

the EPISTLE



FUN FROM THE EASTER JUBILEE!



MAY CALENDAR

- May 1 Circle of Support, 10:00, Parlor
Soul Food event, 6:15, Rm 327
- May 2 Crafty Crop, 4:00, Parlor
- May 3 Crafty Crop, 10:00, Parlor
- May 4 Teacher Appreciation Sunday
Creation Care Sunday
CYPP Training, 9:45, Parlor
- May 6 Alzheimer's Lunch, 11:30, Parlor
- May 7 BINGO Night, after dinner
- May 8 MomCo, 9:30, Sanders Hall
- May 12 Congregational Care mt, 10:30, Room 326
- May 13 United Women in Faith, 10:00, Sanders Hall
- May 14 Kids@Art Musical, 6:45, Sanctuary
- May 15 Circle of Support, 10:00, Parlor
JOY Kick off, 11:30, Sanders Hall
- May 17 Manna on Meridian, 8:00, Faith Presbyterian
- May 18 Graduation Sunday
- May 19 Governing Board mt, 6:30 Parlor
- May 20 Ed Wynn lunch, 10:30, Sanders Hall
- May 21 CYPP Training, 6:00, Sanders Hall
- May 31 Soul Food, 9:30, Lake Ella

CREATION care

GLOBAL WARMING– HOW CAN WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN 2025?

We DO love our trees here in Tallahassee. The spreading oak with moss dripping from its branches is an iconic symbol of the south and our town. We almost take our trees for granted...their beauty, the shade they offer, the canopy roads they form.... but a tree is worth so much more to us than the silent, stationary giants we can see with our eyes. Since part of our group's mission is educating all of us....here goes!

Did you know that.....

....we have a perfect give-and-take relationship with trees? They produce oxygen we absolutely need and they absorb some of the CO2 that is warming our planet.

....trees absorb carbon through the process of photosynthesis (remember your fifth grade science? 😊)

....a mature tree can absorb 350 lbs. of carbon each year and store it in their wood? That's why the old growth forests are so important. The bigger the tree, the more carbon it can store, which is why trees are known as "carbon sinks."

....just spending time in a park or on forest trails are actually good for relieving anxiety and depression.

....trees and forests help filter our water. Sadly, almost half of the tropical forests of the world have been cleared. Reforestation is one of the most important ways that people can contribute to solving the challenges of climate change. We'll alert you when a local mass tree planting is taking place.

Now, isn't learning fun?! 😊

To learn even more about how important trees are, check out this link from The Nature Conservancy: go to www.nature.org and search "benefits of trees."

One more precious resource we want to highlight is our national parks where you can find solace and joy among the great variety of trees found in most of them. Thank you President Theodore Roosevelt for the vision of making it a national system. Let's protect every park for the gift it is. Opening it to drilling, mining, timber and other industrial destructive operations seems to be a direct insult to the values Americans have held for over 100 years. Just because it's there doesn't mean it should be put into business production. The parks need to be protected from a political whim or business opportunity. Our great grandchildren should know that generations have fought to protect the parks. From our most visited, The Smoky Mountain National Park, to Gates of the Arctic, the least visited is, each park was protected because of its unique microcosm that it represented. We must remain firm in our protection of the whole system. (umcreationjustice.org)

Do YOU have a tree planting experience you would like to share? Or an amazing nature moment with a tree or insights into trees from a book you recommend? Send to us at CC@saintpaulsumc.org

The collection of plastic and films has begun in our quest to reach 1000 lbs in a year and win a Trex bench for our church grounds. Thank you to those who have begun to bring their clean plastic to the church and put it into our Trex boxes. Tell your friends and neighbors through whatever communications you use, what types of plastic/films we are collecting. Images are on the collection boxes and in this graphic of all of the different types of items that are acceptable when

clean and dry. So far, you have brought in 66 pounds 😊 of plastic which was delivered to the Winn-Dixie on Magnolia and Park. That's 66 lbs that won't go into the landfill! Thanks

MAY events

SUNDAY NIGHT WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Join us every Sunday evening for our shared Contemporary Worship Service with Good Samaritan UMC in Sanders Hall. This service begins at **6:00pm**. All are welcome to come.

