



# The ANCHOR



A publication of St. Paul's United Methodist Church • Williamsburg, IA  
No. 3 • March 2021

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

Dear Church Family,

It's hard to know the best way to begin talking about a difficult topic, so I will simply state it: on Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> we will come to the one year anniversary of Pastor Louie Gallo's death. I imagine that this date may be hard for many, and I want you to know that it's ok to have feelings (including strong emotions) about it. I know from talking to a number of people that the ways you are experiencing grief over Louie's death is varied. Some are sad. Some are hurting. Some are angry. Some simply miss him. And some have found moments of peace. Please know that I and others are continuing to pray for you. I'm also available to talk in person, or talk/text on the phone (641-485-3213 cell) if you need to.

I want to encourage you to pay attention to your feelings. It could be that you'll have sudden memories, or flashes of intense emotion. This is quite common when we experience a loss or trauma. When this happens, I encourage you to pause what you're doing and let out your feelings connected to these memories. You may need to cry. You may need to go outside and yell. You may need to talk to God. You may need to sit and breathe. What you're feeling in these moments isn't "wrong" or weird. It's simply grief. And grief helps us to heal.

I thought for a long while about how to plan our worship service on March 7<sup>th</sup>, and have discerned that we will have our regular services with an extra time for prayers of forgiveness, peace, and healing. So when you join us for worship (in person or online), expect our focus to be as it always is: on God's unending love for us through Christ Jesus. I will preach on Luke 15:11-32, the return of the prodigal son. At the end of the service we'll take some extra time to pray for ourselves and for others.

As we prepare through Lent for our first Easter together, it continues to be my privilege and honor to serve as the pastor at St. Paul's. I am reminded in this season that God is one who brings life from death – and I am waiting with hope to discover the new life God has for us in the months and years to come.

Grace and peace, Pastor John



NAMI: information and referrals:

**NAMI: information and referrals:**  
**namiiowa.org or call**  
**(800) 950-NAMI (6264)**

## MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

IF YOU'RE  
STRUGGLING  
AND NEEDING  
SOMEONE TO  
TALK WITH,  
PLEASE REACH  
OUT. YOU CAN  
ALSO CONTACT  
THE CHURCH IF  
WE CAN BE OF  
ASSISTANCE OR  
BE PRAYING FOR  
YOU.

THE UPPER ROOM  
Prayer Ministry

**For Prayer...**  
**upperroom.org or**  
**prayer-center.upperroom.org/**



**Veterans Crisis Line:**  
**veteranscrisisline.net**  
**(800) 273-8255, press 1 or**  
**text 838255**



# LENTEN SERMON SERIES



March 7th  
"The Younger Son"  
March 14th  
"The Older Son"  
March 21st  
"The Pigs & the Slaves"  
**HOLY WEEK**  
March 28th  
Palm Sunday  
April 1st  
Maundy Thursday  
(Noon & 6:30pm services)  
April 2nd  
Good Friday  
(Noon & 6:30pm services)  
April 4th  
Easter (No Sat. pm service)  
(8:30am and 10:30am services)

**Ladies Luncheon**  
**Thursday, March 4th**  
**at 12:00pm**

**Ladies, bring a sack lunch and come**  
**for a time of fellowship!**

## In-Person Worship Available

Although some of the restrictions have been lifted in our state, the Bishop and Cabinet have chosen to keep Methodist churches under the same guidelines we've had for the past 6 months or so. This does still allow us to have in-person worship so if you're comfortable, we'd love to have you here for one of our worship services. Services will continue to be:

**Saturday evenings at 5:00pm**

**Sunday mornings at 8:30am and 10:30am**

Go to our website for more information and/or to sign up for a service. We will continue to live-feed our 10:30am service for those of you watching online.

St. Paul's UMC  
presents...

*Online  
Storytime*

Featuring artwork  
by our own  
in-house artists!



We hope you've had a chance to check out our Online Bible Storytime! Some of our resident artists at St. Paul's have provided artwork to go along with a Bible story. The stories will go along with our Simply Loved lessons and will be posted on a weekly basis. We would love to have our members be a part of this, so if you have any talents in art or would like to be a reader, contact Kerry at [coordinator@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com](mailto:coordinator@stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com). Although our stories will be read from a children's bible, we invite all ages to be a part of this!



Please continue take the time to join us in worship each week. Worship services are posted on our website, just click on the link on the home page to go to our Youtube channel. You can also find it posted on our Facebook page.

