



## From Pastor Mary Beth

Dear St. Paul's Family,

It's so good to be back!!!

You have heard me say it before (and you will probably hear me say it again): I am so, so deeply grateful to be part of a church that understands the importance of supporting your pastor in taking time out to rest, pray, and re-connect to what brought us into ministry in the first place. *Thank you*, St. Paul's. Thank you for the gift of sabbatical.

I had a beautiful sabbatical. I did a lot of praying, a lot of listening, a lot of paying attention to the stirrings of God's Spirit. And one thing that became abundantly clear over these last 12 weeks was this: this sabbatical wasn't just for me. In fact, if I start thinking that the sabbatical was just for *my* ministry, for *my* edification, for *my* growth, well, then I'm totally missing the point. This was for you, too. Maybe it was mostly for you. Because I think that we, St. Paul's – you and I together – are called to deeper life together. A life of even more prayer, of even more surrender, of even more stepping out of our comfort zones.

Honestly, I'm not exactly sure what all this is about, or how all this will work (I'm still listening!), but I can tell you what I saw: God has a plan for us, St. Paul's. We are here for a reason. And that reason goes beyond great education (which we do so well here, thanks be to God!) and fabulous worship together (which we also do so well, thanks be to God!). It goes beyond meeting our own needs, as vital as that is. It might even go beyond the ways we have structured ourselves for so many years, as life-giving and as life-saving as those structures have been, thanks be to God. God's vision for us has something to do, I believe, with looking outside ourselves, to see who is hurting, to see who has something to tell us: something new, something we haven't quite seen or heard yet.

I'm not sure exactly how all this will work. But I want to see. And I want to see with you. I want to stick around for these plans of God's, plans that go beyond our wildest dreams.

It's so good to be back.

Thanks be to God.

with love and gratitude,

Pastor Mary Beth

**THANK YOU FOR THE NEW OFFICE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

WOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Wow wow wow wow wow wow wow wow wow wow!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! When I came into church for our Finance and Mission Meeting on my first day back from sabbatical, I just happened to go upstairs (I think I was making a photo-copy of something). Once I got into the copy room, I noticed that one of my office wall hangings had been moved to the outside door of my office. I thought it looked nice! I then thought I might take a peek at my office: you know, tell it “hello” after 12 weeks of being away. So I opened the door..... and..... OH MY GOODNESS!!!!!!!!!!!!!! My office was blue!!!!!!!!!!!!!! And had hardwood floors!!!!!!!!!!!!!! And new curtains!!!!!!!!!!!!!! And had been rearranged!!!!!!!!!!!!!! *AND LOOKED AMAZING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*

I think I must’ve stood there with my mouth hanging open for a good 30 seconds. I couldn’t believe how beautiful everything looked. I caught my breath, and ran downstairs to tell the members of the Finance Committee how wonderful it was. (Seriously, every single thing you did – the color, the floors, the curtains, the arranging, the rainbow – is absolutely perfect). I was still kind of in happy shock as they caught me up on how the process basically worked (fundraising, lots of work by lots of people, donations, etc.). I was beyond-words-grateful.

And I still am. I had no idea this was happening. And the love that you poured out into this work... well, it feels no less than holy.

Thank you, St. Paul’s. You are generous, thoughtful, and chock-full-of-love beyond measure. I am swimming in gratitude.

Love, Pastor Mary Beth



### **Labor Day!!**

Thank you to EVERYONE who worked so hard to make our Labor Day such a great success! Our preliminary net income is around \$4,220.00!!! (25% of which will go to our mission project). GREAT JOB, EVERYONE!!!



### **Confirmation to Meet on Wednesdays This Year**

Confirmation is meeting at a different time this year! Our confirmation students will meet on Wednesdays, from 5:00PM-5:45PM in the youth room (downstairs). Pastor Mary Beth will teach the class. This is an important and tender time in our young people's life for faith formation. Please keep our confirmands Sophie Saxton, Caroline Harwood and Emma Olsen, plus their teacher, in your prayers! We will begin on **Wednesday, September 13**.

### **We Have the Best Deacons**

We really do. Thank you to our deacons, led by Mike Burkhart, for their beautiful and Christ-like care they gave to our members and friends over the pastor's sabbatical. Spiritual care is what these fine folks are charged to do; so don't be surprised if these visits continue, alongside the pastor's! Thanks be to God for our deacons!

