THE ANCHOR

Service

October 2026

OCTOBER HALLOWS BRING...

Something you may not know about me...Halloween is not that big a deal. The fun for me is handing out candy to kids and engaging with many families I do not regularly see. However, me, in a costume...going to a costume party...not likely to happen.
A more cynical me might say "I am scary enough as it is."

October has always been about autumn, in our family. My wife and daughter consider this their favorite time of the year. Yes, pumpkin spice is nice and caramel apples tempt the taste buds; but the true beauty of October is in the changing landscape, leaves that turn five or six colors, and fields that sell their gold after the lucious summer.

There are two ways I think about this "hallowed" time of the year that has become so secularized to mostly anticipate and feature Halloween. The first is the Celtic or mystic mindset that it is this time of the year when the living and dead are offered this moment of reconnection. The second stems from the 8th century Christian celebration, "All Hallow's Eve," that is, all the saints remembered. Isn't it ironic that it is the Christian idea that won out to become far less of a celebration of saints as the name was shortened to Halloween?

With that bit of history in mind, we turn our attention this month to what I believe the saints who have gone on before us, the Church triumphant, teach us the most...their service. When I think about the other person in my life to whom fall meant so much, my mother-in-law, I find every memory of her synonymous with a servant heart. Our covenant to the church featured this month is that of Our Service. What does it mean to serve the church? Sunday the 11th you will have a great chance to experience this joy by going out into the community. EVERYONE should participate in this. We have that much work to do. A most counter cultural truth about Jesus Christ was that Messiah came to serve, while the preference of the religious leaders as well as the civic leaders were to be served by the least. How might you think differently this month about committing to a year of new service?

Peter writes in his first epistle that we are to use every gift we have to serve each other.
May God reveal to you a heart of service, for it is there where you find the fruits of your faith. Amen.

Pastor James *pastor@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com*

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. (1 Peter 4:10)

2026 SPUMC CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Experiencing the Living Water through the lens of the community of Dubuque and Eastern Iowa.

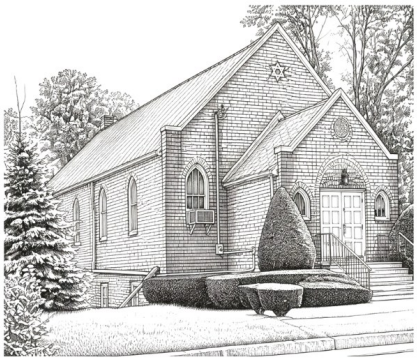
Saturday, October 17th

- Depart St. Paul's (10:00 am)
- Tour Maquoketa Caves State Park
- Tour US Lock & Dam No. 12, Bellevue, IA
- Worship at Temple Beth El, Dubuque, IA (4:00 pm)
- Dinner @ Driftless Pizza Co.
- Lock-In & Worship Overnight @ St. Luke's UMC, Dubuque, IA

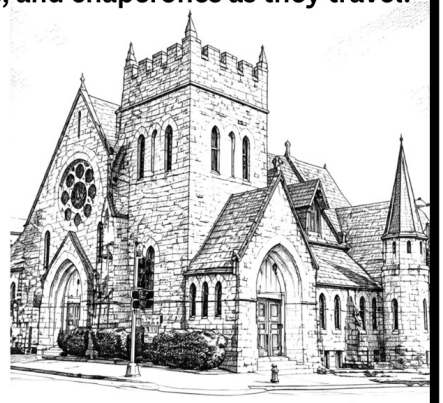
Sunday, October 18th

- Worship at St. John's Episcopal Church, Dubuque, IA (10:00 am)
- Tour of Downtown Dubuque Murals
- View from the Bluff--The Fenelon Place Elevator
- Swiss Valley Park Water Shed, Peosta, IA (Baptism and Remembrance)
- Return to St. Paul's (4:00 pm)

Prayers for Pastor James, the confirmands, and chaperones as they travel.



Temple Beth El



St. John's Episcopal Church

Financial Report

CURRENT HILLS BANK BALANCE AS OF Sept. 28, 2026

$196,017.72 which includes the following breakdown:

- $83,946.84 General Fund from Offerings
- $52,600.20 Capital Improvements account
- -14,870.34 in designated amts such as missions, scholarships,etc.
- $7,197.52 Memorial Fund account
- $52,273.16 6-month CD

This leaves $69,076.50 to pay regular expenses.

