

A night sky filled with stars, featuring a prominent bright starburst in the upper center. Below the sky, a silhouette of a city skyline is visible against a dark horizon. The overall color palette is dominated by deep blues and purples.

It Begins
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2015



ST·PAUL

United Methodist Church

CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

Prelude

Advent Prayer

Welcome

*Opening Hymns *O Come, All Ye Faithful*
It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Children's Moment

Offering *Adore*

Message "Make Way For a Miracle"

The Reverend Bob Martin, Senior Pastor
John 1:1-18

Candle Lighting

*Hymn *Silent Night*
Joy to the World

*Benediction

Postlude

*Please stand, if you are able.

If you need assistance, please let a greeter or usher know and they would be happy to help.
Baby changing tables are in both men and women's restrooms.

JOIN US IN THE COURTYARD

FOR REFRESHMENTS,
HOT DRINKS & CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Glorify God

First time here?

We are so glad you have joined us on this Holy day of celebration! We hope that you experience the life changing message of Jesus Christ, and that you will visit us again.

We offer two services on Sundays; a Traditional Worship at 9:00 a.m. and a 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship.



VISIT OUR CONNECTION CENTER

If you have questions or would like to talk to someone about St. Paul and what we offer, visit the Connection Center to the side of the lobby. We would love to speak with you!



VISIT OUR WEBSITE
stpaulumc.org



JOIN OUR MAILING LIST



LIKE OUR FACEBOOK:
[StPaulUMCLargo](https://www.facebook.com/StPaulUMCLargo)



What can we do for you?

Whether you are a guest, regular attendee, or member, let us know you are here by filling out the information in the red registration folder or scan this QR code with your smart phone and let us know what we can do for you.



Giving Made Easy

We encourage you to check out our convenient electronic giving options. We offer both recurring and one time online giving. You can scan the QR code with your smart phone or visit stpaulumc.org to securely give. We also offer Online Giving cards in the backs of your seats. Place one of these cards in the offering plate if you gave online, but would still like to take part in the offering ritual.



Welcome from Pastor Bob

On behalf of the entire St. Paul staff and church family I want to welcome you to our Christmas Eve Candlelight service. This is truly a night set apart to experience the hope, peace, joy and love of our Lord Jesus Christ. **God's love is available to all**, and to prove it, he left his celestial throne and came to us through the womb of a young peasant girl. Here at St. Paul we are dedicated to sharing the love of Christ and growing closer to God through our mission to Glorify God, Grow in Faith and Give in Love.

St. Paul has so much to offer every age level, and my hope is you will consider making us your spiritual home. If there is anything I or others may do for you, please let us know. The Connection Center on the side of the sanctuary lobby is a great place to ask questions or get help if you need any. I invite you to join us in the courtyard for refreshments and caroling between worship times as we celebrate this special night together. May you and your loved ones experience and share a very Merry Christmas!

Bob Martin
Senior Pastor

Watch Our Services Live

If you're unable to make it to church, or you know family and friends who are far away but would like to attend St. Paul, join our online family! Both our 9 a.m. and our 10:30 a.m. worship services stream live online. Just visit www.stpaulumc.org and click on the **WATCH** link. Then click on the "Play" triangle and you're a part of our congregation!

Grow in Faith



TREEHOUSE
Children's Ministry

Children *Infant-5th grade. Kaitie Johnson,
Children's Ministry Director, kaitie.j@stpaulumc.org*

Children's Ministry offers support and interactive Bible lessons relevant to a child's life. Your child will have fun, connect with others, and develop friendships that may last for a lifetime.

Sunday Morning Lil' Kidz Care

Lil' Kidz Care is available every Sunday for infants to 4-year-olds, at 8:45 a.m. in **Bldg B**.

Sunday Morning Lil' Kidz Class

We have a great preschool class for 3 to 4 year-olds at 10:30 in the Red Door Room of **Bldg C**.

