

JANUARY 2023

the EPISTLE

HAPPY NEW YEAR
2023!

Greetings and Happy New Year, Saint Paul's Family,

Grace and peace to you as we enter a season already overflowing with amazing opportunities for us to present the very best versions of ourselves to God and to the world as we make manifest the glory of God within us! We invite you to step into a wondrous journey of growth and transformation as we Worship, Grow, Serve, Share, and Give with JOY. Borrowing from the words of the psalmist, "we shall be like trees planted by the streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season. Our leaves will not wither, and in all that we do, we will prosper (Psalm 1:3)." We are expecting great things in 2023!

Our guiding theme for the coming year is "Deepening Our Roots and Broadening Our Reach!" Are you ready? I hope you are. Because what I know for sure is that God is able to do "exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or imagine, according to the power that works in us (*Ephesians 3:20*)!"

I look forward to a beautiful year together,

Rev. Dr. Latricia Scriven
Senior Pastor

JANUARY CALENDAR

Jan. 1	Worship Service, Sanctuary 10:00 a.m.
Jan. 2	Office Closed
Jan. 4	Wednesday Dinner Resumes Youth Programming Resumes 5:30 p.m., Parlor
Jan 10	United Women in Faith 10:00 a.m. in Sanders Hall
Jan. 11	Kids@Art Resumes 4:30 p.m., Nursery wing Leadership Training 6:30 p.m., Room 301
Jan. 13	Youth Lock-In Sanders Hall
Jan. 16	Office Closed Martin Luther King Holiday
Jan. 18	Leadership Training 6:30 p.m., Room 301
Jan. 21	Manna on Meridian 8:00 a.m. Faith Presbyterian Date Night, 5:00 p.m., Nursery
Jan. 22	Youth/Adult Contemporary Service, 5:00 p.m. Sanders Hall
Jan. 28	Soul Food Distribution Lake Ella
Jan. 29	Chili Cook Off 12:00 p.m., Sanders Hall

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.

We would like to say thank you to Kathy Duval, Ted Rokitowski, and the whole Wednesday Night Dinner crew! Kathy Duval is the chair of the Kitchen Committee and she has been organizing all of the volunteers for Wednesday night. Ted Rokitowski volunteered September through December planning, preparing, shopping, and cooking all of the Wednesday Night Dinners. This team and all of the other volunteers have done such a great job that our Wednesday night dinners have become very popular and we are averaging about 95 people every week! This has become such a wonderful time of fellowship! Volunteers sign up for one of three shifts: kitchen prep, serving food, or clean-up. The Kitchen Committee helps things to run smoothly and makes sure that the kitchen and equipment are kept up.

It is also our joy to share that Ted Rokitowski will be our newest staff member in January! He will be the new Kitchen Coordinator starting in 2023, so we will continue to enjoy all of his wonderful cooking next year!



Kathy Duval



Ted Rokitowski

JANUARY EVENTS

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

United Women in Faith, formerly United Methodist Women, will be meeting **Tuesday, January 10**, at 10:00 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.

CRAFTY CROP

Join us for our Christmas Crafty Crop with some fun gal-friends **January 20 - 21** 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!

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.

UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME 5TH SUNDAY

Our first fifth Sunday in 2023 is **January 29**. Our goal is still \$12.00 / member but the wonderful generosity of Saint Paul's always overflows. We love the children and want the best for them.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Church leaders and all interested are invited to attend leadership training on **Wednesdays, January 11 and 18** at 6:30 p.m. in Room 301.

CREATION care

USE THE SILVERWARE LENDING LIBRARY FOR YOUR NEXT PARTY

Did you know that Creation Care has a set of over 200 pieces of matching stainless silverware that you can borrow for your next party? You can help the earth by avoiding plastic cutlery and saving money at the same time! We are happy to deliver it to your house or coordinate pick-up at church. Here is what Laura Alexander had to say about using it for her last party.

"Thank you so much, Creation Care, for supplying the utensils for our daughter's birthday party! We had a crowd and were so glad that we were able to use a sustainable way of serving our guests. Everyone was so impressed by the program and we were all glad to avoid contributing waste to our landfills!"

*Sincerely,
The Alexander Family*



Kudos to Maria and her family for making her birthday party more sustainable with reusable silverware and paper plates! Avoiding single-use plastic is something we can all do to make a difference.



MAKE IT A GREENER 2023

Look back at the past year. What actions did you take to be a good steward of God's creation? Make a list, personally, with your family, or with a friend, and celebrate all that you have done. Challenge yourself to add new actions in the coming year. What have you heard about or seen that you can incorporate into your faith commitment to care for God's creation and to work for justice?

