

SIGNS OF Christmas

JOIN US NEXT SUNDAY

Christmas Eve



Sunday Morning
9 AND 10:30 AM



*Sunday Night
Candlelight Worship*

6 AND 8 PM

CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND
CANDLE LIGHTING

10 PM

CANDLE LIGHTING
SANCTUARY CHOIR, AND
COMMUNION



December 17, 2017

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 this Sunday. During Advent we're taking a fresh 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!

If you took a tag to provide a toy for a child this Christmas, drop it off in the lobby today or be sure to bring it to Open Arms by Wednesday morning! Remember to leave presents unwrapped so parents can pick out the right gift for their child.

Next Sunday is Christmas Eve! We hope you will join us, and bring a friend or family member as we celebrate the birth of our Lord! We will have worship in the morning as we usually do at 9 and 10:30 a.m. with some extra Christmas music and hymns. And then at 6, 8 and 10 PM we will have our special Candlelight Christmas Eve worship times. Communion will be served at 10 PM. I'm so excited to share this special day of celebration with all of you! Take a look through this bulletin or visit our website, stpaulumc.org, to keep up with everything going on at St. Paul.



Bob Martin

Bob Martin, Senior Pastor

Glorify God ♥ Grow in Faith ♥ Give in Love

WORSHIP at 9 AM

Prelude Cindy Triffon, Interim Accompanist
Introit *Savior of the Nations Come* Sanctuary Choir
Advent Candle Lighting: Joy Mike and Cindy Constantinou
Welcome Pastor Bob Martin
*Greet *Oh How He Loves You And Me*

CANTATA: MORNING STAR

BY L. LARSON

Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Morning Star
Chosen by God
O Little Town of Bethlehem
He Come from the Glory
Why Do the Shepherds Sing?
Morning Star (Finale)

Message "Bethlehem" Pastor Pam Dubov
Directed Prayer
Offertory
*Doxology *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow* No. 94
*Closing Hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem* No. 230
*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: Mary Ann and Richard Clemow
10:30 AM Greeters: Deb Byrnes and Cindy Durant

10:30 AM WORSHIP

A typical 10:30 a.m. worship at St. Paul lasts about an hour. Worship is filled with current Christian music from our praise band. You are invited to sing along with the words on the screens, or simply enjoy the music. Today we are lighting the Advent candle that represents Joy. Check page 7 for more about what these candles mean. You'll notice there is a time in our worship to give financially. This is how we support the ministries and missions of our church. We hope you experience the love of God with us today!



ABOUT
60 MIN.



PASSIONATE
MUSIC



NO
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

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.



Thank You, Loving Hearts

LOVING HEARTS MEMORIAL FOOD MINISTRY SERVES GRIEVING FAMILIES BY PROVIDING FOOD FOR MEMORIAL SERVICE RECEPTIONS, AND TODAY THEY ARE GIFTING US WITH CANDY CANES! BE SURE TO READ THE TAG ON THE CANDY CANE YOU RECEIVED TO FIND OUT HOW THIS CANDY RELATES TO OUR LORD JESUS. THANK YOU, LOVING HEARTS MINISTRY, FOR THIS REMINDER OF GOD'S LOVE AND SACRIFICE FOR US.

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 17, 2017 9 AM 10:30 AM

Name: _____
First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____ Home
 Cell

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
 Weekly St. Paul Newsletter Children
 Students
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.
 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!

I am 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

- 6 PM (here by 5:15PM) 8 PM (arrive 7:15 PM)
- 10 PM (arrive 9:15 PM)

Greeters

- 6 PM (here by 5:15PM) 8 PM (arrive 7:15 PM)
- 10 PM (arrive 9:15 PM)

Livestream 9 AM 10:30 AM 6 PM 8 PM

Parking Team 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!

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 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. The next Discover St. Paul is on Sunday, January 14 at 11:45 a.m.



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.
- Parents' Lounge



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

Friendship Class Begins Study on John in Jan

Starting January 7, Dr. Berkley Reynolds will lead an eight week study on the book of John. All are welcome to join the Friendship Class in Room 201 of the CLEC from 10:30-11:30 a.m. on Sundays for this study and beyond.

