? What new inspiration does your faith need? You will find it here. Come and S.E.E. what God is doing.

How can I help you?

Pastor James

pastor@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com



*“Why do you look for the living among the dead?
He is not here but has risen. Luke 24:5 Hallelujah!*



WE ARE HIRING!

St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Williamsburg is hiring a

DIRECTOR OF NURTURE, OUTREACH, & WITNESS

Part-Time (30 hours/week)

St. Paul's United Methodist Church is seeking a collaborative, organized, and compassionate leader to serve as our Director of Nurture, Outreach & Witness (NOW).

This position connects church leadership, volunteers, and congregation members while providing coordination and support in the areas of congregational care, faith formation, outreach, and worship.

Key Responsibilities

- Serve as staff liaison to Nurture, Outreach, and Witness teams
- Coordinate volunteer recruitment, communication, and scheduling
- Support congregational care efforts alongside the Pastor
- Oversee children and youth programming, including Wednesday ministries
 - (Sept–April)
- Ensure Safe Sanctuary training and documentation for volunteers
- Assist with outreach initiatives and mission projects
- Support worship planning and special seasonal celebrations

Qualifications

- Strong organizational and communication skills
- Experience in ministry leadership, Christian education, or volunteer coordination preferred
- Ability to work collaboratively with staff and lay leaders
- Commitment to confidentiality and Safe Sanctuary policies

Employment Details

- 30 hours per week
- Wednesday afternoon/evening availability required (Sept–April)
- Flexibility for seasonal events and church celebrations
- Annual wage/salary of \$33,000.
- This role is ideal for someone passionate about nurturing faith, building relationships, and helping the church live out its mission in meaningful ways.

To apply or request more information, please contact Pastor [James Baty](mailto:pastor@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com),
pastor@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com.

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

March Attendance

3/1 - 140 3/8 - 117

3/15 - 108 3/22 - 101

Prayer requests can be emailed to
office@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com

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Music Director: *Noah Cornelius*

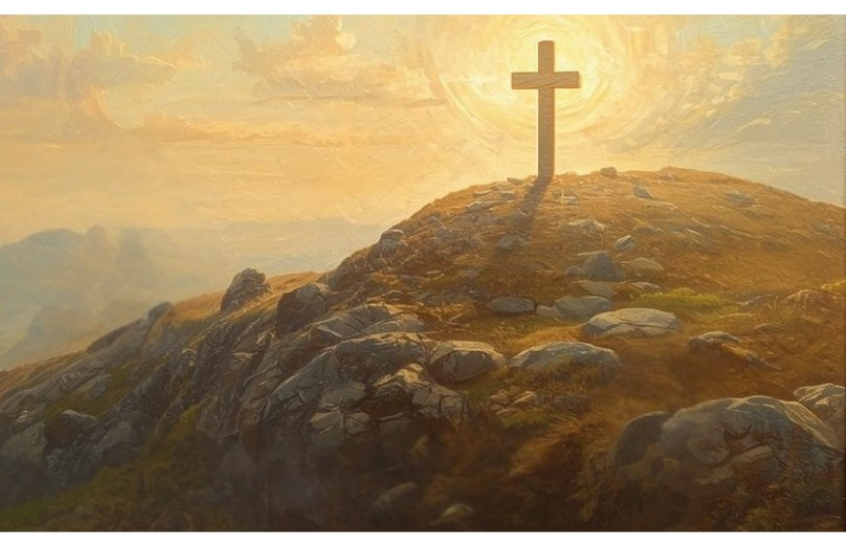
Organist: *Sue Heitmann*

Custodian: *Melissa Savage*

Editor: *Shelley Berger*

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

HOLY WEEK REFLECTIONS



Holy Week Reflections—What We Feel When We Gather

Holy Week, most important in the Christian year. Beginning with Palm Sunday and culminating on Easter Sunday, our church community will encounter more opportunities in this eight-day span than any other week of the year. Through this community you engage a deepening reality for all God accomplished in the Son, Jesus Christ. This year our focus will be on what Jesus leaves behind. Once the branches are dropped on Palm Sunday, and the calendar turns to April, these moments will draw our community closer together.

Holy Wednesday—The Renewed In Mercy Lenten study concludes during Family Night at SPUMC. This last of a six-week journey concludes with more than two dozen sharing reflections on Scripture defining God’s mercy on our lives.

Maundy Thursday—Exploring two important scenes: the Lord’s Last Supper and the Garden of Gethsemane. One shows the depth of love Christ held for His closest friends and beckons us likewise. The other displays the depth of human grief, the complacency of our love and fear that scatters us.