Start 2023 with a new mindset. Along with everyone else, you've been pushed into seeing yourself as a "consumer"—that is, one who uses things up and tosses them out. You can make a significant change in yourself and ultimately for the good of the earth by changing the way you think. Buy local, organic, and sustainable. Get outside and explore, and bring a child along. Connect with groups that are working for change like Sustainable Tallahassee, ReThink Energy Florida, and our own Creation Care team. We can all be the change we want to see in the world.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Liane Giroux, Sylvia Walford
- 2 Kylea Verheyen
- 3 Sam Cavanaugh
- 4 Mary Barber, Megan Herndon
- 5 Francesca Johnson, Nancy Turner
- 6 Gene Chick, Patricia Reynolds
- 7 Celia Garthwait
- 8 Margie Cash, Stephanie Corry, Kevin Cox
- 9 Jason Pernell
- 10 Larry Barlow, John Benton, Sharon Geiger, Annalisa Hatfield, Henry Merryday, Pat Peacock
- 11 Jackie Bowman, Tom Fussell, Mackie Knight
- 12 Kevin Kline
- 13 Jeff Griffin, Mark Woodward
- 16 Lindsay DeGraw, Ansley Wirth
- 18 Carol Ann Hays, Cai Hewitt, Richard Zorn
- 19 Richard Flaughner, Amelia Paulk, Bill Schildt
- 20 Claude Sellers
- 22 Jeff Beckman, Catherine Wortham
- 23 Tammy Schubin, John Woodward
- 24 Kambea Chan
- 25 Betty Blair, Beverly Kinloch, Charles Townsend, Alison Tully
- 26 Margaret Hardee, Sabrena Watson
- 27 Stacy Getman, Robert Tully
- 28 Kenneth Pierson, Judy Willis
- 29 Cameryn Lariscy, Robin McCallister, Fitzgerald McFarland
- 30 Ted Rokitowski

MISSION ministries

Thank you so much for all your support in 2022 for the Missions at Saint Paul's UMC! At Saint Paul's, we have made a HUGE commitment to support local ministry work in our community. In addition to special giving that is raised throughout the year (with opportunities like our 5th Sunday offering to the Children's Home, special UMCOR collections, International Missions Dinner, and the Alternative Christmas Market, etc.), \$20,000 of our general church budget is designated toward Missions. The Missions Committee votes on how to distribute that each year. Your giving helped to support our local campus ministries, local shelters and feeding ministries, Manna on Meridian, Elder Care, Prison Ministry, and more.

In addition to budgeted funds, we raised \$18,255 to further support many of these ministries, as well as helping two local families from Ukraine and raising money to become a Home team with the International Rescue Committee in 2023. We also have a few folks that partnered with Project Annie to help Ms. Annie renovate her building! Ms. Annie served over 2,000 people at Thanksgiving this past year, and has plans to open a daycare to provide affordable childcare in Frenchtown. CHEERS Sunday School ran one of our most successful underwear collection drives ever. You built 15 bunk beds for Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

Our church also gives through apportionment giving (back to the Florida Conference) and those funds help to support seminary scholarships, missionaries, new church starts, and all sorts of good works throughout the world.

THANK YOU for your generosity in 2022. You are making a difference in the lives of so many, and we can't wait to see what God will do through Saint Paul's UMC in 2023.



Helen Ervin and Carol Stern delivering blankets and space heaters to Elder Care Services.

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE (IRC)

Sylvia Walford and Yvonne Brownlie are the chairs of the Saint Paul's HOME Team. Saint Paul's will be helping a refugee family who is settling here in Tallahassee during their first six months. We will be working closely with the International Rescue Committee (IRC). Our HOME Team has 16 members who have volunteered to work personally with a family whom we expect to arrive after Jan. 1. On January 15, in Sunday worship, our MISSION MOMENT will be focused on our refugee family and what we want to do to help them. Be on the lookout for donation needs, and you can find a printed list in the lobby of Sanders Hall.

MANNA ON MERIDIAN

Manna distribution is **January 21**, 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.

MUSIC

at Saint Paul's

**It's a new year and a great time to join a choir!
We have a place for you!**

Covenant Chancel Choir: sings for the 11:00 a.m. (and occasionally 8:30 a.m.) services. This choir also presents and leads special seasonal services, and records the music for our online services. We rehearse on Tuesday evenings at 6:15 p.m. in the choir room. A nursery/childcare is provided. Contact Cynthia Prescott, Adult Choirs Director (prescottc1360@gmail.com)

Se'lah: Se'lah is an ensemble of adults who love to praise God through song but can't commit to sing in worship every Sunday. This group rehearses Tuesday evenings at 7:30 in the choir room. They perform a variety of music and sing in a variety of places. This group sings once a month in worship and occasionally with Covenant Chancel Choir for special occasions. Pre-covid they have sung at smaller churches, Christmas parties, community events, and have even done mission trips in the Appalachians and in Honduras. A nursery/childcare is provided. Contact Cynthia Prescott, Adult Choirs Director (prescottc1360@gmail.com)

Handbell Choir: rehearses on Sundays from 5:45-6:45. We play for our morning worship services approximately once a month during the school year, participate in music ministry seasonal offerings, and participate in community handbell events (Ring in the Season and WinterRing) Basic music reading skills are required for participation in this choir, but if there is enough interest, a beginners choir will be offered.

