

JANUARY 2024

the EPISTLE



Saint Paul's 2024 Theme "Bearing Much Fruit"



JANUARY CALENDAR

- Jan. 1 & 2 Office Closed
- Jan. 5 Crafty Crop, 4.00 p.m., Parlor
- Jan. 6 Crafty Crop, 10:00 a.m., Parlor
- Jan. 8 Congregational Care,
 10:30 a.m., Room 326
- Governing Board Training,
 6:00 p.m., Parlor
- Youth Ministry Meeting
 6:30 p.m., Room 326
- Jan. 9 United Women in Faith
 10:00 a.m., Sanders Hall
- Jan. 10 Wednesday Night Programing
 Resumes
- Jan. 11 MOPs Meeting, 9:30 a.m.,
 Sanders Hall
- MOM's Next. 6:30 p.m.,
 Sanders Hall
- Jan. 13 Fresh Expressions Training,
 9:00 a.m., Sanders Hall
- Jan. 15 Trustees Meeting, 5:00 p.m.,
 Room 325
- Jan. 16 Office Closed for Holiday
- Jan. 18 Circle of Support, 10:00 a.m.
 Parlor
- Jan. 20 Manna on Meridian, 8:00 a.m.
 Faith Presbyterian
- Date Night, 5:00 p.m.
 Nursery
- Jan. 21 Chili Cook-Off, 12:15 p.m.
 Sanders Hall
- Jan. 22 Governing Board Meeting
 6:30 p.m., Parlor
- Jan. 27 Soul Food Distribution,
 9:30 a.m., Lake Ella

JANUARY events

CRAFTY CROP

Join us for Crafty Crop with some fun gal-friends **January 5 & 6** in the Parlor! Bring your projects and table space will be provided. The fellowship begins on **Friday at 5:00 p.m.** You may leave your projects all set up to continue the fun on **Saturday at 10:00 a.m.** Any questions and/or to sign up, contact Jill Merryday (850-443-9428).



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

United Women in Faith will be meeting on **Tuesday, January 9** at 10:00 in Sanders Hall. Our guest speaker for the morning will be Gail Christy Jones, past President of Florida Conference United

Methodist Women. She will be speaking on pledging and where the money goes once it is received. Come join us for a morning of education, service and fellowship.

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

We continue to have two options for the Men's Reading Community: Tuesdays 8:30 a.m. at Ology Northside led by David Gill, or Wednesday Evenings at 6:15 p.m. in Room 301 at Saint Paul's UMC led by Nic Fugate.

SUNDAY NIGHT WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

There will not be a Contemporary Worship on December 3, but all are invited to join us for Hanging of the Greens in the Sanctuary. **There will be a Sunday Night Worship Experience on December 10, 17, and 24 at 7:00 p.m.** in Sanders Hall. There will not be a service on the evening of December 31.

ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

"Into the Word"

Join us for this cherished annual event! Here you will find the sign up link to register now for the Women's Retreat in January. We have included a Bonus Day for those who can escape early on Thursday, January 25 too! Limited spots available, so please sign up soon! For any questions, please contact Jill Merryday (850-443-9428) or Jenni Cox (850-264-2993).

HOW TO SCHEDULE AND PUBLISH YOUR EVENTS

It's a new year, and we have a few new staff members, including Amy Leach who will be handling a lot of our church communications. Her official title is "Communications Coordinator." She will be organizing our church communications, helping with forms and sign-ups, and making sure all the information is consistent, timely, and easily found. She will be working with Linda Fletcher for our printed materials, Ryan Kline for our website, and Jay Wirth for video and streaming information.

If you are coordinating a church event or ministry and you would like to publish an update, share a need, or advertise an event – send that information to Amy at news@saintpaulsumc.org. Make sure to send the text in a word document, where it is easy to copy and paste, and have it typed up exactly as you would like it printed (we do reserve the right to edit as needed). Attach any graphics or images that you wish to include. Announcement slides for worship and Wednesday night are 16:9 presentation slides. We are happy to print flyers that you have designed for the bulletin boards. In general, we will only advertise events that are part of the ministry and mission of Saint Paul's UMC.

