

# United Methodist Church Newsletter

## December

2021

[stpaulneunitedmethodistchurch.com](http://stpaulneunitedmethodistchurch.com)



Office Hours  
Tues-Fri  
9am –3:00 pm  
754-4247

### Staff

Rev. Dr. Susan Murithi

Church Secretary  
Carrie Hancock

Custodian  
Integrated Life Choices  
Call Office

Committee  
Chairpersons:

Admin Council  
Mikaleh Esquitin

Board of Trustees  
Janet Thomsen  
Darwin Lee

Finance  
Tom Powell

Staff/Parish Relations  
Bob Rasmussen

Worship  
Darla Voigt

Mission-Outreach  
Mary Ann Rickertsen

UMM  
Tom Knutson

UMW  
Charlene Craig  
Carol Phillips

Education  
Nancy Harrington

Auditor  
Larry Hurlburt

### December 2021 Newsletter

For four Sundays before Christmas, we celebrate a season called 'advent' or 'the coming'. It is the time when we reflect on the mystery of the incarnate God showing up in human form. We ponder on the miracle that was Christmas when God came to dwell among us as a human baby. But that is not all, advent is also a time when we anticipate the second coming of Christ. He promised that he will come a second time to make everything that is wrong in the world right. And so, we eagerly wait for that time when sin and brokenness will be destroyed forever. This gives us hope, and even the most despairing people find courage again. It is a season when God says, don't give up just yet, it will not be bad forever, I will come and destroy everything that has oppressed you. So, this season is for anyone who has been exhausted, defeated, fearful! God rekindles our hope by reminding us of his promise.

Advent is also a time of preparation. We prepare our hearts and make them ready for God to do something new in us. John the Baptist made this announcement to those first century believers. "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him.'" (Mark 1:3) God wants to bring healing and wholeness in the world, and he invites us to join him in this undertaking. But this calls for commitment and proper preparation. To fully enjoy this adventure with God, we prepare our hearts and make the lord's path straight.

Advent is the time we remind ourselves that God's reign has begun. As our king, he breaks oppression and injustice, helps the poor and needy, and turns darkness to light. We light candles to represent the light that Christ brings. We light candles of hope, love, joy, and peace.

We celebrate in anticipation, longing and hoping. We worship in thanksgiving and wonder. We participate in the story as we sing with the angels and adore with the shepherds. We remind ourselves that he shall come back a final time, to establish peace forever and righteousness will flow in all the earth. May we be reminded of God's promise and fulfillment in Christ this advent season. *Amen*

Pastor Susan Murithi

## For your information:

Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be on December 24th at 5:30 pm.  
Everyone is welcome!



## **School Children Milk Money**

Our church is committed to give milk money to the St. Paul Public Schools for those children who otherwise would not have it available. Please keep this mission in your prayers and consider donating to this wonderful cause. Make sure and note "milk fund" on your check.



## November Attendance

November 7th:	88 In-person 84 views/FB
November 14th:	68 In-person 71 views/FB
November 21st:	63 In-person 89 views/FB
November 28th:	86 In-person 72 views/FB

## November Offering Totals

November 7th:	\$4,697
November 14th:	\$1,989
November 21st:	\$680
November 28th:	\$2,482

### ***Did you know.....***

The UMW is still collecting *Best Choice* brand labels?

These are sent in for reimbursement after a certain amount has been reached. This helps the UMW in their ministry throughout the year. Please consider cutting out and donating labels this coming year. There is a basket in the Narthex of the church to bring these to.  
*The ladies thank you!*

### *Young Family's Group*

This newly created group welcomes couples and single parents with kids ages 0–12th Grade. Our current study is about raising children in a tech obsessed world. This group will meet next on December 15th at the church at 6:45 pm. If you have any questions, please let the office know.

## Christmas Cheer news

The cold weather is coming and we could use your help. Each year one thing that each Christmas Cheer family member receives is a hat, mittens or gloves and a pair of socks. We hope to continue that tradition again this year. There is a box in the Fellowship Hall for your donation of these items. Also, if you take a gift tag and purchase gifts, please return them to the church by December 10<sup>th</sup>. Christmas Cheer package distribution day is on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 1pm. Thank you

again for all of  
your help!



### Prayer Group!

The Prayer Group meets every other Wednesday at 11 am.

The next meeting will be on the 19<sup>th</sup>. They will be caroling at Matelyn during a worship service there, starting at 1:15pm.

### United Methodist Women

The UMW will be meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm in the church fellowship hall. All ladies are welcome!

## Sunday

Worship time 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.\*

### Adult Bible Study

Sunday morning 9:00 am

### Children's Education

Sunday School 11:00 am.

