



**December 15, 2019**

**Third Sunday in Advent**

**Dare to be the Light of Faithfulness**

**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.**

# 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. ORDER OF WORSHIP

Please see our ushers for large print hymnals and bulletins.  
We also have hearing loops for hearing aids with t-coil technology.

**Prelude** (8:30) *Sing We Now of Christmas* D. Wagner  
(11:00) *Amid the Cold of Winter* B. Rhoades  
Youth Choir

**Welcome and Greeting** Rev. Dr. Kandace Brooks

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath** 8:30: The Fugate Family  
11:00: Meg and Charlie Guyton

**Choral Call to Worship** (11:00)  
*We Worship You, Almighty God* arr. M. McDonald  
Se'lah

## Call to Worship

As farmers wait for rainfall; as prisoners wait for freedom

**We wait for the coming of God – may we be found faithful.**

As exiles yearn for home; as peacemakers yearn for justice

**We long for the coming of God – may we be found faithful.**

As travelers search for shelter; as disciples look for answers

**We prepare for the coming of God – may we be found faithful.**

\* **Opening Hymn** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vs. 1-4) UMH 211

\* **Affirmation of Faith** Nathan Nettleton (on screen)

\* **Gloria** UMH 238 refrain

**Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer** Rev. Becky Rokitowski

**Anthem** (8:30) *We Worship You, Almighty God* arr. M. McDonald  
Se'lah  
(11:00) *The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy* R. DeComier  
Finger cymbals - Chris Morris

## Children's Chat

**Scripture** Luke 1:26-38 New Testament pg. 56

**Sermon** **Dare to be the Light of Faithfulness**  
Rev. Dr. Kandace Brooks

**Offering** *Creator of the Stars of Night* setting by D. Elliot

\* **Doxology**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion** (8:30)

\* **Closing Hymn** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* UMH 196

\* **Benediction**

**Postlude** *Toccata on 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing'* D. Cherwein



**2020 Operating Budget Update information**

139 pledges to date totaling \$574,705

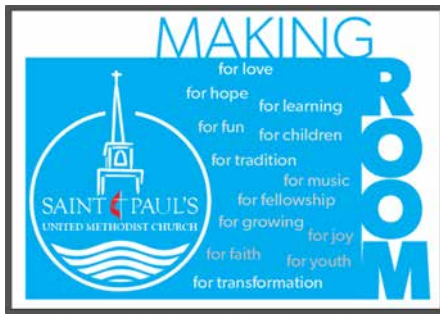
***If you have not yet filled out a pledge card, you may do so today and turn it in during the offering time. Pledge cards are found in the pews.***

**2019 Operating Budget Update:**

152 pledges received in 2019 totaling \$615,206

Amount collected from pledges (as of December 10, 2019): \$545,364

***This represents 89% of amount pledged.***



**Making Room Update:**

Amount pledged through December 31, 2019: \$379,743.00

Amount collected: \$359,446.41

***This represents 95% of the pledged amount.***

**Because you asked:**

Saint Paul's sanctuary is fitted with four shortened pews to provide room for wheelchairs on the end of the row. Thanks for asking!

**ODIS WILLIAMS** - As you know, the full time sexton position held by Odis Williams was being reduced to a part time position beginning in January 2020. We celebrate that Odis has been offered a full time position and has chosen to accept that offer beginning immediately and moving into the new year. This move means that Odis had to tender his immediate resignation from Saint Paul's. We are grateful for the years of service that Odis has offered the church, and wish him the very best in his new position.

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR**

The flowers on the altar are given by Charlene Doud to the glory of God and in memory of her husband, Frank Doud, on their 69th wedding anniversary.

# Around Saint Paul's

## MUSIC AT SAINT PAUL'S

**Preschool and Toddler Music Groups** will resume meeting after the holidays.

**SPARKS Choir** will resume meeting after the holidays and will begin work on their Spring musical, "Heroes of the Faith."

**Youth Choir** sings during the 11:00 a.m. service this morning. We'll be taking a break until January 5.

**Handbell Choir** rehearses this afternoon at 5:15. We'll play for the 8:30 and 11:00 services of worship next Sunday, December 22.

**POINSETTIAS SALES** - Our ROOTED youth are selling poinsettias as a fundraiser. This is the last Sunday to purchase them. Youth 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.

**BOY SCOUTS SELLING CHRISTMAS TREES** - Hours are Monday - Friday 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., and Sundays 12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m. Trees of all sizes, as well as wreaths, are available. Thank you for supporting Troop 115.

**THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH & LEARN** - Don't miss this holiday special with Rodney Atherton's quartet, *In-A-Chord!* December 19 at 11:30 a.m. Crispy chicken, rice pilaf, glazed carrots, and dessert. Please RSVP at the office by Tuesday, December 17.