[www.stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com](http://www.stpaulsumcwilliamsburg.com)





Welcome to month 5 of Virtual Sunday School: Simply Loved! With the warmer temperatures in the forecast, it sure feels like spring is finally in the air. As we enter March, we want to take a moment and look back over the challenges of the past year. It hasn't been easy, but through it all we continue to seek God and see God.

During March, we will meet our new Memory Buddy, Tina Termite. A bug, you may ask? We're very intrigued by what lessons we can learn from a termite! We hope you'll tune in to our weekly lessons to find out!

The theme through the month of March is: God Takes Care of Us. It seems so fitting to explore this in the month of March. If we've learned only one thing over the last year, we hope it's been this. God is good. God loves us deeply. God will take care of us.

Our stories this month come from the books of Romans and Exodus. We will be reading and learning more about Moses. We will start by learning about how Moses was rescued by Pharaoh's daughter...and follow Moses' path until we find him rescuing Israelites by helping them cross the Red Sea. We hope you'll join us to hear all about his adventures.

We will continue to post challenges in our Kids Club Facebook group. We encourage you to share your photos in the group, by email or however you feel comfortable. Please check in so we can see your smiles! We miss you ALL!

We know that this has not been ideal..."meeting" on a screen, but we are hopeful and prayerful that we will soon get to experience God together again! In the meantime, we will continue to pray for each of you, for our church and for our world. We know God is listening and that God takes care of us. May each of you remember each and every day, that you are special, treasured and above all...Simply Loved.

We have received information for camp opportunities for our kids and youth for this summer. We will leave it up to parents on where their child(ren) attends, but ask that you let us know so that we can still help with camp scholarships since we won't have our normal fundraisers.

**Wesley Woods and Lake Okoboji United Methodists Camps:**

Go separately to each camp website for dates and registration information. [www.wesleywoodsiowa.org](http://www.wesleywoodsiowa.org) or [www.okobojicamp.com](http://www.okobojicamp.com). Registration is going on now.

**East Iowa Bible Camp:** Go to <https://loveeibc.org> for complete information. Registration starts March 1st.

**Summer Games University:** Info on back page.



**Joys & Concerns**

Congratulations to Phil & Mary DeJarnatt on the birth of their daughter, Emery Grace on February 15th.



Emery Grace DeJarnatt

**Vital Statistics**

As of 2/26/2021

Total Income - \$38,943

Total Expenses -\$39,269

**The ANCHOR is a publication of St. Paul's United Methodist Church**  
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**Custodian:** Kelly Loftus

**Editor:** Sonja Parsons

**Deadline for news for the April**

**ANCHOR** is March 26th. Email info to Sonja or drop it off at the church office.

# SPUMY (St. Paul's United Methodist Youth)

SUMMER GAMES  
UNIVERSITY  
SGU.CAMP



## Summer Games University NEW LOCATION! Central College, Pella

**Saturday, July 3rd through Wednesday, July 7th**

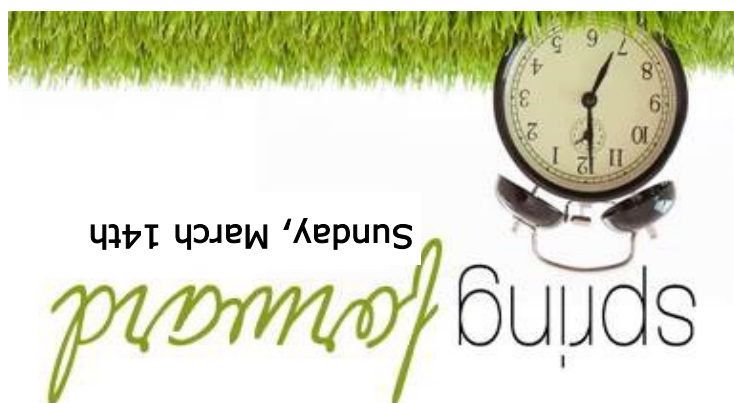
Completed 6th-12 graders are invited to join us for Summer Games University! It's a little different this year since they had to change locations therefore changing the dates! Go to [www.sgu.camp](http://www.sgu.camp) to register! It's okay if you aren't sure who you will room with, just put down St. 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. There are funds available through our church as well as through SGU. We will not be having additional fundraisers this year.

Join us on Wednesday Evenings at 6:15 pm! During Lent, we will be continuing the lessons of The Prodigal Son that Pastor John is teaching on from Sunday mornings.

Contact the office to sign up to eat at 6:00pm each week.



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