

The ANCHOR



A publication of St. Paul's United Methodist Church • Williamsburg, IA
No. 5 • May 2022

Vision Statement: *...to be a church where you can SEE Christ*

BEING STILL

Psalm 46 is one of my favorites, and I've read it a lot during the past two years. It begins (v.1-2) like this: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear." It reminds me that whatever I experience in life, I'm not alone. God is with me – and with all of us. Most of the psalm is written in the poet's voice – reflecting on the state of the world all around. In the last lines (v.10-11), however, God speaks: "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth" and the psalm writer responds: "The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge." These words are a good reminder of spiritual practices: when things are changing (and maybe in turmoil), pausing to listen for God's whisper can help our perspective, our calmness, and our peace of mind. And when we are reminded of God's guidance and loving care, we have assurance that we aren't alone. Even if life is uncertain, we can rest easy, in confidence that things will be well.

Here at St. Paul's, we are all going through a season a change. We have had staff coming and going. We are waiting for a new pastor to be named and appointed. And I am getting ready to pack my boxes and say farewell sometime in June. All these transitions can be hard on a congregation. So let me remind you of this: we've come a long way in the past two years. St. Paul's isn't the same church it was. But you have never been alone. God has been strong and true – even through hard times, pain, and grief. Although there are changes all around, I am confident there are good and fruitful days ahead for this church. You have great love for each other and for the work of the gospel. And God is still with us now – guiding and helping – our refuge and strength. So during this time let me encourage you to pause and listen, and receive the gift of God's peace.

In Christ,
Pastor John

Summer Worship Schedule

Beginning May 15th we will switch to a lighter worship schedule that will continue throughout the summer. Please join us at the following services:

8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service
9:40 AM EZ Worship Service

EPIC will conclude on May 4th with an EPIC Bash for 5th-12th grades.
J.A.M. (Jesus And Me) will conclude on Sunday, May 8th.



Confirmation Sunday

May 1st we welcome our eleven confirmands into full membership in the United Methodist Church. They have been diligent in their studies with Pastor John and have delved into scripture with their mentors. Please welcome our 2022 Confirmands:

- ◇ Allan Jaspering
- ◇ Lorelai Wehner
- ◇ Laylah Wehner
- ◇ Hudson Nunnelley
- ◇ Griffin Becker
- ◇ Keegan Grobe
- ◇ Boston Altenhofen
- ◇ Nolan Kent
- ◇ Tyler McMullin
- ◇ Colby McMullin
- ◇ Carson Grier

ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WILLIAMSBURG, IA

**KEYBOARD
PLAYER
WANTED**



5-7 HOURS/WEEK
\$20/HOUR

WEEKLY REHEARSAL & SUNDAY MORNING
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

EMAIL:

PASTOR@STPAULSUMCWILLIAMSBURG.COM

Women's Luncheon

Thursday, May 5th
at 12:00pm
Bring a sack lunch and
join us for fellowship

SENIOR SOCIAL

Wednesday, May 25th
11:30am-1:30pm

For all the 'seniors' (not high school
seniors) in our church family!
Bring a friend and come for some
food and fellowship.

**LEAD
GUITARIST
WANTED**

ST. PAUL'S UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
WILLIAMSBURG, IA

5-7 hours/week
\$20/hour
Weekly Rehearsal & Sunday Morning
Contemporary Worship

Email:

PASTOR@STPAULSUMCWILLIAMSBURG.COM

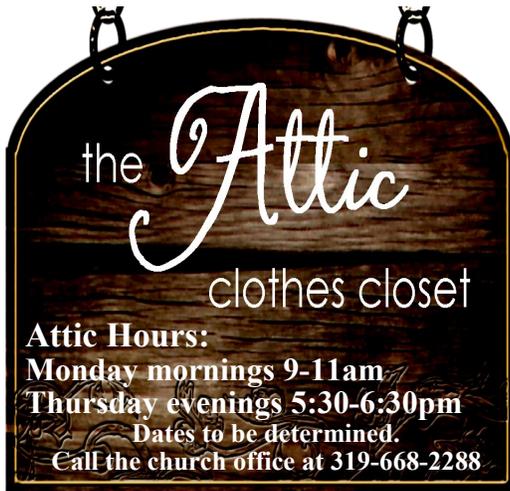


There's Still Time to Register For Camp!

- **United Methodist Camps (Wesley Woods and Lake Okoboji)**—
www.iaumc.org/camps - Day camps for ages 4-6, 1/2 week camps for 6-9
and full week camps for ages 9-17
- **East Iowa Bible Camp**—www.loveeibc.org - 1/2 week camps for 1st and
2nd grade, full weeks for 3rd-12th (free t-shirt if registered and
paid by March 31st)
- **Summer Games University**—www.sgu.camp - 7th-12th grade (details on
back)



The church will pay \$100 towards each registered camper. Email or call the office with info on
which camp you choose so payment can be sent.



