

VOL. 1 ISSUE 1 · MARCH 2024

CONNECTION

Official Newsletter of Camphor Memorial UMC

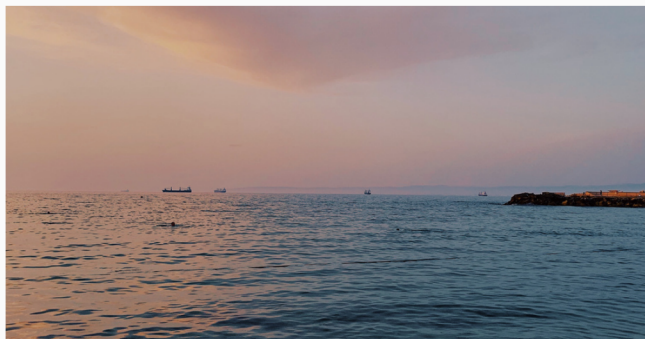
Welcome to “Connection”!

BY REV. ISIAH DENNIS

Welcome to the inaugural issue of our official newsletter, "Connection." You may wonder why we chose this title. The answer lies in the essence of life itself—our constant pursuit of connections. Whether with people, work, school, or beyond, our innate desire is to foster meaningful connections. The most important among these is our connection with God.

Isaiah 55:6 reminds us, "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near." Recognizing that we serve a God who earnestly seeks connection with us, driven by unconditional love, is crucial.

As you peruse this newsletter, we hope you will experience a sense of connection with Camphor Memorial UMC. Let us continue to nurture our relationship with God, each other, and the community we are called to serve, embodying the spirit of growth and unity.



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Pastor's Corner

FROM THE DESK OF REV. DENNIS OGLESBY, JR

Dear Friends and Family:

Welcome to the first issue of "Connection." Since 1919, Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church has served the St. Paul and Twin Cities communities. We have been staunch supporters of faith-based, political, or social efforts that addressed the unique needs of African Americans. Today, we live out this legacy by being a vital, vibrant, and visible beacon of hope that shines a light on the dark areas in our community that must be addressed in this present age. We continue to provide ministries to reach the helpless, hopeless, and hurting in our community. We do this because we are a people of grace who believe in:

- The availability of God's grace for all;
- The essential unity of faith and works;
- Salvation as personal and social;
- The church as a community of Christ's disciples who seek to share God's mission;
- The inseparability of knowledge (intellect) and vital piety (devotion to religious duties and practices) as components of a vibrant faith;
- Social holiness of heart and life both individually, collectively, and in our society; and
- A cooperative ministry and mission worldwide, often called "connectionism."

In short, we have been and continue to be a people of God in Christ Jesus, who "walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7)!"

This is an exciting time in the life our congregation and I am personally thankful for your faith and commitment to our church's mission and ministry. I hope you enjoy this inaugural edition of "Connection" as we live out our goals to grow in our relationship with God, each other, and the community God has and continues to call us to serve.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dennis M. Oglesby, Jr.

Pastor

"...we have been and continue to be a people of God in Christ Jesus, who "walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7)!"

-PASTOR D





Leadership Corner: Stewardship

BY KAREN CAREY BONNER, STEWARSHIP CHAIR

As you know, Pastor D has emphasized the importance of generosity in our giving. I want to delve deeper into Camphor and our stewardship theme, which centers around the verse "We walk by faith and not by sight" from 2 Corinthians 5:7.

With the love of God and the spirit of our members, I'm confident we can achieve our three main goals:

- Cultivate a spirit of generosity within Camphor, a topic Pastor D has passionately discussed over the past month.
- Enhance our facilities. We have critical improvements to make, including replacing our HVAC system, upgrading the stove and oven in the kitchen, and addressing various minor church repairs.
- Strengthen our community partnerships.

I want to highlight the community partnerships within Camphor:

- The Hallie-Q-Brown Food Ministry, led by Jim Mitchell, has been vital to our outreach efforts. Since 2019, Camphor has donated \$300 and delivered 2,227 pounds of canned goods to the Hallie-Q-Brown food pantry. Despite these efforts, there's still a significant need for food support, so we continue to seek your donations, whether in cash or canned goods.
- The Health Ministry, under May Anderson's leadership, in collaboration with Ramsey County and the Cultural Wellness Center, has been instrumental in providing COVID-19 and flu shots to our community. Since 2022, Camphor has served 998 individuals within our community.
- The Blessing Bag Ministry, led by Mary Louise Archer and her team, has been dedicated to serving the homeless. Since 2023, they have distributed 165 bags to those in need.

