



November 17, 2019

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Returning Thanks

Rev. Dr. Kandace Brooks

The mission of Saint Paul's United Methodist Church is to be a faithful community of disciples who serve as the heart, hands and feet of Christ so that all people come to know the love of God.

Strategic Planning Update: BEGIN WITH THANKS

The Strategic Planning team has had its initial meeting and has set a timeline for writing strategic and focused goals for Saint Paul's UMC in the coming years. As part of our work together, we reviewed the last Strategic Plan, and in this season of giving thanks and celebrating, want to lift up these many successes:

The near completion of the Making Room project has greatly enhanced the function of our facilities. While final touches are still pending, we anticipate this to be complete by the end of the year. We currently have several groups that use our facilities on a regular basis.

Our music/worship arts program has been energized with the addition of new opportunities - Handbells, Women's Trio, and Liturgical Dancers. We also celebrate that twelve youth and several adults participated in a summer music/worship arts camp and that an active Mommy and Me Music Program is being offered.

Our Missions Lay Team is very active. We have sent out multiple missions teams (and a youth team) to assist in hurricane relief efforts, both for Hurricane Michael and Hurricane Irma. In addition, we have sponsored two bed-build days for Sleep in Heavenly Peace, and our children provided almost 40 sets of new bedding through VBS missions.

We have an extremely active Creation Care team, which has already achieved conference recognition for its efforts during the past three years. New leaders have emerged, folks have joined the church, and the community outreach has been extraordinary – all because of this team.

We, also, celebrate an emerging Prison Ministries Team that has held a number of community events.

With the addition of BREEZE management software, we now have a consistent plan for connecting visitors to the church and are streamlining our communications and data management processes. This change has been working extremely well and is already bearing fruit.

We are regularly using more social media for outreach and seeing increased traffic on our Facebook page, which includes video sermons and event pages. We report FB metrics monthly to the conference.

Our children's ministry area remains strong, and we are seeing growth in our youth ministry program as well.

We have made great strides in connecting in meaningful ways with our sister churches in Cuba and Haiti.

For all these things – and SO MUCH MORE – we give thanks to God; to individuals and leaders who have given of time and talent and treasure; to all who regularly pray for our church and its mission.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

The flowers on the altar today are given by Claude and Linda Sellers to the glory of God and in memory of Glynn and Carolyn Duncan.

Around Saint Paul's

MUSIC AT SAINT PAUL'S

Toddler and Preschool Music Groups meet in the newly renovated Children's Ministry wing on Wednesdays from 5:30-5:55 p.m. Join us!

SPARKS Choir will present the Advent program "The Christmas Scene Revisited" on Wednesday, December 11, 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Please make plans to attend this delightful retelling of the story of our Savior's birth.

Saint Paul's Dancers rehearse this afternoon at 4:00 in the sanctuary.

Youth Choir sings for the 11:00 service this morning; warm-ups in the choir room at 10:45. We WILL rehearse this afternoon at 4:30. We still have lots to learn for our Advent/Christmas offerings.

Handbell Choir rehearses this evening at 6:00 in the sanctuary.

Covenant Chancel Choir meets Tuesdays from 6:00 - 7:15 p.m. in the Choir Room. This choir sings at the 11:00 worship service weekly and occasionally at the 8:30 service. We, also, perform Christmas and Easter cantatas. We would love for you to try us out. Email Cynthia Prescott at prescottc1360@gmail.com to learn more.

Se'lah If you want to sing but can't commit to singing weekly in worship, Se'lah is for you! We rehearse Tuesdays, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. This group sings once a month in the worship services and gives an annual concert. Email Cynthia Prescott at prescottc1360@gmail.com for details.

EASY-PEASY SHOPPING for those you love will be found today at our Alternative Christmas Market in Sanders Hall. You can purchase ladybugs, a headboard, fruit cups, underwear, and much more to support Saint Paul's mission ministries and to honor a special family member or friend.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL is studying *UNAFRAID - Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times* by Adam Hamilton. The study guide was written expressly for youth and there are accompanying videos we'll watch each week. And, as with every youth lesson series, we'll have group-building games, snacks, and more! Every Sunday at 9:45 in room 211.

DATE NIGHT - Moms and Dads! Date Night is Saturday, November 23, from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Sign up now for three hours away, and leave the kids to us! Sign up online under Children's Ministries to reserve your spot... and enjoy time with your spouse!

SAVE THE DATE - Thanksgiving Covered Dish Dinner Sunday, November 24, at 12:15 in Sanders Hall. Turkey and ham will be provided. Please drop off your side dish or dessert in the kitchen before service. Please call Peggy Benton at 385-5146 if you can help with set-up or clean-up.

POINSETTIAS SALES - Our ROOTED youth are selling poinsettias as a fundraiser. They are in the breezeway between Sunday School and the 11:00 a.m. service, or you can use the envelope in the pew. Poinsettias are \$14 each.

MICHAEL TEAM #7 NEEDS YOU! December 2-6, 2019 Saint Paul's will be sending its seventh Hurricane Michael Relief team. The need is great. Any skill level can be employed. No lodging or food costs. If interested, contact Charlie Guyton at cguyton@gunster.com or 559-9423.

HELP ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT - The kitchen needs volunteers to take money and check people in for dinner, and help serve meals on Wednesday evenings. If you would like to help please contact the church office, 385-5146.

