





Welcome from Pastor Bob

Whether you're a first time visitor or a long time member of our St. Paul family, I'm glad you've joined us on the first Sunday of Advent. We're starting a new series, "Signs of Christmas" that will take a deeper look at some of the familiar symbols we associate with Christmas. I hope you will discover something during this series that helps you to experience the season with fresh eyes and a sense of wonder!

This is a busy time of year for all of us, but I hope that you are making space amidst all of the busyness to focus on God and the proof of his great love for us that is the Christmas miracle. We have quite a few opportunities to connect with the meaning of Christmas at St. Paul this month, including our cantata on Sunday, Dec. 18 and our preschool Christmas pageant, two of my personal favorites. Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, so we will have both worship times in the morning and candlelight services in the evening. I hope that you will invite someone to join you for this joyous day of celebration. Take a look through this bulletin or visit our website, stpaulumc.org, to find out about the many other things that are happening this Advent.





WORSHIP at 9 AM

Prelude Cindy Triffon, Interim Accompanist Introit O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright Bells of St. Paul Advent Candle Lighting: Hope Members of Stephen Ministry Welcome Dr. Robert Williams, Worship Leader

*Greet Oh How He Loves You And Me

*Hymns Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates No. 213 No. 217 Away in a Manger

*Apostle's Creed No. 881 Felix Koutsourais, Lay Leader Prayer with Lord's Prayer Offertory Lamb of God Sanctuary Choir Praise God, From Whom... No. 94 *Doxology

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Transitional Hymn No. 203 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Scripture Reading - Matthew 1:18-25

"Angels" Pastor Bob Martin Message

Directed Prayer Holy Communion

Special Music All Glory Laud and Honor Bells of St. Paul

*Closing Hymn It Came upon the Midnight Clear No. 218

*Benediction *Postlude

*Please stand, if you are able.

If you need assistance, let an usher know.

Baby changing tables are located in both men and women's restrooms.

9 AM Greeters: Jean and Keith Postel 10:30 AM Greeters: Deb Byrnes and Cindy Durant

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.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.stpaulumc.org





Looking for the prayer list? Turn to page 9.



Make a 2018 Commitment

If you missed Commitment Sunday last week, you can still make a 2018 pledge by filling out one of the green cards in the back of the pews and dropping it in the offering plate, or by filling out the pledge form on our website.

As we look forward to 2018, your pledge is so important, because it opens the door for accomplishing the big goals set for the church. Knowing the amount you will receive in your monthly social security check, pension distribution or paycheck from your employer, allows you to make plans for vour life and finances. Pledges help the church to do the same. As we create our budget, and plan our ministry goals, pledges are a vital tool that help us to know what we can realistically accomplish for the Lord. Our goal for 2018 is to raise \$1,600,000 to fund the ministry plan needed for our community, but our actual budget will depend on the pledges and giving we receive.

Thank you for your gifts and for being part of our work for God's kingdom!



Stay and Pray Today

If you have additional prayer needs, we invite you to stay after either worship time and visit the chapel. Someone from our Prayer Team would be happy to pray with you, or you are welcome to spend time alone with God in prayer.

10:30 AM WORSHIP

candles. Check page 7 for more about what these candles mean. You'll notice there is a time







ABOUT 60 MIN

PASSIONATE MUSIC

PRESSURE

Giving

It's easy to give online! You can make a one time gift or set up a convenient recurring contribution on our website. You can also use our online giving page to pay for things like worship flowers, class



study materials and more. Visit stpaulumc.org and click the Giving button, or use this QR code.

Flowers

This week's flowers were given by:

The family of Harry and June Aldrich, in celebration of their 67th anniversary on Nov. 25, with our love and admiration. We rejoice and remember the love you shared.

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. Flowers can be picked up after the 10:30 a.m. worship or at the church office on Monday. Flowers can also be donated to the Flower Ministry and distributed to those who are in the hospital or in rehab.

Deaths

Please pray for the family of Starnes Walker, who recently passed on to life eternal.

