

# Stories of PILGRIMAGE

## HAMLIN CHURCH NEWS JULY-AUGUST 2015



### IN THIS ISSUE:

**One Week in June**

**by Rev. Mariah Furness Tollgaard**

**Pilgrimage Towards a Community Oven**  
**by Mark Ireland**

**Being "On the Way"**  
**by Maggie Nancarrow**

**Using the Sun to Save the Earth**  
**by the Social Justice Committee**

Cookouts • Toddler Tuesdays  
• New Honors • 50s Car Show  
Report • Church Council Minutes

**Announcements • Summer Calendar**

# ONE WEEK IN JUNE...

BY REV. MARIAH FURNESS TOLLGAARD

SO OFTEN, IN THE CHURCHES WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL OR those celebrating some pleasant accomplishment. It happens less often that we articulate and pray God's guidance for the huge issues and moral challenges of our era in history. Will you join me in prayer and in asking our congregants to join us in praying about the rush of soul-stirring and soul-pounding events in such a short time, in the "current" of our daily events. "Have mercy on us, O God, according to your merciful love, according to your great compassion, blot out our transgressions..." (Psalm 51:3).

Such massive, sweeping things occur, larger than the human heart, unmanaged and profound:

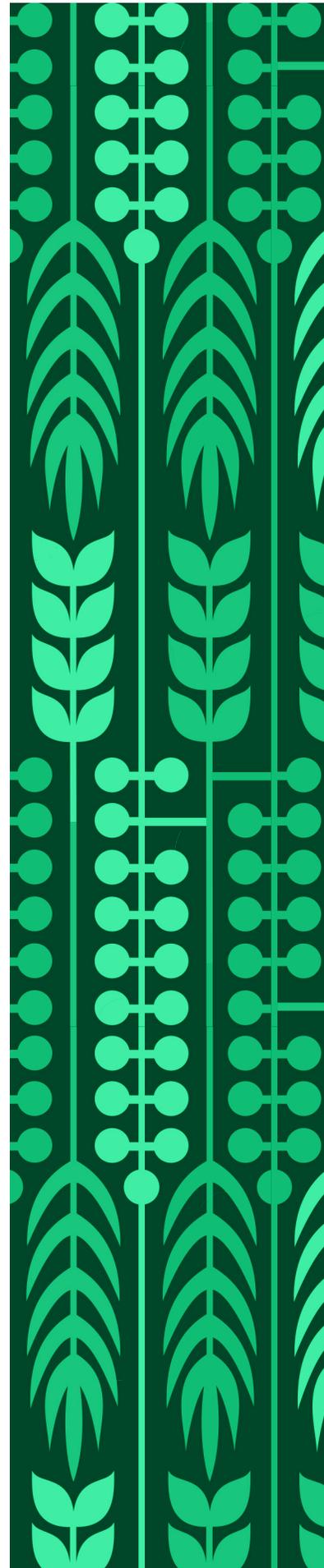
- the martyred souls in Charleston, calling all of us to account for four centuries of slavery and racism in America
- the dozens of innocents killed presumably by religious extremists in Tunis, and hundreds of others killed in similar instances elsewhere this week
- the release of Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si*, regarding the spiritual and social challenges of climate change for world health, poverty and sustainability for the generations
- the Supreme Court's affirmation of the legality of health care for all under the terms of the Affordable Care Act
- the Supreme Court's endorsement of a civil right to same-gender marriage in the US

These things occur against the backdrop of our confused and self-contradicting nation, seemingly endless war and terrorism, the calculated increases in global militarism, the daily toll of 8500 deaths of malnourished children worldwide, the sometimes subtle and sometimes powerfully distressing changes in our natural resources and weather—drought, poisoned or damaged waters, oil spills, the seeming incapacity to make civil discourse and decision-making work well in our bodies politic.

In such times, we are summoned to "look to the rock from which (we) are hewn" (Isaiah 51:1-2). This Rock does not overlook or fail to hear any "broken, humbled heart". We trust in this Rock, and we ask again and again to be taught the ways of peace and justice, to remove obstacles to fruitful dialogue, to give health and wholeness to all, and to receive peace and joy for all through the work of Christ in us.

Whatever our political convictions and values, in times when the foundations are shaken, we all turn to God for shalom, for the peace and wholeness which exceed and transform individual, religious or national ideals.