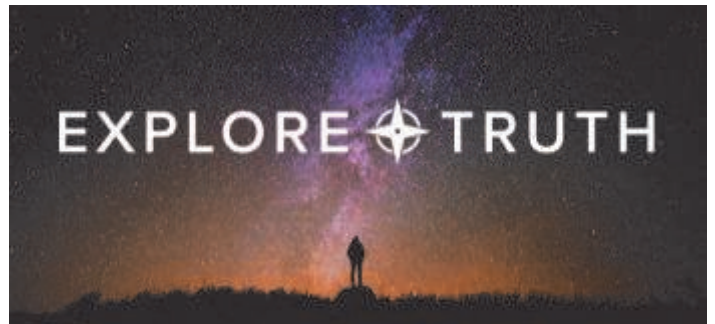
JOY (Just Older Youth)

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, Dec. 19, Pastor Bob will teach. This is the last meeting of JOY before they take a Christmas break. They will resume Jan. 9. For more information, contact Senior Director of Ministry, Bobby Van Duyne at bob-



Valentine's Social: Save the Date

You're invited to join us on Saturday, Feb. 3 for a Valentine's Social! The event includes dinner, music and dancing, as well as an a silent auction. Proceeds support families who are dealing with Pediatric Cancer. When a child is suffering from cancer, their entire family's life is turned upside down. One way we can help where insurance and hospital care falls short is with travel expenses and meals. The funds we raise with this event will help provide things like gas and food cards so families have one less thing to worry about. Tickets will go on sale in January. More info to come!



IGNITE: Young Adults & Young Professionals

Adults 18-30s are invited to join IGNITE in room 202 of the CLEC tonight at 7 p.m. for study and discussion. After tonight, IGNITE will be on hiatus for the holidays until Dec. 7 when they begin a new study on relativism and the nature of truth. This study offers tools to help you discern and defend the truth, including the truth of the Christian faith. Follow IGNITE on Facebook for info on upcoming studies, events, and cancellations.



Parent's Lounge

Mariposa Café—CLEC. 6:30-7:30 PM.

The Parent's Lounge is a casual environment where parents can hang out, build relationships, and support each other through the challenges of raising their children. Each

week we discuss a different parenting topic. You can miss a week and jump right back in. Coffee and desserts are provided. After this week the Parent's Lounge will be on hiatus until the new year.

Children from preschool through 5th grade are invited to attend Worship Arts this Wednesday for a Christmas party! See page 7.



StPaulChildrensMinistry

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



What are some ways you can give this Christmas?

This question isn't about the physical gifts kids can give, but the creative ways they can show generosity to others throughout the Christmas season. We will take a look at the important generosity principle Paul wrote about in 1 Timothy 6:18. *"Command the rich to do good. Tell them to be rich in doing good things. They must give freely. They must be willing to share"* (NIRV). **Paul knew wealth isn't based in how much we have but in what we do with it.**



Worship Arts on Wednesday
Kids in preschool through 5th grade are invited to the last Worship Arts of the year on Weds. at 6:30 p.m. in room 201 of the Christian Life Enrichment Center. We will end the year with a party and lots of fun! We'll see you in the new year! Parents are invited to join us in the Parents' Lounge in the Mariposa Café for discussion and desserts while your kids are in Worship Arts. See page 5.



Student Ministry

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

SPUMCLighthouse

Sunday Night Student Ministry



TONIGHT: CHRISTMAS PARTY

Middle school and high school students are invited to join us in the LuAnne Willey Fellowship Hall (CLEC) for this year's Christmas Party! Bring a dish to share for dinner, and a wrapped gift for the gift exchange (\$5 or less). We are also asking each student to bring \$5 that will be donated to a local family in need. You can sign up for your dish or see what everyone else is bringing to eat online: stpaulumc.org.

There is no Student Ministry on Sunday, Dec. 24 or Sunday, Dec. 31. Enjoy your Christmas and New Years!

Sign Up for Confirmation

Our next Confirmation Class begins with an overnight retreat on Jan. 5 and 6. The six week class costs \$30 and is open to students in Grade 6 and above. It challenges students to ask deep questions about the Bible, our Methodist beliefs, and their own lives as people of faith. If you are interested in confirmation, fill out the form at stpaulumc.org

XPerience Sunday

On the first Sunday of each month, Xperience Sunday allows fifth, eighth and twelfth graders to experience what worship is like at the next age level. Starting on Sunday, January 7 fifth graders are invited to join our Student Ministry and eighth graders join our high school group. High school seniors are invited to join our IGNITE group for an ice-breaker game, time to hang out and get to know each other, and a brief lesson and Q&A.



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.

