

SIGNS OF Christmas



Join us Tonight
Candlelight Worship

6 AND 8 PM
CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND
CANDLE LIGHTING

10 PM
CANDLE LIGHTING
SANCTUARY CHOIR, AND
COMMUNION



JOIN US ON JAN. 7
FOR A SPECIAL WORSHIP
9 & 10:30 AM

REMEMBER YOUR
Baptism



December 24, 2017

Welcome from Pastor Bob

Whether you're a first time visitor or a long time member of our St. Paul family, I'm so glad that you've joined us on this Christmas Eve! As you celebrate the birth of our Lord with us, my prayer is that you experience the miracle of Christmas like it's the first time. Let all the stresses of life and last minute holiday preparations fall away and just experience God's presence here with you today. May God touch your heart and fill you with joy, hope, love and peace!

I hope you will join us again tonight for one of our Candlelight Worship Times: 6, 8 and 10 PM. Candle lighting is a special tradition when many of us strongly feel the presence of the Lord and his love. We will have beautiful music at all our candlelight services tonight, and communion will be served at 10 PM.

Take a look through this bulletin or visit our website, stpaulumc.org, to keep up with everything going on at St. Paul.

May you all have a very Merry Christmas tomorrow!



Bob Martin
Bob Martin, Senior Pastor

Glorify God ♥ Grow in Faith ♥ Give in Love

Glorify God

WORSHIP at 9 AM

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Prelude | | Cindy Triffon, Interim Accompanist |
| Introit | <i>What Child Is This</i> | Bells of St Paul |
| Advent Candle Lighting: Love | | Deb Carlson, Ken & Phyllis Crocker |
| Welcome | | Dr. Robert Williams, Worship Leader |
| *Greet | <i>Oh How He Loves You And Me</i> | |
| *Hymns | <i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i> | No. 234 |
| | <i>While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks</i> | No. 236 |
| | | No. 881 |
| *Apostle's Creed | | |
| Prayer with Lord's Prayer | | Pastor Pam Dubov |
| Special Music | <i>Child of Peace</i> | Jan Snow |
| Offertory | <i>He Come From The Glory</i> | Sanctuary Choir |
| *Doxology | <i>Praise God, From Whom...</i> | No. 94 |
| *Prayer of Thanksgiving | | |
| Transitional Hymn | <i>Hail to the Lord's Anointed</i> | No. 203 |
| Message | "Signs of Christmas" | Pastor Bob Martin |
| Directed Prayer | | |
| *Closing Hymn | <i>Angels We Have Heard On High</i> | No. 238 |
| *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: Lynn Jennings, Kay Hisey,
Loretta Siegfried & Sue Kidd

10:30 AM Greeters: Brooke Errett, Linda Benoit, & Lori Bailey



Discover St. Paul Coffee

If you're new to St. Paul, thinking about joining, or just want to get connected with our missions and ministry, we invite you to join us for coffee after 10:30 a.m. worship on January 14. Meet in the Connection Center at 11:45 a.m. for beverages and snacks, and the chance to get to know our pastors and St. Paul a little better. If you plan to attend, mark the Connect Card on page 4 to let us know.



Make a 2018 Commitment

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 opens the door for accomplishing the big goals set for the church. Knowing the amount you will receive in your monthly social security check or paycheck allows you to make plans for your 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. Thank you for your gifts and for being part of our work for God's kingdom!

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



JOIN OUR MAILING LIST
SIGN UP ON THE CONNECT CARD



FOLLOW OUR FACEBOOK
StPaulUMCLargo

Looking for the prayer list? Turn to page 9.

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 Love. 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

Today's flowers are given by:

- ♥ Ellen Stantz & Family, with love to my husband Charlie on his 80th birthday today

Happy Birthday!

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.

Join us in the Courtyard Between Services

Between worship times our praise band does a sound check in the sanctuary. If you arrive early to our 10:30 a.m. worship, we invite you to join us in the courtyard for refreshments and fellowship instead of entering the sanctuary right away. You are welcome to sit in on the sound check if you choose, but be aware that it can be loud as we make adjustments.

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 24, 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
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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 Sunday
- Livestream Team on Sunday
- Loving Hearts Memorial Food Ministry
- Stephen Ministry
- Connection Center Hosts 9 AM 10:30 AM

I plan to attend:

- Discover St. Paul: January 14 at 11:45 AM
 New to St. Paul or want to become a member?
 Join us coffee in the Connection Center.