With thanks to Clay D. Oglesbee  
District Superintendent, River Valley District UMC



# BEING “ON THE WAY”

## REFLECTIONS ON THE YOUTH MINISTRY BY MAGGIE NANCARROW



This year, we've been reading a lot from the Gospel of Mark.

And, in the Gospel of Mark, there's a reoccurring theme: Jesus is always moving, always "on the way". He never stays put. If you've ever tried to sit down and read the Gospel of Mark, you might notice that it is a hurried book, almost anxious, and Jesus is moving to and fro constantly. In fact, one of the most frequently used words in the Gospel of Mark is "Immediately." Everything happens immediately in the Gospel of Mark. Even when Jesus goes to preach, he does it immediately.

Even in our most recent reading from the Gospel, on June 28, things happen so quickly that stories get inserted into other stories, and events pile up on top of each other.

It sort of reminds me of how I imagined my life when I was 17. There's something about being a teenager that is hurried, in constant motion, and always "on the way" towards this mythic thing called adulthood. And, that lifestyle has something to offer us when we think about who we are as Christians.

Although I don't think we should take on a crazy, hurried life, I do think there's something powerful about Mark's ever-moving, always immediate Jesus—something valuable for Christians of all ages in that rush of the teenage years.

Mark's Jesus was on constant pilgrimage, going from one place to another, always leaving something behind to start something new.

What I think we can learn from his journey, though, is that he always had his end-goal in mind: resurrection. Everywhere he went, every place he entered and left, all of that led to his call: to show God's love through resurrection. He was always moving, but never side-tracked.

The church, too, can be ever-moving, ever changing, always on a journey and always going somewhere. Mark's vision of Jesus can teach us how to accept journeys, change, and movement as a part of our identities as Christians. It reminds us that we must also be in motion as a church, going out from our home and into the wider world to accept our call.

Mark is only one of our four Gospels, so it's not as if we always have to be that kind of Christian, but it is a part of who we are. On some level, part of our identity is a constant pilgrimage, a constant movement towards our call to resurrection. It means that we leave some things behind, but it means mostly that there are always new things ahead, should we accept the journey.

# PILGRIMAGE TOWARDS A COMMUNITY OVEN

by Mark Ireland



CONSTRUCTION OF THE COMMUNITY BRICK OVEN AT HAMLINE CHURCH IS NOW NEAR COMPLETION. SIX MONTHS AGO, IT WAS AN IDEA. A DREAM FILLED WITH QUESTIONS, RISKS, AND POSSIBILITIES.

The church, in general, is not known for being nimble. My fear was that there would be raging debates, endless committee meetings, and hurt feelings. Yet, nothing that dramatic ever materialized. Nobody yelled at me or threatened to quit the church in protest. An anti-gluten caucus never formed. Instead, people were curious. People had questions. Most often, people would just get excited.

**An anti-gluten caucus never formed. Instead, people were curious.**

It felt right, and things fell into place.

We were awarded the grant from White Bear Lake United Methodist at the end of November, and then we began planning. Decisions were made about the placement of the oven on the church property, the size, and exterior finish. It was fun, and the grant allowed us to dream bigger knowing that we had the initial funding secured.



As the snow began to melt, things got very real.

In mid-April, I went to Menards with a long list of materials that we would need. Menards charged a flat rate for delivery, regardless of the amount of stuff. We wanted to take advantage of that policy. A week later, our \$50 delivery fee magically transformed into a semi-truck trailer filled with concrete block, insulation, wood, and ready-mix concrete. Another delivery fee was paid, and three mountains of rock,

sand and gravel appeared. Then construction began.

We broke ground on a crisp April day. People wore sweatshirts and smiled. I was pretty sure that the novelty would wear off and that we'd struggle to find volunteers, but that fear also never materialized. Week after week, people showed up. We had church folks, Hamline folks, House of Mercy folks, neighbors, and friends who owed me a favor.

The concrete slab turned into a cinderblock base. Then there was a cooking chamber. The walls grew taller. Brick was laid. A roof was raised, and a chimney popped out of the top.

