

DECEMBER 2022

the EPISTLE



The Season of Advent



DECEMBER CALENDAR

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Dec. 4 | Come to Christmas
Sanders Hall, 300 Level |
| Dec. 7 | Kids@Art Christmas Musical
6:30 p.m. in Sanders Hall |
| Dec. 11 | A Service of Lessons & Carols
9:30 a.m. in Sanctuary |
| Dec. 13 | United Women in Faith
10:00 a.m. in Sanders Hall |
| Dec. 14 | Youth Caroling |
| Dec. 16 | Crafty Crop
4:00 p.m. in Parlor |
| Dec. 17 | Crafty Crop
11:00 a.m. in Parlor |
| Dec. 18 | Children's Christmas Pageant
11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Youth Christmas Party
5:00 p.m., Sanders Hall |
| Dec. 20 | Choirs Christmas Caroling |
| Dec. 21 | No Wednesday Night Dinner |
| Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve Service
5:00 p.m. in Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. Outdoor Chapel |
| Dec. 25 | Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m. in Sanders Hall
Blessing of the Toys |
| Dec. 26 | Office Closed |
| Dec. 28 | No Wednesday Night Dinner |
| Dec. 31 | Soul Food Distribution
Lake Ella |

THANKS *a latte!*

In every Epistle we are going to take a moment to spotlight two volunteers that are making a difference and serving at Saint Paul's. These volunteers will receive a special coffee mug along with a \$5 gift card to Black Dog Café as a token of appreciation for all their hard work.

This month we want to celebrate and say thank you to Yvonne Kast and JoEllen Brown! Yvonne and JoEllen are both VERY involved in Soul Food (special shout out to Angie and Alan Martin who are also integral volunteers to this ministry). Soul Food is our ministry to people in our neighborhood experiencing homelessness. Every month volunteers prepare a hot breakfast on the last Saturday of the month, along with gift bags of basic necessities, and snack bags. They head down to Lake Ella and serve meals and give out these gifts as well as some clothing items.

This month on December 17, they will be giving out sleeping bags, hats, and gloves as we approach the cold winter months, along with some special treats like candy and puzzle books. In addition to volunteering with Soul Food, Yvonne Kast volunteers once a week at the front desk, and she reassembles the children's mouse bags for Sunday mornings. She is also one of our money counters! JoEllen participates in the Handbell choir, and has faithfully taught the K-2nd grade Sunday School class every week for many years.



Jo Ellen Brown and Yvonne Kast

DECEMBER EVENTS

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

United Women in Faith, formerly United Methodist Women, will be meeting **Tuesday, December 13**, at 11:00 a.m. in Sanders Hall.

Come and join us for a time of fellowship, education and service. All women of the church are welcome. If you have any questions please contact Peggy Harter, 850-339-1356 or harterp97@gmail.com.

MEN'S READING COMMUNITY

Beginning this new year we are starting an occasional Men's Reading Community. This will give an opportunity to gather and fulfill the mission, vision, and discipleship strategy of the church by being a faithful group of disciples. The first series is to last for four weeks, and we will meet in the mornings at a local establishment for breakfast. If you are interested or would like more information please contact David Gill, davidmurraygill@gmail.com, or Nic Fugate, ndfugate@gmail.com.

CRAFTY CROP

Join us for our Christmas Crafty Crop with some fun gal-friends **December 16 and 17** in the Parlor! Bring your projects and table space will be provided. The fellowship begins on Friday at 4:00 p.m. You may leave your projects all set up to continue the fun on Saturday at 11:00 a.m. Any questions and/or to sign up, contact Jill Merryday (850-443-9428). Be sure to request to join the "Crafty Crop @ Saint Paul's" Facebook Group if you would like notifications of our upcoming events!

TRUSTEE STEEPLE UPDATE

Wade Pierce received word from the Steeple company in Campbellsville, KY that our delivery and installation date has been delayed. We are now expecting the new steeple the week of January 9. We will celebrate a new steeple with the new year! We are still hoping and planning to repair and resurface the parking lot after the steeple has been installed, and we will keep you all up to speed on those plans as they develop. Likewise, the ceiling in the balcony will be fixed as soon as the steeple is installed.