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) Resumes January 9

JOY is currently on their holiday break, but beginning January 9 older adults are invited to join us at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays for worship, study and fellowship in the LuAnne Willey Fellowship Hall (CLEC). For more information, contact Senior Director of Ministry, Bobby Van Duyne at bobby.v@stpaulumc.org or 584-8165.

Parent's Lounge Resumes Jan. 10

Mariposa Café—CLEC. 6:30-7:30 PM.

The Parent's Lounge is on their holiday break, but will resume on Jan. 10 with new discussion topics. All parents are invited to come build relationships and support each other through the challenges of raising their children. Each week we discuss a different parenting topic. Coffee and desserts are provided.

Watch or Listen to Past Messages

Our past messages are available as both video and audio on our website. Watch or listen to the messages you missed, or the ones you want to hear again. Past Growth Guides are also available. Visit the "Past Messages" page under the "Worship" menu. You can also download past messages from itunes; just search for St. Paul UMC.



Valentine's Social: Save the Date

You're invited to join us on Saturday, Feb. 3 at 6 p.m. 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 are \$25 and will go on sale in January.



IGNITE: Young Adults & Young Professionals

IGNITE is currently on holiday break, but will return on Jan. 7. Adults 18-30s are invited to join IGNITE in room 202 of the CLEC for an Icebreaker Night. Get to know some new people, hang out, play games, and have brief study discussion. Their next study, *Explore Truth*, begins on Jan. 14 and 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.





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



How can you be more generous?

Isn't it true that although we know we should be generous, we often do the minimum when it comes to giving? What if kids decided to go above and beyond with their generosity? We think that if kids were generous with their time and energy, with their patience and grace, that life would look different for them. They'd show others what it means to follow Jesus and show the world a glimpse of how generous He is to us.



Worship Arts on Holiday Break Until January

Worship Arts is on a break until the new year. On Jan. 10 kids ages 3 through 5th grade are invited to join us again on Weds. at 6:30 p.m. in room 201 of the Christian Life Enrichment Center. Kids worship God in creative ways like arts and song, play fun games and more.



Student Ministry

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



Sunday Night Student Ministry

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



Xperience Sunday: January 7

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. On January 7 fifth graders are invited to join our Student Ministry at 5:30 p.m. in the Mariposa Café, followed by group games, worship, biblical teaching, and a chance to connect to others through Small Groups. Eighth graders join our high school group.

High school seniors are invited to join our IGNITE group for icebreakers, time to hang out and get to know each other, and a brief lesson and Q&A.



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



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 will be lit tonight at our Candlelight Christmas Eve worship, reminding us that Jesus is the light of the world.

THIS WEEK WE LIGHT THE CANDLE REPRESENTING

LOVE

THE LIGHT OF THE FOURTH CANDLE REMINDS US OF GOD'S LOVE FOR US. JUST AS GOD SHOWED HIS LOVE FOR US BY GIVING US HIS SON, AND JESUS SHOWED HIS LOVE FOR US DURING HIS MINISTRY, WE SHOULD SHOW OUR LOVE FOR OTHERS ALL YEAR LONG.

THIS SUNDAY OUR ADVENT CANDLES ARE LIT BY:

9 AM—DEB CARLSON, KEN & PHYLLIS CROCKER

10:30 AM - THE JOHNSON FAMILY

ALISHA, BRAEDEN & MATTHEW



Priscilla SHIRER

LIVE

TAMPA, FL

IDLEWILD BAPTIST CHURCH

APRIL 28, 2018

worship with ANTHONY EVANS



Women of St. Paul, you are invited to a one-day live event featuring Priscilla Shirer, dynamic Bible study leader, speaker, and actress (*War Room*) at Idlewild Baptist Church on Saturday, April 28, 2018. Anthony Evans will also share his wonderful musical gifts as worship leader.

- Learn to study God's Word for yourself with practical, biblical teaching.
- Find spiritual refreshment alongside thousands of women from all walks of life.
- Gain the direction you need to step into God's plan for your life.
- Be inspired!

TIME

The event begins at 9:30 a.m. and concludes at 4:15 p.m. The doors open at 7:30 a.m.

PRICE

If we can get 10 or more in our group we will receive the discounted price of \$59 per person.

TRANSPORTATION

We will take the church bus to Tampa. Because of the crowds expected, the bus would leave St. Paul at approximately 7:30 a.m. There will be a small fee to help pay for the gas for the bus.

