

NOVEMBER 2025

the EPISTLE



At the start of every year, Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan publishes its annual list of “Ten Banished Words for Misuse, Overuse, and Uselessness.” These are the words and phrases that have become insincere, useless, and cliché. And it might not surprise you that in recent years many of these words related to the pandemic and political climate.

Among the words and phrases of the past were: “unprecedented,” “in these uncertain times,” “in an abundance of caution,” and “pivot.” And then there’s this one, which I probably heard more than any other one on the list:

“We’re all in this together.”

I’ll admit that phrase set off an ear worm of the song from High School Musical by the same name.

I guess people thought it was an overused phrase, except here’s the problem: it’s true. Socially, emotionally – and most importantly, biblically – we really are in this together.

Read how Paul describes the ideal faith community to the church in Corinth: *But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. (1 Corinthians 12:24-26)*

And Paul was clear with the Ephesians, that the way to be all in together was to pray for each other:

Offer prayers and petitions in the Spirit all the time. Stay alert by hanging in there and praying for all believers. (Ephesians 6:18 CEB)

ALL IN TOGETHER

This is our November worship theme and for our Generosity Campaign. We are all in this together.

Please join us in praying for our church. Commit to being in worship each Sunday. Fill out and turn in an estimate of giving card (you will be receiving one in the mail and online). Our goal is for every person or family to turn one in. Our Commitment Sunday to turn in our estimate of giving will be November 23. We will also have our Friendsgiving lunch that day. I hope you’ll be there.

It may be cliché to say it, but it is no less true. We really are “all in this together.”

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Carolyn

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Nov 2	Sunday Night Youth, 5:00, Parlor
Nov 6	Circle of Support, 10:00, Parlor
Nov 7	Creation Care meeting, 10:00, Ground Ops
Nov 10	Congregational Care mt, 10:00, Room 326
Nov 11	United Women in Faith, 10:00, Sanders Hall
Nov 14	Crafty Crop, 4:00, Parlor
Nov 15	Manna on Meridian, 8:00, Faith Presbyterian Crafty Crop, 10:00, Parlor
Nov 16	Alternative Christmas Market Sunday Night Youth, 5:00, Parlor
Nov 18	Ed Wynn lunch, 10:30, SH Alzheimer’s lunch, 11:30, Parlor
Nov 20	Circle of Support, 10:00, Parlor
Nov 23	Friendsgiving, after 11:00 service, Sanders Hall
Nov 24	Governing Board mt, 6:30 Parlor
Nov 26	NO Wed dinner/classes
Nov 29	Soul Food, 9:30, Lake Ella
Nov 30	9:30 combined worship begins Hanging of the Greens, 7:00pm, Sanctuary

CREATION *care*

ROOTED IN RESPONSIBILITY- CREATION CARE AS SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

November: Gratitude for the Earth — Thanksgiving Through the Lens of Stewardship

This month, we gather to give thanks—and that includes gratitude for the gifts of Creation. From majestic forests to cozy backyard gardens, nature reflects God’s artistry. Invite your family or small group to name outdoor places that bring peace, and include a prayer of thanks in your celebration. Creation Care begins with noticing and flourishes with gratitude.

Prayer: Lord, for rustling leaves, crisp air, and the beauty of earth’s quiet rhythms—we give thanks. Teach us to receive and return your gifts with care. Amen.

Call to Action: Start a “Gratitude for the Earth” journal—note five nature-related blessings each week, and share your favorite entry during a Thanksgiving service or gathering.

The Creation Care Team expresses another round of heartfelt gratitude for your response to our efforts to call attention to the problem that plastic continues to play in our lives. Just look at the mountains of plastic we delivered to Winn-Dixie every week!!!



We will keep you updated on the bench made by NexTrex that we have won with the 1000 pounds of plastic YOU helped collect. Wow!

There's more gratitude to go around to our Scout troops. The girls helped weeding, pulling up the last of the tomatoes, and turning over the soil to get ready for the fall collard planting. A week later, the Boy Scouts and their leaders helped shovel fresh soil into the raised beds of the Mosaic Garden. What would we do without them both? They truly live up to their oath of being helpful.



