

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MESSENGER

January 2024



Happy New Year!

We are now living in a new year, 2024. It makes me wonder. People say it's a new year, a new time, but what's new? Did a day suddenly become 25 hours long instead of 24 starting this year? No, we will live the same length as last year - a day is only 24 hours, and an hour is only 60 minutes. As you know, after this winter comes spring, and then summer and fall, so why is it a "new" year?

It's because our mind is new, and we have new expectations. Without that new mind, no matter how many dozens of new years we have or how much new time we have, it's just a continuation of the past. Often, many resolutions last only three days because they were made without a new mind.

We keep resolutions or any other plans we make for the future that need to be done with a new mind. From the outside, everything looks the same every day, every month. That is why our hearts help us start things, change things, and go on. So, how do we renew our minds? Paul tells us in Romans 12:2.

"Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern God's will—what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Here, Paul describes "imitating this generation" and "renewing your mind" as opposing concepts. The implication is that our minds can never be renewed while we are imitating this generation. So, let's first look at what it means to "imitate this generation" so that we can start the New Year with a fresh mind.

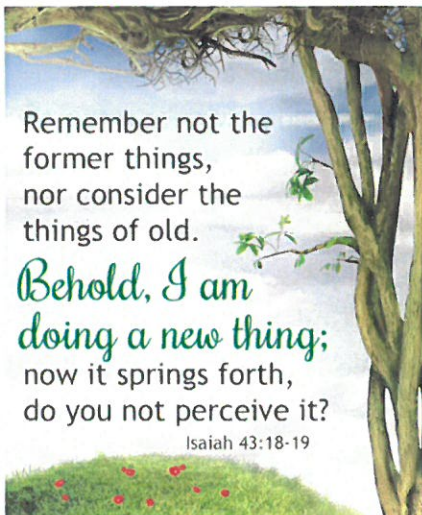
The Message translation puts it this way. "Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you."

People teach us that to be successful in this world, we must conform to the culture of this world. They tell us to think like everyone else thinks and live like everyone else lives. They say that a successful life is one in which you not only fit into the culture of this world but can lead the culture of this world even more than others. But Paul's teaching is the opposite: instead of trying to live according to the ways of the people of this world, he tells us to set our eyes on God first, to think about what God wants us to do. Then, he says, change comes from within, and the "inward change" is the "new heart. A new heart readily recognizes and accepts God's will for us, and we don't hesitate to do it. It means that we must make sure that we don't allow the old ways to creep into the present and continue to influence us. Or we will never truly experience newness, no matter how many times we welcome a new year.

Proverbs 4:23 says, "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life." I pray that the new year of 2024 will be one in which we receive and enjoy the blessings of God's renewal.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Myungha Baek



January Newsletter with Ms. Sherry

Happy 2024! May you find 2024 reasons to celebrate the new year and continued blessings to peace and happiness.

As we look forward to a new beginning, we often create new goals and a fresh start with our resolutions.

God wants to create new things in us, will you let him work through you? Listen to the voice guiding you to the path God wants you to follow.

We, at St. Paul, are following a new path for our families and children ministry. We are creating a Pioneer club for the children of Calvert County. This program has a variety of benefits to encourage Christian values and personal growth for young disciples up to Grade 6. Please consider inviting interested children/families to contact me via email at cyleader@stpaulumc-lusby.org for more information.

We will hold our organizational meeting on Sunday, January 7th at 4PM to discuss what Pioneer Club has to offer our families and create a leadership team to help us market for membership.

Our next family fun event will be held January 27th “Couch Potato Drive In Movie Night” featuring “Jesus Revolution” from 6-8:30PM. Look for RSVP and other information coming soon.

Teen events are pending. Please email me at the address above to be kept in the texting/email chain for teen events.

Church Office News
Kathy Matthews
Administrative Assistant

Happy Birthday Jesus & Happy New Year!

It’s hard to believe the new year is here. 2023 brought “The Wind in Our Sails”. I’m thankful for Pastor Baek and our St. Paul UMC family. Together, we sailed through rough and bumpy waters. God is Good! All the time! God is Good.

Our Activity Center is busy with activity. Six community sports groups signed up to use the basketball courts and batting cages for the winter months. The groups are: OLSS Basketball, Calvert Tide; SOMD Rolling Thunder; Calvert County American Little League (CCALL); Bayside Blues 10U; and Bayside Blues 14U.

We’ll be implementing a new software database for our church membership and ministries. Our current software is outdated. We plan to have the new software (Breeze) up and running by the end of this month.