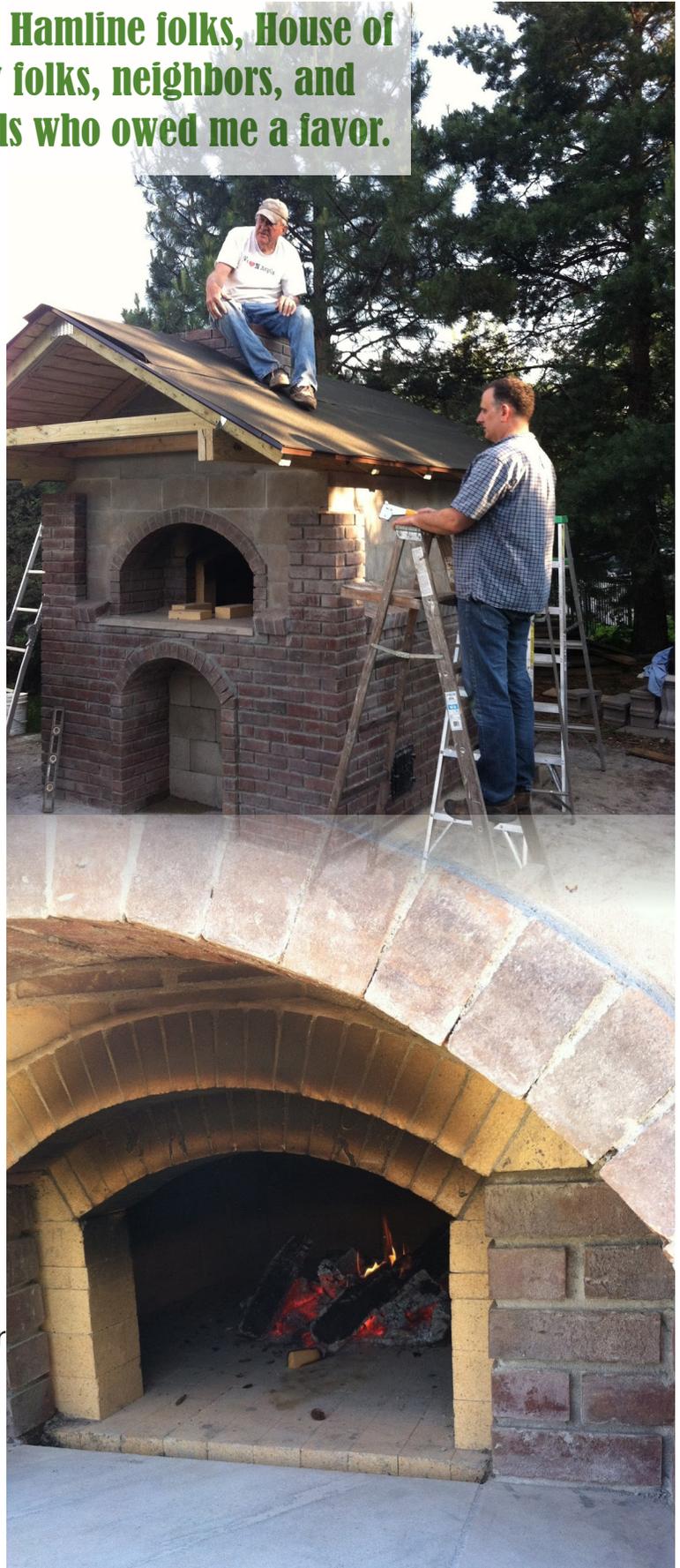
Now we are here.

A long time ago, there was just one oven for an entire village. It was inefficient for every person to have their own oven, and so the community shared a large oven in the center of town. In the process of baking, people would meet friends, discuss politics, share stories, and gossip. In addition to producing good food, the community ovens produced good neighbors. We've brought that old idea back to life.

The Community Brick Oven at Hamline Church is an outdoor, wood-fired brick oven. Although it will produce amazing pizzas and rustic bread, it is more than that. The oven will be a unique place in our community where we all can slow down, create, strengthen relationships, and build connections.

**OUR PILGRIMAGE CONTINUES.**

**Week after week, people showed up. We had church folks, Hamline folks, House of Mercy folks, neighbors, and friends who owed me a favor.**



# WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?



## FOOD AND FUN AT THE END OF SEMESTER COOKOUT

BY ROSS HACKENMILLER

On Wednesday, May 13th, we hosted a cookout for Hamline students on the front lawn to celebrate the end of the semester. Thirty-five students and two HU faculty showed up. The weather was great and the meal was delicious. Thanks to the generous contributions from congregation members, we had an awesome spread of food. Everyone had a great time sharing the communal meal, conversing, and playing lawn games.