To use any of the rooms or spaces around the church, contact Linda Fletcher in the church office. Rooms are free to use for church activities and ministry events, but the rooms still must be reserved ahead of time. There is a room use form that must be filled out whenever space is requested. For non-church activities, there is a room-use fee, with a reduced rate for members. Room uses that are not related to church ministry activities must be approved by the Trustees.

At Saint Paul's UMC, we have a lot of things going on. All week long our rooms are being used as spaces for support groups, music therapy, and leadership meetings for all types of committees and groups. We want you to know what is happening so you can be a part of it. All of this takes a lot of coordination. Thank you for helping us to keep in all straight and for working together as a team that we might be a faithful community of disciples, serving as the heart, hands, and feet of Christ so that all people would come to know the love of God.

CREATION *care*

MAKE A GREEN RESOLUTION



Happy New Year! This January, we have an opportunity to improve upon how we care for God's creation.

John Wesley began a New Year tradition of leading people in renewing their covenant with God. At the very beginning, God gave us a garden to tend and till. Now is the time to renew your commit-

ment to be good stewards of our earth. Choose one new thing you can do throughout the year to care for creation and make a **Green Resolution**. Ask your family for ideas of what you want to do for God's creation during the coming year. In your discussion celebrate the steps you are already taking, and choose at least one new thing you will do together. Consider adding one other action for each family member, even the younger ones. Talk also about how you can support one another in realizing their goal.

Ideas:

1. Visit a park or other natural place once a week.
2. Skip the straw.
3. Prepare for a spring vegetable garden.
4. Practice Meatless Mondays.
5. Adjust the thermostat 2 degrees down during the winter and 2 degrees up during the summer.
6. Turn off lights when you leave the room.
7. Bring your bags and recycle foam and plastic bags at the grocery store.
8. Volunteer at a shore clean up.
9. Thrift shop more.
10. Buy organic when possible.

Learn more about Creation Care at flumc.org/creationcare/.

GREAT GREENS!

The Mosaic Garden is producing collard greens this winter and our wonderful volunteers harvest every month to share them with Manna on Meridian Food Bank. You can get involved with the garden by contacting Jessie Perry at perry386@msn.com.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Liane Giroux, Sylvia Walford, Kelly Warren
- 2 Kylea Verheyen, Madilyn Ward
- 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 Mark Woodward
- 16 Lindsay DeGraw, Ansley Wirth
- 18 Carol Ann Hays, Cai Hewitt
- 19 Ethan Courtemanche, Rick Flaughter, Amelia Paulk
- 20 Claude Sellers
- 22 Jeff Beckman
- 23 Tammy Schubin, John Woodward
- 24 Kambea Chan, Erma Sever
- 25 Betty Blair, Beverly Kinloch, Charles Townsend, Alison Tully
- 26 Margaret Hardee, Sabrena Watson
- 27 Linda Champion, Audrey Clift, Stacy Getman, Robert Tully
- 28 Judy Willis
- 29 Cameryn Lariscy, Robin McCallister, Fitzgerald McFarland
- 31 Latricia Scriven

MISSION ministries

MANNA ON MERIDIAN

Manna recipients have grown this year and we are serving 300 families per month which translates to 700-1000 people. Pairing with Second Harvest has helped us tremendously and they give us large amounts of fresh produce in addition to canned goods, pasta and rice. We have added bread and baked goods donated by Publix, which are distributed on Sunday mornings. However, while we have made significant strides in bringing down our expenses in 2023 and will continue to do so, we spent \$20,000 more than we received in donations from our congregations this year. Thank you for all your contributions and help and please consider Manna on your list of projects to whom you donate.



THE CUBA CROSS

This cross has hung on our Saint Paul's tree for more than 10 years as a symbol of the pact between the Yaguaramas Methodist Church of Cuba and our church for which we promise to share in prayer and good works for each other (this cross is made from glass from both churches). Recently their pastor, Alexis

Betancourt, let us know of their desire to begin a feeding lunch to the 70 children who come to worship on Sundays. They have a budget which we are helping support financially. Thanks to each of you who pray and donate for this church in central Cuba.

FOR THE GOOD OF OUR NEIGHBORS

Dear Beloved,

We have received a great gift at Christmas time, which is the very love of God poured out upon us in his Son, Jesus Christ!

