

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MESSENGER

December 2022



Advent and Christmas

We have one month to go in 2022. However, according to the church year/calendar, we just started a new year with Advent. Happy New Year!

Advent marks the beginning of the church year, and it begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day and ends on Christmas Eve. If Christmas Day falls on a Sunday, like this year, Advent will last four full weeks. If Christmas Day falls on any other day of the week, Advent will last less than four weeks.

Then, what is 'Advent'? Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus* and the meaning coming or visit. So, we practice Advent as we expect Jesus' coming. It is a season for Christians to prepare for the coming of Christ in various meanings:

- * The promised coming of the Messiah to the Jews
- *The coming of Jesus being born in Bethlehem
- *The promised return of the risen Christ in final victory
- *The continual coming of Christ into the lives and hearts of believers

So, Advent is a season of 'waiting' for the coming of Christ, and we celebrate and remember Advent based on these scriptures.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life"(John 3:16)

"The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth"(John 1:14).

We celebrate and remember the past event that God sent Jesus to save us and the future hope when Jesus will come again as the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

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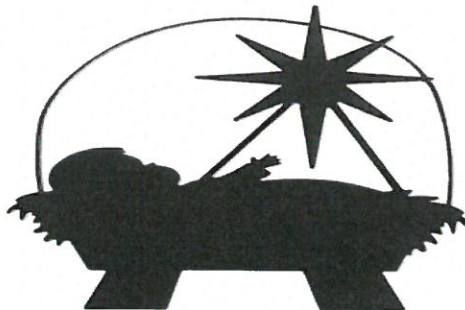
December

Some seek the answer to the meaning of life, and others seek love, people, or things to fill their emptiness. There's a Christian song titled 'Jesus is the answer.' Yes, Jesus is the answer, the way, the truth, and the life. As we enter the Advent season this year, let's wait for nothing but Jesus as we invite Jesus into our whole life. Ask him to sit on the throne of our lives and be the center of our lives. Jesus can heal and restore us because Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords, a good shepherd, good friends, and the world's best doctor. Moreover, Jesus is the Messiah who can save us.

The scripture definitely says that Jesus will come again. Then, what are we waiting for? It sounds like an easy math question, but many people don't know the answer, and people don't wait for the right one. In this season of coming (Advent), I hope and pray that we can wait for the right one and share the truth with others.

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

In Christ,
Pastor Baek



Office Contacts & Information

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OFFICE PHONE: 410.326.4475

December

"Longest Night" Christmas Service

St. Paul will again offer this worship and prayer service on Tuesday evening, Dec. 20, 2022 at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. While Jesus came and brought light into the darkness, for many, Christmas brings its share of anxiety, sorrow, and longing. We pray God's presence in this service recognizing that these are also Christmas emotions. We pray for and welcome all who feel such a service will be helpful to you as we worship God, recognizing our humanity and God's promise that through Jesus our joy can be complete.



Christmas Day (Sunday, Dec. 25) Worship service at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary only - no broadcast. Come join in sharing your Christmas traditions. Melvin Grover will lead the Christmas worship service.

New Year's Day (Sunday, Jan. 1) Worship service at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. This service will be available via the internet as usual. The first day of the New Year 2023 we will renew our baptism. Those at home, you are ask to gather a container of water and a sea shell for your participation. Melvin Grover will lead the New Year's Day worship service.

SPUMC COVID Statement

"COVID 19 and its variants are still with us. Health Care Professionals continue to recommend vaccinations and booster shots. St Paul believes masks are a personal choice and will continue to provide them at the entrance along with hand sanitizer. And as always, if you don't feel well, please stay home and visit us on-line!"

December

FINANCE

Karen Hill, Chair

St. Paul UMC Finances as of 30 November 2022

	Actual (YTD)	Budget (YTD)	Annual Budget	Annual %
Contributions	\$ 287,879.63	\$375,543.40	\$410,241.85	70.2%
Expenses	\$309,692.10	\$377,292.31	\$410,241.85	75.5%

The St. Paul UMC congregations has graciously made an additional \$60,802.31 in benevolent (restricted giving) to benefit the ministries, missions and those in need in 2022.

Current Month (November)	Actual	Budget	Variance (better / worse)	Annual %
Contributions	\$ 27,093.78	\$ 34,398.40	(\$7,304.62)	-21.2%
Expenses	\$19,840.49	\$ 33,524.88	\$13,684.39	40.8%



You shop. Amazon gives.

*Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support **St. Paul UMC** by starting your shopping going to the St. Paul website @ www.stpaul-lusby.org and clicking on the AMAZONSMILE link.*



St. Paul UMC will be collecting coats and jackets for those in need this Winter. Please donate coats in clean condition and in good repair by December 18th, 2022. This time of the year is a good time to go through your closets and see what can be donated! We hope to get these coats to the migrants and/or homeless and needy. All sizes accepted. For any questions or more information please see Pastor Baek or Diane Schmidt. Thank you so much for your continued support of the missions and ministries of St. Paul UMC !

Prayer Requests



Call the Prayer Chain when you need a prayer for yourself or others. Activate it by calling anyone on the list anytime, day or night.

When called, they will pray for your concern and pass the concern on to the other prayer chain members. Do not hesitate to use the power our gracious Lord has given us. Call on Him for help and guidance.

John & Sessaly Boyd 410-326-4390
Ben & Vonnie Dansberger 410-326-2994
John & Robin Read 443-404-8559
Dave & Debby Showalter 410-326-2150

Cal & Carolyn Colvin 301-862-3273
Ruth Humphreys 410-326-4687
Andy & Beth Rogers 410-326-6346
Susan Leins Baker 410-326-6234

Hi Pantry Volunteers,

We have an immediate need for a volunteer(s) to pick up the perishable donations Friday mornings at 8am from the Weis Solomons and Lusby stores. The food is set aside for us in carts, and just needs to be loaded into your vehicle, brought into the pantry, weighed, recorded, and set up on the shelves. This usually takes about 1 hour from start to finish. If you can help with this service opportunity, please let me know! We are VERY thankful to Joan and Jesse Sampson for their faithful pick-ups for these past few years!

If every Friday is too much commitment, but you would be willing to help out once or twice a month, we can put together a schedule for this too. It's a great way of supporting SMILE in a behind the scenes effort. Just let me know!

We are also looking for some hams for our Christmas distribution beginning Friday Dec 16th. If you have grocery store points and won't be using them for your family, please consider using them and donating the ham to SMILE. At Weis, it takes 400 points for a free ham, but only one ham per bonus card is allowed.

Thanks for all you ALREADY do for SMILE - please pass this along to anyone else you think may be interested in helping out too!

call us at 410-326-0009 during store hours, or visit our

Links: <http://smileinc.org>

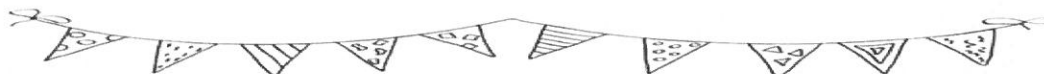


"SMILE" Food Pantry Donations

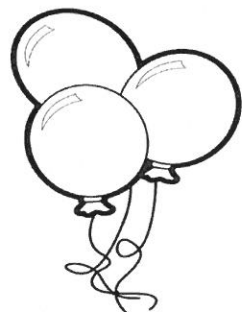
Non-perishable grocery items are collected the 1st Sunday of each month in St. Paul's parking lot!

December

BIRTHDAYS!



Hudson, Joe	12/01	Libby, George	12/13
Miller, Celia	12/01	Prowinski, Jaden	12/13
Spruce Jr., Bill	12/01	Wiard, Mackenzie	12/14
Depelteau, Mary	12/02	Carper, Lindsey	12/15
Pinkowski, Paul	12/02	Custer, Michael	12/15
Cornett, Calli	12/03	Fouse, Stephen	12/15
Cornett, Kenzi	12/03	Purcarey, Jade	12/15
Smucker, Jennifer	12/03	Bobbie Jo Cave	12/16
Halstead, Nathan	12/04	Munn, Kevin	12/16
Robinson, Sarah	12/04	Stone, Jason	12/16
Light, Hailey	12/05	Witheridge, Keith	12/16
Dunn, Claire	12/06	Yurko, Christy	12/17
Hankins, Megan	12/06	Parrott, Betty	12/18
Weitzel, Ryan	12/06	Carver, Susan	12/19
Barnes, Veda Fay	12/07	Merricks, Morgan	12/19
Bowen, Austin	12/07	Reeves, Brian	12/19
Cave Jr., Kenneth	12/07	Ritter, Hoyt	12/19
Pols, Wyatt	12/08	Pouncey, Allison	12/20
Sieder, Bunny	12/08	Allor, Kevin	12/21
Smith, Donna	12/08	Muldoon, Gordon	12/21
St. Clair, Archie	12/08	Chambers, Elizabeth	12/22
Williams, Michelle	12/08	Guitierrez, Kelli	12/22
Mulvey, Michael	12/10	Thacker, Nancy	12/23
Sampson, Jesse	12/10	Guitierrez, Ryan	12/24
Hutcheson, Charles	12/11	Spruce, Janet	12/24
Grover, Doris	12/12	Didra, Debra	12/27
Johnson, James	12/12	Stockett, Bonnie	12/28
		Wood, Tina	12/28
		Eubank Jr., Dan	12/29
		Goss, Helen	12/29
		Miller, Rick	12/29
		Nelson IV, Lee	12/29
		Willis, Haleigh	12/29
		Wolchick, Ellen	12/29
		Dansberger, Sr. Ben	12/30
		Boyd, John	12/31
		Garner, Tilden	12/31