Edward Jones, Williamsburg Summary

Funds invested in a CD & Money Market - $42,352.70

YEAR TO DATE SUMMARY - 1/1/26 to 9/28/26

(35 weeks)

- Total offering given to the General Fund received YTD: $191,473.72 ($4,787.00 average weekly offering)
- Total Capital Improvement offering YTD: $20,740.00 ($518.00 average weekly offering)
- Total Interest Income YTD: $1,309.79
- Total expenses paid by General Fund YTD: $222,239.75 ($5,556.00 average weekly expenses)
- Total expenses paid by Capital Improvements YTD: $26,382.75

Iowa Methodist Foundation Fund

(From Marilyn Tanner Memorial) as of 8/31/26

Balance $109,590.25 ($100,000 of this money is designated by the family for a future sanctuary)

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

September Attendance

9/6 - 102 **9/13 - 113**

9/20 - 103 **9/27 - 108**

Prayer requests can be emailed to office@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com

The ANCHOR is a publication of
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Organist*: Sue Heitmann*

Custodian*: Melissa Savage*

Nursery Supervisor: Nicole Sorden-Schott
SPUMCnursery@gmail.com

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

N.O.W. Notices

Noticing where God is already at work among us.

Notice...

Looking through the lens of

Service

Where is God inviting us to notice service today?

Let's Notice Together...

One of the unexpected gifts of stepping into the N.O.W. Director role has been getting a different view of St. Paul's.

I get to see a lot.

I see people teaching children on Wednesday nights and others making sure there's a meal waiting when they arrive. I see musicians preparing for worship, people serving Communion, adults checking kids in, dishes being washed, rooms being reset, snacks appearing, rides being given, cards being sent, prayers being offered, and people stepping in simply because something needs to be done.

Some of it happens in front of the congregation.
A lot of it doesn't.

And from where I sit, I'm beginning to see just how much of St. Paul's ministry is carried by people choosing, again and again, to serve.

It's easy to see a Sunday morning, an EPIC night, a fellowship event, or an outreach project as the ministry. But what I'm learning is how many individual acts of service it takes to make any one of those things happen.

One person says yes. Then another. Someone offers what they know how to do. Someone gives their time. Someone simply notices a need and fills it.

Not for recognition, but because this is their church family—and there is something they can offer.

Put those individual acts together, and they become something much bigger. They become the ministry of St. Paul's.

That is what service looks like here.

Until Next month...

Service doesn't have to be big to matter.

Notice a need.
Offer what you can.
Say yes when you're able.

Together, those small acts become something much bigger.

Keep noticing.

- Kristin

Notice God...

Think about the people who helped shape your faith.

Who taught you?
Who welcomed you?
Who simply kept showing up?

Someone's willingness to serve became part of your story. Whose story might your service become part of?

Every Story Matters...

Things I've Noticed...

A meal waiting...
someone has planned, shopped, cooked, and prepared a place at the table.

A room ready...
Chairs moved. Supplies gathered. Lesson prepared. Bibles waiting.

A need met.
Cookies brought. Communion prepared. A card sent. A spot covered when someone else couldnt.

These are only a few small pieces of a much bigger picture.

