

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MESSENGER December 2023



Greetings, St. Paul UMC family and friends!

We have had Epistles on Sundays since July 2023, Romans, 1 Thessalonians, and Ephesians. We learned that the early Christians believed they could see Jesus' return with their naked eyes. Unfortunately, it didn't happen the way they thought. Today, after more than 2,000 years, we are still waiting for Jesus to return, putting our hope and trust in the truth because that is what Jesus promised us.

As we begin our journey into Advent this year, let us remember that Jesus' promise to return is still valid. As we gather in the warmth of fellowship and the spirit of anticipation, we joyfully welcome you to the Advent season at St. Paul UMC. As we mark the beginning of this holy season, we invite you to join us in reflection, prayer, and celebration as we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ Child.

Advent Devotions

Let us journey together through the Advent season with devotions that will guide us in quiet contemplation and prayer. Please pick up "The Upper Room" and use it for daily devotions. You may find other resources online or in print. May God bless your time of devotion and lead you to a deeper level of God's grace and truth. Join us in daily reflection as we seek a deeper connection with God and one another.

Sunday Worship Services

Our Sunday worship services during Advent are filled with the joyful sounds of hymns, gospel readings, and the lighting of Advent candles. Come and be a part of this meaningful tradition as we approach the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Services will be held at our regular times (9 am-traditional & 11 am-contemporary) except for the 17th. We will have Cantata on the 17th at 9 am. Fellowship time will follow in the Activity Center, and we will sing some Christmas carols with the Praise Band.

Longest Night Service:

We will have a Longest Night service on December 21, 2023 (Thursday). The holidays are also a painful time for people who have brokenness in their lives, especially people who have lost loved ones this year. Frankly, we all have some level of brokenness in our lives. Let's come together and encourage one another to focus on God's grace and love to heal and comfort us.

Christmas Eve Service

Please mark your calendars for our special Christmas Eve services on December 24 which includes morning services at 9 am (Traditional), 11 am (Contemporary). Afternoon services are at 4:00 pm (Family), and 7:00 pm & 11:00 pm (Candlelight with Communion). Join us in worship and experience the beauty of the season as we sing Christmas carols, listen to the timeless story of Christ's birth, remember God's boundless and unconditional love through the life and ministry of Jesus, and participate in the lighting of candles to symbolize the light of Christ shining in our lives.

Community Outreach

Please find opportunities to help and support those in need. Your generosity will make a difference in the lives of those in need and embody the love and compassion of Christ. You can join the HeartF.E.L.T. ministry every Tuesday at 9 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Prayer Stations

The prayer ministry team will prepare 4 stations out across the St. Paul UMC campus for you to stop and visit. It is an opportunity for our church members and, hopefully, those rushing around during the Christmas Season to maybe stop by. All are welcome. Please take a few moments to relax with God and celebrate Christ's birth this season.

Christmas Lessons and Carols

Join us for a combined worship service on December 30 at 10 am. Please bring your family, friends, and neighbors to share the joy of the season through the timeless melodies that celebrate the birth of our Savior.

As we embark on this Advent journey together, may our hearts be open to the love and grace that God freely gives. May we embrace this season with hope, peace, joy, and love.

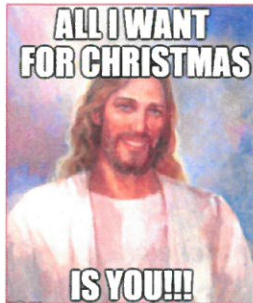
Blessings to you and yours this Advent season!

In Christ's love,
Pastor Myungha Baek



Children and Youth Leader Report

December 2023



"Jesus...All I want for Christmas...is you". I dare you not to sing this to yourself every time you hear Mariah Carey's famous Christmas song this year when shopping or driving in the car. Imagine what could have been if the lyricist had just added Jesus into the chorus of this tuneful popular song. How many people would stop what they were doing just for a moment or two to bring Jesus in their thoughts and hearts? As the Christmas season approaches, offer a friendly "Merry Christmas" or "Jesus is the Reason for the Season" in your interactions with others. Showing Jesus' love and sharing the message of his birth are just a few ways to act as Jesus' disciple. You never know who needs to hear those

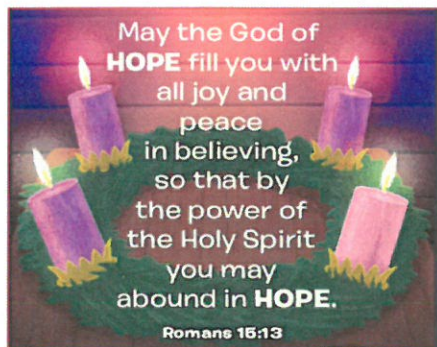
words in their life that day.