-after Worship

during the school year

### Youth Group

Wednesday evenings 6:15 pm

during school year

## Thursday

Come 'n Go Coffee 10:00-11:00 a.m.\*

### Prayer Group

Wednesdays at 11:00am

**Confirmation**– Sunday at 11:20  
-every other Sunday Starting Oct. 3rd



**\*Fellowship and Come and Go Coffee have been suspended until further notice.**

## **United Methodist Church of St. Paul**

### MISSION STATEMENT

**'Making and Nurturing Disciples'**

We are starting a new prayer request list. If you would like your name added to this list, please let the church office know.

Thank you



*Note: We can only publish prayer concerns with the permission of the people involved. Also, the Pastor often does not find out about hospitalizations. HIPPA regulations do not allow the hospital to call unless they are requested to do so. Please give us a call (Church 754-4247) if you or someone you know is in the hospital or desires a call. Thank you for your help.*



The Goodwill trailer will be in St. Paul from December 2nd until the 9th (or until the trailer is full!). This will be at the City Lot located at 6th and Grand Street here in St. Paul.

*Please donate your gently used items to help support individuals with disabilities and barriers improve their quality of life.*

Dec 2	Lory Thomsen	Dec 14	Charlene Craig
Dec 3	Don Lukasiewicz	Dec 16	Dave Harrington
Dec 4	Deborah Rasmussen	Dec 17	Joe Swanson
Dec 4	Ursula Sorlie	Dec 19	Susan Ross
Dec 5	Brenda Starkey	Dec 20	Mac Killinger
Dec 9	Ryley Schulte	Dec 22	Dawson Fox
Dec 10	Carrie Thomas	Dec 22	Wade Berggren
Dec 11	Zachary Rasmussen	Dec 24	Vincent Christensen
Dec 13	Jazmyne Spilinek	Dec 29	Deb Wells
Dec 13	Rick Peters	Dec 30	Ethan Coslor



Dec 4	Ray and Joy Risor
Dec 14	Mike and Liz Rawlings
Dec 21	Mark and Angela Feeney
Dec 26	John and Kelly Gebhardt
Dec 27	Chris and Ashley Meyer
Dec 28	Arlan and Kori Johnson



### Food Pantry

The United Methodist Church is responsible for operating the Food Pantry every third Saturday from 9-11 am. If you could volunteer to help any one of these Saturdays, it would be greatly appreciated.

**December 18th** is our next work date. Precautions are taken to insure the health and protection of both the worker and the consumer.

Thank you, Theda Van Horn

### Food Pantry

The **Food Pantry** here in St. Paul is always looking for food donations. Please help us stock the shelves. Any food or paper item is accepted but these items are in high demand every month.

**Hamburger Helper**

**Brownie mixes**

**Applesauce**

**Pork and Beans**

**Salad Crackers**

**Laundry Soap**

**Paper Towels**

**Chocolate Pudding**

**Jello-Not Strawberry**

**Mandarin Oranges**

**Frosting**

**Dish Soap**

**Shampoo**

**Toilet Tissue**

### Food Pantry hours

**Saturday**  
9:00-11:00 am

**Tuesday**  
4:00-6:00 pm

**Beginning in 2018, February will be the month for United Methodist Church to donate to the Food Pantry.**

# DECEMBER CALENDAR

<b>Dec 1</b>	Prayer Group 11 am Youth Group 6:15 pm Choir practice 7:30pm Young Family's Group 6:45 pm	<b>Dec 19</b>	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am Childrens Christmas Program during Worship All Church <i>Happy Birthday Jesus!</i> Event following worship 4th Sunday of Advent Matelyn Service-1:15pm– Prayer Group Caroling
<b>Dec 5</b>	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am Children's Sunday School– after Worship 2nd Sunday of Advent	<b>Dec 21</b>	Bible Study– at Ursula Sorlie's home-1PM
<b>Dec 7</b>	Bible Study– at Ursula Sorlie's home-1PM	<b>Dec 22</b>	NO Youth Group
<b>Dec 8</b>	Youth Group goes Caroling– 5 pm Youth Group 6:15 pm Choir at 7:30pm	<b>Dec 24</b>	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:30 pm
<b>Dec 12</b>	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am Children's Sunday School– after Worship Confirmation group meets after Worship 3rd Sunday of Advent	<b>Dec 25</b>	Christmas Day!!
<b>Dec 14</b>	UMW meeting– 1:30 PM	<b>Dec 26</b>	Worship 10 am
<b>Dec 15</b>	NO Prayer Group Youth Group 6:15 pm Choir practice 7:30pm Young Family's Group 6:45 pm	<b>Dec 29</b>	NO Youth Group
<b>Dec 17</b>	Christmas Cheer Distribution at the church 11am-1pm	<b>Dec 31</b>	New Year's Eve
<b>Dec 18</b>	UMC helps with Food Pantry 9-11 am		





## United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women met November 9, 2021. Devotions were given by Mary Ann Rickerten.