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 3, 2017	9 AM	10:30 AM		
Name: First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name					
F-mail:					
Phone:			□ Home		
Address			—— □ Cell		
lama					
	st Time Guest	□2nd T	ime Guest		
_	egular Attendee	☐ Memb			
	inter Resident		,		
Please update my information.					
Lcame	e today because:				
		☐ I visited	the website		
	e been here before				
□ I w	as invited by ———				
Otl	her:				
Lwant	to join your e-mai	il list·			
want to join your e-mail list: ☐ Weekly Pastor's E-Note ☐ Growth Guide					
☐ Weekly St. Paul Newsletter ☐ Children					
	udents her:				
	to put your e-mail addres		of the card!		
How can we pray for you?					
	1 3 3				
———	⁻ Military Prayer List				
Do NOT publish in bulletin.					
☐ Do NOT include on prayer chain.					
☐ I would like to connect with a Stephen Minister					

Don't forget to fill out the other side!

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!

Lam interested in:

Rededicating my life to Jesus Being baptized Becoming a member Joining a Small Group Serving at the church How: Serving in the community How: Learning more about St. Paul ministries
Specifically:
Taking a Spiritual Gifts Assessment 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 help with: ☐ Serving the Homeless on Sundays
☐ Help Distribute Christmas Toys on Dec. 22
Help with Christmas Eve Worship
Ushers □ 9 AM □ 10:30 AM □ 6 PM (here by 5:15 PM) □ 8 PM (arrive 7:15 PM) □ 10 PM (arrive 9:15 PM)
Greeters □9 AM □10:30 AM □6 PM (here by 5:15 PM) □8 PM (arrive 7:15 PM) □10 PM (arrive 9:15 PM)
Livestream □ 9 AM □ 10:30 AM □ 6 PM □ 8 PM □ 10 PM

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

Don't forget to fill out the other side!

NEXTSTEPS

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 coffee with the pastor to give you a chance to ask any questions you may have and discover more about who we are as a church, our mission, and core values.





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.

ONGOING GROUPS

- Age level groups (ex. JOY, IGNITE)
- Source Groups (Small groups of twelve or less)
- Sunday School
- At 9:15 and 10:15 a.m.



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.

Grow in Faith

Adult Studies

Adult Sunday Morning Classes

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

9:15 a.m. Sunday school class Room 202 in Bldg C

10:15 a.m. Sunday school classes

Inspirations - Purple Door Classroom (101) in Bldg C Bereans - Conference Room 2 in Bldg B

Friendship—Room 201 (Community Room) - CLEC

JOY (Just Older Youth)

Older adults are invited to join us at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays for worship, study and fellowship in the Lu-Anne Willey Fellowship Hall (CLEC). This Tuesday, December 5, Pastor Pam will teach. For more information, contact Senior Director of Ministry, Bobby Van Duyne at bobby.v@stpaulumc.org or 584-8165.



Christmas Eve Invitation Cards

We are providing invitation cards again this year for our Christmas Eve worship times. This is a time of year when many hearts are open to the Lord. There may be someone you know, or someone you haven't met yet,

who is only waiting on an invitation to take the next step toward seeking the Lord. It can be hard for some of us to reach out and make an invitation, especially to someone we don't know well, so we've created these cards to make it easier. Take a few cards with you, and invite someone to join you in worship this Christmas! We have five services on Christmas Eve this year so there is a time convenient for everyone! Cards will also be available in the Connection Center and at the church office.

Stephen Ministry Meet and Greet Next Sunday, Dec. 10 2 p.m.

Room 201 (CLEC)
Would you like to be part of a ministry that makes a real difference in others' lives when they need it most, and makes a difference in your



own? Consider becoming a Stephen Minister!

Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation, some of whom are lighting the Advent candle at our 9 a.m. worship today. They provide one-to-one care for people experiencing a difficult season in life due to grief, divorce, loneliness, job loss, illness and more.

We have a new round of Stephen Minister training beginning early next year. This training covers things like listening, providing Christian care, crisis theory and practice, and equips our Stephen Ministers to help their care receivers. Stephen Ministers meet with the person they are helping once a week to listen, care, encourage, and pray. It is a life changing ministry for both the care receiver and the care giver.

If you have the gift of faith, mercy, encouragement or caring, you could be a great Stephen Minister! To find out more about Stephen Ministry, join us for a Meet and Greet on Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. in room 201 of the Christian Life Enrichment Center. Speak with current Stephen Ministers about their experiences and ask any questions you may have. Refreshments will be provided.

IGNITE: Young Adults & Young Professionals

Adults 18-30s are invited to join IGNITE in room 201 of the CLEC tonight at 7 p.m. for study and discussion. Follow IGNITE on Facebook for info on upcoming studies, events, and cancellations.

