



Hello you All!!!

I believe Psalm 1 is a poem that invites us to see our lives through a healthier lens. To delight in a better narrative. The invitation is good, friends. And the story only gets better.

Every living thing has a story to tell. *Literally!*

DNA reads like a script of sequential building blocks and is found in the cells of every creature on the planet. And they are constantly determined to tell this story. The flower's objective when offering nectar resembles the bee's reasoning for carrying it back to the hive, which mirrors the bear's motive for making a meal of the hive, mating, and feeding her cubs. They all have an instinctual desire to pass on their genetic code. To tell their story, even if only biologically. It's as if the *Creator of Life* considers himself an author and has hardwired storytelling into the DNA of creation.

As image-bearers of this Creator God, humans are uniquely drawn to stories. The words "*once upon a time*" or "*in the beginning*" unlock a sense of wonder and curiosity in us. *We gravitate toward characters we see ourselves in and live in search of our own happily ever after.*

Simply put, we are creatures of story.

The question is: Which one?

The word Torah means "*teaching*" or "*instruction*." But it's also commonly used to refer to the origin story of God's covenantal relationship with the people of Israel outlined in the first five books of the Hebrew Bible. That said, Psalm 1 is a pronouncement of blessings to those who delight in the wisdom and commands of Yahweh. But also, those who delight in His story. More pointedly, who delight in letting God *be the one* who defines our narratives day and night. Some people have an aversion to the language of "*blessing*" in Scripture, for fear of the pitfalls of prosperity gospel theology. But Psalm 1, much like the Sermon on the Mount, is an invitation to rethink what we define as *blessing* - and what we believe its source is.

In Matthew 6:22-23, Jesus says: "*The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!*"

I believe Jesus wants to give us healthier eyes to see what blessings are. If the lens that we see the world through is the story of God, blessings are not simple treasures that make us prosperous by cultural standards. Rather, blessings are the gifts that make our stories look more like His.

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Through this perspective, faith becomes actively choosing to make God's story our own. Sin is consciously removing God from being the main character of our story. The curse, or consequences of our sin, is that our stories look less like His. And the gospel is the work Christ has done to bring our stories back into alignment with the story of God.

As a seamstress and crafter, I used to think of my creativity as an offering to God. A thing that, if I worked hard enough at it, He might be impressed with. But the more I have been delighting in the story of God, the more I realize that good and perfect gifts are not given to the Father of lights. *They come from him!* And each is an invitation to redefine not only what we think about blessings, but who we believe is the source of them.

If we are the main characters of our stories, then we must be the source of our own goodness. We must manage to be the heroes of our own tale, while also being the author and finisher of our own fate.

But Scripture suggests that we are but characters in a bigger narrative, one that centers around a good and loving Father.

This month of September – is the kick-off for us to continue God's story – sharing it with others in our congregation and outside of it. J.A.M. and Confirmation is all about teaching and instruction for our kiddos – and Adult Bible Studies are about continuing that learning process for us adults.

As I said earlier, I believe Psalm 1 is a poem that invites us to see our lives through a healthier lens. I believe that we can all find delight in a better narrative. Remember, the story only gets better – and you are part of the story.

Blessings,

*Pastor Velda*

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### **Pastor Velda's Schedule for September 2024**

Monday—September 9 and 16—Peace Quilters

Tuesdays—5:30 p.m. Ecumenical Prayer Shawl Ministry

Every Wednesday morning—8 am to 9:30 am—Pipestone County Pastoral Prayer Breakfast

