



30 DAYS OF BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Theologian, German pastor and martyr for the faith during World War II, once wrote.

Prayer does not mean simply to pour out one's heart. It means rather to find the way to God and to speak with him, whether the heart is full or empty.

This quote frames perfectly what I am calling our church to during the month of August. God knows what is on your heart before you utter a prayer. therefore, praying in this way, we are entering a regular conversation with God, where we will seek to be lead to pray and to vision as God wants.



Why now? You might ask. What is the purpose of such a prayer activity? Simply put, the community of St. Paul's United Methodist Church is poised for a new, exciting and unbelievable breakthrough. There is so much energy right now in and around the church. While individuals and families are turning to new ways to be fed by Gods' Word, what this should awaken in us is the desire to pray and the dare to vision what God has in store.

On August 2nd we will receive prayer cards noting how you will be invited and asked to pray with this faith community. Whether you worship with us regularly, intermittently, online or in-person, or you remain in correspondence with us, this activity is for one and all. A unifying prayer prayed in service, every day of the week, whenever it is possible; prayed individually, as a family or with small group settings, this prayer will invoke the Holy Spirit to abide with us and reveal ways God wants SPUMC to be stretched in our calling as disciples. Throughout this month we will explore prayer as an activity and learn the many ways we are drawn to pray or asked to pray...or, ask others to pray. We will also learn about the types of prayer and the ease by which prayer might be encouraged to grow from you.

We will gather visions you may receive by revelation and begin discerning what God might bring about here by our faithfulness. See the prayer "cards" below in this newsletter that you will be able to pick up throughout the month.

Pastor James

pastor@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com

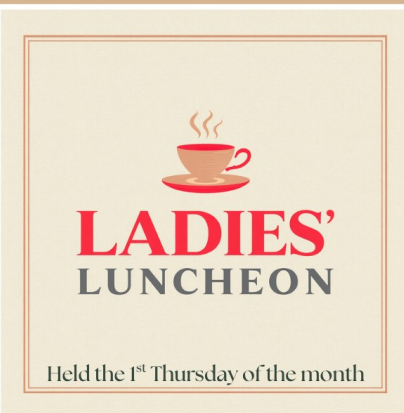
Let us hear what God the LORD will speak, for God will speak peace to God's people, to God's faithful, to those who turn to God in their hearts. - Psalm 85:8 (adapted)



Join the guys at Phil Osweiler's shop at 620 Hendricks St, Parnell, IA 52325 every Wednesday morning for fellowship and a good cup of coffee.



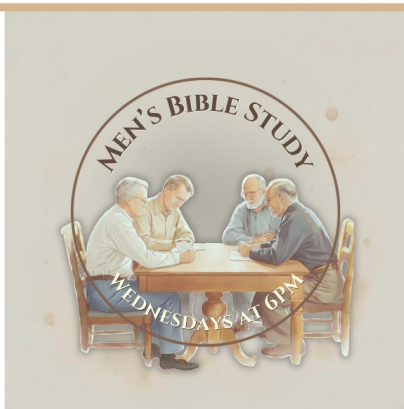
Our morning women's Bible study meets every Wednesday at 10am. The group select Bible studies such as the Upper Room Devotional to explore ways to Fully Rely On God. They deepen their study with the Lectio DiVina, a traditional practice of praying using scripture.



The ladies are switching up their regular sack lunch for pizza in August! If you'd like to join in the laughter and learning, and would like them to save you a spot at Pizza Haus on August 6th at 11:30am (regular meeting time is 12:00pm) call Ruth Riggs at 515-321-9791 or Deanna at 319-430-8767.



Join the ladies for a hearty breakfast and great conversation at Landmark Grill & Grind in Williamsburg the 2nd Thursday of every month!



The evening men's group will get back in the swing of things with a cookout on August 12th. A location has not been determined. Reach out Marc Phelps for more information at carpcop@southslopes.net.

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

July Attendance

7/5 - in the park

7/12 - 121 7/19 - 117

7/26 - 90

Prayer requests can be emailed to office@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com

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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

Prayer

Where is God inviting us to pay attention today?

Let's Notice Together...

Have you ever noticed how prayer often shows up in the most ordinary places?

It's not always in dramatic answers or unmistakable miracles. Sometimes it looks like unexpected peace before a difficult conversation. Sometimes it's the friend who calls at just the right moment. Sometimes it's finding the strength to take one more step when yesterday's strength ran out.

Prayer doesn't always change our circumstances. More often, it changes us. It quiets our hearts. It shifts our perspective. It reminds us that we're never walking alone.