Creation Care Friday Meetings

Join the Creation Care team on Friday, November 7th at 10:00am at Ground Ops for their first Friday meeting. They will continue to meet at Ground Ops on the first Friday of each month. Hope to see you there!

NOVEMBER events

COMBINED WORSHIP FOR ADVENT

Beginning on November 30th, we will combine our morning worship serves and meet at 9:30am, with SS after. This will be our Sunday morning schedule during Advent; we will resume 2 services on January 4th.

SUNDAY NIGHT WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Join us every Sunday evening for our Contemporary Worship Service 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 8:00am**.

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 be meeting on Tuesday, November 11, at 10:00 in Sanders Hall. Come join us for a morning of education, service, and fellowship. If you have questions, please contact Erma Sever, 850-510-5807, or ermasever@comcast.net.

CRAFTY CROP

Come join Crafty Crop on Nov 14th and 15th. Bring your projects and table space will be provided. The fellowship begins on Friday at 4:00pm in the Parlor. 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!!

- 2 Amelia Fugate, Charles O'Keefe
- 3 Letia Hughes
- 4 Madeline Robertson, David Watson
- 5 Carolyn Drake, Melanie Quinton
- 7 Jerry Eychaner, Nolan Pupo
- 8 MaryAnn Piccioni, Madeline Scott
- 9 David Young
- 10 Ikem Okoli, Onyinye Okoli,
Gail Wallace
- 12 Emma Perry
- 13 Brian Fernandes
- 14 Britton Tully
- 15 Andrew Underhill
- 16 Blair Andrews, Ermine Owenby
- 17 Melissa Smith
- 21 Patricia Atherton, Natalie Monteiro,
Bridget Weisbrod
- 22 Claire Pupo
- 23 Robert Tully, Julia Woodward
- 25 Bryan Cook, David Steingart
- 26 Mark Groszos, Ken Lewis,
Chuck Prescott
- 30 Virginia Pelham, Makaylah
Verheyen, Peggy Wright

MISSION ministries

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET

Sunday November 16th- 9:30am-12:30pm in Sanders Hall

We invite you to come do your Christmas shopping for your loved ones and friends AND give a blessing to those in need at the same time! We have many mission projects led, served, and sustained by the people of Saint Paul's UMC. Come and talk with these local "missionaries" and find out how you can help. We will have many tables to "shop" at...Residing Hope, Creation Care, Cuba Sister Church, Elder Care, ReFire, FAMU Wesley Foundation, Bags of Hope (new this year), and more to come!

RESIDING HOPE – GIFT CARDS FOR CHRISTMAS

Ready or not, Christmas Is Coming!

As we rush toward the holidays, Christmas will be here sooner than we imagine. The Residing Hope Staff invite you to participate as we begin our annual Christmas Gift Card Drive. Our staff will utilize a portion of these cards to purchase personal gifts to wrap under the tree. The children will also receive gift cards Christmas morning so they can go shopping for themselves. We are collecting cards in increments of \$20 to \$100. Our most requested cards are Visa, Ross, TJ Max, and Walmart. Popular restaurants include Darden Brands, Applebee's, McDonald's, Burger King, Chick-Fil-A and Dairy Queen. We ask that gift card amounts be written somewhere on the cards and also have the gift card receipt for each to help with processing. I can collect cards and/or cash donations during the 11:00 service or at the Alternative Market. Donations can also be turned into the church office. Deadline for donations is December 5th.

Thank you in advance for sharing your Christmas Love and Joy with these special children.

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

A big thank you to the 70 volunteers that helped us build 30 beds for Sleep In Heavenly Peace. In addition to building the beds, our United Women of Faith and other members of our congregation donated 15 pillows, 61 sheet sets, 8 comforter sets, 7 handmade quilts, 4 throws and 8 blankets for the beds. We also were able to deliver 16 beds to some very excited kids later in the afternoon.

