

Office hours
Tues-Thurs
9am –3:00 pm
754-4247

Staff

Rev. Dr. Susan Murithi

Church Secretary
Carrie Hancock

Custodian
Integrated Life Choices
Call Church Office

Committee Chairpersons:

Admin Council
Mikaleh Esquatin

Board of Trustees
Jared Rasmussen

Finance
Dave Harrington

Staff/Parish Relations
Bob Rasmussen

Worship
Darla Voigt

Mission-Outreach
Mary Ann Rickertsen

UMM
Tom Knutson

UWF
Charlene Craig
Carol Phillips

Education
Nancy Harrington

United Methodist Church



DECEMBER

2023

stpaulunitedmethodistchurch.com



December 2023 Newsletter

Beyond the Presents and Glitter, Let us Remember!

We are officially in the season of advent, Advent is a word derived from the Latin word adventus, “coming”. Christians observe this time as a period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas, and also of preparation for his Second Coming. Many people have started getting ready for the Christmas celebrations. Some people spent the whole weekend after thanksgiving seeking holiday deals. Hopefully some of you were able to do some holiday shopping, put out the lights, decorate the tree, and write a few Christmas cards.

All this is important physical preparation, but there is more. You see, it is not only just about decorations, presents, and treats. Spiritual preparation calls us to reflect on what the coming of Christ actually means. What does it mean to prepare for the coming of him whose birth brought peace, love, hope, and joy to the world!

One of the ways to prepare is to actively remember what God did for humanity that first Christmas. The church commemorates Advent every year as a time to remember, and maybe that's why some people get excited about it. Repeating the advent tradition reminds us that though our world is so broken, God can fix it. So, we gather in church to wait for his coming and experience hope. We also remember the love of God bestowed to humanity. God gave his son as a gift to the world. Likewise, our acts of kindness show the love of Jesus in action! At this time when families, friends, and neighbors come together to share in the love and joy of the season. We should spread happiness to those around us and those in far places.

As we enter the season of advent, take a moment to remember and thank God for the wonderful gift of Jesus. Let us welcome Jesus into our hearts with love, kindness, and joy. Let us make this advent, and eventually Christmas, a special and meaningful celebration. May the hope, peace, joy, and love of Jesus shine brightly in your hearts this holiday season! Merry Christmas!

Pastor Susan

DECEMBER

3rd	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am– Communion Children’s Sunday School-after worship	20th	NO Youth Group
6th	Youth Group 6:15pm	22nd	Christmas Cheer distribution day! 11am-1pm
10th	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am Children’s Sunday School-after worship Jacobsen-Greenway-Dietz Funeral Home Memorial service @ 3pm	24th	Worship 10 am Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 5:30 pm
12th	UWF meeting– 1:30pm	25th	Christmas Day
13th	Youth Group 6:15pm	27th	NO Youth Group
16th	UMC helps with Food Pantry 9-11am	31st	Worship 10 am New Year’s Eve
17th	Adult Sunday School 9am Worship 10 am Children’s Sunday School-after worship		

November Attendance

November 5th: 61 In-person
15 Views/YouTube

November 12th: 50 In-person
15 Views/YouTube

November 19th: 61 In-person
25 Views/YouTube

November 26th: 54 In-person
17 Views/YouTube

November Offering Totals

November 5th: \$4,382

November 12th: \$1,828

November 19th: \$1,054

November 26th: \$1,304



Christmas Cheer 2024



Christmas Cheer is well underway!

On **November 26th** the gift tags were made available for you to select from our tree. The gifts need to be returned to our church by **December 15th**. We are also collecting gloves, hats, mittens and socks to give away, particularly adult sizes. If you aren't able to do any shopping, financial donations may be made to the church or directly at Citizens Bank. Please make checks out to Howard County Christmas Cheer. The Christmas Cheer packages will be distributed on **Friday, December 22nd 2023** between 11:00 am to 1:00 pm here at the church. For more information, please call the church at 308-754-4247.

Thank you so much
Christmas Cheer Committee



Dec 2	Lory Thomsen	Dec 13	Rick Peters
Dec 3	Don Lukasiewicz	Dec 14	Layla Thompson
Dec 4	Deborah Rasmussen	Dec 14	Charlene Craig
Dec 4	Ursula Sorlie	Dec 16	Dave Harrington
Dec 5	Brenda Starkey	Dec 19	Susan Ross
Dec 10	Carrie Thomas	Dec 20	Mac Killinger
Dec 11	Damon Poss	Dec 22	Dawson Fox
Dec 11	Zachary Rasmussen	Dec 29	Deb Wells
Dec 13	Jazmyne Spilinek		

Did you know.....

The UWF is still collecting *Best Choice* brand labels (bar codes)?

These are sent in for reimbursement after a certain amount has been reached. This helps the UWF in their ministry throughout the year. Please consider cutting out and donating labels for this cause. There is a basket in the Narthex of the church to place these.

The UWF ladies thank you!

