



December 22, 2019

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Dare to be the Light of Understanding

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 *Stille Nacht* J. Weber
Handbell Choir

Welcome and Greeting Rev. Dr. Kandace Brooks

Lighting of the Advent Wreath 8:30: Joe & Mary Ann Helton
11:00: The Cox Family

Choral Call to Worship (11:00)
Breath of Heaven arr. C. Courtney
Women's Ensemble

Call to Worship

May the Lord, whose face shines upon us, be with you always.

And also with you.

We are longing and waiting for the Lord to be revealed.

The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon.

Let us live decent lives, bathed in the light of the Lord.

The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon.

We know not when the master comes: evening, midnight, dawn.

The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon.

God of hosts, bring us back.

Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

* **Opening Hymn** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* UMH 213

* **Affirmation of Faith** The Apostles' Creed UMH 881

* **Gloria** UMH 238 refrain

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer Rev. Becky Rokitowski

Anthem (8:30) *Breath of Heaven* arr. C. Courtney
Women's Ensemble
(11:00) *A Unity Carol* J. Martin

Children's Chat (8:30)

Children's Christmas Pageant (11:00)

Scripture Matthew 1:18-25 New Testament pg. 1

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

Offering *Of the Father's Love Begotten* setting by D. Lasky

* **Doxology**

Sacrament of Holy Communion (8:30)

* **Closing Hymn** *Joseph Be Our Guide and Pattern* On Screen

* **Benediction**

Postlude *Rise Up Shepherd* setting by G. Peterson



Christmas Eve Services

Tuesday, December 24

5:00 p.m. Sanctuary

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary

11:00 p.m. Lake Ella Gazebo

USHERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

We still need some ushers at the 7:00 p.m. service – are you able to help? If so, would you call the church office and let us know **please?**

SAINT PAUL'S CHANGES LIVES THROUGH HURRICANE MICHAEL TEAM SEVEN

Saint Paul's UMC Hurricane Michael Disaster Recovery Team Seven worked in the Florida panhandle from December 2-6. The field team consisted of twenty members who worked at least 694 hours over five days and a support team of thirty members who prepared food. Each of the team members received financial and prayer support from SPUMC. The team served four families in and around Port St. Joe.

1. Mr. McNair is a 101 year old World War II veteran. We repaired his ceiling, replaced rotten trim and siding, repaired his living room window, replaced his front door and repainted his entire house. The family will celebrate Christmas there.
2. Mr. and Mrs. Gavorick are retirees living in a manufactured home in St. Joe Beach within two blocks of the Gulf. Mr. Gavorick is also a veteran and is confined to a wheel chair due to ALS. We installed kitchen and bathroom cabinets, repaired a floor joist and added supports for railings.
3. The Edges have a mobile home on Cape San Blas that suffered roof and ceiling damage. We performed ceiling repair and installed fiberglass bathroom siding.
4. The Reeds have a home on Carrabelle Beach. Mr. Reed is also a veteran and is suffering from cancer. We installed flooring for a room that can now be reoccupied. We may perform follow up work at this home.

IN PRAYER AND SYMPATHY

For the family and friends of Ardrue Hughes, who passed away December 16 in Tallahassee.

Around Saint Paul's

MUSIC AT SAINT PAUL'S

Our children's Music Groups will resume meeting on Wednesday, January 8.
Youth Choir and **Handbell Choir** will resume meeting on January 5.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - Today during the 11:00 a.m. service our youngest children will present their Christmas Pageant.

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.

HELP US CELEBRATE CHRIST'S COMING AT LAKE ELLA by serving refreshments to whomever is at Lake Ella around 10:00 - 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve. **NEED:** cookies and cocoa and volunteers to set up a table and serve cookies and hot cocoa near the gazebo. Please contact David Gill, davidmurraygill@gmail.com, 352-223-2759 by December 23.

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 for more information.

ONE SERVICE SUNDAY AND BRUNCH DECEMBER 29 - Don't forget, worship 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.

RUTH CIRCLE - Tuesday, January 8 at 10:00 a.m. in the parlor. All women are invited to attend. For more information contact Peggy Harter, 339-1356.

YOUTH WINTER RETREAT - January 17- 22 at Blue Lake United Methodist Camp in Alabama. Registration is due by December 29.

SPARKS WEDNESDAY resumes January 8. January is a GREAT TIME to join the fun on Wednesday afternoons for your Kindergarten through 5th grade friends. We will continue our year of SPARKS BAM with our lessons on Biblical Heroes and begin preparing for our spring musical. To join the fun, contact Jill Merryday or find the registration form on our website.

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. December 25: No Dinner

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, Wednesdays, 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. in room 325. God is with us!

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 in making your reservation!

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.**

CONFIRMATION CLASSES - Begin Sunday, January 26. If you are in 7th grade or higher and are ready to take the next step in your faith and become a full member of the church, join us during the Sunday School hour in the youth room. We will meet together as one class and then break off and go across the hall for confirmation. We will meet January 26 through March 8.

CHILI COOK-OFF - Everyone mark your calendars for Sunday, February 2, 2020! There are titles to defend, and chili to be eaten as the youth group hosts our annual chili cook-off! Come support our youth as they raise money for their summer mission trip. Look for sign-ups this month, and come hungry. Our Chili Cook-off will be right after worship in Sanders Hall.

ALZHEIMER'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS - One need we have going into the new year is a member of our congregation who would be willing to serve on the Board of Directors for the Alzheimer's Project. We are grateful for Dr. Greg Perry and his work in this role the past two years. It is so important that Saint Paul's have representation on this team, as the Alzheimer's Project began as a ministry of this church, and is a ministry that we still support financially through provision of office space and activity space on our campus. If you are interested in serving in this way, would you please let Rev. Brooks know as soon as possible?

This Week at Saint Paul's

Sunday, December 22

11:00am Children's Christmas Pageant/S

Monday, December 23

7:45 am MoLab/300/301

7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 115/Scouthouse

Tuesday, December 24

10:00am Youth Luminary Set-up

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service/S

7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service/S

11:00pm Christmas Eve Service/Lake Ella

Wednesday, December 25

OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, December 27

Church Office Closed

7:45 am MoLab/300/301

10:30am Soul Food Bagging/308

Saturday, December 28

9:30 am Soul Food Distribution/Lake Ella



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: \$852,219.00

Average weekly expenses (2018): \$18,269.00

Income to date: \$823,725.00

Actual	Dec. 1	Dec. 8	Dec. 15	Dec. 22	Dec. 29
Income:	\$30,401.00	\$14,319.00	\$24,912.00		

December 15 attendance: 8:30 - 103 11:00: 187 Sunday School: 194

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

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