The Word became flesh and blood,
and moved into the neighborhood.
We saw the glory with our own eyes,
the one-of-a-kind glory,
like Father, like Son,
Generous inside and out,
true from start to finish.
John 1:14 (The Message)

As we have received Jesus Christ among ourselves in our Christmas worship and prayers, so in this new year we have the privilege of blessing our neighbors with God's love, which includes helping them to have justice in our whole Tallahassee area. When there is not enough affordable housing for low and very low-income families and when there are so many shootings we can share God's love by working with and for our neighbors.

Saint Paul's United Methodist Church is a member of the Capital Area Justice Ministry, a coalition of 20 local houses of worship to "build a diverse, faith-filled, people-powered, holy Spirit inspired ministry to address injustices in our community." (CAJM Covenant Agreement)

You are needed to build relationships in our congregation and among our neighbors to address issues of specific concern during our Nehemiah Action Assemble, April 16. So we are having four "house meetings" and we invite you to select one (that is not yet full) to attend. Please contact one of our hosts to let them know you will attend:

1. January 8, 6:00 pm House Meeting @ Michael & Julie McBride (mmcbride850@comcast.net)
2. January 11, 6:30 pm House Meeting @ Sylvia Walford's home ((850) 591-3099)
3. January 13, 3:00 pm House Meeting @ Anne Wilde's home (full)
4. January 16, 5:00 pm House Meeting @ Steve & Linda Leach's home (full)

For more information contact davidmurraygill@gmail.com

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.

Kids@Art is our worship arts program for children in Grades K-5. We resume this season on Wednesday, January 10, 6:00-7:00. We focus on age-appropriate singing/choral skills, playing instruments, drama, and creating various forms of visual arts and crafts, building the worship leaders of the present and future. We sing for worship services often, present musicals during the Advent and Spring seasons, and participate in special music ministry offerings. Contact Stephany Nystrand (stephanymusictherapy@yahoo.com).

Preschool Music Group: is a developmentally appropriate music program for children ages 3-4 which meets on Wednesdays, 5:10-5:30 p.m. in Room 200 of the Children's Wing. We incorporate singing, playing instruments, movement, and encourage healthy social development. Contact Gaye Herndon (gaye@saintpaulsumc.org).

Youth Choir: invites all who are in Grades 6-12 to join us. 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 (gaye@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 members 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:

STARTING WEDNESDAY JAN. 10

3:00-5:00 SPARKS
5:10-5:30 Preschool Music Group
5:15-6:30 Dinner in Sanders Hall
6:00-7:00 Kids@Art
6:00-7:00 Rooted Youth Program
6:15-7:30 Adult Classes (no classes in December)
7:00-7:45 Youth Choir

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

The doors open at 5:00 and we serve food from 5:15 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. 3 – No Dinner
Jan. 10 - TBD
Jan. 17 - TBD
Jan. 24 - TBD
Jan. 31 - TBD

Dinner also includes salad, drinks, and dessert.
The kids meals are chicken nuggets, fresh fruit
and a cheese stick.

YOUTH rooted

JANUARY 7, 2024 PROGRAMMING RESUMES WITH SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH!

YOUTH MINISTRY MEETING

On **January 8**, we will be having a Youth Ministry Meeting in room 326 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. In this meeting we will go over our summer schedule, major calendar dates, and review our fall while looking forward to the spring. Parents, volunteers, and those interested in supporting our ministry are encouraged to attend!

JANUARY 14TH - NO SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH (MLK WEEKEND)

2024 CHILI COOK-OFF FUNDRAISER

On **January 21**, Rooted will be hosting our annual Summer Mission Trip Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser! Immediately following the 11 o'clock service, head to Sanders Hall for lunch. We will have more than 15 types of home-made chili to try from, with entrants competing in categories such as Spiciest, Most Original, Vegetarian "yum". Lunch costs \$10 for adults and \$3 for children 11 and under. If you are interested in competing in this year's cook-off, go to the youth section in the weekly notes or contact Zac Prasse at zac@saintpaulsumc.org to get involved. All proceeds from our fundraiser go directly towards the cost of our 2024 Summer Mission Trip.