Email: youngadults.stpaulumc@gmail.com





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

Sunday Morning: Lil' Kidz Care

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

This Sunday: Preschool & K-5

Preschool and K-5 are invited to attend their own worship and lessons in the Children's Ministry Center in Bldg C at both 9 and 10:30 a.m.

This Month We're Learning About



Kids don't immediately know what they have to offer. They don't have a lot of money, and may not have a lot of stuff either. Thankfully, generosity isn't just about money and stuff. Kids will discover the heart of generosity and realize that they have more to give then they might have thought.

We start our look at generosity in 1 John 4:9-11 where we discover that generosity starts with God. Because God loved us so much, He sent Jesus to be our savior and make it possible for us to be with God forever.

Worship Arts on Wednesday

Parents are invited to join their kids in Worship Arts this Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the room 202 of the Christian Life Enrichment Center. Instead of having a separate Parent's Lounge meeting this week, we'll be doing a Family Service Project!



Student Ministry

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



Sunday Night Student Ministry

"Who Needs Christmas?"

Seriously, who needs it? Well, as it turns out, maybe we all do. In this series, we'll discover just how important the Christmas story really is—for all of us.

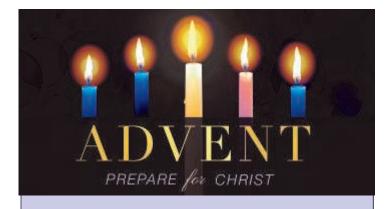


TONIGHT: The entire world needs Christmas The Christmas story is full of remarkable moments. But did you know that the Christmas story really kicked off about 2,000 years *before* the birth of Jesus? This week, we'll take a look at what happened in those years—the promises, trials, and victories—that all pointed to one thing: The world needed Christmas.

Middle school and high school students are invited to join us in the Mariposa Cafe for dinner at 5:30 p.m. followed by group games, exciting crowd breakers, passionate worship, biblical teaching, and a chance to connect with others through Source Groups. Dinner is \$3. Register in advance on our website: stpaulumc.org. Time together ends at 8 p.m.

Confirmation Class

Our next Confirmation Class begins in January. The nine week class is open to students in Grade 6 and above. It challenges students to ask deep questions about the Bible, Methodist history and beliefs, and their own lives as people of faith. Confirmation marks a new phase in a student's faith formation, one in which they are starting to think about what they believe and why. Registration for the class will open next Sunday.



During each Sunday of the Advent season, we focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings us as we light the four candles of the Advent Wreath. At St. Paul we use three blue candles, and one pink candle to represent joy, along with one larger, white candle in the middle as the Christ candle. The lighting of the first candle symbolizes hope and expectation, while the second symbolizes peace, the third joy and the fourth love. The white Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve reminding Christians that Jesus is the light of the world.

HOPE

This week we focus on **HOPE.**We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God.

THIS SUNDAY OUR ADVENT CANDLES ARE LIT BY:

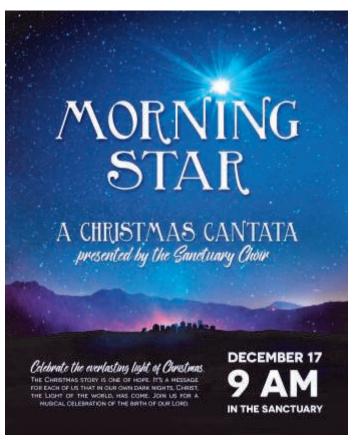
9 AM — Members of our Stephen Ministry

10:30 AM — THE SMITH FAMILY FELICIA, JONATHAN AND SAVANNAH



Son Kissed Preschool Christmas Program

Friday, December 8 | 6 p.m. | Sanctuary If you need something cute to lift your spirits this season, you won't want to miss the Son Kissed Preschool Christmas program. Join us in the sanctuary as the kids share music and dance, and remind us of the meaning of Christmas through a child's eyes.





SUNDAY MORNING: 9 and 10:30 AM

FAVORITE CHRISTMAS SONGS & A MESSAGE TO PREPARE US FOR THE CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S BIRTH.

SUNDAY EVENING CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

6 AND 8 PM

CHRISTMAS MUSIC, CANDLELIGHTING, AND A SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR THIS HOLY NIGHT.

10 PM

COMMUNION WILL BE SERVED.

MUSIC LED BY OUR SANCTUARY CHOIR.