CREATION *care*



BEAUTIFUL HIKE AT BIRDSONG

Saturday, December 10, 1 pm
Birdsong Nature Center
2106 N Meridian Rd, Thomasville. GA

Get moving this holiday season with the Creation Care groups from Saint Paul's and Good Samaritan UMC! We are going hiking at Birdsong Nature Center near Thomasville on Saturday, **December 10** at 1:00 p.m. to connect with nature and each other.

Birdsong Nature Center's 565 acres of wildflower meadows, forests, ponds, and swamps, are home to a myriad of birds and other wildlife. Formerly a plantation, then a cattle farm, this land is now managed to create a mosaic of varied habitats that support a wide diversity of wildlife. Here you can enjoy the serenity and beauty of the natural landscape and return home with a renewed spirit.

This is an intermediate hike that will take around 2-3 hours. Bring water, wear comfortable shoes, and dress for the weather, including layers. Sorry, no pets. Admission is \$5. Please email Cares4Creation@gmail.com or text Cara at 850-755-2505 to RSVP.

52 CLUTTER-FREE GIFTS

Experiences

- Concert Tickets
- Sporting Tickets
- Movie Passes
- Theater Tickets
- Golf Passes
- Escape Room
- Symphony
- Community Theater
- Restaurant Gift Card
- Indoor Rock Climbing
- Bowling Passes
- Daddy-Daughter Date
- Summer Camp
- Hot Air Balloon Ride

Classes

- Cooking
- Dance
- Sports
- Swimming
- Music
- Internet Master Class
- Coding
- Painting/Art
- Home Brewing
- Scuba Diving
- Private Coaching
- Physical Trainer

Time

- Babysitter
- House Cleaner
- Professional Organizer
- Car Wash
- Massage
- Manicure/Pedicure
- Yard Service
- Date Night Out
- Oil Change

Memberships

- Children's Museum
- Zoo
- Theme Park
- Trampoline Park
- Art Museum
- Science Museum
- State Parks
- National Parks

Consumables

- Fruit Basket
- Flowers
- Chocolates
- Coffee Beans
- Coffee Gift Card
- Local Foods
- Wine
- Desserts
- Meat/Cheeses

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Maria Alexander, Stan Etheridge
Danny Nystrand
- 2 Alan Martin
- 3 Adriana Combs, Kristen Ward
- 4 Alan Harwood, Gary Mason,
Wes Getman
- 5 Bridget Chandler
- 6 Carolina Barber, Millie Condurelis
- 7 Nancy Schildt
- 8 Debbie Weldon
- 9 Jo Ellen Brown, Wayne Fleischer
- 10 Ian Schrader, Annie Wilde
- 11 Adam Rokitowski
- 12 Hazel Oliver
- 13 Werner Sachs
- 15 Coraline Kline
- 16 Nancy Ross
- 17 James Andrews, Angela Murphy
- 20 Mark Chandler, Julia Cox,
Samuel Lewis, Crill Merryday
- 21 Virginia Burley, Tara Hewitt
- 22 Dale Croft
- 23 Seiler Griffin, Peggy Harter
- 24 Laura Chandler, Doris Henderson
Eliza Wirth
- 25 Alicia Batailles
- 26 Susan Droessler, Dot Roberts
- 27 David Burks, Cassie Griesheimer-
Fischer, Daren Shippy,
Wilbur Stiles, III
- 28 Kristin Dowell, Leslie Scott
- 29 Heather George, Ann Godbold,
Alyssa Griesheimer
- 30 Macy Kate Coston, Barbara Jaeger
Norma Nahoom, Lilah Schroeder,
Scott Turner
- 31 Corrine Waltz

MISSION ministries

MANNA ON MERIDIAN

Manna distribution is **December 17**, from **7:30-10:00 a.m.** at Faith Presbyterian Church with bagging the week before. Saint Paul's is again the lead church. If you can volunteer for either of those please let Barb Block know at tallahasseebarb@yahoo.com. Please continue to donate cereal (**regular size please**) and large tee shirts used to make reuseable bags.

Unfortunately, Manna has reached the point where we need additional financial support to continue this ministry. The food Manna provides monthly costs approximately \$5000, supported by SPUMC, Faith Presbyterian, Unitarian Universalist, St. Stephens Lutheran, and Grace Church. We are now giving to an average of 260 families. We are seeking individual donations, group donations, or business sponsorships to help sustain this program. Please give donations to Saint Paul's with Manna in the memo line, or contact Barb Block to discuss. Thanks for your overwhelming generosity over the 12 years since Manna began. This program has become a revered community program which we can continue if we work together.