Trunk or Treat was a huge success thanks to our church family who prepared the church and lot for visitors, decorated trunks and the indoors with Halloween decor and provided indoor games and prizes for our activity center events. The addition of the praise band brought energy and enthusiasm into what became a very WARM fall day. Special thanks to Cindy Shippert who helped to organize games inside and allowed me to personally meet and greet over 30 families in our community to connect and invite them back for more family fun in the future.

Chili cookoff will be taking place November 19th from 4-6PM. Compete to win prizes in "Hottest" "Crowd favorite" and "Most Unique/different" categories. Activities surrounding Attitudes of Gratitude and thankfulness will be held as we determine our winning main dishes.

All Church EVENT– Christmas Caroling Event- December 21 (tentative) @ Solomons Hermitage and Garden of Lights - Ann Marie Gardens

Christmas Eve we would like to have a short Children's pageant called "Stellar Christmas" related to the outstanding summer VBS program. I'm told there is "no rehearsal" for this program so if you have family coming in from out of town with interested children this could be a perfect event for them. St. Paul current children are encouraged to be a part of the celebration, so please contact the office or Ms. Sherry for more information.



Calendar of Events:

Weekly Children and teen Sunday School @ 10:15 AM
Uth Meetings 5-7PM (with supper served) 11/26, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17
Christmas Caroling 12/21 5-7:30
Teen Retreat to Williamsburg- 12/27-12/29 (tentative)

May the God of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love be yours this season.
Sherry Mervine, Children and Youth Leader

Finance Committee

Karen D Hill
 Chairman, Finance Committee
 Email: kdh12@earthlink.net
 Cell: 804.387.1444

Goal: Monitor financial status of St Paul United Methodist Church to support the continued upkeep of the facilities and support for the Mission and Evangelical activities of the church

November Update:
 2023 Expense Budget is available upon request.

Restricted Accounts: Going forward, a process will be in place to request / approve creating new restricted accounts. If a Restricted Account is no longer active, a process to identify, recommend resolutions and review by Church Council will be established.

The Finance Committee continues to discuss areas for cost savings in relation to the Operating Expenses. Year to date Expenses is higher than Unrestricted Income (see information below)

Reminder: Tax Exemption Certificate – available from Church Office for qualifying purchases Encourage reporting of expenses and requests for reimbursement be made in a timely manner.

Financial Planning workshops in 2024 – beginning in January, financial education sessions will be provided by members of our church to help individuals with personnel financial awareness, long term planning, etc. This was available several years ago and we believe it is time to offer this training opportunity once again. More information will be provided when available.

Year End Giving Opportunities: Don't forget St Paul United Methodist Church if you are looking for additional charitable giving this tax year.

St. Paul UMC Finances as of 31 October 2023

	Actual (YTD)	Budget (YTD)	Annual Budget	Annual %
Contributions	\$ 254,183.76	\$332,079.76	\$399,519.35	63.6%
Expenses	\$ 312,374.41	\$330,942.65	\$399,519.35	78.2%

The St. Paul UMC congregations has graciously made an additional \$22,089 in benevolent (restricted giving) to benefit the ministries, missions and those in need in 2023.

Current Month (October)	Actual	Budget	Variance (better / worse)	Annual %
Contributions	\$ 27,714.16	\$ 33,469.80	(\$5,755.64)	-17.2%
Expenses	\$ 28,516.12	\$ 33,516.85	\$5,000.73	14.9%

November 9, 2023 Church Council Committee Reports

Evangelism-Missy Lauber

My thanks to one and all who participated in our annual Trunk or Treat. We served 81 children and their families. A special thanks to Rick Muldoon and our Praise Band and Pastor for giving us awesome music during the event and to Donna House for getting the Solomon's Fire Department to come out to our event.

Lay Leader-Donna House

God is good, all the time. All the time, God is good.

It has been a wonderful fall at St. Paul UMC! I knew when I took on this role that God had a plan for St. Paul and we have much to be thankful over the last few months!