Give in Love.

Rummage Sale Donation Pick-Ups

Christmas is around the corner and maybe you are getting new furniture or appliances. If your old furniture and appliances are still in great condition, the rummage sale can use them! We are now doing pick-ups of high quality furniture and appliances. If you would like to schedule a pick-up, contact Jerry Spaulding at 727-744-8540. We will begin accepting smaller items for the rummage sale on Jan. 1.



Christmas FOR Pinellas

Please take a tag from one of the Angel Trees in the lobby to help our Open Arms Resource Center provide toys for over 400 children.

- Buy a gift for the gender and age marked on the tag you choose, and drop your unwrapped gift off in the bin in the sanctuary lobby or at Open Arms by December 20.
- Leave all presents unwrapped so parents can "shop" for their children's toys in our Christian Life Enrichment Center. Please bring a roll of wrapping paper or a gift bag with your donation. Parents will use these to wrap their gifts after they choose them.

This is a wonderful way to share the joy of Christmas with children in need, and we are counting on you to help us again this year.

If you can't donate a toy, consider helping with set up and distribution. Call Open Arms Director, Yvette Carter at 727-586-5380 or mark the Connect Card if you would like to volunteer.



Advent Helpers Needed

We expect to welcome many visitors during the season of Advent, especially on Christmas Eve, when we will have five worship times! We will need lots of people to help during worship on Christmas Eve, including greeters and ushers and volunteers to help with parking. We are hoping to livestream all five of the worship times, but we can only do this if we have enough people volunteer to help run cameras, slides and more. No experience is necessary!

CAN YOU HELP WITH ANY OF THESE JOBS?

Greeters and Ushers: 9 and 10:30 a.m. 6 p.m. (be at the church by 5:15 p.m.) 8 p.m. (be at the church by 7:15 p.m.) 10 p.m. (be at the church by 9:30 p.m.)

Parking Team. Five people needed to help direct parking before the 6 pm. and between the 6 and 8 p.m. worships.

Livestream Volunteers at 9 and 10:30 a.m. and at 6, 8 and 10 p.m.

Mark the Connect Card if there is one or more worship time when you can help!

LVING HEARTS MEMORIAL FOOD MINISTRY

When families are suffering with grief over the loss of a loved one, there is a great need for the church family to rally around them and show their love and support. Loving Hearts Memorial Food Ministry does this by providing food for memorial receptions at no cost to the family. If you are interested in volunteering to help provide food, or if you have a need for the Loving Hearts Ministry, please contact the church office at 584-8165.

Coming this Week

		_
Crinday	Docombor	2
Suriuar	, December	J

Courtyard Coffee	8:30 AM
Lil' Kidz Nursery	8:30 AM
Traditional Worship	9:00 AM
Children's Worship	9:00 AM
Sunday School	9:15 AM
Stay and Pray	10:00 AM
Bereans	10:15 AM
Friendship	10:15 AM
Inspirations	10:15 AM
Contemporary Worship	10:30 AM
Children's Worship	10:30 AM
Stay and Pray	11:30 AM
Student Ministry	5:30 PM
IGNITE	7:00 PM

Monday, December 4

Girl Scouts 6:00 PM Stephen Ministry Party 6:30 PM **Boy Scouts** 7:00 PM

Tuesday, December 5

Sonrise Men's Study 6:30 AM Toy Making 9:00 AM JOY 10:30 AM Jumpstart 4:30 PM

Wednesday, December 6

Toy Making 9:00 AM Community Bible Study 9:00 AM Handicapable 6:15 PM Worship Arts 6:30 PM Volleyball 7:30 PM

Thursday, December 7

Men's Bible Study 7:00 AM Toy Making 9:00 AM Prayer Shawl 4:30 PM Handbells Rehearsal 5:30 PM 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 8

Church Office Closed

Handi Christmas 4:00 PM SKP Christmas Program 6:00 PM

Saturday, December 9

Soaring Eagles 8:00 AM

If you have an event to schedule, contact us at 584-8165 or e-mail kerry.k@stpaulumc.org

Making a Prayer Request

Write your prayer request on the Connect Card and drop it in 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: Aabri & Jessi Elaine DeYong Family Brandi, Kami & Kara

Adalyn Schumackher Eleanor Berry Adalynn Elizabeth Nelson Aimber Emilie & Bonnie Michael P White Evelyn B Ajay