THE METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME AND YOUTH RANCH WISH LIST

Can you believe that Christmas is almost here? Our annual Christmas gift card donation request is ongoing. This gives us the opportunity to demonstrate the amazing love of Christ through our gifts as we celebrate God's gift to us through His Son. I invite you to participate by purchasing gift cards to be given throughout the Children's Home ministry.

It is most helpful for gift cards to be in increments of \$20 to \$100 to major chain stores and restaurants. **Gift Cards need to be in by December 9.** You can bring the cards to the church office or give them to Janet Clark. Especially useful are Amazon, Visa, TJ Max, Ross, and Walmart. Also Papa Johns, Taco Bell, McDonald's Applebee's, and Chili's. The children will receive the gift cards on Christmas morning which will allow them to go shopping.

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE (IRC)

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Tallahassee serves as a free center for fulfilling refugees' needs during their pivotal first months in the U.S. About 400 refugees are expected in Tallahassee within the next year so the need is great. The IRC is soliciting HOME teams to volunteer to support a family as they are introduced to living in the U.S. Saint Paul's United Methodist Church has enthusiastically formed a "HOME team", and we have 15 volunteers willing to personally serve this family in particular ways. Our church's HOME Team agrees to support the family for about six months by furnishing an apartment located by IRC, providing assistance with shopping, and, in general, helping with the myriad of adjustments that are needed as they become familiar with their new environment. And we have already received \$5,000 in pledges to cover five months of rent for this family.

HOME Team for Saint Paul's: Jo Ellen Brown, Yvonne Brownlie, Kathy Combs, Jenni Cox, Helen Ervin, David and Susan Gill, Barbara and Ralph Jaeger, Laura Pace-Alexander, Jessie Perry, Lynne and Robert Pennock, Carol Stern and Sylvia Walford. We hope all members of Saint Paul's will help this refugee family while the HOME Team will be working with them in-person. If you wish to donate furniture/furnishing for their apartment please email Yvonne Brownlie, ybrownlie60@yahoo.com. Please keep your items in your own spaces until we have a family ready to move into an apartment. As of yet, we don't have a family, but are expecting one to arrive and be assigned to us in the next month or two. There is a list of donations needed, and **everyone** may contribute and sign up to furnish an item or more. Please let Yvonne know what you have to offer.

After the family has moved into an apartment, life begins, we will need the whole church to help this family toward self-sufficiency. They may need assistance with schools, grocery stores, medical services, etc. Volunteers can participate in all these duties, but providing fun activities is also a welcome relief for these newcomers. If you want to give of your time in helping this family, please contact Sylvia Walford, swalford1@me.com.

Saint Paul's will be a partner with IRC in helping these refugees overcome cultural barriers and make an easier adjustment to an entirely new life. Please join us in praying for this family now as we prepare for their arrival. We will be rewarded in so many ways as we make new friends.

MUSIC

at Saint Paul's

Advent is here, and Christmas is coming, and the Music Ministries will be offering many opportunities to honor the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus, Christ. We ask you to join us as we re-tell the story of the Nativity.

DECEMBER 3, 4:00 P.M. RING IN THE SEASON

Our Handbell Choir will be participating, with several other area handbell choirs, in this massed ringing event at First Baptist Church, downtown Tallahassee. This performance is in conjunction with the city's Celebration of Lights.

CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS. DECEMBER 7, 6:30 P.M.

The Kids@Art Choir (Grades K-5) and Preschool Music Group present:

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" Sanders Hall

(Wednesday Night Dinner served at 5:30. Make reservations online, on the attendance pads during worship, or call the church office.)

DECEMBER 11, 9:30 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP (ONE SERVICE SUNDAY)

The Music Ministries present
A Service of Lessons and Carols

Featuring the Covenant Chancel Choir, Se'lah, Handbell Choir, Women's Ensemble, Mixed Ensemble, Youth Choir, and Kids@Art Choir as we tell the story of our Savior's birth and redeeming love through music and scripture.

Our Covenant Chancel Choir and Se'lah will go caroling to some of our at-home members on **Tuesday, December 20**, and the Youth Choir will be caroling at some of our assisted living facilities on **Wednesday, December 14**.