I am thankful for:

- We have settled into our new routine of the 9:00 and 11:00 services in the sanctuary and a few facility modifications are being made to enhance our worship.
- Weekly attendance is growing, and we have visitors at many services. Praise God!
- "Trunk or Treat" was a fantastic outreach in our community with around 100 children attending.
- One of those families attended church the next day. Praise God!
- Fellowship time continues at 10:00 in the Activity Center each Sunday with a lite breakfast, coffee and juice.
- Many have volunteered to assist with fellowship time set up and break down each Sunday. Praise God!
- Our Church Conference was held on October 18th and all business of the church was approved.
- Many have agreed to take on new positions in the church on committees or as leaders and all vacancies are filled. Praise God!
- We have welcomed 10 new members to the St. Paul Congregation since May.
- Welcome to Wende Flagler who joined in October. Praise God!
- Our new Children's and Youth Leader, Sherry Mervine, is planning monthly family events for all.
- Our next family activity is a "Chili Cook-off" on Sunday, November 19th from 4 to 6 pm. Praise God!
- The finance committee is working on the budget for 2024 and is asking folks to commit their giving on yellow "Pledge Cards" by November 19th.
- Our church is growing in our understanding of offerings going to the General Fund to be used to pay the expenses of the church. Praise God!
- Our church family is very giving and embrace opportunities for outreach.
- Over 100 "Operation Christmas Child" Shoeboxes are packed and ready to be shipped to children in need. Praise God!
- Poinsettias can be ordered in memory or honor of someone and will decorate our sanctuary December 17th and 24th.

- We will have five services on Christmas Eve – 9:00 am, 11:00am, 4:00pm, 7:00pm and 11:00pm. Praise God!
- Sunday, December 31st will be a combined service in the sanctuary at 10:00am.
- We will end 2023 together with a brunch at 11:00am in the Activity Center. Praise God!
- We are thankful for Pastor Baek and all the gifts he provides the St. Paul congregation.

Sunday School-Susan Baker

Positive points: The materials closet is in good order thanks to Barb Mack's organization skills.

Class reports: The adult class is currently meeting in room 10 of the CLC.

They are starting "Who Needs Christmas; Advent study 11/12. There has been a slight increase in class attendance. Joan continues to teach the class. She would welcome switching out with someone at times. The High School class has been available but currently does not have a regular second person. Currently we have no active students.

The elementary class has one or two participants and two teachers. Their studies align with scripture readings in worship.

A whiteboard was donated for use in the elementary class.

Sunday School Schedule

- There will not be Sunday School on December 24th and 31st. On December 31st Sunday School participants will join the combined worship service and fellowship breakfast.

Thank you for supporting Sunday School.



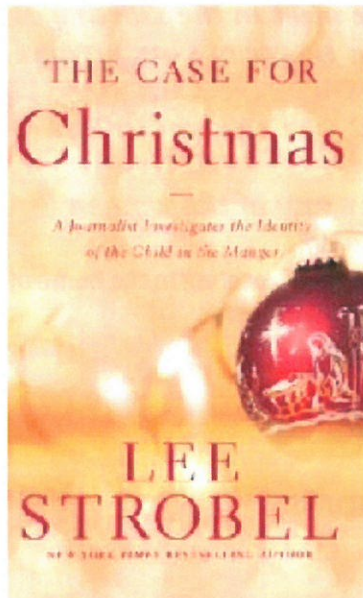
Coming Soon- SPUMC Card Ministry



Starting in January, we will officially debut our Card Ministry. Details of the who? and when? will be our first agenda items for our committee as well as determining our mission and purpose. The plan is to start small and grow this ministry by working up to attempting to meet many needs of our church. To make

this successful, we will be looking for people to donate time, talents and supplies to help kick start our efforts. Look for more information to be coming in the next few months. In the meanwhile, we are looking for donations of cards (birthday, thinking of you, praying for you, blank, holiday, etc.) that you may receive from organizations or extras that you may have purchased that you no longer need to help us build up our stock.

If you have any questions, contact Carol Howard at 301-672-5129. Thanks! 😊



TUESDAY EVENING OPPORTUNITY

Nov. 28; Dec. 5, 12, 19

The Case for Christmas will invite you to look beyond the familiar traditions of the season, challenge you to examine the evidence for yourself, and consider why Christmas really matters.

Join us in the Library at 6:30 as we learn and share from the book *The Case for Christmas* by Lee Strobel

In this four session video Bible Study, Lee reveals what he discovered as he sought to separate the holiday from the holy day., the facts from the fantasy, and the truth from the tradition.

NOTE: minimal pre-class reading!

DONATIONS FOR "SMILE" FOOD PANTRY

Non-perishable grocery items are collected each month from our Christian Life Center (CLC).