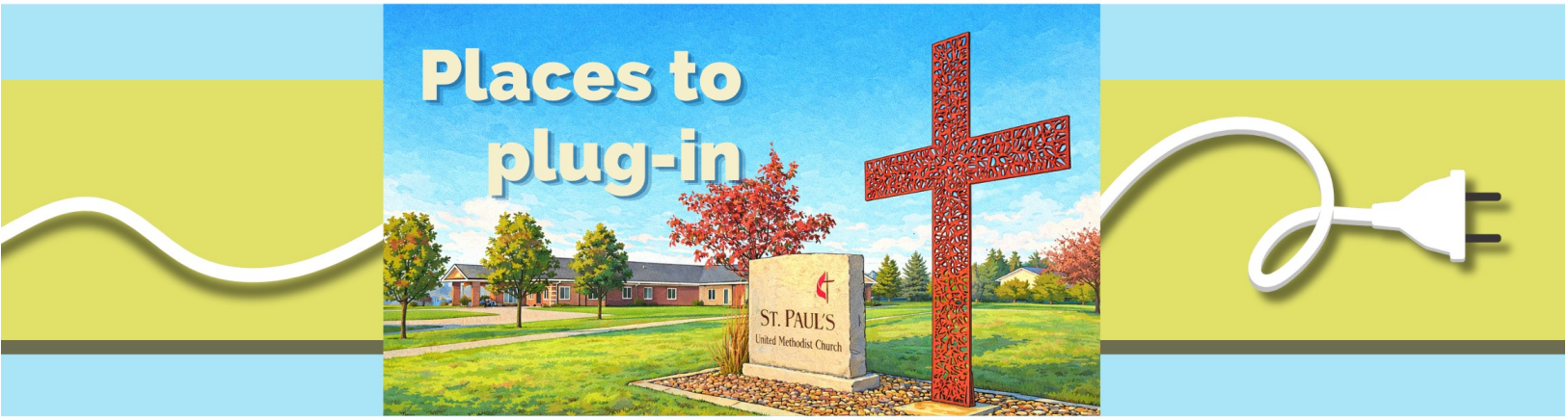
Together, we make ministry happen.

PLANNING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER!

FINISH STRONG, SPUMC! We are thankful for each of you who has completed the Congregational Assessment survey so far. Your effort is fuel for the beautiful transformation that we are anticipating, to evidence where God is leading us for the future. The strength, vitality, and trends of our church are gauged by the authentic responses that you offer. The information we gain will be valuable to help our leaders vision, set new ministry goals, and make decisions about the future of St. Paul's UMC.

What can you expect after the closing date of the survey passes? It will take Holy Cow! Consulting about two weeks to compile the results and complete the preliminary analysis. The team below will receive the results to begin the work of discernment for the ways to unveil this to you. We will have an attractive summary flyer that will convey the most important parts of the results and we will plan a congregation-wide information session led by Pastor Vicki Fisher from Mount Vernon that gives you access to Q&A as we prepare to launch into a new season. Let's push hard to the end. Make this an easy commitment and an anticipation for all to come.

If you have questions, please contact:
Kristin Scandridge, N.O.W. Director at director@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com



- The E.P.I.C. Kitchen staff invites you to join the team. Plug in by serving or cooking one week a month. Ready to get cookin'? Talk to Donna Heitman.
- Share your musical gifts by joining the choir or praise team. Plug in by attending practice on Wednesday nights. Choir sings twice a month in the 8:30am service. Play or sing in the praise band one to four times a month. Have an interest in the bell choir? Talk with Pastor James!
- Serve with the Nurture, Outreach, or Witness and intentionally become the hands and feet of the church as we reach out to those in the church and out into our community. Plug in by serving on a committee or by joining the board to lead a committee. Reach out to Kristin Scandridge, Director of N.O.W., for more info.
- Love babies and little kids? Plug in by volunteering in the nursery one week a month during worship services or Wednesday nights. Reach out to Kristin Scandridge, Director of N.O.W., to take Safe Sanctuary training and get started.

Service Sunday is October 1th

THERE WILL BE NO WORSHIP SERVICES THIS SUNDAY. Your act of worship is taking the Holy Spirit out the doors of the church and into the community. All are welcome, all are challenged.

Gather @ 8:30 am in Fellowship Hall | Pray | Grab A Donut...and Go!

Sign-ups are now available in the fellowship hall. Contact Erica Wilkinson with questions at ericathorntonwilkinson@gmail.com.

