



December 18, 2016

Welcome from Pastor Bob

Welcome to St. Paul United Methodist Church! Whether you're a first time visitor or a long time attendee, I'm so happy you're worshipping with us during the Advent Season. Today we have a special treat at our 9 a.m. worship as our choir will share its Christmas cantata. I invite everyone to stay for refreshments in the courtyard after the cantata, and then join us for worship and the message, "Jesus' Wish List" at 10:30 a.m. What does Jesus want from us for his birthday?

This is a great season and one that promises so much joy and celebration! Always know, here at St. Paul, you have a home and a friend. May your Advent Season be filled with faith, hope, love and peace.

Take a look through this bulletin or visit our website to find out more about our upcoming events and everything that is happening at St. Paul during this busy and joyful season.

Thank you for being part of the Lord's work here at St. Paul. With God's help, there is nothing we can't do!

Bob Martin, Senior Pastor



Glorify God ♥ Grow in Faith ♥ Give in Love

Join us on
Christmas Eve
for candlelight
services at

6PM
CONTEMPORARY

8PM
TRADITIONAL

VISIT PAGE 5
FOR MORE.

NEXT SUNDAY IS
Christmas Day

JOIN US FOR ONE
WORSHIP TIME AT 9AM

CHRISTMAS CANTATA at 9 AM

Prelude

Lighting of the Advent Candle: The Van Putte Family

Welcome

*Greet

*Call to Worship

Leader: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High
People: To declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night.

Leader: You, O Lord, are exalted forever.

All: It is good to praise your Name, O Most High! Amen.

Cantata: wonderful counselor

Angels From the Realms of Glory

Wonderful Counselor

The Glory of the Lord

OFFERTORY

My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord

Carol Medley

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Wonderful Counselor (Reprise)

*Benediction

Join us in the courtyard after the cantata for refreshments. At 10:30 a.m. you are invited to contemporary worship with a message on Jesus' Wish List. What does Jesus want from us this Christmas?





Poinsettias

Thank you to everyone who purchased the beautiful poinsettias that fill our sanctuary today! Take a look at the poinsettia bulletin to see who the flowers are dedicated to. *If you purchased a poinsettia, you may pick it up next Sunday after the Christmas Day worship at 9 a.m.*

Flowers

Do you have an event or person you would like to honor with flowers? You can give a flower bouquet to the Glory of God. Call the church office at 584-8165, visit the Giving page on our website, or e-mail church@stpaulumc.org. Bouquets are \$40. Be sure to include your inscription with your order.

Pick Up Your Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes are available to pick up in the lobby on Sundays. If you want offering envelopes and yours are not on the table, put your name on the sheet provided.



Making a 2017 Commitment

Your pledges and contributions are how we can make the "what if" visions for our ministry a reality as we continue, and expand, our work for the Lord. If you missed our Celebration Sunday, you can still turn in a card through the end of the year. Pick up a card in one of the pews or in the Connection Center and place it in the offering plate, drop it off at the church office or mail it to us. Pledges can also be made on our website: stpaulumc.org

Upper Room

Looking for a copy of the Upper Room? We have copies of the current issue available in the Connection Center. Large print is \$2 and regular print is \$1.

Chat With Us on Live Stream!

The next time you're joining us for worship online, try out the chat feature on the right of the screen. You can greet others during our greeting time, comment during worship, or share your prayer requests. It's a great way to interact with others who are worshipping online with you!

St. Paul United Methodist Church CONNECT CARD

Use this card to record your attendance and share your prayer requests, needs and interests. Tear off and return it in the offering plate, the basket in the lobby, or the Connection Center. You do not need to fill out the entire card, only the parts that apply to you!

Date: December 18, 2016 9 AM 10:30 AM

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

I am a:

- 1st Time Guest 2nd Time Guest
- Regular Attendee Member(s)
- Winter Resident
- Please update my information.