As we move through August, I'd love to invite you to look through the lens of prayer. Not just during worship or at bedtime... but in the ordinary moments that fill our days.

Perhaps this month won't change your circumstances. Perhaps it will change the way you see them.

Perhaps the most extraordinary thing about prayer... is how often it meets us in ordinary places.

Until Next month...

As you move through this month, I hope you'll discover that God is already at work in the ordinary moments of your life.

Don't rush past them.

They may be God's quiet reminders that He is with you.

Keep praying.

We'll keep noticing together.

♡ - Kristin



Notice God...

This month, pay attention to the ordinary moments where God meets you.

Pause.

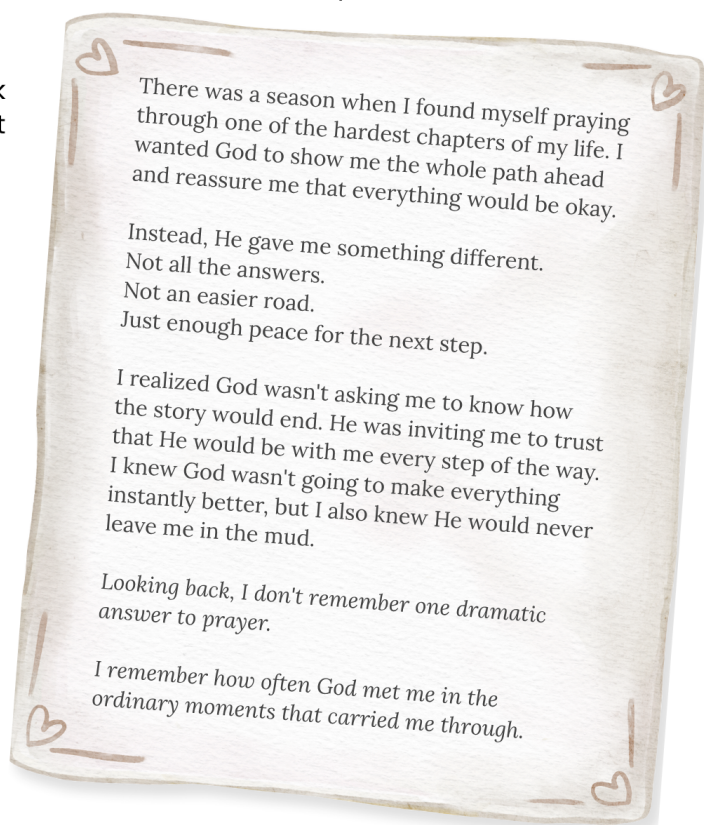
Give thanks.

Maybe write it down.

You may be surprised by how often He's been meeting you there.

Every Story Matters...

A Story from St. Paul's



There was a season when I found myself praying through one of the hardest chapters of my life. I wanted God to show me the whole path ahead and reassure me that everything would be okay.

Instead, He gave me something different. Not all the answers. Not an easier road. Just enough peace for the next step.

I realized God wasn't asking me to know how the story would end. He was inviting me to trust that He would be with me every step of the way. I knew God wasn't going to make everything instantly better, but I also knew He would never leave me in the mud.

Looking back, I don't remember one dramatic answer to prayer.

I remember how often God met me in the ordinary moments that carried me through.

Financial Report

CURRENT HILLS BANK BALANCE AS OF July 27, 2026

\$197,818.53 which includes the following breakdown:

- \$86,992.30 General Fund from Offerings
- \$51,536.08 Capital Improvements account
- \$14,821.02 in designated amounts such as missions, scholarships, etc.
- \$7,197.52 Memorial Fund account
- \$51,822.51 6-month CD

This leaves \$72,171.28 to pay regular expenses.

Edward Jones, Williamsburg Summary

Funds invested in a CD & Money Market - \$42,355.29

YEAR TO DATE SUMMARY - 1/1/26 to 7/27/26

(31 weeks)

- Total offering given to the General Fund received YTD: \$153,024.96 (\$4,936.00 average weekly offering)
- Total Capital Improvement offering YTD: \$9,015.00 (\$290.00 average weekly offering)
- Total Interest Income YTD: \$1,267.50
- Total expenses paid YTD: \$182,944.41 (\$5,901.00 average weekly expenses)

Iowa Methodist Foundation Fund

(From Marilyn Tanner Memorial) as of 6/30/26

Balance \$109,284.00 (\$100,000 of this money is designated by the family for a future sanctuary)



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 in the mailbox by the church office.