JOY

THIS WEEK WE LIGHT THE PINK CANDLE REPRESENTING **JOY**.

WHEN JESUS WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM, THE ANGELS BROUGHT "GOOD NEWS OF A GREAT JOY, WHICH SHALL BE TO ALL PEOPLE." THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS' BIRTH AND THE PROMISE OF SHALOM ARE STILL TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY FOR US TODAY.

THIS SUNDAY OUR ADVENT CANDLES ARE LIT BY:

9 AM —MIKE AND CINDY CONSTANTINOU

10:30 AM — THE WARD FAMILY
SHARON, DONALD, NICK AND MATTHEW



Christmas Eve Invitation Cards

There are Christmas Eve invitation cards in the pews and seat backs, and in the Connection Center. Take a

few with you and invite someone to join you in worship next Sunday! This is a great time of year to reach out to those who do not have a church home, or those who don't yet know the Lord. Many hearts are open during this season, and you never know if your invitation may be the thing that brings someone closer to the Lord. We have five services on Christmas Eve this year, so there is a time convenient for everyone!

Christmas FOR PINELLAS

TAKE A TAG. BRING BACK AN UNWRAPPED TOY.

Toys will be distributed to hundreds of children from our community this Friday, so if you took a tag, be sure to drop off your **unwrapped** gift(s) in the sanctuary lobby today, or at Open Arms by this Wednesday. Bring a gift bag or a roll of wrapping paper too so parents can use them to wrap the gift they pick for their child.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO SHARE THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS WITH KIDS IN NEED!

Christmas Eve
Sunday Morning
9 AND 10:30 AM
 FAVORITE CHRISTMAS SONGS & A MESSAGE TO PREPARE US FOR THE NIGHT'S CELEBRATION.

Sunday Evening
Candlelight Worship
6 AND 8 PM
 CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND CANDLE LIGHTING

10 PM
 CANDLE LIGHTING, CHOIR AND COMMUNION

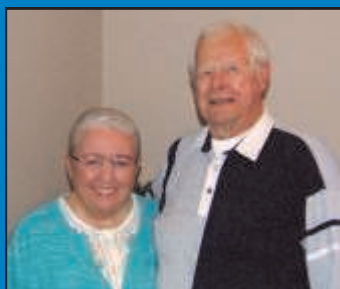
Give in Love

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Keith & Jean Postel
Shortly after joining St. Paul in 2014, Keith and Jean Postel volunteered to serve the St. Paul Handicapable Ministry. The Postels contribute to Handicapable by preparing refreshments and serving them at the end of Handicapable's worship service. Always early arrivers, Keith and Jean bring their dinner to eat before the service, and make a point to welcome other early arrivers and help them feel at home. It is such a joy to see the Postels in their regular seats each week and know they are ready, willing and able to serve!

Keith and Jean are also faithful members of St. Paul's JOY Ministry and volunteer with the Carpenter's Shop and other St. Paul outreach ministries. They are always looking for ways to serve!

Handicapable is grateful to volunteers like Keith and Jean, who help make this ministry so strong and meaningful.



Jean and Keith Postel



Jean and Keith making toys with others at the Carpenter's Shop



Keith with Steve Brower at Back to School Jubilee



Christmas Eve Helpers Needed

We expect to welcome many visitors next Sunday for Christmas Eve, when we will have five worship times! We still need some helpers to greet, usher and help with parking during our evening worship times. 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 on Christmas Eve
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 & 10:30 a.m. and 6 & 8 p.m.

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

Livestream Chat

Based on feedback from our livestream viewers and evaluation done by our staff, we have decided to discontinue the livestream chat feature as we begin the new year. This will allow you to watch the worship in fullscreen view.

We encourage livestream viewers to fill out the online Connect Card each week to provide us with any prayer needs, and share comments or other requests that you would have shared in the chat, so that we can continue to keep in contact with you.