Sunday Morning Small Group at 9:00
Children in kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to the Children's Ministry Space in **Bldg C**.

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30
Children in kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to the Children's Ministry Space in **Bldg C**.



Follow us on facebook to keep track of all our fun events: [StPaulChildrensMinistry](https://www.facebook.com/StPaulChildrensMinistry)

CAMPXP
eXperience eXPlore
eXPRESS

June 8—August 14

Each year our summer camp for ages K-5th Grade explores messages of faith and fun activities, field trips and more! You pay only for the weeks your child(ren) attend.

Free Vacation Bible School

Our 2016 Vacation Bible School meets each evening from July 11-July 15. Families are invited to attend with their children and have fun playing games, doing crafts, singing songs and learning about God in creative ways.





LIGHTHOUSE youth ministry

Youth 6th-12th Grade

Alison Van Duyne, Youth Ministry Director,
alison.v@stpaulumc.org



We're a youth group striving to love Jesus and love others. This year we've been focusing on sharing our faith and service. All are welcome to join us!

Sunday Night

Join middle and high school youth on Sunday nights from 5:30–8 p.m. for **group games, exciting crowd breakers, passionate worship, biblical teaching, and a chance to connect with others through Source Groups.** The group meets in the Mariposa Café, which is located in the Christian Life Enrichment Center, at 5:30 p.m. After dinner they branch out to the Youth Room, the Gym or the Fellowship Hall (CLEC). Dinner is \$3—Register online in advance.



Retreats, Summer Activities and More

Throughout the year our Youth Ministry offers opportunities for special activities like summer activities, retreats, service projects, mission trips, concerts, and camp. Events coming up in 2016 include:

Teen Valley Ranch: June 12-18
Trip includes daily worship and

devotion plus lots of fun: tubing, rock climbing, archery, zip line, horseback riding and more.

Mission Trip: July 17-22

We'll work with the Alabama Rural Ministry to provide home repair and day camp for families in need.



Follow us on facebook to keep track of all our fun events: [lighthouseyouthministry](https://www.facebook.com/lighthouseyouthministry)



Adults 18-35
Our IGNITE ministry for adults ages 18-35 meets weekly on

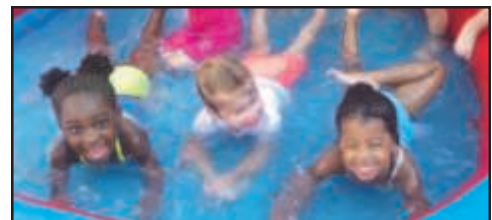


Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. in room 202 of the Christian Life Enrichment Center for sharing, study and discussion. The Ignite Ministry is also a serving ministry; they help feed the homeless in Clearwater each fifth Sunday and serve the families at Ronald McDonald House several times a year. They also meet off campus for social events about once a month. The next meeting is January 3. They have a fun social day planned for January 10. Like their Facebook or contact Felix Koutsourais at c24go1@aol.com for more.

 [ignitestpaul](https://www.facebook.com/ignitestpaul)

SUN KISSED PRESCHOOL

Children are not only taken care of at our preschool, they are loved and cherished as God's children. The preschool is full and part time, year-round for one-year-olds through pre-kindergarten, and includes free lunch. We are a Free VPK and School Readiness provider. If you or your child meets the criteria, you may be eligible for child care services at reduced or no cost. For more info call the school at 585-8596.



Grow in Faith

Adult Sunday Morning Classes

Everyone is invited to *Grow in Faith* at one of our four Sunday school classes for adults of any age. Classes gather at 10:15 a.m. Some classes meet on the sanctuary side of campus, while others are located in the Christian Life Enrichment Center across the street.

Inspirations: Purple Door Classroom (101) - Bldg. C

Crusaders: Conference Room 1 - Bldg. B

Friendship: Room 201 (Community Room) - CLEC

Bereans - Room 101 (Carpenter's Room) - CLEC



Just Older Youth (JOY) on Tuesdays

Join us for "JOY" on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Christian Life Enrichment Center. This is a wonderful time for fellowship, singing and Bible

study, as well as a chance to enjoy lunch together!
JOY's next meeting is January 5.