WE ARE CREATING A NEW DIRECTORY!

HELP US DESIGN YOUR PAGE.

SEND INFO TO THE OFFICE OR SCAN THE QR BELOW FOR THE FORM.



THE ALLEN FAMILY
Jon Allen and husband, Sherry, came to St. Paul's in 2014 with 3 small children: Jacob, Hannah, and Zoe. Their favorite family times are spent at the lake in Missouri, traveling, and meeting for the Hawkeyes or all of the kid's endowments. Traveling now includes trips to Missouri to visit Jacob and his wife, Kiley, or Washington D.C. to visit Hannah. Jon also has taken with her church family by singing in the choir, arranging EPIC Jr. Music, and has served on the board in EPIC (EPIC Pastor Relations Committee).



KRISTIN SCANDRIDGE
Kristin Scandridge and her children, Hannah, Madison, Lorenz, Marvella, and Abner Scandridge, have called St. Paul's home since 2000. Their favorite family activities include game nights (with Happy Salmon being the undisputed champion), jumping on the trampoline, top of the rock, and singing along to musical theater soundtracks at the new adventure theater. Kristin has been involved in EPIC, serving as a mentor.



**EPIC WEDNESDAYS
ARE ALMOST HERE!**



**FAMILY NIGHT KICKOFF:
SEPTEMBER 2 •
GROUPS BEGIN:
SEPTEMBER 9**

WE'RE SAVING SEATS FOR EVERYONE INTERESTED IN JOINING US! SCAN THE QR CODE IF SO THAT WE CAN PREPARE MEALS, VOLUNTEERS, CLASSROOM SPACE, AND MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES FOR EVERY AGE GROUP.

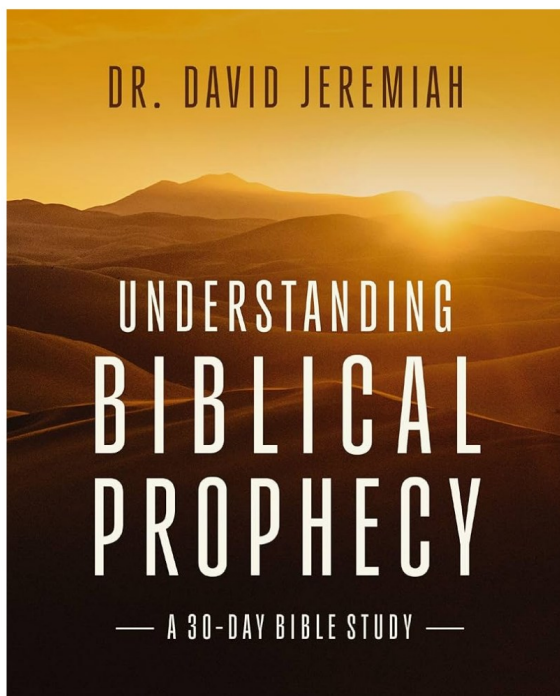
WE'LL BE SHARING
MORE DETAILS AND
TRAINING
OPPORTUNITIES
OVER THE COMING
WEEKS. STAY TUNED!



ST. PAUL'S PRAYER CARDS



Pick up your cards during service on Sunday, in the office throughout the week, or email us to have some mailed to you. Pray this prayer as often as possible, and jot down what God might be revealing to you or for the church.



Session 2 of "Understanding Biblical Prophecies"
begins August 12th and runs for six weeks.

Happy Bakers

Everyone deserves a warm welcome.

Help us bless first-time guests
with a dozen homemade cookies
and a simple act of kindness.

Want to help? Visit with Pastor James anytime.

♡ One dozen cookies. One warm welcome. ♡

WE HAVE A WONDERFUL WAY TO SERVE AT ST. PAUL'S

If you have a secret family recipe for
cookies, are famous for your brownies, or
love meeting new people, we would love to
share your talents to spread a little love!

AUGUST WORSHIP SERVICES

Aug 2 Psalm 17:1-7, 15 & Matthew 14:13-21
*Transformation comes through prayer:
When Overburdened*

Aug 9 Psalm 85:8-13 & Matthew 14:22-33
*Transformation comes through prayer:
When Distracted*

Aug 16 Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 Matthew 15:21-28
*Transformation comes through prayer:
When Afflicted*

Aug 23 Isaiah 51:1-6 Matthew 16:13-20
*Transformation comes through prayer:
When Grounded*

Aug 30 Jeremiah 15:15-21 Matthew 16:21-28
*Transformation comes through prayer:
When We Hold Faith*

STAY
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THE ANCHOR