BY TERRI SHEFELBINE

On May 9 Hamline Women Outdoors had a cook out at Big Bluestem Cabin in Afton State Park. As might be expected from Hamline the food was amazing cauliflower tabouli, humus, sausages cooked over the fire, and of course s'mores. Exploring the park on the first beautiful weekend of spring allowed us time to slow down, wander, and even get a bit lost in the beauty of God's world. Conversation between women of all ages flowed freely, but when there was a pause we could all be found staring into the campfire. We agreed that there was something both elemental and profound about fire and our relationship to it. When the stars came out, the bugs did not, and we could gaze into space and gain a new perspective on the universe and our very special place in it. We left feeling grateful to be afforded the time and space to witness the beauty of God's creation.

# WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

## MAKING NEW FRIENDS

### TODDLER TUESDAY MIDYEAR UPDATE BY KRISTA EVANS

Toddler Tuesdays meets on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday each month. It's a time of play and fellowship for children age 0-5 and family from nearby Hamline/Midway neighborhoods. We provide a welcoming space for fun, community building & resources for families near the church, like La Leche League meetings and onsite daycare. Nearly 40 families have visited and had positive experiences at Hamline Church through this program sponsored by the Hamline Trustees Growth Initiative grant.



## CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE

### NEW HONORS FOR HAMLINE CHURCH BY MARY BAKEMAN, HAMLINE CHURCH HISTORIAN

At their 2015 session, the Minnesota Annual Conference designated Hamline Church as its fifteenth historic site, based on its founding connection with Hamline University, its unique gothic architecture, and its relationship with hosting Annual Conference sessions for the Methodist Church of MN from 1948-1968.

Those years bracket the merger of the several separate conferences into one and the recognition of the denominational merger creating The United Methodist Church. Many other significant events took place during those years, such as the ordination of Mary MacNichol, the first woman to receive full clergy rights in our Conference.

In offering this legislation, the MN Annual Conference Commission on Archives and History noted:

*"...this continues the story of Hamline University (Red Wing) and the Market Street Church (St. Paul), both previously noted as Conference Historic Sites. This action also supports the role of the General Commission on Archives and History 'to serve the Church's Ministry of Memory so we may continue to learn from our past and anticipate our future.' Through our Historic Sites we can reach new people, sharing the rich heritage of more than 150 years of Methodist, Evangelical and United Brethren history in Minnesota."*

The honor came close on the heels of the St. Paul Historic Preservation Commission announcing their 2015 stewardship award to Hamline Church. One of the highest honors given by the City of St. Paul, this award recognizes the work of the History Team, Trustees and Church Council for their work in the care and attention given to our beautiful facility through our listing on the National Register and our recent conditions report. The enhanced lighting in the sanctuary is a visible sign of those efforts.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS! ON SEPTEMBER 27, BISHOP OUGH WILL BE HERE TO HELP US CELEBRATE!**

# USING THE SUN TO SAVE THE EARTH

## FROM THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

This spring our children have explored caring for creation by working in the sprout garden. Lessons in environmental stewardship will carry over into the summer as the theme for Vacation Bible Camp. At the final session of VBC on August 20, we will offer a “camp session” for adults on solar energy. This session will be aimed at increasing our understanding of the issues related to global warming and beginning a conversation about how we as individuals and as a community can work toward solutions.

**AT THE FINAL SESSION  
OF VBC ON AUGUST  
20, WE WILL OFFER A  
“CAMP SESSION” FOR  
ADULTS ON SOLAR  
ENERGY.**

The speaker for the adult session is J. Drake Hamilton. J. is the science policy director for Fresh Energy, a local organization committed to promoting the use of renewable energy and shaping environmentally sound public policies.

J. is an engaging communicator who can discuss climate science on par with anyone. She has earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in physical geography from Dartmouth College and the University of Minnesota with an emphasis on climatology and water resources. J. uses her education and communication skills to advocate for global warming solutions - including renewable energy. A focus of the evening will be the use of solar power. Advances in technology and public policy are making this resource more available and affordable.

