



January 12, 2020

First Sunday after Epiphany

New Places for New People: Insiders and Outsiders

Rev. David Gill

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.

⁹ *Passing along, Jesus saw a man at his work collecting taxes. His name was Matthew. Jesus said, "Come along with me." Matthew stood up and followed him.*

¹⁰⁻¹¹ *Later when Jesus was eating supper at Matthew's house with his close followers, a lot of disreputable characters came and joined them. When the Pharisees saw him keeping this kind of company, they had a fit, and lit into Jesus' followers. "What kind of example is this from your Teacher, acting cozy with crooks and riffraff?"*

¹²⁻¹³ *Jesus, overhearing, shot back, "Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick? Go figure out what this Scripture means: 'I'm after mercy, not religion.' I'm here to invite outsiders, not coddle insiders."*

Matthew 9:9-13 (The Message)

2020 Focus: A common theme in scripture is God chooses to do the unexpected. The least likely are chosen as leaders. Those of low standing receive honor. The marks of discipleship are humility and a willingness to give up preference and privilege. Do we view ourselves as insiders or outsiders? How are we creating new places for new people to connect with Christ? What is the unexpected thing God seeks to do through us?

Questions for Reflection:

- When in your life have you most felt like an outsider?
- When have you most felt like an insider?
- When in the church have you most felt like an outsider?
- Who did you encounter this week that might be considered an outsider by much of our community?
- Jesus sought the outsider in a tax collector's booth. What different locations might be our contemporary versions of a tax collector's booth?
- What elements of our church might feel like a barrier to others?
- What elements of our church are most inviting?
- How might we expand our community to incorporate those who look, be have, and believe differently than our average worship participant?
Are we willing to do so?
- In what ways are we creating a space in leadership for those defined as outsiders by the world (and by the church)?

THE STRATEGIC PLANNING TEAM

The Strategic Planning Team is using the month of January to gather information from the congregation about the future of Saint Paul's UMC. During the month, a total of 8 listening sessions will be held to hear from you. While we identified approximately 70 persons in the congregation to specifically invite into these conversations, ALL are welcome to participate. You may use this link <https://saintpaulsumc.breezechms.com/form/95d251> to register to attend ONE session and lend your voice to the Strategic Planning Process. There are sessions scheduled at all different times of the day to accommodate as many as possible. Thank you for your input.

FLOWER CALENDAR FOR 2020 - Altar flowers in honor or in memory of someone special are a lovely way to adorn our sanctuary. After worship, the arrangement is divided into small bouquets, which are then taken to our home-bound or hospitalized members. The 2020 flower calendar is posted in the narthex. Please note on it the date(s) you would like to place flowers on the altar.

Around Saint Paul's

MUSIC AT SAINT PAUL'S

As the new year begins, we invite you to prayerfully consider joining one of our choirs/music groups. We have a place for you!

Preschool and Toddler Music Groups meet Wednesday afternoons from 5:30-5:55 p.m. in the Children's Ministry wing. Ages PreK 3-4 meet in the Music Room with Mrs. Gaye; ages 2 and under with caregivers meet with Mrs. Stephany in Room 202.

SPARKS Choir, for Grades K-5, meets Wednesdays during SPARKS time. We've begun work on our Spring musical, "Heroes of the Faith."

Youth Choir meets Sunday afternoons at 4:30 in the choir room. We invite all youth in grades 6-12 to join us. We're starting to make plans to attend Music Camp in June!

Handbell Choir rehearses Sunday evening at 6:00 in the sanctuary. Several of us will be participating in the annual Winter Ring on February 7-8.

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

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

DARE TO DREAM: Creating a God-Sized Mission in Your Life is the Youth Sunday School series kicking off 2020. Using videos, discussion, and activities, these lessons will help each of us discern God's dream for us, and how we can live out that dream prayerfully and thoughtfully. And, of course, snacks and group-building games will be part of the mix. Start the new year by joining us each Sunday at 9:45 in room 211.