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** - Sunday, December 22, during the 11:00 a.m. service our youngest children will present the Christmas Pageant. Three year-olds through 3rd graders are invited to take part. There are an unlimited number of parts to be filled: shepherds, animals, angels, Mary, Joseph and the three Wise Men. Sign up your child online. Sign-ups requested by Wednesday, December 18. Call Jill Merryday in the office.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES** - Tuesday, December 24, Carols and Candlelight at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and 11:00 p.m. at Lake Ella Gazebo.

**SOUL FOOD** - Bagging: Friday, December 27 - 10:30 a.m., Distribution: Saturday, December 28 - 9:30 a.m. - Donations are accepted in room 308. Accepted items: shirts, jackets, T-shirts, jeans, underwear, socks, tennis shoes, socks, sunglasses, reading glasses (any strength), razors, shaving cream, deodorants, toothbrushes and toothpaste, all types of toiletry items. Regular sizes are acceptable, except for liquids (which should be small sizes). We want to provide fifty Christmas gifts for our homeless friends. We ask for donations of warm knit hats, gloves and scarves. Contact Jo Ellen Brown at [brown.joellen@gmail.com](mailto:brown.joellen@gmail.com) for more information.

**ONE SERVICE SUNDAY AND BRUNCH DECEMBER 29** - Don't forget, service is at 9:30 followed by a pot-luck brunch. Drop your hot or cold dish off in the Sanders Hall kitchen before service. Seekers Sunday School Class will set up for brunch and Cheers Class will clean up with Creation Care and congregation volunteers. *Thank you, volunteers, for making the brunches a big success!*

**METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME AND YOUTH RANCH** - Thank you Saint Paul's for your faithful support all year and especially through this Christmas season. We have one more 5th Sunday, December 29. Love the noisy change. Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

**HELP ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT** - The kitchen needs volunteers to collect money and check people in for dinner, and to 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](http://saintpaulsumc.org). \$7 adults, \$3 ages 4 - 12.  
December 18: Chicken and Pasta Casserole

**JAIL AND PRISON MINISTRY** - For the third year, the Jail and Prison Ministry is providing Christmas gifts to children impacted by an incarcerated parent. We are seeking your help. In the foyer of the Tharpe Street narthex you will find a small Christmas tree with paper ornaments with children's names and sizes on it. Please take one. We ask that you assist us with providing gifts for them. All gifts need to be returned to the church office no later than December 23. For information contact Michael Dobson at 241-5896 or email, [Michael@dobsonandcraig.com](mailto:Michael@dobsonandcraig.com).

**WOMEN'S RETREAT - Stronger than the Storm.** Sign up now and read the details on the church website under "Quicklinks". February 6-8 on Saint George Island. Registration fee \$150. We enthusiastically welcome women from all generations, especially those who've never attended or haven't attended in a long time. Don't delay! making your reservation!

**GATHERING TO PRAY** - God is answering prayer as we gather in His name. We invite everyone to join us as we pray together for the concerns you share on the PRAYER REQUESTS cards in the pew, (please place them in the offering plates), or via email, [becky@saintpaulsumc.org](mailto:becky@saintpaulsumc.org), Wednesdays, 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. in room 325. God is with us!

**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, December 15

5:15 pm Handbells/S  
5:15 pm Youth ROOTED/SH

### Monday, December 16

6:30 pm Core Ministries/301  
7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 115/Scouthouse

### Tuesday, December 17

9:30 am Mommy & Me Music/200  
6:15 pm Covenant Chancel Choir/CR  
6:30 pm Girl Scout Troop 67/P/210/211  
7:30 pm Se'lah Choir/CR

### Wednesday, December 18

8:00 am Prayer Group/325  
10:30am Creation Care T-shirt bags/309  
3:15 pm Midtown Classical/P/210/211

### Wednesday, December 18 cont.

5:15 pm Wednesday Dinner/SH  
6:30 pm Grief Share/327

### Thursday, December 19

9:30 am MOPS Playdate/200 Level  
11:30am Third Thursday Lunch/SH  
6:30 pm MESS Group/Offsite/N

### Friday, December 20

**Church Office Closed**  
9:00 am Alzheimer's Respite/CH/P  
6:00 pm Youth Lock-in/SH

### Saturday, December 21

8:00 am Manna on Meridian/Faith Presby



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 on the 200 level of the children's wing of the educational 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: \$841,184.00      Average weekly expenses (2018): \$18,269.00  
 Income to date: \$798,813.00

Actual	Dec. 1	Dec. 8	Dec. 15	Dec. 22	Dec. 29
Income:	\$30,401.00	\$14,319.00			

December 8 attendance:    8:30 - 127    11:00: 221    Sunday School: 144

**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. Or use this link to access online giving. <https://www.saintpaulsumc.org/give/>



**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  
 Betsy Gingery, Kitchen Coordinator  
 Bridget Weisbrod, Nursery Coordinator