Thank you to Kathy Pinkowski for coordinating and putting together our “Messenger” newsletter in 2023. Her time and talents are appreciated! If you’re interested in helping each month, please call or email me for details. Thank you for your consideration.

I’m looking forward to all that the new year brings and wish each of you peace and blessings.

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 continue upkeep of the facilities and support for the Mission and Evangelical activities of the church.

St. Paul UMC Finances as of 30 November 2023

| | Actual (YTD) | Budget (YTD) | Annual Budget | Annual % |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------|
| Contributions | \$ 283,262.09 | \$ 365,649.56 | \$ 399,519.35 | 70.9% |
| Expenses | \$ 345,151.10 | \$ 367,434.50 | \$ 399,519.35 | 86.4% |

The St. Paul UMC congregations has graciously made an additional \$22,566 in benevolent (restricted giving) to benefit the ministries, missions and those in need in 2023.

| Current Month (November) | Actual | Budget | Variance (better / worse) | Annual % |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Contributions | \$ 29,078.33 | \$ 33,569.80 | (\$4,491.47) | -13.4% |
| Expenses | \$ 32,776.69 | \$ 36,491.85 | \$3,715.16 | 10.2% |

2024 Budget is available upon request.

A Policy has been written for handling Restricted Funds at St Paul UMC.

Financial Awareness – a small group study will begin Thursday, January 19. This study will aid participants with understanding their financial awareness and skills to improve. Information will be available in early January 2024.

December 14, 2023 Church Council Committee Reports

Lay Leader-Donna House

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

This is my favorite time of the year! It's the time where we eagerly await the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ! The decorations are hung, the services are planned, and 47 poinsettias will be in the sanctuary honoring our loved ones. I am so excited that our church family has many opportunities to be together during this Advent Season.

(The December 2023 Worship service schedule was shared in the report.)

2023 has brought many changes to our beautiful church on the knoll in Lusby. I am blessed to be a part of the SPPRC, Worship, Finance and Church Council Committees and have learned much through working with so many great parishioners. I wish you a blessed remainder of 2023 and I am looking forward to an even better 2024!

Sunday School-Susan Baker

Positive points: We are thankful for our volunteer Sunday School teachers/ facilitators and student/participants. I want to thank Joan Sampson and Shannon Roberts for their service to this ministry. God's blessings as you go where He guides.

Class Reports for November:

The adult class had an average of 2-3 participants with 1 facilitator/teacher.

The high school class had no students. There is a facilitator/teacher available for this class. The elementary class had 1-3 students with 2 teachers.

Requests:

Please continue to pray daily for our Sunday School Ministry, as God guides you. Also continue to consider what involvement you might have in a class, as a participant, student, helper, substitute, facilitator, or teacher. Contact Susan Baker 410 474 3896 or the church office if you are interested in joining our team.

Beginning January, we will have an opening for a facilitator/teacher in both the adult class and elementary.

SPUMC Card Ministry



We are so excited about the success of our first project- distributing 1 Hanukkah and 238 Christmas cards to the Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home. They were very appreciative, and one vet especially was awaiting some mail which he would have received in following day's delivery. Thank you to those of you who took packets of cards and wrote a short holiday greeting in each. There were several opinions expressed to follow up with the success of this project and one option that has to be discussed by some members of the committee will require card stock and blank envelopes. If you have some of these supplies, we would appreciate it. The committee will be meeting shortly into the New Year to discuss this suggestion, develop a mission and purpose, as well as map out some short and long term goals to share God's love to the members of our congregation in 2024.

Several members have donated various cards including Christmas cards. Should you have excess cards after writing out all your cards for this year, the ministry would be happy to collect them from you, so you don't have to worry about storage. You can take them to the office or give them to Carol after the 9:00 service. We also have had someone volunteer to have a Stamping Party of sorts to create cards.

We are on our way! Thanks to all of you for your prayers and support. Watch for more information next month.

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.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

| | | | | | |
|------------------|------|-----------------|------|-----------------|------|
| Billy Langley | 1/01 | Casey McCready | 1/13 | Naomi Carver | 1/26 |
| Brian Muldoon | 1/01 | Ben Carver | 1/14 | Kenneth Cave | 1/26 |
| Mark Wright | 1/01 | Jim Snyder | 1/15 | Stacey Shippert | 1/27 |
| Ann McCready | 1/02 | Hannah Dunn | 1/16 | Adam Harvey | 1/28 |
| Sarah Pouncey | 1/04 | Elaine Kyle | 1/19 | Ashton Harvey | 1/28 |
| Myrna Mackiewicz | 1/08 | Jennifer Lewis | 1/19 | Na'ila Stewart | 1/29 |
| Dylan Ellison | 1/09 | Stephanie Ebert | 1/21 | Charles Kyle | 1/30 |
| Emily Rogers | 1/11 | Scott Nicholson | 1/22 | Elias Nunley | 1/31 |
| Krissi Betit | 1/13 | Sessaly Boyd | 1/25 | | |