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>27</p> <p>9am - Traditional Worship 10am - Adult SS- FH 10am - Children SS 11am - Contemporary Worship 6pm - Youth - The Zone</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:45pm - Bible Study @ Library,</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9am - HeartFELT 5pm - OLSS Basketball AC 6pm - BS Troop#451, FH 6:30pm - Bible Study Library</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:15pm - Praise Band, AC 6:30pm - Choir Practice @ 7:30pm - AA, FH</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6pm - Trustees, Library 7pm - BS Troop #451 FH, AC/10,</p>	<p>2</p> <p>4:30pm - OLSS Basketball AC @ 8pm - AA @ FH</p>	
<p>4</p> <p>9am - Traditional Worship 10am - Adult SS- FH 10am - Children SS 11am - Contemporary Worship 1:30pm - Group View "Stay or Go" 6pm - Youth - The Zone</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:45pm - Bible Study @ Library,</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9am - HeartFELT 10am - Group View "Stay or Go"-2 5pm - OLSS Basketball AC @ AC 6:30pm - Bible Study-Library 7pm - BS Troop#451, FH 7:30pm - SPUMPS Board Meeting</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:15pm - Praise Band, AC 6:30pm - Choir Practice @ 7:30pm - AA, FH</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:30pm - Finance / FH @ 7pm - BS Troop #451 AC</p>	<p>9</p> <p>SPUMPS CLOSED/CLEANING 4pm - OLSS Basketball AC @ AC 5pm - Scouts Camp In/ 11 & 13 8pm - AA @ FH</p>	<p>12am - Scouts Camp In/AC 10am - Group View "Stay or Go" 1:30pm - Group View "Stay or Go"</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9am - Traditional Worship 10am - Adult SS- FH 10am - Children SS 11am - Contemporary Worship 6pm - Youth - The Zone</p>	<p>12</p> <p>4:30pm - OLSS Basketball 6:45pm - Bible Study @ Library,</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9am - HeartFELT 10am - Group viewing "Stay or Go" 10:30am - SPRC / Rm. 11 10:30am - Women's Bible Study 5pm - OLSS Basketball AC @ AC 6:30pm - Bible Study Library 7pm - BS Troop#451, FH</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:15pm - Praise Band, AC 6:30pm - Choir Practice @ 6:30pm - Group View "Stay or Go" 6:30pm - Lay pastor 7:30pm - AA, FH</p>	<p>15</p> <p>BS Troop #451 FH or outside AC 10am - Group View "Stay or Go"-5 5pm - Trustee Workday /Hallway 6:30pm - Church Council @</p>	<p>16</p> <p>3:30pm - SPUMPS Christmas 8pm - AA @ FH</p>	
<p>18</p> <p>10am - Cantata Service 11am - Fellowship- AC 6pm - Youth - The Zone</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:45pm - Bible Study @ Library,</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9am - HeartFELT 6:30pm - Bible Study Library 7pm - BS Troop#451, FH 7pm - The Longest Night</p>	<p>21</p> <p>4pm - Newsletter Article Due 6:15pm - Praise Band, AC 6:30pm - Choir Practice @ 7:30pm - AA, FH</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>SPUMPS Winter Break 8pm - AA @ FH</p>	<p>7pm - Christmas Eve candlelight 11pm - Christmas Candlelight</p>
<p>25</p> <p>SPUMPS Winter Break 10am - Christmas Worship</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:45pm - Bible Study @ Library,</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9am - HeartFELT 6:30pm - Bible Study Library 7pm - BS Troop#451, FH</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:15pm - Praise Band, AC 6:30pm - Choir Practice @ 7:30pm - AA, FH</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8pm - AA @ FH</p>	