As people of God we are responsible for the care of His creation. Hamline Church is one of a growing number of congregations seeking to employ more eco-friendly practices and reduce its own carbon footprint. We have already incorporated a number of earth friendly practices into our church life. The rain garden enhances water quality by effectively filtering the runoff from our parking lot. The Sprout and the butterfly gardens reflect sustainable organic practices. We recycle throughout the building and plan to begin composting soon. We are also making facility improvements based upon a recent energy audit. Lighting in the sanctuary and throughout the building has been replaced with energy efficient lights. Steadily, we are investing in changes to save resources - both monetary and environmental.

**PLEASE JOIN US THURSDAY, AUGUST 20 AT 6PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL (FIRESIDE ROOM) FOR THIS CONVERSATION. THERE WILL BE REFRESHMENTS AS WELL AS A DRAWING FOR A FREE HOME ENERGY SQUAD VISIT!**



## BACK TO THE 50S CAR SHOW

A big, big thank you from the Dining Hall Committee to everyone who volunteered before, during, and after the Back To The '50s Car Show weekend. The crowds kept us very busy, but your hard work paid off. We grossed a record \$53,700. We could not have been so successful without your generous support. Thank you all.



## SUMMARY OF THE MAY 19, 2015 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

1. Co-Chair Amy Schultz opened the meeting. Rev. Mary Keen gave an opening prayer.

2. Written reports were received in advance from two committees (only). The minutes of the March 17 Church Council meeting were approved as distributed. (Clarification: Kati Green was commended for communion coordination through Lent and Jan Kimes and Matt Mehaffey coordinated the Youth musicians and dancer.)

3. Maggie Nancarrow, reporting from Staff, stated that Confirmation Sunday went well. The awesome Confirmand statements were commented upon. She also highlighted the June 7 Appreciation (for Volunteers) Sunday. The Staff were commended for taking on additional responsibilities so effectively.

4. Jan Bajuniemi, for SPRC, relayed that a new District Superintendent, Rev. Dan Johnson, would take over in the Twin Cities District in July. Pastor Mariah Tollgaard has asked Anne Thompson and Amy Schultz to continue as Council Co-Chairs through July. The DS change may have an impact for HCUM's renewal through the Conference 3R (Reach, Renew, Rejoice) program. The Renewal may also have an effect on our future governance/committee structure. Mariah has asked all Committee Chairs to recommend persons for new committee members. It was pointed out that some committees can have a few non-church members. We can ask new congregants to assist with special projects such as Rally Sunday.

5. From the Finance committee, Mark Krueger, said that the Church is in "pretty good shape financially." Pledge income is steady. Income through April was \$172,000, with expenses of \$167,000. \$15,000 has been paid toward 2015 conference apportionments, with a goal of continuing to pay quarterly. We will make our \$45,000 conference payments on the 3R program over three years. Maggie Nancarrow and Heather Grantham were commended for doing a great job in managing office affairs. Special recognition was given to Dave Anderson for his work with the designated accounts and regularizing our bill payments. The current stained glass preservation project was paid for with funding from a grant, a significant anonymous contribution, congregant contributions, and other funds.

6. Heidi Brezinka, reporting for the Trustees, stated that money is being spent on several projects in and around the church. Included are landscape/gardening, improve drainage around a window well, painting (with lead removal), lighting improvements, stained glass windows preservation, and the choir practice room. Some water damage in a few freshly painted areas is indicative of foundation leaks. The

lease with the Bilingual Child Care and Education Center has been extended to May, 2016. The House of Mercy group has requested some additional space.

7. Diane Krueger, Chair of Social Justice/Missions, reported on the positive 2014 cooperative project with the Dining Hall in raising \$4,500 for the Feed My Starving Children organization—which was also endorsed by the Minnesota Annual Conference. Various options for 2015 support were discussed, including Second Harvest, Loaves and Fishes with the Dorothy Day Center, Caring Bridge, and Family Place. Diane suggested that the recent Confirmands be involved in the selection project. The consensus of Church Council was that this level of sharing Dining Hall receipts be continued for 2015. Maggie will work with the new members and their families in making a recommendation for a food-related local (or Minnesota) charitable group for 2015 at the July 21 Church Council.

8. Jane McClure, representing Virginia Anderson for the UMW/Hamline Church Women presented the case for HCUM having a table at the Hamline-Midway Festival at Hancock School on June 16. Hamline Church Women was considered a "community group" and there would be no charge. Popcorn and lemonade will be served at the Zero-Waste event. A HCUM banner will be present. A motion to support HCUM participation was approved by consensus.