## **Getting to Know You...**



One of our Visioning Goals is to nurture all of our wonderful members and friends of St. Paul's. One of the ways we want to do that is to get to know each other better! Maybe you've been around for fifty years, or maybe for fifty minutes, but either way, there are things we don't know about you that we'd like to!

Three things we don't know about.....

Joyce (Berry) Christianson

1. This is my 35th year in nursing. Most passionate was 17 years in Labor and Delivery! There is a girl in Tucson named Anita Joyce!!! (smiley face)
2. When I drive and I'm alone-the "note" "note" is LOUD!!
3. When I was in High School I was determined to become a math teacher! I adored Mrs. Seibert and wanted to teach as she did. Plus (no pun intended) I always got A's in math (4 years!)

Connie Duling

1. Broke knee jumping hurdles
2. Have a daughter allergic to poinsettias
3. Just received 100% proficiency on federal lab inspection

Cip Garcia

1. Played with a band that was broadcast in England on WGN
2. Spent 3 days at Road Atlanta Race Track in Georgia doing research on race cars
3. Jammed with Buddy Miles, the drummer, with Jimmie Hendrix

Jenna Mathes

1. I am the Finance Assistant at Shottenkirk Chevrolet in Waukee. I break down car deals, make payoffs, reconcile accounts and other misc. things.
2. I have a cat named Linus. I've had him since 2002. We have moved quite a bit, gone through a lot of things together and can't live without each other.
3. I have two brothers that are older than me, one now lives in Des Moines and the oldest lives in California.

Kyle Mathes

1. I Coon hunt in my spare time.
2. I bow hunt.
3. I love anything involving outdoors, riding horses, shed hunting, mushroom hunting, disc golf, hiking, swimming, fishing, so on and so forth.

Diana Olsen

1. I enjoy reading and gardening
2. I like movies at the theater
3. I like to walk

John Roosa

1. I've traveled to 8 different countries
2. I'm the youngest of 6 kids
3. I'm a math nerd

Julie Roosa

1. I grew up in the Catholic church in Des Moines
2. I started a newspaper in my school in 5<sup>th</sup> grade
3. I won a hot tub once with a \$1.00 raffle ticket

Vandon Roosa

1. I play 4 sports
2. I'm good at video games
3. I don't go to Madrid school

Emily Scott

1. I am going to Europe for the first time.
2. I got stung by a jelly fish
3. I can drive a semi

Jerry Scott

1. ABATE member for 24 years – a motorcycle rights organization servings as multiple officers' positions and announcer for rodeos, drinking and riding was my passion.
2. When I went to Moldova, I went to meet Svet's neighbor – not her!
3. I have only been in jail once – to do LSI interviews for my internship while working on my bachelor's degree at ISU.

Svetlana Scott

1. I went to art school
2. I also went to music school
3. I can play the accordion

## Message from the Madrid Home

Hello to all our member churches,

As you know the year is flying by! We have a few short months until Christmas is upon us. I am trying to get a jump start on a few things; on **November 19<sup>th</sup>** we have our fall Bazaar and Bake sale. We are and will be looking for homemade craft items and homemade baked goods. We also do an avenue of trees, where anyone can decorate a 3ft tree or wreath, themed or not, and will be put into a silent auction that will last a week or so after the Bazaar. I will be sending out a flyer once it gets a little closer to be put in the church bulletins.

Shortly after that we will have to prepare for Christmas for all our residents here at the Madrid Home. Our Resident Christmas party will be held on **December 22<sup>nd</sup>** and I will have open times **December 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>** for volunteers to come help wrap Christmas presents! (call and schedule a time if you are interested) Remember we try to give each resident 3 gifts! J  
Some things that are good for Christmas presents are;

- pants of any size (elastic band)
- nail polish
- jewelry
- grippy socks
- individual snacks
- shirts of any size
- Kleenex
- Calendars for 2018

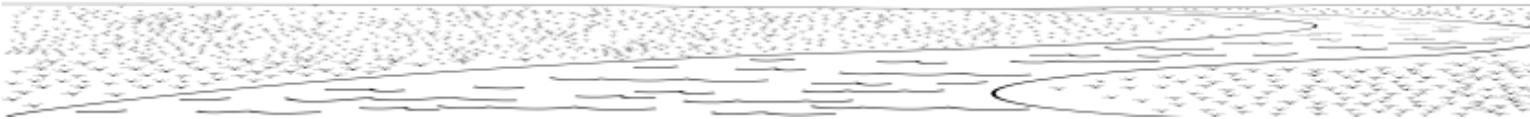
**ALL CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO BE DELIVERED BEFORE DECEMBER 8TH PLEASE!**

If you have any craft items for the bazaar you may drop them off at the Madrid Home or may contact me and I can meet to pick up- along with any Christmas present donations.