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 February Messenger are due January 17th.
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>

stpaulumcinfo@gmail.com

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | SPUMPS Closed | 2:30pm - Card Ministry 6:30pm - Tues. Bible | SPUMPS Re-opens 9am - HeartFelt /FH @ 5:15pm - CCALL / AC @ 6:15pm - Praise 7:30pm - AA, FH 7:30pm - Bayside Blues- 7:30pm - Scout Leaders | 4:30pm - OLSS 6pm - SOMD Rolling 6pm - Trustees, Library 7pm - Cub Scouts/Rms. | Office Closes at Noon 4:30pm - OLSS 8pm - AA/FH @ FH | 9am - CCALL / AC @ Activity |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Worship (9 am & 11 am) 10am - SS classes 10:05am - Children's Sunday 10:10am - Fellowship 1pm - Calvert Tide/Activity 4pm - CCALL / AC @ Activity | 10am - Women's Bible 4:30pm - OLSS 6:45pm - Bible Study/Library | 9am - HeartFelt /FH @ 10:30am - Faith Circle 4:30pm - OLSS 6:15pm - CCALL / AC @ 6:30pm - Tues. Bible 7pm - BS Troop/FH | 5:30pm - Bayside Blues 10U / 6:15pm - Praise Band/Music 7:30pm - AA, FH 7:30pm - Bayside Blues- | 4:30pm - OLSS Basketball / 5:30pm - Finance / Library @ 6pm - SOMD Rolling 6:30pm - Council /Library @ 7pm - Cub Scouts/Rms. | Office Closes at Noon 12:30pm - Card Mission 4:30pm - OLSS 8pm - AA/FH @ FH | 9am - CCALL / AC @ Activity |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| Worship (9 am & 11 am) 10am - SS classes 10:05am - Children's Sunday 10:10am - Fellowship 1pm - Calvert Tide/Activity 3:30pm - CCALL / AC @ | Martin Luther King Day SPUMPS Closed/MLK Day 10am - Women's Bible 6:45pm - Bible Study/Library | 9am - HeartFelt /FH @ 4pm - OLSS Basketball/AC @ 6:15pm - CCALL / AC @ 6:30pm - Tues. Bible 7pm - BS Troop/FH | Newsletter Article Due 5:30pm - Bayside Blues 10U / 6:15pm - Praise Band/Music 7:30pm - AA, FH 7:30pm - Bayside Blues- | 4:30pm - OLSS Basketball / 6pm - SOMD Rolling | Office Closes at Noon 7am - Scouts Pinewood Derby/AC @ Activity Center 8pm - AA/FH @ FH | 6pm - Couch Potato Movie 7am - Scouts Pinewood Derby/AC @ Activity Center |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| Worship (9 am & 11 am) 10am - SS classes 10:05am - Children's Sunday 10:10am - Fellowship 1pm - Calvert Tide/Activity | 10am - Women's Bible 4:30pm - OLSS 6:45pm - Bible Study/Library | 9am - HeartFelt /FH @ 4:30pm - OLSS 6:15pm - CCALL / AC @ 6:30pm - Tues. Bible 7pm - BS Troop/FH | 5:30pm - Bayside Blues 10 6:15pm - Praise Band/Music 7:30pm - AA, FH 7:30pm - Bayside Blues- | 4:30pm - OLSS Basketball 6pm - SOMD Rolling 7pm - Cub Scouts/Rms. | Office Closes at Noon SPUMPS Closes @ 2:30/Prof. 4:30pm - OLSS 8pm - AA/FH @ FH | 9am - CCALL / AC @ Activity 6pm - SNOW DATE Couch |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Worship (9 am & 11 am) 10am - SS classes 10:05am - Children's Sunday 10:10am - Fellowship 1pm - Calvert Tide/Activity 3:30pm - CCALL / AC @ | 10am - Women's Bible 6:15pm - CCALL / AC @ 6:45pm - Bible Study/Library | 9am - HeartFelt /FH @ 4:30pm - OLSS 6:15pm - CCALL / AC @ 6:30pm - Tues. Bible 7pm - BS Troop/FH | 5:30pm - Bayside Blues 6:15pm - Praise Band/Music 7:30pm - AA, FH 7:30pm - Bayside Blues- | | | |