Men's Sunrise Bible Study

The men's Sunrise Bible Study meets Tuesday mornings at 6:30 a.m. in room 203 of the Christian Life Enrichment Center, across from the district office.

Men's Bible Study on Thursday

All men are invited to be a part of the Men's Bible Study on Thursdays at 7:00 a.m. in room 218 of the Christian Life Enrichment Center.

Soaring Eagles on Saturday

This men's group meets on Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. in the Room 201 of the Christian Life Enrichment Center for a time of prayer, devotion and fellowship. All men are invited. Women are invited to join the men for breakfast at 7:30 a.m. on the last Sunday of the month.

SOURCE GROUPS

Source Groups are a small group of up to twelve people whose purposes are:

To grow in their personal relationship with God. **To connect** with other believers by building a healthy Source Group community through worship, study, prayer, praise and service. **To support** each person in their faith walk. **To be the hands and feet of Jesus** by serving within their group, church and community. **To enjoy fun and fellowship together.**

One of the best ways to grow closer to Christ is in a covenant relationship within a small group, with people who will walk with you as you press on (Phil.3:14) to become all that God has envisioned. If you would like to join us, please contact Senior Director of Ministry Bobby Van Duyne by e-mailing bobby.v@stpaulumc.org

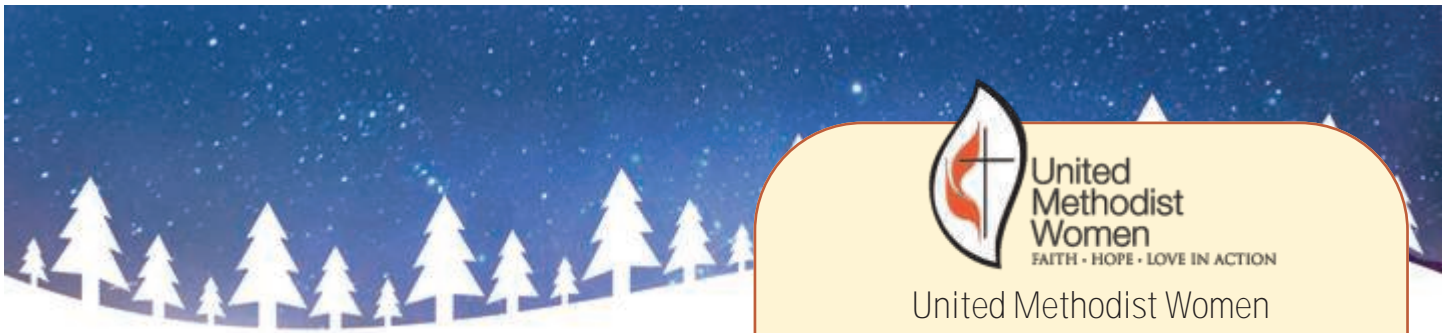


Wednesday Night Class

6:30 p.m. | Jan. 13—Feb. 3
| Courtyard

This January we invite all adults to join us for "Small Things, Big Difference." Too often we make huge plans and major resolutions, and when we can't keep them, we give up on changing.

This class is about learning how to embrace making small, manageable, incremental changes that really add up. When we guard our words, make our thoughts obedient to Christ, and cultivate new actions, we can see long term life change! The class will be held under the courtyard lights. (In case of bad weather we will meet in the sanctuary.) Drinks and snacks will be provided. Nursery provided.



United Methodist Women

Our United Methodist Women's circles meet monthly and organize mission projects and events like our annual Rummage Sale, Arts & Crafts Show, and more.

Rachel-Lydia—Rachel-Lydia meets the second Thursday at 10:30 a.m. in the Christian Life Enrichment Center Carpenter's Room 101. Each meeting includes a devotion, refreshments, a program from a guest speaker and more. Their mission is to provide medical equipment and instructional aids for special needs children and youth ages 2-22 at the Sabal Palms Children's Center.