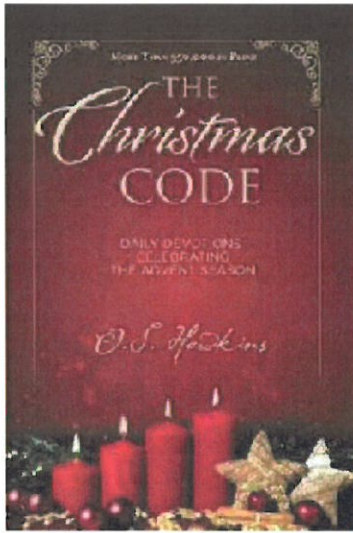
Please place your donations in the box labeled for SMILE.

Project Echo and CareNet also have donation boxes to support the needs of those they serve.

More information is available in the Christian Life Center

Thank you for supporting our community missions.

MONDAY WOMEN UPDATE



Pick up your copy of *the Christmas Code* and start your daily devotion centered around Advent.

Discussion of weekly devotions, fellowship and sharing among women help us better experience the continued busy season. Adding one more thing might be just what you need to put other things in perspective.

Come drop in on either session -December 4th, 11th and 18th. We meet in the Library at 6:45 beginning with a time of sharing and prayer.

Our lesson discussion usually begins at 7:30. All women are welcome.

See Becky Grover 410-474-8866 (or any of the women currently attending) for more information.

NOTE: MINIMAL Pre-class reading! Dec. 18 we will be meeting in the home of one of our members. ALL are welcome!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Mary Depelteau	12/2	Michael Mulvey	12/10	Ryan Gutierrez	12/24
Callie Cornett	12/3	Jesse Sampson	12/10	Rick Miller	12/29
Kenzi Cornett	12/3	Jaden Prowinski	12/13	Haleigh Willis	12/29
Nathan Halstead	12/4	Stephen Fouse	12/15	John Boyd	12/31
Claire Dunn	12/6	Bobbie Jo Cave	12/16		
Ryan Weitzel	12/6	Susan Carver	12/19		
Austin Bowen	12/7	Hoyt Ritter	12/19		
Kenneth Cave, Jr.	12/7	Allison Pouncey	12/20		
Wyatt Pols	12/8	Kevin Allor	12/21		
Donna Smith	12/8	Gordon Muldoon	12/21		

OFFICE CONTACTS & INFORMATION

Senior Pastor: **Rev. Myungha Baek**
Church Email: PastorBaek@stpaulumc-lusby.org

Children & Youth Leader **Sherry Mervine**
Church E-Mail: cyleader@stpaulumc-lusby.org

Admin. Assistant: **Kathy Matthews**
Church E-Mail: kmatthews@stpaulumc-lusby.org

OFFICE PHONE: **410.326.4475**

OFFICE EMAIL: **stpaulumcinfo@gmail.com**

LOST AND FOUND

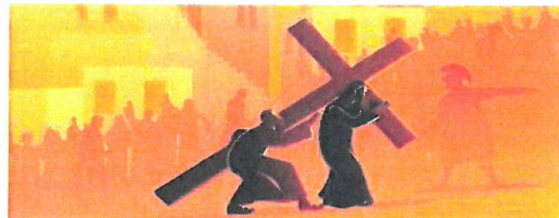
SPUMC has a “Lost and Found” basket stationed in the lobby of the Christian Life Center.

Contact Kathy at the church office if you have any questions.

**Submissions for the January
Messenger are due December 14.**
Thank you

GIFT CARDS

Every Sunday, food cards for Giant and Weis are available to purchase in the CLC. This assists in our operating budget.



St. Paul United Methodist Church
11000 H G Trueman Road, Lusby, MD 20657
410-326 – 4475

<https://stpaulumc-lusby.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/StPaulLusby>