The United Women of Faith also supported the Angel Tree and back-to-school supply initiatives. At the same time, the United Methodist Men organized a coat drive and supported Coach McAfee's High School football team. They arranged fishing trips for adults and kids.

As utility costs have risen recently, we rely on your generosity to sustain our service ministries and expand our community engagement. Currently, we're operating within a maintenance budget. Still, we aim to increase our budget over the next three years, with a target of \$100,000. Even a tiny increase in your weekly contribution, such as \$1.25 on a \$25.00 weekly donation, can make a significant difference.

Two significant events are planned this year, two more each in 2025 and 2026. We encourage your participation in these events to help foster a spirit of generosity within Camphor. Some of you may receive a phone call from our stewardship team in the coming weeks regarding our first event, with additional calls planned for late spring or early summer for the second event. We hope everyone will consider participating in one or both events over the next three years.

If you ever have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to me. Thank you for all that you do to help Camphor!

Methodist Corner

Camphor Memorial UMC is a predominantly Black/African American Church who is part of the United Methodist Church, a global connection whose mission is "To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World". Being rooted in Jesus, Grounded in Wesleyan theology, inclusive of all people and being engaged in the work of Justice and Reconciliation, we strive to grow in our love with God, with one another and the community we are called to serve. Check out to see what is going on in our connectional system



General Conference 2024

The United Methodist Church has no pope. But it does have a General Conference — the only body that can set official policy and speak for the international denomination.

General Conference is the denomination highest legislative body that brings together lay and clergy delegates from four continents whose decisions will affect how millions of United Methodists do church for years to come.

This will be held on April 23rd-May 3rd in Charlotte, NC.

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”

JOHN WESLEY

MN Annual Conference 2024

The Book of Discipline reminds us that the purpose of the annual conference is “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church; all to the glory of God.”

The 170th Session of The Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, will be held May 29-30, 2024, at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington.

The theme of this year’s Annual Conference is “Jesus. Redeemer.” based on Isaiah 43:1



Fun Corner

Test your knowledge of the Bible by answering the questions provided below.

(Challenge yourself by refraining from using a Bible app and instead referring to a physical Bible for the answers!)

Goal: Name the books of the Old Testament that begin with these lines:

1. "The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:
Meaningless! Meaningless!"
2. "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth--for your love is more delightful than wine"
3. "After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord..."
4. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."
5. "After the death of Joshua, the Israelites asked the Lord.
'Who will be the first to go up and fight for us against the Canaanites?'"
6. "In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land."
7. "How deserted lies the city, once so full of people."
8. "When King David was old and well advanced in years, he could not keep warm even when they put covers over him."
9. "In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah..."
10. "The Lord called to Moses and spoke to him from the Tent of Meeting."

Write Answers Here

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Answers will be given in the April Edition!



Prayer Corner

When we unite in prayer and openly share our needs with God, a profound sense of strength emerges. Let's invest some time in prayer, lifting up the concerns and requests listed in our prayer corner:

Prayer Requests

Horace Harper
James Cummings
Yahaya Kon (brother of Mary Toe)
Karen Morgan
Gilate Pilate (Hospice Care)
Mario McCoy
Corey Capers (Hospice Care)
Sharon Martin
Gary Martin
Maxine Bogan (Recovering from Hip Surgery)

Seniors and Homebound

Verlene Booker
Glenice Booker Butler
Margaret Carter
Shirley Cummings
Ginnie Dennis
Doris Douglas
Charlotte Drake
Johnette Houston
Pat Jemie
Carrie Lewis
Barbara Wulf

“Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

-HEBREWS 4:16 (NIV)

Celebration of Life: Daisy Harper

We send prayers to the family of Daisy Harper who went on to Glory on December 12, 2023.

Her celebration of Life will be held on Friday May 3rd at 11am at Camphor Memorial UMC

Prayer for the Month Listen Lord” -James Weldon Johnson

O Lord, we come this morning knee-bowed and body-bent before thy throne of grace. O Lord – this morning – bow our hearts beneath our knees, and our knees in some lonesome valley. We come this morning like empty pitchers to a full fountain, with no merits of our own. O Lord, open up a window of heaven, and lean out far over the battlements of glory, and listen this morning. Amen.