Hannah—Meets every second Tuesday. Each meeting begins with refreshments, followed by devotion, prayer and a short program. **This group's mission is to help the Open Arms Resource Center, the Pregnancy Center of Pinellas County and the FL Sheriff's Youth Ranch.**

Dorcas—Meets every second and fourth Wednesday. This group helps local and overseas missions by creating lap robes, adult bibs, baby clothing and much more. **You don't have to be a seamstress to join.**



GROWTHguide

Our Growth Guide is a weekly supplement to the sermon including **additional study, scripture, and challenge points** to help you continue your spiritual journey and Grow in Faith all week long. To receive the Growth Guide by e-mail, sign up on our website stpaulumc.org or write down your e-mail on one of the red registration pads, along with a note that you would like to be added to the Growth Guide list.



women's ministry

The Women of St. Paul stay connected through activities like Bible studies, prayer breakfasts, movie nights, a yearly shopping trip, **Christian women's events, and women's retreats and seminars.** Contact our office and leave a message for **Sherry Shields** if you'd like to know more about our events for women.



Rummage Sale March 4-5, 2016

Each year our United Methodist Women hosts a huge rummage sale that fills both our fellowship hall and gym with all kinds of bargains. Be sure to mark you calendar and come find a few hidden treasures while supporting the missions of the United Methodist Women!

Give in Love

Open Arms Ministry

Open Arms Resource Center

St. Paul believes we are to help our brothers and sisters when they are in need. Open Arms offers food and clothing, financial assistance for rent and utilities, and spiritual support. This ministry is currently serving about 4,000 people every month. Last year Open Arms served about 25,600 families and 59,700 individuals. This holiday season Open Arms provided turkey dinners to over 350 families and Christmas presents to over 500 children! The food and clothing from Open Arms is provided for free through the generosity of the St. Paul family and friends in the community.

How You Can Help?

Donations of dry goods, canned goods, baby items, bread, cleaning supplies, and toiletries. Gently used clothing, blankets, linens, socks, shoes, and jackets. Open Arms holds a Food Drive on the second Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to Noon.

Volunteers to help sort, fold, stack and package donations. Volunteers are also needed for the drive-thru drop off on the second Saturday of each month.



Missions and Outreach

Our Mission and Outreach Ministry Team is involved in mission projects overseas and in our community. This year, among other projects, we will host our 3rd Annual Back to School Jubilee. Last year we provided shoes, backpacks and school supplies to 300 kids. Generous donations and over a hundred volunteers help make this event possible.

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Enjoy devotionals, building friendships and knitting during Prayer Shawl meetings every Thursday at 5:30 p.m in room 243 of the Christian Life Enrichment Center. The next meeting

is January 7. This group knits hats, scarves, blankets and shawls to Give in Love. Each item is prayed over. To date, they have given over a thousand items to those who need the comfort of being enveloped in prayer. They recently took on a new project to make blankets, hats and booties for the babies born at All Children's Hospital. They are always welcoming new helpers and can teach you how to knit or crochet!

Need a prayer shawl for yourself or a loved one? You can find them on the second floor of the CLEC, in the upper room of prayer.



Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is a group of people who have been trained to provide one-to-one, confidential, Christian care to hurting people in the congregation and the community. Stephen Ministers offer Christian friendship, care, encouragement and prayer. **Need a Stephen Minister's help, or want to become part of this ministry?** Contact Mary Vaughn, mary.v@stpaulumc.org.