Every Wednesday at Noon—Kiwanis Meeting

Every Wednesday at 6 pm—J.A.M. Opening exercises, 7 pm—Confirmation

Third Tuesday of each month—Pipestone Human Rights Commission

Second and Fourth Friday of the month—Serve at Senior Food Shelf

### **Specific to September 2024**

September 5—10 am to 2 pm—LLP (Licensed Local Pastor) Meeting in Slayton

September 7—4:30 pm—Merrill/Hulstein Wedding

September 10—8:30 am to 9:30 am—Pipestone County Ministerial Association Meeting

September 11—4 pm—Worship Committee Meeting, 6 p.m. Trustees Meeting

September 16—4:30 pm—Leadership Council Meeting

September 20 and 21—Course of Study (Seminary Class) at Morningside College, Sioux City, IA

September 28—Graveside Service at 11 am—New Woodlawn Cemetery

# September 2024



Birthdays  
Anniversaries  
Church Events

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 Jared Hillard	2  Pete Sietsema	3 5:30 pm Prayer Shawl	4 Scott Quist Gary Wabeke	5 Jon Lane	6 Janice VanRoekel	7
8 Steve Morgan 10:15 am Worship  Communion	9 Rhyle Clark 9 am Peace Quilters 7 pm All-Church Clean-up	10 Rich & Vicki Gergen 5:30 pm Prayer Shawl	11 Karen Albrecht 4 pm Worship Committee 6 pm Trustees 6 pm J.A.M. Peace UMC 7pm Confirmation PUMC	12 Food Shelf 	13	14
15 10:15 am Worship	16 9 am Peace Quilters 4:30 pm Leadership Council	17 5:30 pm Prayer Shawl	18 6 pm J.A.M. Peace UMC 7pm Confirmation PUMC	19 Amanda Kampmann 10 am UWF	20 Jeanne Backer	21 Quentin Crow Jadie Denny
22 10:15 am Worship	23 Scott Swanson Nikki & Justine Nepp	24 5:30 pm Prayer Shawl	25 Chris & Becky Sietsema 6 pm J.A.M. Peace UMC 7pm Confirmation PUMC	26 Dean Haack	27 Candy Whipple	28
29 10:15 am Combined Worship at First Presbyterian Church with Potluck following	30 Rich Gergen					

If you do not see your name(s) listed on the calendar for birthdays and anniversaries, please contact the church office so that we can update our lists with your information!



The following people have volunteered to handle the kitchen for funeral luncheons. Nancy Koets will continue to call or text members to serve at the funeral and/or bring cakes etc. We would like to have an updated volunteer list, so please contact Nancy at 507-215-0252 or call the church office if you are willing to help. Please be sure to include your phone number. Thank you!

**Jan/Feb - Karen Vaux**  
**March/April - Elly Erks**  
**May/June - Sandy Lopau**

**July/Aug- Jeanne Backer**  
**Sept/Oct - Shelley Wiese**  
**Nov/Dec – Jan Wussow**

**PEACE UMC HAS A WEBSITE!**

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

**We have three ways you can give back to your church!**

**By USPS:**

Peace United Methodist Church  
PO Box 26  
Pipestone, MN 56164

**Auto Giving through your bank:**

Set up by the church treasurer in the church office. You will be able to designate the amount and frequency of your donations. All that is required is filling out a form and bringing in a voided check.

**Online Giving:**

On our website above, click the **GIVE** tab. You will be directed to the page where you can choose to donate either once, or on a recurring schedule to fit your family's budget. It is very simple and very secure!

**PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUPPORT OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY!**

## **COMMUNION SUNDAYS**

**SEPTEMBER 8**

**OCTOBER 13**

**NOVEMBER 10**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



**UWF meets Thursday,  
September 19, at 10 am**



**United  
Women  
in Faith**

## CHANGE FOR CHANGE

**Received June 2024**

Midwest Mission  
\$396.34

**Received July 2024**

School Supplies  
\$296.68

**Received August 2024**

Peace Quilters  
\$465

Your September donations to  
Change for Change will benefit  
the ministry of  
**ATLAS**  
Tree House Ministry