Around Saint Paul's

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

Dinner in Sanders Hall - 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. Reservations due by midnight Monday by calling 385-5146 or online at saintpaulsumc.org. \$7 adults, \$3 ages 4 - 12. November 20: Spaghetti with meat sauce

UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME GIFT CARD WISH

LIST - As Christmas moves closer, we are excited to share our annual Christmas gift card drive during a season in which gift-giving and generosity are especially celebrated. The gift cards will be distributed across the Children's Home ministry to the children we serve. We would be most grateful for gift cards in increments of \$10, \$20, \$25 and \$50 from stores such as Walmart, Kohl's, Famous Footwear and Gamestop. Also, restaurants to treat the children over Christmas break like Golden Corral, Papa John's, Chick-Fil-A, McDonalds and Darden restaurants. Please include a gift card receipt and write the denomination on the card if not shown. Thank you for providing Christmas cheer! Some of our children have never experienced a real Christmas. Please see Janet Clark, the Children's Home Representative for Saint Paul's. She will be collecting gift cards November 17 through December 1.

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

- Sometimes when kids go away to college it can be a time of disconnect from the church. We want to let our college students know we haven't forgotten them, and send a little bit of love and encouragement to them before their December exams. If you have a college student in your family, please email becky@saintpaulsumc.org along with their current school address. If you would like to help create and send these care packages, make a note on the attendance pads, or email Rev. Becky to be added to the team.

PMO ~ SAINT PAUL'S PARENTS MORNING OUT

- Parent's Morning Out is our weekday ministry to parents of little ones. The program includes free play, a weekly music class, crafts, playground time, and snacks. Our hours are 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., and we follow the traditional school calendar. For more information, please go to Children's Ministries on our website. **SPOTS AVAILABLE NOW.**

This Week at Saint Paul's

Sunday, November 17

- 4:00 pm SP Dancers/S
- 4:30 pm Youth Choir/CR
- 6:00 pm Handbells/S

Monday, November 18

- 8:00 am Classical Conversations/All Rms
- 6:00 pm Midtown Classical Spelling Bee/SH
- 6:30 pm Core Ministries/301

Tuesday, November 19

- 6:00 pm Covenant Chancel Choir/CR
- 7:30 pm Se'lah Choir/CR

Wednesday, November 20

- 8:00 am Prayer Group/C
- 10:30am Creation Care T-shirt bags/309
- 3:00 pm SPARKS/301/310/CR
- 3:15 pm Midtown Classical/210/211
- 5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner/SH

Wednesday, November 20 cont.

- 5:30 pm Preschool Music/200 Level
- 6:15 pm The Universal Christ/C
- 6:30 pm Bible Study/300
- 6:30 pm GriefShare/302

Thursday, November 21

- 9:15 am MOPS Meeting/P/200 Level
- 10:00am Novel Chats/C
- 11:00am Lunch and Learn/SH
- 6:30 pm MESS Group/Table 23/Nursery

Friday, November 22

- Church Office Closed**
- 9:00 am Alzheimer's Respite/P/C
- 6:00 pm Midtown Classical/210-211

Saturday, November 23

- 5:00 pm Date Night/200 Level

ROOM KEY: CR - Choir Room / CH - Chapel / CY - Courtyard / F - Foundation / L - Library / N - Nursery / P - Parlor / S - Sanctuary / SH - Sanders Hall / SHK - Sanders Hall Kitchen / WR - Work Room



As a Spirit-formed **living expression of the kingdom of God**, the vision of Saint Paul's United Methodist Church is to **glorify God** wholeheartedly, **grow** the community of the faithful, **nurture** the faithfulness of that community, **alleviate suffering** wherever it is found and **advocate** for **social justice**.

WELCOME, GUESTS!

We are glad you have chosen to worship with us today. Nurseries for ages infant to five years are located in the lower level of the sanctuary building. One of our friendly ushers can give directions to restrooms.

AIDS FOR THE VISUALLY AND HEARING IMPAIRED

Are available from our ushers. Kindly return the large-print hymnal at the end of worship. We, also, have hearing loops for hearing aids with t-coil technology.

NAME TAGS

Name tags help us get to know one another better. They are located in the narthexes. If you need a name tag, please indicate so on the attendance pad so we can make one for you. Please wear your name tag each week during worship.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

A wide variety of adult Sunday School classes and age-appropriate classes for children and youth are offered at 9:45. For details, visit the welcome table in Sanders Hall or call our office.

INTERESTED IN JOINING SAINT PAUL'S?

If you are interested in becoming a member of Saint Paul's, please indicate so on the attendance pad. We will set a date for you to be received with joy!

Financial Snapshot				
Expenses to date:	\$762,544.00	Average weekly expenses (2018): \$18,269.00		
Income to date:	\$716,816.00			
Actual	November 3	November 10	November 17	November 24
Income:	\$24,048.00	\$16,669.00		
Nov. 10 attendance: 8:30: 98 11:00: 143 Sunday School: 195				

We encourage you to give on-line - No wallet required! It's fast, safe, and secure. Use your phone's camera and hover over the image to go directly to the webpage for online giving.



Saint Paul's Staff

Rev. Dr. Kandace Brooks, Senior Pastor
 Rev. Becky Rokitowski, Associate Pastor
 Cynthia Prescott, Adult Choirs
 Gaye Herndon, Music Performance Associate
 Jill Merryday, Director of Children's Ministries
 Peggy Benton, Ministry Coordinator
 Kambea Chan, Children's Ministry Assistant
 Laurie Batten, Church Administrator

Linda Fletcher, Publishing Specialist
 Raymond Pandley, II, Youth Ministry Assistant
 Simon Webb, Lead Sexton
 Odis Williams, Assistant Sexton
 Betsy Gingery, Kitchen Coordinator
 Bridget Weisbrod, Nursery Coordinator