I came today because:

- I drove by I visited the website
- I've been here before I received a mailing
- I was invited by _____

Other: _____

I want to join your e-mail list:

- Weekly Pastor's E-Note Growth Guide
- This Week at St. Paul Newsletter
- Youth Children
- Other: _____

Be sure to put your e-mail address at the top of the card!

How can we pray for you?

- For Military Prayer List
- Do NOT publish in bulletin.
- Include on prayer chain.
- I would like to connect with a Stephen Minister.

Don't forget to fill out the other side!

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I am interested in:

- Rededicating my life to Jesus
- Being baptized
- Becoming a member
- Joining a Source Group
- Serving at the church

How: _____

- Serving in the community

How: _____

- Learning more about St. Paul ministries

Specifically: _____

- Other: _____

I need a name tag for:

(Name tags can be picked up in the Connection Center to the side of the lobby two weeks after your request is placed.)

I would like to volunteer to help with:

- Loving Hearts Memorial Food Ministry
- Flower Ministry—4th and 5th Sunday
Christmas Eve

- Usher - 8 PM (be here at 7:15 PM)

Parking Lot Attendant - 6 PM-be here 6:15
 8 PM-be here 7:15

Christmas Day—9 a.m.

- Usher Greeter

I will attend:

- Discover St. Paul Lunch - Jan. 8 Noon
- Who Are the Methodists? - Weds. starting Jan. 11
- Starting Point - Weds. starting Jan. 11
- The Call - Weds. starting Jan. 11
- The Frazzled Female—Weds. starting Jan. 18

Remember to fill out the other side with your name and contact info!

Don't forget to fill out the other side!

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

Discover St. Paul is an informal lunch focused 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 and new people who are also interested in the church. The next Discover St. Paul Lunch is on Jan. 8 at noon.



STARTING POINT CLASS

This four week class covers basics of our faith. For anyone who is new to attending church or is coming back to church. The next Starting Point class meets Wednesday nights starting on Jan. 11



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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

WWW.STPAULUMC.ORG

for more information about our ministries.

GROW IN FAITH

Adult Studies

Adult Sunday Morning Classes

Adults of any age are invited to join one of our Sunday school classes:

The 9:15 a.m. Sunday school class that meets in Room 202 of Bldg C is on hiatus until January 15.

10:15 a.m. Sunday school classes

Inspirations - Purple Door Classroom (101) in Bldg C

Friendship - Room 201 (Community Room) in CLEC

Bereans - Conference Room 2 in Bldg B

JOY (Just Older Youth)

Older adults are invited to join us at 10:30 a.m. each Tuesday for worship, study and fellowship. This Tuesday, December 20, Pastor Bob will teach. Bring a lunch and eat together. Beverages are provided by the church. **Note: There is no JOY meeting on December 27.** We will resume January 3. For more information, contact Senior Director of Ministry, Bobby Van Dyne at 584-8165 x233 or bobby.v@stpaulumc.org



IGNITE: Adults Ages 18-35

IGNITE will meet off campus tonight and have dinner together. Contact IGNITE leader, Felix Koutsourais at c24go1@aol.com for more information. You can also visit their facebook for updates. There is no IGNITE meeting on Christmas Day. Have a Merry Christmas!



Discover St. Paul Lunch

If you're new to St. Paul, thinking about joining, or want to know more about us and our mission to Glorify God, Grow in Faith and Give in Love, we invite you to join us for an informal, free lunch after 10:30 a.m. worship on Jan. 8. We'll answer any questions you may have, give you a tour of the facilities, and introduce you to some of our staff! Please mark the Connect Card or send an e-mail to church@stpaulumc.org if you plan to attend.



Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship

6 p.m. - Music by our praise band and a message for the kids
8 p.m. - Traditional Christmas music provided by our choir
Both worship times include a message that explains why "Christmas is Just the Beginning." Children are invited to worship with their parents, and nursery is provided for younger kids. If you can't make it to the sanctuary, join us live online. Visit stpaulumc.org and click on the "Watch" link.