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND:

Contact Mary Vaughn at 727-586-016 and give her your name and contact information as soon as possible. The early registration deadline is January 24, but please do not wait until the last minute. Contact Mary by Sunday, Jan. 21 at the latest.

PAYMENT

Your payment of \$59 can be made by check, cash or on the church giving webpage. Any checks should be made payable to St. Paul UMC with Priscilla Shirer noted on the memo line. Payments must be received by the January 24 early registration deadline.

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.**



Become a Stephen Minister

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 community. These trained Stephen Ministers provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are going through a difficult time, such as divorce, grief, unemployment, illness, relocation, loneliness, etc.

In January, our St. Paul Stephen Ministry will celebrate 25 years, a truly awesome accomplishment! We are looking for people with a gift for caring, encouragement and listening, to join our Stephen Ministry. If you would like more information, or you want to join our Stephen Ministry team during the January training, send an email to Stephen Ministry Leader, Becky Carter at stephenministry@stpaulumc.org



Donate to the Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has given out over 1,625 prayer shawls since it began. They also make hats and scarves for the homeless, baby blankets and more. If you aren't able to knit or crochet, you can still take part in the Prayer

Shawl Ministry by donating yarn or making a monetary donation marked "Prayer Shawl." You can leave donations of yarn in the circular bin in the lobby.

GROWTHguide

The Growth Guide is a weekly e-mail with devotionals based on Sunday's message. Scripture, challenge questions, and more take you deeper into the topic and help you keep in touch with the Lord all week long. If you would like to receive the Growth Guide by email, you can sign up on the Connect Card on page 3 of this bulletin.



Connection Center Hosts

Before and after worship, our Connection Center is where our members and guests come to get questions answered or to find out more about St. Paul. We need friendly folks who enjoy connecting with others to help by being available in the Connection Center. Take a look at the Connect Card on page 4 and let us know which time you would like to help.

Livestream Chat

Based on feedback from our livestream viewers and our evaluation, we have decided to discontinue the livestream chat feature as we begin the new year. This will not affect your ability to stream, and in fact it will allow you to watch the worship in fullscreen for a better viewing experience. 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 24

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Courtyard Coffee | 8:30 AM |
| Lil' Kidz Nursery | 8:30 AM |
| Traditional Worship | 9:00 AM |
| Children's Worship | 9:00 AM |
| Contemporary Worship | 10:30 AM |
| Children's Worship | 10:30 AM |
| Candlelight Worship | 6:00 PM |
| Candlelight Worship | 8:00 PM |
| Candlelight & Communion | 10:00 PM |

Monday, December 25

Church Office Closed



Tuesday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 27

| | |
|--------------|---------|
| Toy Making | 9:00 AM |
| Handicapable | 6:15 PM |
| Volleyball | 7:30 PM |

Thursday, December 28

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Men's Bible Study | 7:00 AM |
| Toy Making | 9:00 AM |
| Choir Social | 7:00 PM |

Friday, December 29

Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 30

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Soaring Eagles | 8:00 AM |
|----------------|---------|

The church office will be closed on Monday, January 1

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

Due to early holiday print deadlines some of your prayer requests may not be on the list in the bulletin this week. The Prayer Team receives their own list as soon as requests are made, so your prayer needs are being prayed over.

Good News



Handicapable FOR Pinellas
 Handicapable Volunteer Jim Puyda, provided his talents as a caricature artists for the children, young adults, staff and family members at The Sabal Palms Children Center's annual Christmas Party on December 9. One of the young adults who had his caricature drawn was Matt, also an active member of Handicapable, pictured above with Jim.

The Handicapable Ministry also presented The Children's Center with over 175 pictures, a beautiful Christmas centerpiece and a flat coffee table book commemorating the event. Sharing the love of Jesus with our friends at The Children's Center is always a blessing!



UNDERFED PEOPLE FED MEALS

| IN 2016 | IN 2017 |
|---------|--------------|
| 6,240 | 6,300 |

POUNDS OF FOOD COLLECTED & DISTRIBUTED

| IN 2016 | IN 2017 |
|---------|----------------|
| 282,000 | 348,000 |

PEOPLE WHO RECEIVED FOOD THROUGH OPEN ARMS

| IN 2016 | IN 2017 |
|---------|---------------|
| 8,410 | 10,144 |

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