Happy Anniversary

Dec 14	Mike & Liz Rawlings
Dec 21	Mark & Angela Feeney
Dec 27	Chris & Ashley Meyer
Dec 28	Arlan & Kori Johnson

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service

We will have our Christmas Eve service at 5:30 pm on Sunday, December 24th. We hope you and your families can join us for this joyous occasion.



All Faiths Christmas Luncheon

This yearly luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 6th, 2023 at the Christ Lutheran Church. It will start at 12:00 noon.

All are welcome!



FOOD PANTRY



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 16th is the 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 hours

Saturday	Tuesday
9:00-11:00 am	4:00-6:00 pm

February is the month for United Methodist Church to donate to the Food Pantry.

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	Pudding
Brownie mixes	Jello
Cookies	Canned fruit- any kind
Bar Soap	Cereal
Pork and Beans	Frosting
Crackers(Salad & Soup)	Dish Soap
Laundry Soap	Shampoo/Conditioner
Paper Towels	Toilet Tissue
Flour	Ketchup/Mustard
Juice-any kind	Pie Crusts
Mayo	Pancake Mix/Syrup
Spaghetti Sauce	Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
Salad Dressings(Ranch/Dorothy Lynch)	

Sunday

Worship time 10:00 a.m.

Adult Bible Study

Sunday morning 9:00 am

Children's Education

Sunday School 11:00 am.

-after Worship
during the school year



United Methodist Church of St. Paul

MISSION STATEMENT

'Making and Nurturing Disciples'

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	Darla Voigt	750-1401	Charlene Craig	754-5503
Nancy Harrington	750-0279	Rose Ross	754-4993	Mary Ann Rickertsen	754-4038
Theda Van Horn	754-4541	Cherri & Scott Klinginsmith	750-0615	DeEtte Lukasiewicz	750-0246
Cleo Edwards	754-4853	Charlotte Rasmussen	308-863-2281	Brenda Starkey	750-7967
Nancy OR Mike McCarthy	750-2117-Nancy (775)-830-9521 -Mike	Vanice Bahensky	754-7873	Lory Thomsen	754-4286

United Women of Faith

United Women of Faith met November 14th, 2023; 1:00pm at the Church. Carol Phillips opened the meeting. Theda Van Horn gave the devotions. Prayer needs are for Joy Riser and Family, Darwin Lee's Family, Susan Ross, Mike and Carol Phillips, Claude and Ursula Sorlie, Harold and Mary Ann Rickertsen, our Church. Everyone recited the UWF purpose.

Minutes of the October minutes were read and approved as read.

Treasurers report showed a balance of \$1345.73.

Staff on the level has been reduced. Carol Philips and Charlene Craig reported on the District meeting "Be Still and Know I am God". Officers are all resigning. In kind donations were taken. Great singing.

Old Business: After discussion \$75.00 will be given to Epworth.

New Business: All Faiths Christmas Luncheon December 6th, 2023 12pm at Christ Lutheran Church. Paper was sent around for signup. Decorate for Advent November 28th at 1:00pm. Year end contributions. After discussion Darla Voigt made a motion to give Food Pantry \$150.00, Big Garden \$50.00, Crisis Center \$50.00, Hope Harbor 50.00. Deb Wells seconded. Carried. A date for cleaning the church kitchen will be set after the holidays. Darla Voigt gave the program "The Power of Gratitude". Thank Offering was collected. Next meeting: December 12 1:30pm. Lesson- Ursula Sorlie, Devotions- Deb Wells, Lunch-Dorthea Fairbanks. Anniversaries-November 30 Gary and Charlene Craig Birthdays-November 28 Mary Ann Rickertsen. Meeting adjourned. Dorthea Fairbanks served Lunch.

Mary Ann Rickertsen

Secretary



United Women in Faith (UMW)

The next meeting of the
UWF will be on
December 12th at 1:30pm.
All ladies are welcome!





**The Howard Greeley County
Ministerial Association presents:
Family Enrichment Series**



Everyone is welcome to join in these presentations. These are FREE events.
The next one coming up in February 2024 will be held here at the church.

Upcoming Events:

Feb 19, 2024 - Dealing with Dependency & Addiction held at
St. Paul UMC
1320 Baxter St. - 6pm

Apr 15, 2024 - Better relationships, connections and boundaries held at
Christ Lutheran 1022 Elm St - 6pm

Questions? - eric@stpaulgrace.org

**ST. PAUL
FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES
PRESENTS:**

THE NIGHT OF THE NATIVITY



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH
TOURS BEGIN AT 6PM
KAVAN PROPERTY
820 KIMBALL RD. ST. PAUL**

Come experience the Christmas story as the shepherds lead you on a guided tour through the woods to reveal the true meaning of Christmas- the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There will be live animals, Christmas music, fire pits, hot cocoa and lots of Christmas spirit. Dress warm & bring a flashlight if you have one. The tours will begin at 6:00, 6:30 & 7:00

Kids through adults are welcome. Bring family and friends! This is a free will donation event for the St Paul Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

United Methodist Church
1320 Baxter Street
St. Paul, NE 68873
308-754-4247
stpaulneumc@gmail.com



DECEMBER