You may contact me @ either [\(515\)-795-3007](tel:515-795-3007) and ask for Tanae Hollar (Activity Director) or my personal Cell @ [\(515\)-494-7689](tel:515-494-7689). I also do text messaging.

Thank you all again for everything you do to put smiles on our residents faces! Not only do they appreciate it, but we do too!

**Tanae M. Hollar**  
*Activities Director*  
*Friends of the Madrid Home Coordinator*



# Protect the Sacred

**In a just World, Clean Water is Life.**

THE NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING, WHICH WE WILL RECEIVE ON **OCTOBER 1ST**, SUPPORTS THE UCC'S MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE AND COMPASSION THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. TWO-THIRDS OF THE OFFERING IS USED BY THE UCC'S JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES TO FUND A WIDE ARRAY OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES, ADVOCACY EFFORTS, AND DIRECT SERVICE PROJECTS. THROUGH [UCC.ORG/JUSTICE](http://UCC.ORG/JUSTICE), OUR NATIONAL JUSTICE A WITNESS MINISTRIES OFFICE OFFERS RESOURCES, NEWS UPDATES, AND ACTION ALERTS ON A BROAD SPECTRUM OF JUSTICE ISSUES. WORKING WITH MEMBERS OF THE UCC JUSTICE AND PEACE ACTION NETWORK (A NETWORK OF THOUSANDS OF UCC JUSTICE AND PEACE ADVOCATES), JUSTICE AND WITNESS CONTINUES ITS STRONG POLICY ADVOCACY WORK ON ISSUES SUCH AS THE FEDERAL BUDGET, VOTING RIGHTS, IMMIGRATION, HEALTH CARE, HATE CRIMES, CIVIL LIBERTIES, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE. NEIGHBORS IN NEED ALSO SUPPORTS OUR AMERICAN INDIAN NEIGHBORS IN THE UCC. ONE-THIRD OF THE OFFERING SUPPORTS THE UCC'S COUNCIL FOR AMERICAN INDIAN MINISTRIES (CAIM). HISTORICALLY, FOREBEARS OF THE UCC ESTABLISHED CHURCHES AND WORKED WITH LAKOTA, DAKOTA, NAKOTA, MANDAN, HIDATSA, ARICKARA, AND HOCOK IN NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA, WISCONSIN, AND NORTHERN NEBRASKA. TODAY THERE ARE 20 UCC CONGREGATIONS ON RESERVATIONS AND ONE URBAN, MULTI-TRIBAL UCC CONGREGATION IN MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA. THESE CHURCHES AND THEIR PASTORS ARE SUPPORTED BY CAIM. CAIM IS ALSO AN INVALUABLE RESOURCE FOR MORE THAN 1,000 INDIVIDUALS FROM DOZENS OF OTHER TRIBES AND NATIONS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF OTHER UCC CONGREGATIONS IN THE U.S.

**NEIGHBORS IN NEED** HELPS MAKE ANOTHER WORLD POSSIBLE. IT NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY. AND REMEMBER, CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEIGHBORS IN NEED CAN BE MADE ONLINE AT ANY TIME: [UCC.ORG/NIN](http://UCC.ORG/NIN)



Access the churches  
website  
([http://www.stpaulsucc  
church.com/](http://www.stpaulsuccchurch.com/)) on your  
cellphone with this QR  
Code (you'll need a QR  
code App.)



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Church Phone: 795-2112

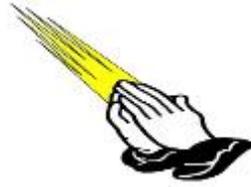
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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Pauls-UCC-Madrid-Ia/201720056589635>



### **United Church of Christ Statement of Faith—original version**

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify:

He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself.

He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him.

Amen.

### **United Church of Christ Statement of Faith—adapted by Robert V. Moss**

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify:

God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.

God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

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Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God.

Amen.