Good Friday—Anything but “good” this gathering immerses us collectively in Scripture for the Christ’s passion, the horror of the cross that shatters us.

Holy Saturday—Individually you journey in a vigil of prayer left to contemplate all that has happened and what it means for you, knowing the end of the story and tomorrow that beckons us.

Easter Sunday—The Son is risen! Grace has come to us and together our voices are raised triumphantly. This is the single largest Sunday for Christians where we commune with the saints in Holy Communion and the knowledge of love that redeems us.

Come, be, share, receive, and live.

Scholarship Opportunities

Jenifer Miller Book Scholarship

The Jenifer Miller Book Scholarship is awarded to a graduating senior from St. Paul's United Methodist Church each year. In 2017, we gave our first Jenifer Miller book scholarship and are continuing this year. Jenifer grew up in our congregation and was confirmed as a member here. Her parents, Jerome and Shelia Fawcett, said that she always wanted to help people. They were not surprised she wanted to be an educator because it gave her the opportunity to help others. Before Jenifer's death in March of 2015, she wanted to be sure that any memorials given for her went to help students. It has continued, with donations from other members, to help graduates of St. Paul's that choose to continue their education. The award will be \$500 in 2026.



To apply, contact Shelley in the office at office@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com.

Due date is April 14th



The Step Up Scholarship began in 2023 by an anonymous donor and has been funded by donations from St. Paul's UMC since then. The \$1000 scholarship is available to all graduating seniors from Williamsburg. The scholarship is given to a senior who is helping out behind the scenes rather than in the limelight. A simple form can be filled out by contacting High School Counselor Erica Wilkinson. **Applications are due April 6th!**

Anyone wishing to support either scholarship may leave donations in the offering plate or mail to St. Paul's. Write which scholarship you are supporting in the memo of your check.



2026 Summer Camp Registration Has Begun

- **United Methodist Camps** (Wesley Woods and Lake Okoboji)—www.iaumc.org/camps
- **East Iowa Bible Camp**—www.loveeibc.org -Code for camperships: UMC2026
- **Summer Games University**—www.sgu.camp

**The church will pay \$200 towards each registered camper.
Just let the office know which camp you choose so payment can be sent.**



SPUMC New Member Orientation Class

Beginning Sunday, April 19th, pastor will conduct a new member orientation class series on becoming a Methodist. The class will meet the alternating Sundays of 4/19, 5/03 and 5/17, from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm. New members will join the church during a worship service on June 7th, choosing the worship time of their preference.

For more information or to RSVP your interest and participation, email Pastor James at pastor@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com.

EPIC Meals

April 1st

- Walking tacos, nachos bar

April 8th SPUMY & EPIC Jr.

- Pizza, lettuce, ice cream
- Chicken nuggets for EPIC Jr.

April 15th

- Cook's Choice!
- Photo Scavenger Hunt

April 22nd EPIC Jr. & SPUMY

- Breakfast - eggs, hashbrowns, sausages, dessert
- Wear your PJ's!
- EPIC Jr. - mini pigs in a blanket

April 29th

- Wrap up party
- Picnic in the back yard - we're grilling!
- Wear your summer attire

STAY CONNECTED

www.stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com

Facebook - @STPAULSUMC803

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



Financial Report

CURRENT HILLS BANK BALANCE AS OF March 23, 2026

\$197,551.26 which includes the following breakdown:

- \$88,822.61 General Fund from Offerings
- \$51,087.76 Capital Improvements account
- \$17,372.38 in designated amounts such as missions, scholarships, etc.
- \$6,254.25 Memorial Fund account
- \$51,386.64 6-month CD which matures in May 2026

This leaves \$71,450.23 to pay regular expenses.

Edward Jones, Williamsburg Summary

Funds invested in a CD & Money Market - \$41,583.21

YEAR TO DATE SUMMARY - 1/1/26 to 3/23/26

(13 weeks)

- Total offering given to the General Fund received YTD: \$62,205.96 (\$4,785.00 average weekly offering)
- Total Capital Improvement offering YTD: \$2,570.00 (\$198.00 average weekly offering)
- Total Interest Income YTD: \$751.29
- Total expenses paid YTD: \$65,806.26 (\$5,062.00 average weekly expenses)

Iowa Methodist Foundation Fund

(From Marilyn Tanner Memorial) as of 2/28/26
Balance \$107,702.07 (\$100,000 of this money is designated by the family for a future sanctuary)



Children & Family Ministries - April 2026

"Joyfully Growing in the Love of Christ"

Sunday School (Pre-K - 3rd Grade) - Sundays 8:45-9:45am

April is our final month of Sunday School for the school year! We're excited to wrap up the year together with fun, prayer, engaging lessons, and a deeper experience of God's love. Don't forget to join us on Sunday mornings from 8:45-9:45. Please note that April includes a few schedule changes due to Easter. There will be no regular Sunday School classes on March 29 or April 5. Children will be singing during both services on Palm Sunday. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for children at 9:30 on April 5th.