SPARKS WEDNESDAY - January is a GREAT TIME to join the fun on Wednesday afternoons for your kindergartner 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.

MANNA ON MERIDIAN - Bagging for Manna Monday, January 13, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Distribution Saturday, January 18, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. Both at Faith Presbyterian. Contact Charles Hubbard, chazhub55@gmail.com.

RUTH CIRCLE—NOTE DATE CHANGE - Tuesday, January 14, at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor. All women are invited to attend. For more information contact Peggy Harter, 339-1356.

CLIMATE JUSTICE CLASS BEGINS JANUARY 15 - Climate impacts from extreme weather like massive hurricanes and fires are in the news and Greta Thunberg was just named Time's Person of the Year for her climate justice efforts. Join our Creation Care team as we learn how people all over the world are responding to the climate crisis, and how Christians are mobilizing to help those in harms way. You can register for this six week Wednesday evening class at <https://saintpaulsumc.breezechms.com/form/78bdb7>.

THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH & LEARN - Thursday, January 16, at 11:30 a.m. We will have guest musician, Indra Sadguna, on the Balinese Gamelan. Please join us! Call the office by Tuesday, January 14, to reserve your seat. Lunch is \$10.00 at the door for this special music event. All are welcome!

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.
January 15: Taco Bar

MOPS IN JANUARY - Join us for MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) Thursday, January 16 and 30, for our morning programs, 9:15 - 11:30 a.m. Mamas with newborns through kindergarten ages are invited to join this wonderful Thursday morning fellowship group!

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 211. 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.

I BEG TO DIFFER - Friends and strangers clash with each other over issues large and small. Coworkers have conflicts in the office. Married couples fight over finances. People demonize each other on social media. Is there any hope for civil discourse? This course led by Rev. Dr. Brooks, will provide a strategy for having difficult conversations, helping us move from contentious debate to constructive dialogue. Using insights from Scripture and communication theology, this class will provide practical ways to manage disagreements and resolve conflicts. Class will meet Wednesday, January 29 - February 19, in room 326. Please go to <https://saintpaulsumc.breezechms.com/form/66c487> to sign up for the class.

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 in Sanders Hall right after worship.

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. Fee is \$150. If registration is full, please call Peggy Benton (385-5146) to be put on a waiting list. Additional housing may be possible.

SAVE THE DATE: VBS 2020 — June 29 - July 2.

This Week at Saint Paul's

Sunday, January 12

4:30 pm Youth Choir/CR
5:15 pm ROOTED Sunday Night/SH
6:00 pm Handbell Choir/S

Monday, January 13

8:00 am Classical Conversations/All Rms
11:00am Ed Wynn Luncheon/SH
5:00 pm Manna Bagging/Faith Presby.

Tuesday, January 14

10:00am Ruth Circle/P
6:15 pm Chancel Covenant Choir/CR
7:30 pm Se'lah Choir/CR

Wednesday, January 15

8:00 am Prayer Group/325
10:30am Creation Care T-Shirts/302
3:00 pm SPARKS/100 Level
3:15 pm Midtown Classical/P/210/211

Wednesday, January 15 cont.

5:15 pm Wednesday Night Dinner/SH
5:30 pm PreSchool Music/200 Level
6:30 pm Climate Justice/310

Thursday, January 16

9:30 am MOPS/P/200 Level
11:30am Lunch & Learn/SH
6:30 pm MESS Group/N/Offsite

Friday, January 17

Church Office Closed
Youth Winter Retreat
9:00 am Alzheimer's Respite/P
6:00 pm Midtown Classical/P/210/211

Saturday, January 18

Youth Winter Retreat
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: \$1,266.00 Average weekly expenses (2019): \$17,477.00
 Income to date: \$11,526.00

Actual	January 5	January 12	January 19	November 24
Income:	\$11,526.00			

January 5 attendance: 8:30: 106 11:00: 214 Sunday School: 167

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