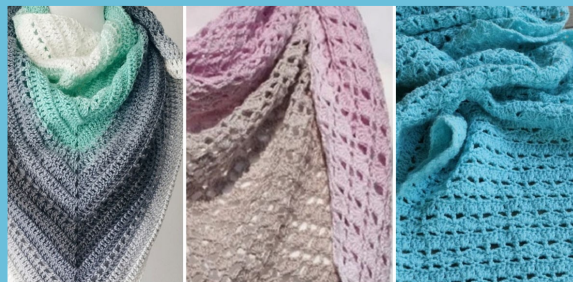


Please lift up our shut-ins in your prayers, and please visit them!  
You can see Gretchen Blom at Good Samaritan and  
Violet Werner at Falls Landing.



## THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who helped with and at the UWF Rummage Sale. At the time of this publication we have raised \$1,088. Proceeds will be given to various local missions.



**PUMC ECUMENICAL PRAYER SHAWL  
MINISTRY MEETS EVERY TUESDAY EVENING  
IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM AT 5:30 PM. ALL ARE  
WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR THIS TIME OF  
FELLOWSHIP AND PRAYER.**

## REMINDER!

**WORSHIP TIME AT PEACE UMC IS MOVED TO  
10:15 AM UNTIL JANUARY 2025  
TO ACCOMMODATE PASTOR VELDA HAVING  
TWO WORSHIP SERVICES EVERY SUNDAY**





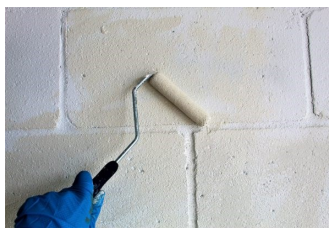
Second Monday of the Month  
due to Labor Day Holiday  
September 9, 2024  
7 p.m.

## CHURCH CLEAN-UP!

**Peace UMC now has a sign-up list for various areas of the church building that you can specify and commit to cleaning. Please see the sign-up sheet for further details.**



The Trustees have several repair and refurbishment projects that they are undertaking this summer: repainting the hallways on the main floor, retiling the hallways on the main floor, repairing the fuse in the elevator, repairing and replacing sump pumps after all the rain in June, and tree removal. To donate to the Trustees to help defray the costs of these projects, please write your extra check directly to the Trustees, and designate the project you want to contribute to in the memo line. Your generous support of the work of the Trustees is greatly appreciated!



### 2024 Giving Goal

\$150,479

### Needed Each Month

\$12,540

### Received in August

\$5,510

## Leadership Council Meeting

August 19, 2024

4:30 pm

**Present:** Pastor Velda, Shelley Wiese, Mark Wiese, Chuck Vaux, Steve Schulze, Julie Dallmann, Jan Wussow, and Elly Erks

**Pastoral Report:** Pastor Velda

64 Pastoral Calls

2 PUMC Parish Meetings

2 FPC Parish Meetings

3 PC Pastoral Prayer Breakfast Meeting

2 Peace Quilters

3 Ecumenical Prayer Shawl

9 Community Meetings

1 Funeral and Graveside Service

Things are going well with the Shared Ministry with First Presbyterian Church. Trying to find my rhythm and flow between the two parishes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Shelley Wiese

All bills and apportionments are paid to date

**Our expenses are exceeding our income (giving). We are behind \$28,700.**

**Trustees Report:** Mark Wiese

Met on July 10 and August 14

**July Meeting** – Jer's Electric installed a breaker panel in basement - \$4,160, Painting was done in the upper hallway – cost \$320. Lightening took out a fuse in the elevator panel that MEI had to replace - \$1,107. During the heavy rain in June the boiler room and elevator shaft flooded. Both sump pumps burned out and found out the discharge pipe for the sump pump in the boiler room was plugged with some kind of shale. Also took out the water heater. Quist Plumbing came to help pump the water out and temporarily reroute the sump pump and replace the water heater. Cost of water heater \$1,259 and two sump pumps \$822.