Christmas Day: One Worship Time at 9 a.m.

Next Sunday, join us for one worship time at 9 a.m. We'll come together to celebrate the birth of our king with a combined service including Christmas carols and a message. Nursery provided .

Invite Someone To Worship This Advent

The Christmas season is a time when many are seeking God and questioning what this season is all about. It is a time when many hearts are open, and that makes it a perfect time to reach out and extend an invitation to join you in worship. To help make it easier to reach out, there are invitation cards in the Connection Center and in the backs of the pews with our Christmas Eve service times and a little information about St. Paul. Take a few cards and carry them with you so if you meet someone who doesn't have a church family or doesn't know the Lord, you'll have the cards to help you reach out,

WEDNESDAYS: COMING IN JANUARY

We have a new set of Wednesday night classes beginning on January 11. Come at 6 p.m. for coffee and desserts in the Mariposa Café. Classes begin at 6:30 p.m. Locations TBA.

Who Are The Methodists?

What do United Methodist's believe? What is our focus for mission and ministry locally as well as globally? How did the Methodist movement begin? Why was it so important then, and remains so today? This ten week study takes an in depth look at what Methodism is about. Led by Pastor Bob Martin.

Starting Point

This four week class is open to anyone who is new to the church or is coming back to the church after time away. It covers who we are as Methodists, basics of our faith and a spiritual gifts assessment. Led by Bob by Van Duyn

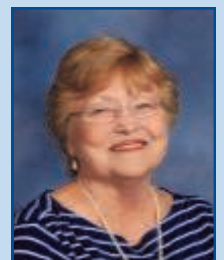
The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul
Follow the journeys of Paul, beginning with his dramatic conversion, as he spread the Gospel through modern-day Greece and Turkey. Travel to the early **church sites and explore Paul's conversations with the Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians.** In this six-week study, you are invited to experience faith through **Christ's greatest teacher and missionary.** Led by Pastor Pam Dubov.

Starting January 18: The Frazzled Female: *Finding Peace in the Midst of Daily Life*

This thought-provoking, yet light-hearted, study is designed specifically for women. It helps women discover practical, biblical help to confront issues like managing their time, getting along with difficult people, taking time for themselves, and even organizing their lives. It helps participants develop biblical skills to handle stressful situations; grow in their relationship with Jesus; and ultimately experience peace, joy, and a saner lifestyle. Led by Patti Martin

Reception for Mary Vaughn

After 16 years on staff at St. Paul, Mary Vaughn is retiring at the end of this year. With grateful hearts, we want to thank her for her many years of service and dedication to the church and our St. Paul family. We are so glad that even as she retires, she will remain a vital part of St. Paul through her volunteering, leadership and all the ways she contributes to making St. Paul a more caring place. On Wednesday, December 28 we invite you to a reception for Mary in the LuAnne Willey Fellowship Hall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please stop by any time during these hours to thank Mary and to wish her well in all her endeavors as she begins a new season in her life. Food will be buffet style.



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



Sunday Morning: **Lil' Kidz Care**

Lil' Kidz Care is available every Sunday for infants to 4-year-olds, at 8:45 a.m. in the nursery building (Bldg B) next to the sanctuary. Sign in and be given a pick-up card that you will need to pick-up your child.

Sunday Morning: Preschool & K-5

Kids ages 3-5 and K-5th grade are invited to join us in the Children's Ministry Center in **Bldg C at both 9 and 10:30 a.m. for Children's Worship** and age-appropriate lessons.

Worship Arts Goes on Hiatus After This Week

Today is our last Worship Arts class until January 11. Children in K-5th grade are invited to join us on Wednesday for a special Christmas celebration before our winter break.

Drop off begins at 6 p.m. in the Mariposa Café (Christian Life Enrichment Center). We'll have snacks and then move to Room 201 (Community Room) of the CLEC. Pick-up is at 7:30 p.m. in the gym.