9. Jim Schlaeppi, our Lay Delegate to Annual Conference on May 27-29 in St. Cloud, noted that votes will take place on issues related to marriage and changes in the Discipline. In addition a vote will take place on including HCUM on the Conference list of Historic Places.

10. It was noted that the weekend of June 19-21 will be a busy time. The Back to the 50s car show runs for that three-day period and Sunday, June 21 is Father's Day, Mary Keen's last Sunday, and Loaves and Fishes serving day at the Dorothy Day Center. Also mentioned was the 40th birthday of Matt Mehaffey.

11. Jane McClure stated that the History committee members were at the City of St. Paul Historic Preservation Commission's award ceremony that evening, for the presentation of the Stewardship Award. The Women's group had made the nomination, which reflected the Trustees approving a number of preservation/improvement projects. Two plaques will be made, one for the archives and another for attachment to the building in a public area.

12. Co-Chair Amy Schultz closed the meeting with a prayer.

# COMING UP AT HAMLINE CHURCH

## SUMMER CALENDAR

Saturday and Sunday, June 27 and 28  
Pride Weekend

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Sunday, July 12 - 18  
Youth Mission to South Dakota

Sunday, July 19  
Don Saliers, Guest Preacher

Wednesday, July 22  
Vacation Bible Camp

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Friday, August 7  
Saint Paul Saints Game

Sunday, August 9  
Yolanda Williams, Guest Worship  
Leader

Sunday, August 9 - 13  
Youth BWCA Wilderness Retreat

Tuesday, August 11 - 13  
Camp MSP

Sunday, August 16  
Loaves and Fishes at Dorothy Day

Thursday, August 20  
Vacation Bible Camp

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Thursday, August 27 - September 7  
Hamline Dining Hall at the  
Minnesota State Fair

**Dear Hamline Church Family,**

**Thank you so much for all of your care and support as we welcome Willa to our family. Your prayers, cards, food, gifts and well wishes mean so much to us. Ryan and I are so grateful that our daughters are growing up surrounded by the love of this wonderful church family.**

**A special thank you to my colleague and friend the Rev. Mary Keen, and all of the incredible staff at Hamline Church for your ministry and coverage during my maternity leave.**

**With abiding thanks,  
Pastor Mariah, Ryan, Marisol & Willa**

**HAMLIN OUTDOOR WOMEN  
STAND-UP PADDLE BOARDING  
SATURDAY JULY 18 AT 8 AM  
Lebanon Hills Park**

Join Hamline Women for the third annual Stand-up Paddle Boarding outing made possible with a Growth Initiative grant from the Trustees. We will meet at the Lebanon Hills Visitors Center at 860 Cliff road at 8 am, coffee and bagels provided. There will be six paddle boards available to play with on the lake, rain or shine. Wear a swimming suit and bring a towel. No need to RSVP.

**Contact: Terri Shefelbine at [terrias@usgo.net](mailto:terrias@usgo.net) or 651-690-1793**

**DON SALIERS TO PREACH ON JULY 19**

The Rev. Dr. Don Saliers will be delivering the Hamline Church Sermon on Sunday, July 19. He is an influential theologian, author, composer, scholar, and ordained Methodist pastor known for his work on theology and worship practices. Dr. Saliers recently co-authored a book, *A Song to Sing, A Life to Live*, with his daughter Emily Saliers, founder of the Indigo Girls. We can find his psalm settings in our own (red) UMC hymnals in the pews at Hamline Church. Don is in Minnesota this summer teaching a graduate course in hymnody and psalmody at St. John's University.

**BUTTER QUEEN COFFEE ICE CREAM**

That's the name of our exclusive new Hamline Church Dining Hall Izzy's Ice Cream Flavor! According to the Star Tribune, it's "a clever marriage between the fair's long-standing butter sculpture tradition and the church basement's irreplaceable cup of coffee."



# HAMLIN CHURCH

UNITED METHODIST

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## STAFF

Pastor.....Rev. Mariah Furness Tollgaard  
 Director of Youth and Family Ministry  
*and* Interim Director of Communications.....Maggie Nancarrow  
 Director of Children's and Family Ministry  
*and* Interim Director of Operations.....Heather Grantham  
 Director of Music.....Matthew Mehaffey  
 Music & Outreach Coordinator.....Ross Hackenmiller  
 Organist.....Kim Kasling