Coming this Week

Sunday, December 17

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
Bereans	10:15 AM
Friendship	10:15 AM
Inspirations	10:15 AM
Contemporary Worship	10:30 AM
Children's Worship	10:30 AM
Student Ministry	5:30 PM
IGNITE	7:00 PM

Monday, December 18

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

Tuesday, December 19

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

Wednesday, December 20

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

Thursday, December 21

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

Friday, December 22

Church Office Closed

Christmas FOR Pinellas 9:00 AM

Saturday, December 23

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:

Aaron Medlin	ter	Mickey Murray
Alan Nuytten's Daughters	Hayes Children	Mike Foster
Allison Hall	Helena Inglis	Mike Gusiella
Andrew Medlin	Jace Michael	Mike Venditto
Anita	Jackson	Mike Whelan
Anne Davis	Jan Dale	Penny McElyea
Audrey Talbert	Jane Huter	Peter H
Barbara Martin	Jean Postel	Rich Stemboroski
Barker Children	Jenny Walter	Richard Buckley
Bart	Jim Lucky	Rick Holland
Betty Thomaides	Joan Pitts	RLT
Blaze Rockwell	Jodie, Bonnie, Robin,	Ron & Wanda Barker
Bob & Troy Hartel	Bertha, Jay, Jeff, Ed,	Rosemary Potter
Bob Crown	Joan, Brenda, Nancy & Jim	Sharon & Bill Gurkie
Bob Russo	Joe Evanson	Steve & Tyler
Bonnie & Bob Cumins	John Fady	Steve Harvey
Bonnie & Emilie	Jothan Black	Suzie Evanson
Bonnie Wismer	Karen Goodin	Tammy Barker
Brandan White	Kat Farhangi	Ted Pelyak
Bruce Medlin	Kenneth A.	Terry B
Bud Haskell	Kenny Packard	Theresa
Carl J	Kim Morris	Todd Smyzer
Carol & Mike Prodanas	Kim Sudano	Travis Ward
Caroline Fields	Kristi Burslem	Trevor Birt
Carolyn Goodwin	Libby Burke	Triss Masters
Children, Women & Youth	Libby Burke	Vicky
COH	Linda Weaver Hank	Vin D'Angelo
Dale Metler	Lorraine Porerier	Walker-Huff Family
David Barrett	Lou, Andy, David	Welch Family
DeYong Family	Low Family	World Peace
Don Mitchell	Lynn Jennings	Zackary Kueker
Donna Simonetti's Family	Marcus Jenkins	
Doris Ackerman	Margie Stillwell	
Evelyn B	Mark LaPolla	
Gary Craddick	Mary Jane Arn	
George Spencer	Max	
Gilbert Quinn	Meg, Jake, Dom, Char,	
Glenda Neville	Aubri, Jessi & Peggy	
Haley	Megan Hickman	
Harold & Shirley Regis-	Melissa & Sarah	
	Michael P White	
	Michael Ruchak	

Deaths

Please pray for the families of
 Betty Hale
 (Jim Hale's Mom)
 Dale Anderson
 Eleanor Berry
 who recently passed on to life eternal.

Good News



Parents' Night Out Welcomes Big Crowd

On Saturday, Dec. 2 our Children's Ministry hosted its annual Parents Night Out. We had almost 100 kids join us for a night full of fun! We played games, ate dinner, and did a service project to thank our mail carriers this Christmas season. We ended the night watching the movie **Arthur Christmas**, which taught us it's not always easy to believe in what we can't see, but when we believe, it helps others believe too. The movie tied into to how when we have faith in God and show His love, it has a domino effect that helps others have faith too. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the event, especially our Student Ministry. And thanks to Cobb Theaters as well, for donating a yummy treat!



Some of the Special Olympians who were recognized



Leading a prayer



Family Service Project FOR Pinellas

On Wednesday, Dec. 6 our **Worship Arts and Parent's Lounge** groups combined as children and parents worked together on a family service project. Families made and decorated chocolate covered pretzels to show our appreciation for the teachers and staff of Largo

Middle School. The treat bags also included messages of gratitude and the childrens' art work. We appreciate the many ways that teachers in our community impact the lives of students, and we love to see families serving together at St. Paul! Our Children's Ministry incorporates service into many of their activities to help children learn early on to care for and serve others like Jesus teaches us! Partnering with our schools and letting our teachers know how much we appreciate them is another way that St. Paul is striving to be FOR Pinellas!



Handicapable Leads Praise and Worship

Last month 223 members of our Handicapable Ministry, friends, guests and members of the church gathered to praise The Lord during our Thanksgiving worship. Ten members of the Handicapable Ministry led worship through prayer, song, Bible reading and announcements. Kids from Worship Arts performed a skit about the meaning of "The Lord's Prayer." Special Olympians from Handicapable and Crossroads were also honored for their achievements. Thanks to Jim Puyda for playing the piano and producing the Special Olympics bowling video. What a powerful and joyful service!

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