Student Ministry

6th-12th Grade
Alison Van Duyne, Student Ministry Director, alison.v@stpaulumc.org



Sunday Student Worship



TONIGHT: Christmas Under the Stars

Students are invited to join us in the courtyard next Sunday, December 18 for a Christmas party from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Bring a wrapped gift valued at \$5 or less, and a side dish for the potluck dinner. Students can dress up, wear an ugly Christmas sweater, or come as they are. Party is free for students.

There is no Student Worship next week on Christmas Day. Students are invited to join us for worship at 9 a.m. on Sunday morning and then enjoy the day with their families.



Wednesday Nights

6-7:30 p.m.

Student Room

Students are invited to a Wednesday Bible study to get into God's Word. Students hang out, play in the gym and have a Bible study in the Student Room. Snacks

provided. After this week Amplify will be on hiatus until January 11. Join us again in the new year!



Register for Confirmation

Confirmation Class begins with a retreat on Friday, January 6. This class challenges students to think theologically and ask deep questions about the Bible, Methodist history and doctrine, and their lives as people of faith. Cost for the class is \$35 and it is open to students in Grades 6 and above.

You can register or find out more about what the class will cover on our website: www.stpaulumc.org



Starting on January 8, fifth graders, eighth graders and high school seniors are invited to join the next age level ministry on the first Sunday of each month.

Middle School Winter Retreat

Middle schoolers are invited to a weekend retreat February 17-19. During the weekend, they'll have the chance to grow closer to God through worship and quiet time with the Lord. The students also get lots of free time for fun activities like swimming, a petting zoo, canoeing, basketball, volleyball, human foosball, tennis, mini golf and a lot more. Cost is \$80 and includes four meals, lodging and transportation. A \$40 deposit is due on Sunday, January 15 and the remaining \$40 is due on February 12. Students are welcome to bring friends along with them. If you're interested, please e-mail our Student Ministry Director, Alison Van Duyne - alison.v@stpaulumc.org.



GROWTHguide

This week is our last Growth Guide through the end of the year. We will resume the Growth Guide in January. If you aren't already signed up to receive an e-mail each week with our Growth Guide, you can subscribe on our website: stpaulumc.org or by fill out the Connect Card. The Growth Guide offers daily scripture and challenge points to help you go deeper into the message topic during the week.

GIVE IN LOVE



Open Arms Angel Trees Deadline on Tuesday

Thank you to everyone who has donated toys help our Open Arms Ministry give toys to 500 children in need in our community! If you've already taken a tag, remember to bring back a gift by December 20. There are still quite a few tags left on our trees, so if you haven't taken a tag yet, or you can take another, please visit the trees in the lobby and choose one or two children to share the joy of Christmas with.

- Take a tag from on of the trees in the lobby.
- Buy a gift based on the information on the tag by this Tuesday, December 20.
- Drop off your UNWRAPPED gift and wrapping paper or a gift bag at Open Arms or at the church office by December 20. Leave all presents unwrapped so parents can "shop" for their children's toys in our Christian Life Enrichment Center.

If you would like to help with distribution on December 23 or with set-up call Open Arms Director, Yvette Carter at 727-586-5380.

BRING IN YOUR GIFTS BY DEC. 20



Donate Chocolate for the Homeless by Dec. 22

At the Christmas homeless feeding we like to include a special gift of chocolate. To bless those who have nothing with this

small token of love, drop off your donations of individually wrapped chocolate candy in the blue shopping cart on Sundays or at the box in the church office during the week by Dec. 22.