Felicia & Jonathan Smith's Anita

Arlene Williams Family

Forest Anderson Barb S Barbara Dumbleton Frank Kimmel Barbara Martin Frank Register

Baumann Family Fred Ellard Betty Shreves Gary Craddick Bill Penhallegon George Spencer Harold & Shirley Birdie Warner Blaze Rockwell Hayes Children

Bob & Troy Hartel Hazel Bob Naja Hazel Austin Hunt & Swan Family

Bob Riley Bob Russo

Bobby Quinton Jenny Cervera Jim Ledford Brad Jones Joan Buchwald Branden

Brandon, Krystal & Joan Hermann McKenzie Joe Evanson Brian Greely John McCabe Family

Bud Haskell Josh DeLoach Caitlynn Timberlake Josh Whited

Joyce Wilson

Kalani Herrell

Kathy Seitz

KC Dafford

Karissa McCabe

Kelly & Jr Gonzales

Kimberly & Children

Kenny Packard

Kristen L Family

Kristina Whited

Lori, Andy & David

Lynn Jennings

Mark Nadeau

Mary Jane Arn

Maddrey Family

Leslie Lane

Libby Burke

Lillyann

Linda

Kialea Grady

Kim Sudano

Carl J Joy Starri Carol Ouinton Joyce

Caroline Fields Christyal Herrell

Clayton Gerhold's Family Cliff Armbruster

Cody Smith Courtney Harbaugh Craig Mackey

Dale and Ed Dale and Florita Anderson

Dave

David Barrett David, Nicole, Calvin, Kev-

in, Heather, Malachi, Greg, Meg, Jackson & Connor

Dawn Green **Debbie Haines** Deen & Suzi Poe

DeYong Family Dick & Cherie Hunt Dick Howard Don & Nancy Evans

Donna Ryan Ed Luttmann

Max Meg, Jake, Dom, Char, Megan Hickson Meghan Timberlake Melissa & Sarah Depew

Michelle Allen Mickey Bishop

Mike and Jean Troutner

Mike Foster Mike Gusulla Mike Luttman Mindy VanAlstine

Nancy Natalie

Nicole Simmon's Parents

Nilo Cabrera Pam Dubov Pat & Brian Greely

Patrick

Penny McElyea Peter H Puerto Rico Richard Buckley Richard Robertson Robin, Jim, Pat, David, Kathy, Paul, Kitty, Jeff, Jay,

Jodie, Nate, Jessica, Ray & Doris Ron Barker Ron Fowler

Roxie Bole & Family

Samantha Sandy P Scott Seitz Family Sharon Herman

Shirley Shirley Modert Steve Harley Suzie Evanson

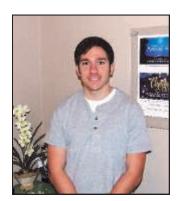
Svlvia Ted Pelvak Travis Ward Trevor Birt Triss Masters Vin D'Angelo Walker-Huff Family Wanda Barker Welch Family

Wini Hampton

Good News

Welcome our New Members

St. Paul was blessed to welcome five new members on Sunday, November 26. Received into membership were Josh Andes, Bill and Laura Gee, Melissa Serrano, and Becky Carter, who graduated from an associate to a full member. Say hello and introduce yourself to our new members when you see them.



Josh Andes



Bill and Laura Gee



Melissa Serrano



Becky Carter



Thank You, Boy Scout Troop 468!

On Saturday, November 18, The St. Paul Handicapable Ministry gathered together at Shelter 7 in Taylor Park for its annual picnic provided by St. Paul's Boy Scout Troop 468. The scouts and their leaders cooked hot dogs and hamburgers, and served a hungry crowd of 83 Handicapable members. For over fourteen years

this has been a highlight of our annual Handi calendar. Our Handicapable Ministry appreciates the hard work of the scouts and their leaders to provide this wonderful picnic. Thank you, Troop 468, for making a positive difference in the lives of others!



Visit Facebook for more pictures: StPaulUMCLargo

God Touches Lives Through Our Ministries

Last week a woman came by the church offices and told us that she was helped years ago by St Paul. She wanted to give something to St. Paul in return now that she is back on her feet, and handed us a check. Years later, she still remembered and was so thankful for what St. Paul did for her that she was led to give back. What a wonderful reminder that God uses us to touch people more deeply than we could even imagine!

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