The UMW Purpose was recited together.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as read.

The treasurer's report was given with a balance of \$1233.23

**Correspondence:** The District meeting may be watched on line until Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you from Epworth Village for school supplies and \$50.

**Old Business:** When people come for their Christmas Cheer they may choose things from the flood buckets. Special Mission recognition was discussed. Marilyn Wall made a motion to give to Special Mission and two Dedicated Light for the amount of \$160. Seconded by Deb Wells. Carried. The two people for Dedicated Light Dorothy Jorgensen, Janette Harvey.

**New Business:** Current officers will continue for now. UMW report for Administration Council may be given by one of three UMW members on the board. Annual Community Christmas will be Dec. 1 at Grace Baptist Church, at 12:00pm. We will furnish rolls, butter and gift for a door prize. Theda VanHorn and Mary Ann Rickertsen will work at 11am and Marilyn Wall and Charlene Craig will help clean up afterwards.

Program was given by Darla Voigt.

Our next meeting will be December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Lesson leader Jackie Cook, Devotions Charlene Craig and lunch Mary Ann Rickertsen. Meeting adjourned. Ursula Sorlie served lunch.

Mary Ann Rickertsen, Secretary

## United Methodist Church Prayer Chain

The purpose of the prayer chain is to offer special prayers for individuals in critical need. The chain cannot be activated without the permission of the family in need. Call prayer requests to the church office 754-4247. The prayer request will be called to the first person on these lists. Each caller then calls the next person on the list. If that person is unavailable, a call should be placed to the following name and contact made with the first party later in the day. Last name on list does not call anyone. We are in need of more people joining the prayer chain. Praying for each other is an important ministry that we can do for our church family. If you would be interested in becoming part of this mission, please contact the church office. We are in need of more people joining the prayer chain. All you have to do is pray for someone as the requests are made. Please consider this request to help.

Marilyn Wall	754-5100	Martha Voigt	754-4666	Jackie Cook	754-9115
Deb Wells	754-5620	Rose Ross	754-4993	Charlene Craig	754-5503
Nancy Harrington	750-0279	Darla Voigt	750-1401	Mary Ann Rickertsen	754-4038
Theda Van Horn	754-4541	Lory Thomsen	754-4286	DeEtte Lukasiewicz	750-0246
Cleo Edwards	754-4853	Charlotte Rasmussen	308-863-2281	Brenda Starkey	750-7967
Ashley Meyer	308-627-2808	Vanice Bahensky	754-7873		

## Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday School Children's Christmas Program for Preschool-4th Grade students will be December 19th during regular church service 10:00-11:00 am.

Practice will be December 5th and December 12th from 11:00-11:45 am and also on December 15th from 6:45-7:30 pm.



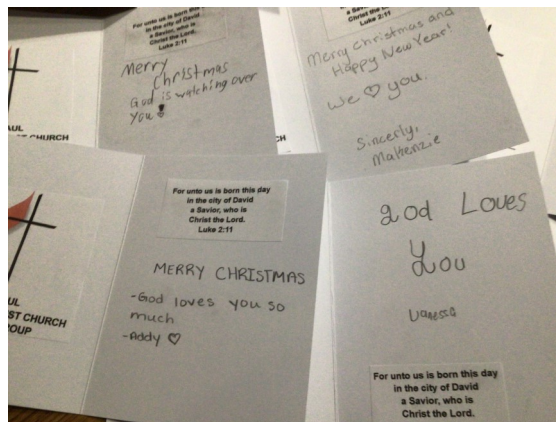
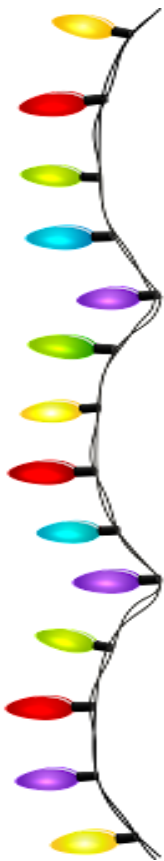
## Birthday Party for Jesus!



The whole church is invited to a birthday celebration for Jesus! On December 19th after church everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall for cake and games. We will have cake first then a couple of fun games. All are invited!

## Youth Group makes cards for Brookefield Residents/Dreamweaver Foundation

This November, the UMC Youth Group was busy filling out approximately 60 cards for the residents of Brookefield Park located here is St. Paul. They also filled out around 40 cards for a Foundation called the Dreamweaver Foundation. *Great job kids!*



**United Methodist Church**  
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