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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Nursery – Level 200, Secure access please ring the door bell. Ages 6 months up to 5 years of age available from 8:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. includes Sunday school instruction.

Children's classes are located on the "Foundation Level" (Facing Lake Ella) of the children's wing.

- K-1 grade class led by Mrs. Jo Ellen Brown & Gigi Ebert
- 2-3 grade class led by Mrs. Faye Miller & Volunteers
- 3-5 grade class led by Mr. Kevin & Mrs. Jenni Cox

KIDS@ART

Kids@Art **resumes on January 10** and welcomes newcomers to this exciting afternoon of worship arts activities. Happening every **Wednesday** from **4:30 - 5:30 p.m.**, with drop-off starting at 4:00 p.m. Open to all K-5th grade children. Sign up here: <https://saintpaulsumc.breezechms.com/form/kidsart 2022-2023>.

THANK YOU TO KIDS@ART!

The children with Kids@Art did a super job at the Christmas musical. This year, they incorporated Sleep in Heavenly Peace into their script and received gifts that evening to support this wonderful ministry. Here is what they collected:

- 6 Comforter sets
- 1 Comforter
- 14 Twin sheet sets
- 3 Blankets
- 2 Throws
- 5 Mattress pads
- 10 Pillows
- 1 Night light
- And, \$170!

John at SIHP said "Wow!!" When Jerry Roney notified him. Thank you, Kids@Art!

PARENTS MORNING OUT & PRESCHOOL

Our Parent's Morning Out and Preschool is a fun and safe place for children of all backgrounds to come together and foster a joy of learning through Christ's love. We accomplish this through cooperative and imaginative play. We also offer formal lessons in phonics, math and social and emotional intelligence. Please let Beth Wilde, our Director of Early Childhood Ministries, know if you are interested in learning more. Beth@saintpaulsumc.org

SPARKS

SPARKS hands on Art & Science afterschool ministry every Wednesday, we welcome all K-5th graders to join us and offer church bus pick up from Gilchrist and Sealy elementary. Drop in any time after 3:00 p.m. at Generations Park.

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 3:00 - 3:35 | Supervised Park Play |
| 3:40 - 3:55 | Snack & Scripture Sharing |
| 4:00 - 4:25 | Hands on Art Making with Ms. Courtney and Ms. Megan |
| 4:30 - 4:55 | Science Experiments with Ms. Leslie, and Ms. Kjersten |

For more information contact beth@saintpaulsumc.org.

IT'S SAINT PAUL'S DATE NIGHT!

Date Night is happening on **January 20** from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. for ages 1-10 years old. An opportunity to regroup as adults and leave your kiddos with our wonderful nursery staff. Sign up on-line under Children's Ministry. For more info. contact beth@saintpaulsumc.org.



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
7:00 p.m. Sunday Evening Contemporary Service

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Friday - Closed
850-385-5146

Find us on  at SaintPaulsUnitedMethodistChurch

OUR STAFF AND EMAILS

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Latricia Scriven
latricia@saintpaulsumc.org

Associate Pastor

Rev. MaryAnn Piccioni
maryann@saintpaulsumc.org

Church Administrator

Linda Fletcher
linda@saintpaulsumc.org

Dir. of Children & Family Ministries

TBD

Dir. of Early Childhood Ministries

Beth Wilde
beth@saintpaulsumc.org

Dir. of Music & Worship Arts

Gaye Herndon
gaye@saintpaulsumc.org

Adult Choirs Director

Cynthia Prescott
prescottc1360@gmail.com

Kids@Art Choir Director

Stephany Nystrand
stephanymusictherapy@yahoo.com

Dir. of Youth Ministries

Zac Prasse
zac@saintpaulsumc.org

Contemporary Worship Leader

Ben Reid
ben@saintpaulsumc.org

Kitchen Coordinator

TBD

Sexton

Simon Webb

Website Administrator

Ryan Kline

Video Coordinator

Jay Wirth

Church Treasurer

Timothy Scott

OUR BISHOP

Rev. Tom Berlin

OUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Rev. Clarke Campbell-Evans

OUR MISSIONARIES

Delbert and Sandy Groves,
Zambia