MEN'S READING COMMUNITY

The Men's Reading Group meets on Tuesday mornings at Ology Northside. They gather each **Tuesday at 8:30am**. This group is now discussing "Living With The Monks: What Turning Off My Phone Taught Me About Happiness".

If you are interested in learning more about this group contact David Gill or Nic Fugate-
davidmurraygill@gmail.com ndfugate@gmail.com

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

United Women in Faith will enjoy our annual spring luncheon on **Tuesday, May 13**, at 11:00 in Sanders Hall. This is always a fun event at which friendships are renewed and new friendships formed, all while enjoying delicious salads and delightful desserts!

All women of the church are invited and encouraged to come and enjoy a morning of education, service, and fellowship. If you have questions, please contact Erma Sever at 850-510-5807 or ermasever@comcast.net.

CRAFTY CROP

Come join Crafty Crop on **May 2 & 3**. Bring your projects and table space will be provided. The fellowship begins on **Friday at 4:00pm** in Sanders Hall. You may leave your projects all set up to continue the fun on **Saturday at 10:00am**. Any questions and/or to sign up, contact Jill Merryday (850-443-9428).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

- 1 Sara Godwin
- 2 Jill Merryday
- 3 Sandy Collar, Kaia Martin, Jack Wilde
- 5 Cindy Bennett
- 9 Libby Selva
- 10 Teagan Field, Amy Leach, Ben Merryday
- 12 Linda Sellers
- 13 Cynthia Prescott
- 14 Harber Herndon, Matthew Swanson
- 15 Deborah Chellman, Jessie Perry
- 16 Charlotte Chellman, Kimberly Sanders
- 19 Nic Fugate
- 20 David Cuddington, Julie McBride, Teresa Shippy, Myrna Thomas
- 25 Barbara Bauldree, Dora Thomas
- 26 Gloria Priest
- 28 Kirsten Underhill
- 29 Brenda Abstein, Barbara Block, Beth Wilde
- 30 Melissa Buie, Kimberly Thomas
- 31 Patrick McDermott



Happy Birthday

MISSION ministries

THANK YOU FROM IMPACT@FAMU

On behalf of the students, staff and Board of Directors of the FAMU Wesley Foundation, IMPACT@FAMU Wesley, we extend our deepest gratitude for your generous support. Your partnership plays a vital role in our mission to create a welcoming and transformative space for students. This year has been one of significant growth and meaningful connections. We have witnessed IMPACT evolve into a true sanctuary for students navigating the pressures of college life. Whether they are attending our Mindful Monday sessions that engage them in spiritual disciplines or attending our yoga classes or getting 5 minute chair massages, the students are learning how to engage in moments of Sabbath that allow them to see and hear God more clearly. We've seen increased student engagement. At our weekly worship gatherings and bible study, we have seen a consistent increase in attendance with an average of 17-20 students participating each week. At our monthly family dinners, some 30-40 students attend. Your contribution directly enables us to provide these opportunities for students to cultivate their faith, find support, and experience the peace that comes from a connection with God and a loving community. Thank you!

CAPITAL AREA JUSTICE MINISTRY

With great numbers come great successes

I'm proud to announce that when we added all the attendees both in-person and online for the Nehemiah Action last month, we had a total of **826 people** in attendance! We turned out in greater numbers than ever before and you brought the spirit of justice and hope with you. And it is clear that our elected officials are listening. But make no mistake — now is not the time to ease up. We continue to push forward, towards justice for our community! Besides affordable rental housing, which was the highlight of the Nehemiah Action this year, Our Gun Violence team is still grinding and pushing for change behind the scenes. And now, as promised, we are ready to turn our attention to our next critical initiative: **Hunger and Food Insecurity**. CAJM is looking for passionate people to join the Hunger and Food Insecurity team, and if you're interested, please email Bryan Stringer at bryan@capitalareajustice.org.