**August Meeting** – Church cleaning is moved to September 9 due to Labor Day holiday. The flooring in upper hallway is done - \$6,570. East and west stairways will be finished soon. Looking at ways to get the water out of the sump pump hole in the boiler room. Peter will set up something for removal of aluminum cans to Marshall recycling. Discussed ways to keep semi-trucks out and off the parking lot. Discussion was to put up a sign in the middle of the north entrance.

**UWF Report:** Jan Wussow

No meeting this month. Rummage sale August 22-24, proceeds will go to local missions

**Worship Committee Report:** Elly Erks

Met August 14, 2024 – 6 present

Finalized details for potluck on August 18 following Easton Williamson's presentation about his mission trip.

September 29, 2024 Combined Worship Service at First Presbyterian Church at 10:15 a.m. with potluck to follow.

Flannel Fest Celebration will be October 20, 2024. Joan preparing flier for Facebook and newsletter and a serving sign-up sheet. Will have an autumn food selection – Chili, Loaded Baked Potato Soup, White Chicken Chili, Corn Bread, Apple Cider, and pumpkin or apple desserts. Church members will be encouraged to wear flannel to worship that Sunday. Will have attendees write a blessing on a sticky note and post on cross.

Confirmation Sunday is October 27. Barb will order cake for reception following service.

All Saints Day – November 3.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service is here at Peace UMC this year on Sunday, November 24 at 7 p.m. Will have a sign up sheet for 3 pans of bars and also donations of apple cider to be served in Fireside Room.

Will meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, November 25 to remove autumn décor and set up partial advent decorations. The remainder of Advent décor will be put up on December 5 at 9 a.m. There was discussion about new decorating ideas. Barb will order Poinsettias again, all red this year. Elly will order plant trays.

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(Leadership Council Minutes continued)

Pastor Velda will be gone on Sunday August 25.

Next meeting is October 9, 2024.

**Peace Foundation Report:** Chuck Vaux

Receive one scholarship application

**Children's Ministry Report:**

Rally Day – September 8, 2024 at 10:15 a.m. – Combined Service at Peace – Will be Communion Sunday as well.

Lingen Dairy Food Truck serving hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, ice cream cones and sundaes and beverage. All are welcome

**SPRC Report:** no report given

**Lay Leader Report:** no report given

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Velda Maine

# Food Shelf



September 12, 2024—Is our parish's/ church's turn to serve at the Pipestone County Food Shelf. We need five (5) volunteers to help. You are asked to be at the East door of the Food Shelf at 1:30 p.m. Please contact Sandy Lopau if you are able to help.

## COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE AND POTLUCK

SUNDAY— SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

10:15 am

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PIPESTONE

Mark your calendars for the combined worship service with potluck to follow at the Presbyterian Church. This will be our first combined service of four (4) that falls on the fifth Sunday of the month. Come attend worship at 10:15 am and bring a dish to pass. Come and share in a time of food and fellowship.



**Relay for Life 2024** was held at the Hiawatha Lodge. Our own Amy Steinhoff was the honorary survivor and shared her story/journey. The Ecumenical Prayer Shawl Ministry was once again able to please three survivors with a prayer shawl. Pictured to the right: Vicki Gergen, Denise Nagel, Anita Johnson and Stephanie Peeso.





First Presbyterian & Peace United Methodist

# 2024 J.A.M. RALLY

SUNDAY, SEPT. 8TH

11:30AM-1:30PM

PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIR FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FUN!

EVERYONE WELCOME!

LINGEN DAIRY FOOD TRUCK & INFLATABLES



If you are unable to join us in person on Sunday mornings, remember we are available online! You can watch our Sunday Worship broadcast live on

Facebook Live every Sunday at 10 am!

[www.facebook.com/peaceUMCpipestone/](https://www.facebook.com/peaceUMCpipestone/)



**PEACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

PO BOX 26

PIPESTONE, MN 56164