L♥VING HEARTS MEMORIAL FOOD MINISTRY

Loving Hearts Memorial Food Ministry

When families are suffering with grief over the loss of a loved one, there is a need for the church family to rally around them and care for them. In 2017, St. Paul will begin a new ministry called the Loving Hearts Memorial Food Ministry to serve grieving families by providing food for memorial receptions. We need volunteers who are willing to help provide food from one of three menu choices (desserts, finger sandwiches, or pot luck). Because of the nature of the event, volunteers should be aware that there would probably be a short notification period for food preparation. If you would like to join in the Loving Hearts Memorial Food Ministry beginning 2017 and are willing to provide food for memorial receptions, or if you have questions, call the church office at 584-8165 or fill out the Connect Card in this bulletin.

Help with Christmas Worship

Each year we welcome many visitors during our Christmas Eve services, and we need lots of friendly and warm people to help as ushers, greeters and parking lot attendants. Check the Connect Card to see which jobs we still need volunteers to fill on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day. We could also use some people to help tidy the sanctuary after the Christmas Eve worship. If you can help with this, just stay late after the 8 p.m. worship and help us be sure that everything is ready for Christmas morning.



Welcome Our Visitors

Christmas is such an important time for us to open our doors and share the love and kindness of St.

Paul with new people, as well as old friends. Even if you are not volunteering, you can do something to help welcome our visitors like say hello to someone you don't know or park across the street if you are able so visitors and those with difficulty walking are able to find a spot closer to the sanctuary. This is a an easy way to serve and share God's love!

Coming this Week

Sunday, December 18

Courtyard Coffee	8:30 AM
Lil' Kidz Nursery	8:30 AM
Cantata	9:00 AM
Children's Worship	9:00 AM
Sunday School	9:15 AM
Bereans	10:15 AM
Crusaders	10:15 AM
Friendship	10:15 AM
Inspirations	10:15 AM
Contemporary Worship	10:30 AM
Children's Worship	10:30 AM
Homeless Feeding	3:30 PM
Student Christmas Party	5:30 PM
IGNITE	7:00 PM

Monday, December 19

Girl Scouts	6:30 PM
Boy Scouts	7:00 PM

Tuesday, December 20

Sonrise Men's Study	6:30 AM
JOY (Just Older Youth)	10:30 AM

Wednesday, December 21

Students: Amplify	6:00 PM
Fellowship and Snacks	6:00 PM
Advent Study	6:30 PM
Worship Arts	6:30 PM
Handicapable	6:15 PM
Volleyball	7:45 PM

Thursday, December 22

Men's Bible Study	7:00 AM
Prayer Shawl	5:30 PM
Handbells Rehearsal	5:30 PM
Intercessory Prayer	6:00 PM
Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM
AA Meeting	7:00 PM

Friday, December 23

Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 24

Contemp. Christmas Eve	6:00 PM
Trad. Christmas Eve	8:00 PM

Sunday, December 25

One Worship Time	9:00 AM
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The church office is closed on
Monday, Dec. 26

Making a Prayer Request

Write your prayer request on the Connect Card and drop at the Connection Center or in the offering plate. You can call our prayer line at any time: 559-PRAY (7729).

Hear Our Prayer

Please pray for the people listed below with immediate prayer needs:

Al Misuraca	John C. & Mary Barrett	Richard Korb
Allison Hall	John Dale	Roy & Amelia Neville
Amanda Swan & Chad	John Fady	Shirley Hamrick
Audrey Talbert	John Guss	Sid Bobb
Bob and Troy Hartel	Josh DeLoach	Smith family
Bobby DeSantis	Julie & Lillyann	Stacey Storms
Bobby Quinton	Kalea Grady	Steve Harvey
Bonnie Wismer	Kat Farhangi	Tammy Barker
Byard Jones	Kathy Seitz	Todd Smyzer
Caitlynn & Meghann Timberlake	Kecia Richardson	Tonna Anderson
Carolyn Goodwin	Kenneth A.	Trevor Birt
Charlie Ferguson	Kim Morris	Wayne Boyd
Children, Youth & Women's safety	Kristi Burslem	Windell White
Cliff Armbruster	Lauri Ingham	Zackary Kueker
Dave	Lewis/Feldt families	Zakk Gerhards
David, Nicole & baby boy Seitz	Libby Burke, Peter H.	
Don McConnell	Linda Corbin	Praise
Dwinn Bradley	Linda Weaver hank	Thank you for your prayers
Family relationships	Lori, Andy, David, Leslie,	Thanking the Lord for answered & unanswered prayer
Family to find Jesus	Kathy & Larry	Praise for test reports
Gilbert Quinn	Malachi, Heather & Kevin Seitz	Praise God for forgiveness
Gloria Cantin	Margie Stillwell	
Health	Mark LaPolla	
Howie	Mary Moore	
Jace Michael	Meg, Greg & baby boy	
Jackson	Mr. & Mrs. David	Deaths
Jackson Seitz	Dubrock	Please pray for the families and friends of
Jane Huter	Our country	Ethel Murphy
Jenny	Penny McElyea	Pat Lewis
Jenny Walter	People with hate in their hearts	who recently passed on to life eternal.
Jim Lucky	Ray	
	Rich Stemboroski	

VISITING US TODAY?

If you're visiting us today, welcome! We hope you find St. Paul a comfortable place to worship and that you feel God's love. To find out more about us we invite you to:



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



VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.stpaulumc.org



JOIN OUR MAILING LIST SIGN UP ON THE CONNECT CARD



FOLLOW OUR FACEBOOK StPaulUMCLargo

GOOD NEWS



Handicapable Ministry Hosts Christmas Banquet
 On December 9, the beautifully decorated LuAnne Willey Fellowship Hall was packed with a record 225 plus smiling and rejoicing members of our Handicapable family. The evening included a scrumptious meal and Santa Claus made a surprise visit to shower each person with a gift and a listening ear. Many joined in on the dance floor as they danced to their favorite songs. The evening was truly a signature event for **God's Special People**. Many thanks to all who made it possible!



Handicapable Athletes Bring Home Medals at Special Olympics
 The weekend of December 3, two of our Handicapable members, Rick Farr and Nathan Cribbs, (pictured above) went to Orlando for the State Games. Rick took home the silver medal and Nathan the bronze for their outstanding scores on the bowling lanes. Thank you Maria and David Sauter and our other coaches and athletes for making us all so proud of you! We know Jesus is smiling at your accomplishments!

Thank You For Great Response to Highland Pines Nursing Home Project!

Five weeks ago our Prayer Shawl and Stephen Ministries asked for help in providing 120 prayer shawls for Highland Pines Nursing Home. We were overwhelmed by the response! Shawls, blankets, lap robes, caps, even stuffed animals came in from so many different people, we ended up with over 160 items! The overflow will be given to the Open Arms Ministry and distributed through the Christmas toy giveaway. Thank you to all our knitters and crocheters for letting God use you to bless so many people!



Over 160 items were received!



Kids at Ponce de Leon wearing hats and scarves made by Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl Gives in Love to Kids & Homeless
 In addition to prayer shawls, our Prayer Shawl Ministry also made and distributed 90 caps and scarves for the children at Ponce de Leon elementary school. Caps were also given to the homeless at our homeless feedings and at The Refuge. We're so grateful to everyone who takes part in this ministry!

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Strategic Initiative #1
 Introduce Jesus to 20,000 persons in a 5 mile radius of our church, so that they experience and share Him.

Strategic Initiative #2
Follow Jesus' lead to reach out to those experiencing poverty and strive to reverse its effects on our community.

The Reverend Bob Martin, Senior Pastor
 The Reverend Pam Dubov, Minister of Outreach and Missions



Address: 1199 Highland Avenue in Largo, 33770
 Phone: (727) 584-8165 | Prayer: (727) 559-PRAY
 Office Hours: 9 a.m.—5 p.m., Monday-Thursday
 E-mail: church@stpaulumc.org | www.stpaulumc.org