– 9 –
stpaulumcinfo@gmail.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
<p>Worship (9 am & 11 am)</p> <p>10am - SS classes</p> <p>10:05am - Children's Sunday</p> <p>10:10am - Fellowship</p>	<p>4:30pm - OLSS Basketball/AC.</p> <p>6:45pm - Bible Study/Library</p>	<p>9am - HeartFelt /FH @ Fellowship</p> <p>4:30pm - OLSS Basketball - JVG /</p> <p>6:30pm - Bible Study /Library @</p> <p>7pm - BS Troop/FH</p>	<p>6:15pm - Praise Band/Sanctuary</p> <p>7:30pm - AA, FH</p> <p>7:30pm - Scout Leaders</p>	<p>6pm - Trustees, Library</p> <p>7pm - Cub Scouts/Rms.</p>	<p>Office Closes at Noon</p> <p>4pm - Christmas Town In</p> <p>4:30pm - OLSS Basketball -</p> <p>8pm - AA/FH @ FH</p> <p>8:30pm - Scouts Camping</p>	<p>12am - Scouts Camping/AC</p> <p>10am - Christmas Town In</p>
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>Worship (9 am & 11 am)</p> <p>10am - SS classes</p> <p>10:05am - Children's Sunday</p> <p>10:10am - Fellowship</p>	<p>4:30pm - OLSS Basketball/AC.</p> <p>6:45pm - Bible Study/Library</p>	<p>9am - HeartFelt /FH @ Fellowship</p> <p>4:30pm - OLSS Basketball - JVG /</p> <p>6:30pm - Bible Study /Library @</p> <p>7pm - BS Troop/FH</p>	<p>6:15pm - Praise Band/Sanctuary</p> <p>7:30pm - AA, FH</p> <p>7:30pm - Scout Leaders</p>	<p>6pm - Trustees, Library</p> <p>7pm - Cub Scouts/Rms.</p>	<p>Office Closes at Noon</p> <p>SPUMPS Closed/Prof. Develop.</p> <p>4:30pm - OLSS Basketball-</p> <p>8pm - AA/FH @ FH</p>	<p>10am - Southern MD Rolling</p>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>Worship (9 am & 11 am)</p> <p>10am - SS classes</p> <p>10:05am - Children's Sunday</p> <p>10:10am - Fellowship</p>	<p>6:45pm - Bible Study/Library</p>	<p>9am - HeartFelt /FH @ Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am - Faith Circle (Monthly)</p> <p>4:30pm - OLSS Basketball-JVG /</p> <p>7pm - BS Troop/FH</p>	<p>6:15pm - Praise Band/Music</p> <p>7:15pm - Cantata</p> <p>7:30pm - AA, FH</p>	<p>5pm - SPUMPS Christmas</p> <p>5:30pm - Finance / Fellowship Hall</p> <p>6:30pm - Council /Library @</p>	<p>Office Closes at Noon</p> <p>4:30pm - OLSS Basketball -</p> <p>8pm - AA/FH @ FH</p>	<p>Choir/Cantata</p> <p>10am - Southern Maryland Rolling</p> <p>1pm - Setup system in the AC for</p>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>Worship (9 am only) Sanctuary @</p> <p>9am - Christmas Cantata</p> <p>10am - SS classes</p> <p>10:05am - Children's Sunday</p> <p>10:10am - Fellowship</p>	<p>6:45pm - Bible Study/Val Forsyth's</p>	<p>9am - HeartFelt /FH @ Fellowship</p> <p>7pm - BS Troop/FH</p>	<p>Newsletter Article Due</p> <p>6:15pm - Praise Band/Sanctuary</p> <p>7:30pm - AA, FH</p>	<p>The Longest Night</p> <p>7pm - Longest Night Service</p>	<p>Office Closes at Noon</p> <p>SPUMPS Winter Break/Closed</p> <p>8pm - AA/FH @ FH</p>	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p>Worship (9 am - Traditional)</p> <p>Worship (11 am - Contemporary)</p> <p>Worship (4 pm - Family) "Stellar"</p> <p>Worship (7 pm - Candlelight)</p> <p>Worship 11:30 pm - Candlelight</p> <p>10:10am - Fellowship</p>	<p>10am - SPUMPS Closed</p>	<p>9am - HeartFelt /FH @ Fellowship</p> <p>7pm - BS Troop/FH</p>	<p>6:15pm - Praise Band/Music</p> <p>7:30pm - AA, FH</p>	<p>UTH Colonial Williamsburg/Busch Gardens @ Colonial Williamsburg Visitor Center, 101 Visitor Center Dr.</p>	<p>Office Closes at Noon</p> <p>8pm - AA/FH @ FH</p>	
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>Worship (9 am Combined Service)</p> <p>10:05am - Children's Sunday</p> <p>10:10am - Fellowship Breakfast</p>	<p>Worship (9 am Combined Service)</p> <p>10:05am - Children's Sunday</p> <p>10:10am - Fellowship Breakfast</p>	<p>9am - HeartFelt /FH @ Fellowship</p> <p>7pm - BS Troop/FH</p>	<p>6:15pm - Praise Band/Music</p> <p>7:30pm - AA, FH</p>	<p>UTH Colonial Williamsburg/Busch Gardens @ Colonial Williamsburg Visitor Center, 101 Visitor Center Dr.</p>	<p>Office Closes at Noon</p> <p>8pm - AA/FH @ FH</p>	