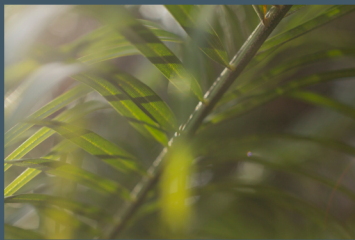
Camphor 4-1-1

Check out what is happening at Camphor during the Month of March and ways to get involved!

Holy Week: 2024

As we approach the sacred time of Holy Week, we invite you to join us for a series of meaningful services and reflections as we journey through the passion and resurrection of Christ.

Palm Sunday Sunday March 24th



Join us on Sunday, March 24th at 10:00 AM for a special Palm Sunday service, marking the beginning of Holy Week.

Good Friday: Friday March 29th

SEVEN LAST WORDS

A Good Friday Service

March 29, 2024 | 6:30 pm
Camphor Memorial UMC
585 Fuller Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55103



Resurrection Sunday Sunday March 31st



Worship with us on Sunday, March 31st. Our celebrations begin with a Sunrise Service at 6:00 AM at St. James AME (624 Central Ave W, St. Paul, MN 55104), with breakfast at Camphor. Our main worship service will be held at 10:00 AM



Minister Amber Z. Jones
Fellowship Baptist Church



Rev. Isiah Dennis, Pastor
Prospect Park UMC



Min. Janae Bates
Ex. Director, ISAIAH



Rev. Pamela Ngunjiri
St. James AME Church
Dir. for Racial Justice, MCC



Rev. Cynthia D. Williams
Superintendent
Twin Cities District, MAC



Rev. Dennis M. Oglesby Jr.
Host Pastor
Camphor Memorial UMC



Steven Belton
Park Avenue UMC



Rev. Dr.
Curtiss P. De Young
Ex. Director, MCC

Camphor 4-1-1

Worship/Music Ministry

- Rehearsals (All held in Sanctuary):
 - Sanctuary Choir:
 - Every First and Third Wednesday (4pm-6pm)
 - Every First and Third Saturday (1pm-3pm)
 - Woman's Chorale
 - Every Second Wednesday (4pm-6pm)
 - Every Second Saturday (4pm-6pm)
- Rose of Sharon Praise Dance Rehearsal: Every Second and Fourth Saturday (9am in Sanctuary)
- Mass Choir Rehearsals for Easter (VOG, Sanctuary, Chorale and Men's) (All rehearsals held in Sanctuary)
 - Wednesdays March 13th, March 20th and March 27th (4pm-6pm)
 - Saturday March 30th (1pm-3pm)



UMM and UWF



United Women in Faith

General Meeting: Saturday March 9th at 10am
(Fellowship/Narthex Area)

UWF Sunday: Sunday March 17th @ 10am (Sanctuary and Livestream)



United Methodist Men

General Meeting: Saturday March 9th
at 10:30am (Conference Room)



Expressing Gratitude for Your Support of the Youth-led Camphor Cafe on Sunday, March 3rd

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the parents, Camphor Church family, and friends for your unwavering support as our Youth hosted Camphor Cafe on Sunday, March 3rd!



Camphor 4-1-1

Ministry Teams Events

Usher Team Meeting: Every First Sunday
(12pm in Conference Room)

Trustee's Meeting: Every First Saturday
(10am via Zoom)

Christian Education

Camphor Connects Wednesdays:
Every Wednesday at 6pm (Camphor Memorial UMC)

Adult Sunday School:
Every Sunday from 8:45am-9:45am (Conference Room)

Camphor Memorial UMC Social Justice Ministry

Please Join the Camphor Memorial UMC Social Justice Ministry for "Power of the Tongue" Narrative Training. Together, we can change our world by changing our words! Learn the research backed and community focused way to have conversations about the world around us, making more possible and allowing 'life more abundant' in our politics and state. Palm Sunday, March 24th Immediately Following Service in the Narthex. Refreshments provided

JOIN CAMPHOR MEMORIAL UMC SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY FOR

POWER OF THE TONGUE NARRATIVE TRAINING

Change your world by changing your words!



PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24TH IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SERVICE IN THE NARTHEX

Learn the research-backed and community-focused way to have conversations about the world around us, making more possible and allowing 'life more abundant' in our politics and state.

Refreshments provided.





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SAINT PAUL, MN 55103

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**"Office hours:
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 am to 4 pm.**

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"Growing in our relationship with God, one another, and the community God called us to serve."