Kids@Art Choir: is our children's choir. This group is part of our mid-week worship arts based children's ministry program for children in Gr. K-5. We focus on age-appropriate singing/choral skills, playing instruments, drama, and building the worship leaders of the present and future. We sing for worship services often, present musicals during the Christmas and Spring seasons, and participate in special music ministry offerings. Contact Stephany Nystrand (stephanymusictherapy@yahoo.com)

Preschool Music and Arts: is a developmentally appropriate music and arts program for children ages 3-4 which meets concurrently with our Kids@Art program on Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30, with singing, playing instruments, movement, Bible Stories, and arts and crafts with Beth Wilde. Contact Gaye Herndon (gayes@saintpaulsumc.org)

Youth Choir: invites all who are in Grades 6-12 to join us. During the school year, we rehearse on Wednesday evenings, 7:00-7:45 in the Music Room (200) in the Children's Wing. We prepare choral music to help lead our congregation in worship and take an annual trip to MUSIC CAMP! Contact Gaye Herndon (gayes@saintpaulsumc.org)

Saint Paul's Dancers: a group of older elementary and youth with dance experience who meet seasonally to prepare for leading worship. Contact Stephany Nystrand (stephanymusictherapy@yahoo.com).

Instrumental and Choral Ensembles: are offered according to the particular gifts and talents of our members. Please let one of our music staff know if you're interested in this ministry.

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. 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

CHURCH 201

Beginning **January 25**, Gary Eggebraaten will be leading a 4-week class on Spiritual Gifts, right after Wednesday Night Dinner from (6:15-7:30) in Room 310. We hope you can join us to learn more about how God gifts us so that we can be a blessing to others. Sign-ups in the Weekly Notes or call the church office.

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.

January Menu:

Jan. 4- Black Eyed Peas and Smoked Sausage
Jan. 11 - Honey Garlic Chicken, Broccoli & Carrots
Jan. 18 - Meatloaf, Potato Wedges, Cauliflower
Jan. 25 - Eggplant Parmesan

YOUTH rooted

JANUARY 13-14 — YOUTH LOCK-IN

On **Friday, January 13**, Rooted will be hosting an over-night lock-in event from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. Saturday. This event will be a fun mix of off campus activities and events at the church. Events like this really help students make relationships and grow closer together, in a fun and memorable way. For more details and registration information, check the Youth Ministry Weekly Newsletter or the Youth Ministry Updates section in the Weekly Notes.

JANUARY 22 - SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH

On **Sunday, January 22**, Rooted will begin having once monthly Sunday Night Programming from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. The night will consist of games and fellowship, live contemporary worship, dinner, and a time of small group discussions. We encourage all members of the congregation interested in Contemporary Worship to come and share in a time of fellowship with the Youth of our church. Be sure to check the Youth Ministry Updates in the weekly notes as the date comes closer for more information.

JANUARY 29 - CHILI COOK OFF

On **Sunday, January 29**, Rooted will be hosting the annual Chili Cook Off in Sanders Hall following the 11 o'clock service. We encourage as much of the congregation to attend as possible! All proceeds go to the Summer Mission Trip. This is a very fun way to help ensure that our students get a mission trip experience that they will carry with them into their adult faith. For more information and registration, check the Weekly Notes.



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.

Kids@Art

Kids@Art will resume on Wednesday January 11, 2023. Start your new year with a new tradition of practicing worship arts with us each Wednesday! Sign up here: <https://saintpaulsumc.breezechms.com/form/kidsart2022-2023>.



PARENTS MORNING OUT

Parents Morning Out (PMO) gives every child a chance to make first friends, crafts, music and explore nature. Now enrolling ages 6 months- 5 years old. Hours are: Mon -Fri. 8:45-12:15 with more options. To learn more or schedule a tour contact Director Beth Wilde (850) 559-1523

SAVE THE DATE

February 21— Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner and fundraiser for music camp

April 1 — Easter Celebration

June 26-30 — Vacation Bible School

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.



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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

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

Kitchen Coordinator

Ted Rokitowski

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