To celebrate the successes of the Nehemiah Action, we invite you to join us for our **Justice Celebration**:

Tuesday, May 13- 6:00 PM

Jacob Chapel Baptist Church- 2330 Lake Bradford Road, Tallahassee, FL 32310

RSVP here: <https://www.capitalareajustice.org/events-1/capital-area-justice-ministry-celebration>

I look forward to walking alongside you while we continue our fight for justice in the greater Tallahassee community!

Thanks for your continued support,

Ryan P. Kline, 850-345-9839 | ryanpkline@gmail.com

SOUL FOOD

Years ago many unhoused people gathered and sometime slept at Lake Ella. In response to these neighbors in need Saint Paul's UMC began SOUL FOOD, a monthly outreach to them to provide food, clothing, toiletries and other basic necessities. Generous donations from the members of Saint Paul's made all this possible--the city government's actions to remove the pavilions and eliminate any overnight "camping" has greatly reduced the numbers of unhoused people being served by "Soul Food." Dr. Tracy Woodard of FSU and of Saint Paul's assigned her students to accompany and research the needs being met by our SOUL FOOD, and they will soon complete their recommendations. Everyone who has an interest in SOUL FOOD is invited to come hear their recommendations: **6:15 pm Thursday, May 1 in the "Cheers" Sunday School classroom** on the ground level of the sanctuary building (Rm 327).

THANK YOU FROM RESIDING HOPE

I am excited to congratulate Saint Paul's on exceeding your \$12.00 per member goal of giving to Residing Hope in 2024. (Goal \$7,800.00, gave \$11,717.50) Our partnership as a connectional ministry with the Florida Annual Conference has enabled us to serve children in need for 117 years. It is an honor to walk alongside pastors and church congregations in this ministry. If a need arises for a family within your church our admissions team is available to consult with you. The goal for 2025 remains at \$12.00 per member. Contributions may be sent directly to Rising Hope or through the church. Since churches remain the primary means of our financial support, we ask that you honor the next Fifth Sunday Offering June 29th.

MUSIC

at Saint Paul's

MUSIC MINISTRY AT SAINT PAUL'S

Malice in the Palace

The Story of Esther by Tom Long and Allen Poet
presented by the Kids@Art
Wednesday, May 14, 6:45 p.m., Sanctuary

You are invited to join us for the performance of this telling of the story of Esther “with all the ingredients for a great Hollywood thriller—a beautiful and spirited heroine, a dark-hearted villain, a twisting plot full of danger and intrigue, and a cliffhanger of a climax. And in the midst of this excitement we find a powerful message—the smallest person acting bravely can make an enormous difference, for

God has placed us where we are for a reason.”

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. Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings, 6:15-7:15 p.m., in the choir room. A nursery/childcare is provided. If members want to sit with their families during worship, they leave the choir loft after the anthem. Contact Cynthia Prescott, Adult Choirs Director: prescottc1360@gmail.com

Se'lah:

Is an ensemble of adults who love to praise God through song but can't commit to singing in worship every Sunday. This group rehearses Tuesday evenings, 7:30-8:30, 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 the Covenant Chancel Choir for special occasions.

They are currently preparing to present a Concert in the early fall.

A nursery/childcare is provided. Contact Cynthia Prescott, Adult Choirs Director: prescottc1360@gmail.com

Graduate Recognition Sunday, May 18

Our graduating seniors will be honored at the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. service on May 18. Several of our seniors will be preaching and leading worship. If you know of any members of our congregation who will be graduating this Spring, please let Casey Fernandes know. Our known Graduates are: Caroline Cox, Autumn Amort-Murphy, Kirsten Underhill, Ansley Wirth, Kevin Fleischer, Lenna Gayhart and Sam Scriven

One-Service Summer Worship

Beginning May 25, we will go into our Summer worship schedule. We will have one morning service of worship at 9:30 from May 25 through August 10.

WEDNESDAY *nights*

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES

During the month of May, we will have several special events on Wednesday nights.