Children's Church (Infant - 1st Graders) - Sunday 10 am Service

There will be no Children's Church on March 29 or April 5. We invite all children to join their families in worship during our Palm Sunday and Easter services.

Going forward, Children's Church will be available during the second service for children from birth through 1st grade. Children will be dismissed after the Children's Moment and will return during the final song.

We are seeking both adult and youth volunteers to help create a loving and nurturing environment. There is very little commitment time and zero prep required. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at SPUMC.Childrens.Ministry@gmail.com.

Epic Jr. (Pre-K - 3rd Grade) - April 8 & April 22, 3:15-5:00pm

Our remaining spring sessions for Epic Jr. are here! **Join us on April 8 and 22** as we wrap up another wonderful year together. These will be our final two dates for this year's Epic Jr. programming.

In our final unit, *"We Are Family,"* kids will discover that nothing brings people together—or stirs up a little friendly drama—quite like family! Just like a game night full of ups and downs, family life (whether with our given or chosen families) can be full of both challenges and joy.

Through the story of Abraham's family, kids will explore how God is present in every moment—helping us care for one another, serve with love, and remember that we are all part of God's family. Along the way, they'll learn that we can pray for our families and that everyone is welcome in God's family.

PB&J (4th-6th Grade) - Wednesdays 6:30-7:30pm

PB&J will be wrapping up the school year by exploring the unit "Wonder." In this series from the book of Psalms, students will discover what it means to live in awe of God—not just through songs or prayers, but through the way we live each day. Together, we'll explore how our response to God shapes our lives as we learn that we worship because God is holy, God provides, God is faithful, and God heals.

Pastor James will be joining us on April 15 to spend time with the kids, and we're also planning a fun wrap-up party on April 29th to celebrate our time together as a group.

SPUMY (7th-12th Grade Youth) - Wednesdays 6:30-7:30pm

As we continue our journey through Lent, SPUMY students are still exploring the topic of doubt—learning that asking honest questions about God and the Bible is an important part of faith.

SPUMY has a full and exciting month ahead. Students will be helping serve breakfast on Palm Sunday, participating in a meaningful Prayer Station activity during Holy Week, and spending intentional time connecting with Pastor James.

We're also looking forward to some fun as we wrap up the year, including our end-of-year scavenger hunt on April 15 and we have plans in the works for a SPUMY Laser Tag outing. There's a lot happening as we finish the year together!

Important Notes for Seniors & Their Families

Seniors, we look forward to recognizing you during youth group on April 8 as we celebrate this exciting milestone together.

St. Paul's also invites you to join us for **Senior Sunday on May 17 during the 8:30 or 10:00 a.m. services**. We can't wait to hear more about you and celebrate this important moment in your life. A reception with cake will be held between services in your honor.

We ask that all seniors—whether or not you plan to attend Senior Sunday—please take a moment to complete the form (using the following link or QR code): <https://forms.gle/hQZT1kCJhhQTAMdd7>



Important Dates to Note:

- **NO Sunday School or Children's Church, March 29 or April 5th.**
- **Easter Egg Hunt for the Kids on April 5th at 9:30 am**
- **LAST Epic Jr. - April 22nd**
- **LAST Night for Epic/ PB&J/ SPUMY- April 29th**
- **Senior Sunday - May 17th**

APRIL WORSHIP SERVICES



April 2nd - Maundy Thursday
7:00 PM service with communion
The Garden of Gethsemane

April 12th -
Formed as Disciples of Jesus Christ
Psalm 119:1-8, Ephesians 4:11-16, Luke 5:1-11



April 3rd - Good Friday
7:00 PM Tenebrae service

April 19th -
Empowered by the Holy Spirit
Psalm 16, Colossians 2:6-10, John 10:10



April 5th - Easter Sunday
What Jesus Leaves Behind:
The Shroud, the Tomb, & the Cross
8:30 & 10 AM services with communion

April 26th -
Love Boldly
Leviticus 19:9-18, John 13:34-35, Mark 12:28-34

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