Worship fuels the life and work of our congregation, and we are planning many special services in these coming seasons of Thanksgiving/Stewardship, Advent, and Christmas to bring honor and glory to our Lord. Our Worship Ministry is in need of people to serve in the various areas of worship ministry: acolytes, ushers, greeters, altar team, communion team, liturgists, tech team, and pew packers. Please let any staff member know if you are being called to serve in any of these vital areas of our ministry.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

POINSETTIA SALES

Each year we encourage everyone to purchase Poinsettias to fill the sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas seasons. You may purchase flowers in honor or in memory of someone, and those will be published in the Christmas Eve Order of Worship. Flowers are \$15. Sign up through the weekly notes, or at the table on Sunday morning.

You may take your purchased flower(s) home with you on Christmas Eve, or you may donate the flowers to our congregational care ministry, and they will be delivered to those in the hospital or homebound who are in need of extra cheer.

COOKIES SAY "I LOVE YOU"

Our Congregational Care team will be baking cookies and bringing them to our meeting on December 13 at 10:30 a.m. Cookies will be assembled in bags and delivered to all our homebound members.

Our Care Team members regularly take flowers to those who are homebound, meals to those who are sick, send cards to those in need of extra cheer, and pray for all the needs of the congregation. If you or someone you know is ill or having surgery, or have transitioned to being homebound or in Assisted Living, please let our team know.

WEDNESDAY nights

Wednesday nights are back in full swing with lots of ways for you to grow, serve, and connect! Nursery is available. Please contact Beth Wilde, beth@saintpaulsumc.org to sign up for childcare. **We will pause Wednesday night dinner and programming for the Christmas break and resume on January 4.** Here is the schedule and details:

EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT

4:30-5:30 Kids@Art / Pre-School Music & Arts
4:30-5:30 Walking on Wednesdays (W.O.W)
5:30-6:30 Dinner in Sanders Hall
6:00-7:00 Rooted Youth Program
6:30-7:30 Adult Classes
7:00-7:45 Youth Choir

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

The doors open at 5:00 and we serve food from 5:30 until 6:30. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children 10 and under. Come and enjoy a home-cooked meal and visit with church friends.

December Menu:

Dec. 7- Spaghetti and Meatballs
Dec. 14 - Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Brussel Sprouts
Dec. 21 - NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER
Dec. 28 - NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

YOUTH rooted

DECEMBER 4 - COME TO CHRISTMAS

On **Sunday, December 4**, Rooted Youth will participate in the Saint Paul's "Come to Christmas" event. The youth should plan to be in the youth room from 4:30 to 6:30, we will be in charge of leading an ornament making station.

DECEMBER 14 - CHRISTMAS CAROLING

The Youth Choir will be going caroling on **December 14**, following Wednesday Night Dinner, and we invite all of our Youth to join us. The choir will sing several of their special Christmas anthems and will ask the remaining participants to join us for some well-known carols and fun holiday songs. We'll travel by parent vehicle's to two or three assisted living facilities to share our Christmas music offerings with the residents. If you are a parent of a youth and interested in driving that night, please contact our Youth Choir Director, Gaye Herndon, at gaye@saintpaulsumc.org.

DECEMBER 17 - MANNA ON MERIDIAN

On **Saturday, December 17**, Rooted Youth will be volunteering at Manna on Meridian. This is an awesome opportunity for our Youth to join with other members of our congregation and town to give back to the community. Youth should be at Faith Presbyterian Church by 7:30 a.m., and will be finished by 10:00 a.m. Read the article under the Mission Ministries section for more details.

DECEMBER 18 - YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

On **Sunday, December 18**, Rooted will be having a Christmas party from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. The evening will be filled with dinner, games, and Christmas activities. Join us as we celebrate the gift of Christmas in true youth group fashion!



FAMILY events

Sunday School for all ages every week from 9:45 -10:40 a.m. including Pre-K, K-2 grade and 3-5 grade classes. Youth and adult classes are also available. Nursery open to children 6 months- 5 years old all morning.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 115 CHRISTMAS TREE SALES

The Boy Scout Christmas Tree lot is open **through December 24**. Hours are **Monday - Friday 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. and Sunday 12:00 - 6:00 p.m.** Trees of all sizes, as well as wreaths, are available. Buying your Christmas tree from Troop 115 supports young men in our church and community. Cost range depends on tree size.