May 7th, 6:00pm– BINGO night

May 14th, 6:45pm– Kids@Art Musical– 6:45pm-
Sanctuary

May 21st, 6:00pm– Child & Youth Protection Policies
training

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER MENUS

On Wednesdays, the doors open at 5:00 and we serve food from 5:15 until 6:00. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 10 and under. Dinner includes entrée, sides, salad, drinks and dessert. Kids meals are chicken nuggets and fruit (and sometimes mac and cheese)

May 7– Shredded Chicken

May 14– Serbian beef & potato casserole

May 21– Dirty rice with beef

May 28– Creamy Cajun pasta

YOUTH *rooted*

GREETINGS!

We had a wonderful Confirmation Sunday on April 6th. Eleven Youth were confirmed and we are so proud of what they have accomplished. Summer is almost here, we are looking forward to all of the activities we have planned. June 1st is Promotion Sunday where we will welcome new friends into the Youth Group. If you are interested and have not signed up yet, Saint Paul's will be attending week 4. Please reach out to me if you have any questions and thank you for your support of the youth ministry.

Blessings,
Casey





FAMILY events

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

Children and Youth Protection Policy Training May 4th and 21st

Do you work with children or youth in the church? Do you see any children or youth at our church? Then we need you to attend one of the two training sessions we offer for our protection policy. The first will be May 4th, from 9:45 am-10:45 am in the Parlor. The second will be after Wednesday Night Dinner on May 21st, around 6:00 pm. There will be childcare for both sessions. Please make plans to attend. This is an annual training. If you attended last year, you must attend this year as well.



Join us for Vacation Bible School at Camp Starlight!

We will be learning, playing, and creating at Camp Starlight this year from June 23rd to June 27th. There are so many ways to get involved. If you are a rising Kindergartener to a rising fifth grader, you can join us as a camper for a fun-filled morning of singing, crafting, and science. The [sign-ups](#) for participants are open now and will be until May 31st, or as classes fill up. Make sure to grab your camper's spot soon!

If you are interested in volunteering your time, we will need Shepherds to lead each class from campsite to campsite, Camp Leaders for all our special areas, and Camp Counselors to help our campers complete their missions. We also need people to help us transform our church into our Coastal summer camp with decorations. [The signup for adult volunteers is also available now.](#) To ensure you have a t-shirt, sign up by May 31st.

Finally, the VBS wish lists are available here. We will ask for snack donations to help keep the cost of attending VBS down for participants. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at leslie@saintpaulsumc.org.

Extreme Explorers in 2025

The Extreme Explorers will be back this summer. June 2nd-6th, we will take rising 3rd-5th graders on half-day adventures to exciting places all around Tallahassee. Sign-ups are available, but seats on the bus are limited. In previous years, we have visited the Marine Specimen Lab in Panacea, explored Wakulla Springs, and learned more about outer space! Join us for a great time!



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

SUNDAYS AT SAINT PAUL'S

8:30am Worship
9:45am Sunday School for all ages
11:00am Worship
6:00pm Contemporary Service

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 4:00pm
Friday - Closed

Find us on  at SaintPaulsUnitedMethodistChurch

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Communications

Amy Leach
amy@saintpaulsumc.org

Financial Assistant

Melissa Edelstein

Church Treasurer

Timothy Scott

Dir. Of Early Childhood Ministries

Beth Wilde
beth@saintpaulsumc.org

Dir. Of Children & Family Ministries

Leslie Scott
leslie@saintpaulsumc.org

Youth Director

Casey Fernandes
casey@saintpaulsumc.org

Dir. Of Music & Worship Arts

Gaye Herndon
gaye@saintpaulsumc.org

Adult Choirs Director

Cynthia Prescott
prescott1360@gmail.com

Kids@Art Choir Director

Stephany Nystrand
stephanymusictherapy@yahoo.com

Sexton

Jonathan Leach
jonathan@saintpaulsumc.org

Website Administrator

WPTallahassee

Video Coordinator

Jay Wirth

OUR BISHOP

Rev. Tom Berlin

OUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Rev. Catherine Fluck-Price

OUR MISSIONARIES

Delbert & Sandy Groves,
Zambia