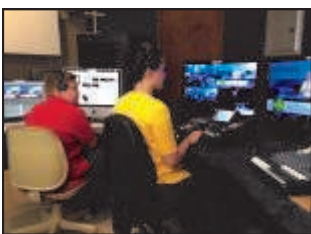
Handicapable Ministry

St. Paul's Handicapable Ministry has been serving God's "Special People" for more than seventeen years. We welcome any person over 16 years old with cognitive or physical disabilities to join our ministry. We seek to encourage every person to discover their confidence and security in God's love revealed in Jesus. Our year round program provides weekly worship services on Wednesdays and social activities ranging from parties, to talent night, to seeing major league baseball games. For more information please contact: Director of Handicapable Ministry, Horton Townes at 584-8165 x206 or horton.t@stpaulumc.org. The next Wednesday meeting is January 6.



Worship Arts Ministry

Our worship arts ministry is involved in many aspects of our worship. The tech team handles lighting and sound, as well as our live stream worship broadcast. We have many musical groups at St. Paul from our sanctuary choir, to our Bells of St. Paul handbell choir. We are always looking for volunteers to join our live streaming team, our choir, and our other worship arts teams. If you are interested in being a part of our worship through your musical or technical talents, contact our Senior Director of Music and Worship Arts, Laurel Fortuna at laurel.f@stpaulumc.org.



NEXT STEPS

Want to know more about St. Paul, meet new people, or get more involved? TAKE THE NEXT STEP!



CONNECTION CENTER

Our Connection Center is located in the room to the side of the sanctuary. Stop by if you have any questions, need information, or would like to speak to someone about St. Paul.

DISCOVER ST. PAUL

This informal lunch focuses on who we are as a church, our mission, core values, a tour of the facilities, and a chance to meet some of our staff. It's also a chance to meet new people who are also interested in the church and start building relationships.



STARTING POINT CLASS

This class is for anyone who is new to attending church or is coming back to church. It covers topics like who we are as Methodists, a spiritual gifts assessment, and basics of our faith.



ONGOING GROUPS

- Age level groups (ex. JOY, IGNITE,)
- Source Groups (Small groups of twelve or less)
- Sunday School



SHORT TERM GROUPS

- Topical classes covering things like
 - ⇒ Finance
 - ⇒ Parenting
 - ⇒ Caretaking
- Topical and seasonal Bible studies and discussion

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.STPAULUMC.ORG

for more information about our ministries

THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSONS

If you could only deliver a handful of messages, which ones would you proclaim? Starting January 10, Pastor Bob will lead us through the five lessons he would choose..

**LIFE CAN SEEM UNFAIR,
BUT IT REALLY ISN'T**

ALL IS NOT LOST

CHRISTIANITY ISN'T FOR COWARDS

**ALL I NEED TO KNOW I LEARNED
FROM JESUS**

**IT'S NOT WHERE YOU ARE GOING...
IT'S WHERE YOU'VE BEEN**



JOIN US NEXT SUNDAY
JANUARY 3
FOR ONE WORSHIP
AT 9 AM

WE WILL BEGIN THE NEW YEAR
BY RENEWING OUR
COMMITMENT TO THE LORD
WHOSE LOVE REIGNS FOREVER.
AS WE MAKE A COVENANT IN
THE TRADITION OF OUR
WESLEYAN HERITAGE. COME
CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR AND
WORSHIP TOGETHER AS ONE ST.
PAUL FAMILY!



AFTER WORSHIP A
FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST
WILL BE SERVED IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL!

DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED TO
COVER THE COST OF BREAKFAST.

Suncoast Singers of Florida present
SPIRIT OF AMERICA: "SALUTING OUR VETERANS"
JANUARY 10, 2016 at 3 PM
LUANNE WILLEY FELLOWSHIP HALL
JOIN US FOR AN UPLIFTING PROGRAM OF PATRIOTIC MUSIC.
A love offering will be taken to benefit the ministries of St. Paul UMC.



The Reverend Bob Martin, Senior Pastor
Address: 1199 Highland Avenue in Largo, 33770
Phone: (727) 584-8165
Office Hours: 8 a.m.—5 p.m., Monday-Thursday
E-mail: church@stpaulumc.org
Prayer: (727) 559-PRAY
www.stpaulumc.org