COME TO CHRISTMAS

December 4 from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Dinner Served from 6:00-6:30

Welcomes children and families of all ages to prepare their hearts for the holiday season by making handmade ornaments with all the trimmings for an Advent wreath to take home. Ornament stations with helpful instruction and all the supplies are waiting for you to come to Christmas with us! Santa will also be welcoming all the boys and girls to stay for dinner and share their wish lists. Sign up at <https://saintpaulsumc.breezechms.com/form/cometochristmas2022>

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 18, 11:00 a.m. Service

Calling all children to be a part of this beloved church tradition that we look forward to all year! Beautiful new costumes for many have been made for this occasion and we can't wait to see all our families in this short, 15-minute pageant. There are no rehearsals! Simply arrive at church by 10:30a.m. on Sunday morning before the service. All children old enough to walk through grade school are invited to participate. There's room for all with an unlimited number of parts to be filled: shepherds, angels, animals, and of course, Mary, Joseph and the Wise men will be assigned.

Signups are requested by Wednesday, December 14. Please complete one form for each child you wish to participate in the pageant.

Costumes will be provided along with further instruction by email. Contact Bridget with any questions (850) 408-5528. Sign Up at <https://saintpaulsumc.breezechms.com/form/christmaspageant2022>.

KIDS@ART

Kids@Art Christmas Musical **December 7, 6:30 p.m.** in Sanders Hall

Kids@Art Choir participates in the Service of Lessons and Carols **December 11** at 11:00 a.m.

2023 WOMEN'S RETREAT

February 24-26, 2023, St. George Island Plantation

Cost per person: \$160

Our Annual Women's Retreat will be **February 24-26, 2023**. Register now to join with ladies of Saint Paul's for a time to renew and refresh in your walk with Jesus. Our retreat speaker will be Rev. Michelle Shrader, Pastor of Good Samaritan UMC. We will stay in homes on St. George Island. The cost per person is \$160. Contact Elaine McConnaughay or Jill Merryday with any questions. <https://saintpaulsumc.breezechms.com/form/womensretreat2023>.

This online form will serve as your registration and reserve your spot. Registration includes lodging, materials, lunch & dinner on Saturday. In order to keep the registration fee low, each house will be responsible for providing their own breakfast food and beverages. "House Moms" will coordinate with their housemates.

Required Responses: Name, Email, Phone, Special needs, Roommate preference (Give us a list of people you won't mind sharing a bed/roommate with. Please let us know if you're willing to sleep on an air mattress.



1700 North Meridian Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32303
850-385-5146
www.saintpaulsumc.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT SAINT PAUL'S

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Friday - Closed

Find us on  at SaintPaulsUnitedMethodistChurch

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AT SAINT PAUL'S

We will have two worship services on the evening of December 24 as we celebrate Emmanuel, God-with-us, in the birth of Jesus. Both services will be beautiful, holy, and filled with candlelight. Nursery will be available at the 5:00 service.

5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. outdoors by the Scout House

CHRISTMAS DAY

Worship with us on Christmas morning in Sanders Hall with a light breakfast, message, and carols. Children are invited to wear their pajamas and bring a gift they received for "the blessing of the toys"

10:00 a.m. in Sander's Hall

OUR STAFF AND EMAILS

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Latricia Scriven
latricia@saintpaulsumc.org

Associate Pastor

Rev. Becky Rokitowski
becky@saintpaulsumc.org

Church Administrator

Linda Fletcher
linda@saintpaulsumc.org

Director of Children's & Family Ministries

Bridget Weisbrod
bridget@saintpaulsumc.org

Nursery Director

Beth Wilde
beth@saintpaulsumc.org

Music Performance Associate

Gaye Herndon
gaye@saintpaulsumc.org

Adult Choirs Director

Cynthia Prescott
prescottc1360@gmail.com

Kids@Art Choir Director

Stephany Nystrand
stephanymusictherapy@yahoo.com

Youth Director

Zac Prasse
zac@saintpaulsumc.org

Sexton

Simon Webb

Website Administrator

Ryan Kline

Videographer

Jay Wirth

Church Treasurer

Timothy Scott

OUR BISHOP

Rev. Dr. Kenneth H. Carter, Jr.

OUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Rev. Wayne Waytt

OUR MISSIONARIES

Delbert and Sandy Groves,
Zambia