The following projects are planned:

- The Attic: Prep for Winter clothes (Contact: Val Carr 217-899-2297)
- Good Buy shopping (a list of needs and some funds will be provided) (Contact: Joan Decker 712-621-3523)
  - Monetary donations needed to make purchases
- Pillowcases for Ronald McDonald House (Contact: Bonnie Kinkaid 319-325-6199)
  - Donations Needed: fabric & thread. 30 inches (5/6 yd) needed for body, 10 inches (1/3 yd) for cuff, & 2.5 inches (1/8 yd) for trim.
  - Needed to borrow: ironing boards, irons, sewing scissors, cutting mats, rotary cutters)
- HACAAP Senior Meals at North English & Millersburg (Contact: Delores Reinhart 319-330-2322)
  - Servers needed
  - Monetary donations needed to purchase items to make ham loaf
    - Grocery items still needed:
    - 1/2 gal. milk
    - 1 qt. vinegar
    - 5lb brown sugar
    - 1 lb butter
    - 2 8oz cream cheese
    - 1 qt half & half
    - 6 9x13 pan of dessert
- SPUMC Landscaping on church grounds (Contact: Blair Belland 319-530-5225)
- Cookie baking for new members
- Visit people at Highland Ridge, Rose Haven, North English Care Center, & those that are homebound (Contact: Lee Ann Rinderer 319-333-9981)

Inside E.P.I.C.

Every Person In Christ

Stories. Snapshots. Life Together

OCTOBER 2026

One Night. A Whole Lot of Life.

WHAT WE'RE LEARNING

PB&J

Road Trip!

PB&J is hitting the road this year! Our 4th–6th graders are exploring how the Bible can be our guidebook and Jesus our tour guide as we grow in faith. They kicked things off with Find Your Way — **and the road trip continues in October!**

Pathfinders

Pray Anywhere!

Pathfinders are jumping into EPIC! and discovering that spending time with God can happen anywhere. Using P.R.A.Y. — Praise, Repent, Ask, Yield — they're learning how to pray and creating fidget cross bookmarks to help put prayer right into their hands.

EPIC by the Numbers

- 80+ PEOPLE GATHERING WEEKLY
- 50+ MEALS SERVED WEEKLY
- 4 KIDS + YOUTH GROUPS
- 3 ADULT STUDY OPTIONS

Around EPIC

Real People.
Real Moments.
Real Community.

SPUMY

Faith. Friendship. And maybe a little chaos...

SPUMY is wrapping up *Choose Your Own Adventure*, a series exploring the choices we make and how our faith can help guide the way. Through Scripture, conversation, games, and plenty of SPUMY-style fun, students are discovering what it looks like to follow Jesus in the choices they make every day.

Coming up: SPUMY Lock-In • November 14

Little Lights

BIg Discoveries. Little People.

Our Little Lights have been busy exploring their newly reopened nursery! The play kitchen is already a favorite—especially "making" ice cream—and apparently the rocking chair has inspired an important experiment: just how many kids can fit in it at once? 😂

And the question Nicole hears most often?

"What's this thing?"

When you're little, everything is an adventure.

WAIT!

ARE YOU REGISTERED?

If your child or student is part of EPIC this year, please make sure we have a current registration on file.

Registration helps us keep contact, pickup, allergy & other important information up to date!

A **quick note for grown-ups:**
Little Lights uses check-in + check-out to help keep our littlest ones safe. At drop-off, you'll receive a matching pickup ID. When you return, we'll match your ID before your child heads home with you.

Safe. Simple. And one less thing to worry about.

OCTOBER WORSHIP SERVICES

October 4th World Communion Sunday
Idols vs Icons by Pastor James
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

October 11th Service Sunday
No worship services
Gather at 8:30 am in Fellowship Hall to Pray, Grab A Donut...and Go!

October 18th
Service in Mission by Roger Rathjen
1 Thess. 1:1-10, Matthew 22:15-22

October 25th Reformation Sunday
For The Kingdom by Pastor James
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17, Matt. 22:34-46

EPIC Meals

October 7th
- *Breakfast for Supper*
- *Eggs, sausage, hashbrowns*

October 14th
- *Hot dogs/chili dogs, chips, corn*
- *Hat Day!*

October 21st
- *Chicken & noodles, green beans*

October 28th
- *Wacky Wednesday!*
- *Pizza, salad*

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

The ANCHOR (USPS 100-090) is published monthly by
St. Paul's United Methodist Church
803 Clearview Drive, Williamsburg IA 52361
Periodical Postage Paid at Williamsburg, IA
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The ANCHOR,
PO Box 559, Williamsburg IA 52361