*Happy
Mother's Day*



*"Honor her for all that
her hands have done"
Proverbs 31:31*

Welcome our new Administrative Assistant

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is happy to announce that St. Paul's has hired a new Administrative Assistant. Shelley Berger lives with her husband, Craig, in Marengo. Together they run the Marengo Body Shop and the family farm and have raised 4 children, who attended the Williamsburg Schools. Shelley's responsibilities at St. Paul's will include managing the church office, including publications, communication, bill paying and reconciling accounts.



We will be working on a firm schedule for church office hours in the coming weeks as Shelley gets oriented. In the meantime, she will be here roughly 9am-4pm Monday through Thursday each week. We're sure you'll want to get acquainted with her, so make sure to say hello when you stop by the church.

SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY

May 15th

If you would like to recognize a graduate, whether it be from preschool, high school or college, please contact the office at 319-668-2288 or office@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com

Trials and Tribulations

All the changes in our church, some of which have already taken place, and those we are facing in the future causes everyone concern. If you have wondered whether or not St. Paul's UMC will be able to withstand another challenge, you are not alone. It is not the changes that we need to focus on, it is our response. The way we choose to react can make all the difference in the world, and it will need to be a unified effort to ensure the stability and success of St. Paul's UMC. When I am faced with any personal issue, I tend to pray more and go to the Bible and see if there's anything that God wants to show me. Discernment is not easy. I believe it is necessary to talk with those we trust on the subject and continue to pray. The changes in leadership at St. Paul's UMC is significant. Matthew 28:18-20 states Jesus' words "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey all that I have commanded of you, and know that I will be with you always". These are the words of the Great Commission, it was Jesus who told us what we should be doing, making disciples. To make disciples we have to teach the Bible, we can't teach what we don't know, so we must read the Bible, talk about it and study it with each other. We have small groups at our church that does just that, and anyone is welcome to join. We need to serve each other and our community, and we need to give. We can give of our time, our talents and our money. We have lost members in the last few weeks and when we lose members we lose money; we all know what happens if this continues. We need to pray, and live in a way that would honor Jesus. We need to believe in our faith and invite others to join us for service. Let's invite members back that we haven't seen in awhile and invite new friends as well. Our church means so much to so many and it is worth the extra effort to make sure that not only do we survive, but we thrive and become better than we ever dreamed. God Bless you all.



Digging Deeper: 2 Corinthians 12:10, James 1:12,
John 16:33, Matthew 19:26, 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5-10

Kelly Loftus

Congregational Care Coordinator

Financial Footnote

With summer approaching and families on vacation and taking time away, we tend to see a decrease in giving over the summer months. In order to help maintain consistency, we'd like to suggest the option of electronic giving. Electronic giving can be set up weekly, bi-monthly or monthly and is a great way to continue your financial support while away. If you are interested in signing up for this or would like more information, contact Shelley at office@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com or 668-2288. Thank you



Vital Statistics

Worship Attendance

April 3	105	April 15	69
April 10	103	April 17	140
April 14	35	April 24	88

As of 4/28/22

Total Income - \$83,373.23
Total Expenses - \$79,196.02

The ANCHOR is a publication of St. Paul's United Methodist Church

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Organist: Sue Heitmann

Editor: Shelley Berger

Deadline for news for the June ANCHOR is May 23th. Email info to the church office.

• Email: office@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com



"Thank you to everyone who comforted us in our time of need" ~Jess and Marilyn Arwine at the loss of their grandson, Bailey.

"Thank you for honoring my mother's memory. My mother appreciated the friendships she developed at church & in the community."

~ Richard and Cindy Stockner
Son & daughter-in-law of Pat Stockner

**PRAYER
REQUEST**

Email office@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com so our team can be praying.

SPUMY (St. Paul's United Methodist Youth)

EPIIC Bash

5th –12th grade youth groups are invited for dinner, games, and laughs!

May 4th 6:00 PM Meal—Pizza or subs

6:30 PM—Fun! Fun! Fun!

Rain or shine but hopefully shine!

This will be the last Youth group meeting until Fall

Summer Games University

At Grinnell College

Monday, July 11th through Friday, July 15th

Completed 6th-12th graders are invited to join us for Summer Games University!

Go to www.sgu.camp to register! It's okay if you aren't sure who you will room with, just put down St. Paul's youth and we can figure it out closer to time.

Total cost is \$349 (church covers \$100). A \$79 deposit is due with online registration. If you need financial assistance, please contact the office.

SUMMER GAMES
UNIVERSITY
SGU.CAMP

SGU



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