Thanks Again! Jerry Roney

SOLIDARITY PRAYER VIGILS

So if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. –1 Corinthians 12:26

When a piece of the Everglades became a deportation facility (aka Alligator Alcatraz) some of our neighbors who had been detained were placed in that remote place. Separated from their families, lawyers and churches, the detainees probably felt very alone, perhaps abandoned, even by God. Beginning in August hundreds of people of various faiths and those of conscience began holding prayer vigils at 5:00 pm every Sunday. Eventually the Roman Catholic diocese of south Florida received permission to hold weekly Masses inside the camp. Beginning in September and continuing today, we are having prayer vigils in solidarity and at the same time as the folks outside of the South Florida Detention Center –5:00 pm Sundays on the steps of the Historic Capitol. We have heard first hand testimonies of the suffering caused by this new model of doing deportations. Everyone is entitled to due process because every human being is made in the image of God, according to our faith. Concern for the foreigner is a common issue in other religions also—so this is an interfaith vigil. Everyone is invited to attend a vigil. Bring your own lawn chair and pray with us.

Trusting in God, David Gill, retired pastor

MUSIC at Saint Paul's

MUSIC MINISTRY AT SAINT PAUL'S

During the month of November we are intensely working on our Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas offerings. Join us as we prepare music to celebrate these seasons.

Preschool Music Group (for ages 3-4): meets from 5:10-5:30 on Wednesday afternoons in Room 200. This group is a developmentally appropriate music program for children ages 3-4 which incorporates singing, playing instruments, and movement, setting the foundation for building our future worship leaders. Contact Gaye Herndon (gaye@saintpaulsumc.org)

Kids@Art (Children's Worship Arts Program for Grades K-5): is preparing for our many Advent programs and offerings. In our Arts unit, we'll be working on Advent art projects. We'll be participating in the Hanging of the Greens, the Music Ministries Service of Lessons and Carols, and presenting our own musical, "Uncertain Poor Shepherds". We meet on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Children's Music Room, #200.
(Contact Stephany Nystrand: stephanymusictherapy@yahoo.com)

Youth Choir (grades 6-12): rehearses on Wednesday evenings, 7:00-7:45, in Room 200. We are preparing special music for the Hanging of the Greens and the Music Ministries' Service of Lessons and Carols.
(Contact Gaye Herndon: gaye@saintpaulsumc.org)

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. We are rehearsing on Tuesdays from 6:00-7:15 p.m. in preparation for special Music Ministry Advent and Christmas offerings and warm-up on Sunday mornings at 10:35. We are preparing to help lead the Hanging of the Greens on November 30, 7:00 p.m. and our Service of Lessons and Carols on December 14, 9:30 a.m.

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 preparing for the Advent and Christmas seasons. 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 will be participating in the community event, Ring in the Season, to be held at First Baptist Church, Tallahassee, on Friday, December 5, 7:00 p.m. and will be playing for our Hanging of the Greens and Service of Lessons and Carols.

WEDNESDAY nights

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Our second session of classes will continue thru Nov 19th. We will be off on Nov 26th for Thanksgiving.

Fall classes– Session 2:

6:00– Women’s Study- “Bad Girls of the Bible”

6:00– A Class on Jürgen Moltmann's *The Source of Life*

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

Dinner begins at 5:15. Adults eat for \$8 and kids 10 and under are \$4. Reservations are required and need to be in each week by Mondays at noon.

Nov 5

Meatball ziti, kids– burger sliders

Nov 12

Youth Cooking– Chicken & dumplings

Nov 19

Hot ham Italians & chili

Nov 26

NO DINNER/PROGRAMS

YOUTH rooted

Fall is in full swing, and Rooted Youth has been soaking up the beautiful weather with plenty of time spent outdoors! From games on the basketball court, to meaningful small group moments, it’s been a wonderful season of connection and growth.

We’ve also loved providing dinner for the congregation once a month, thank you so much for showing up, supporting us, and sharing a meal together. Your encouragement and generosity truly make a difference in our ministry. A special thank-you goes out to Mr. Ryan Kline for joining us in Sunday School and teaching about the Capital Area Justice Ministry. It was inspiring to learn how we can live out our faith through justice and service in our community.

As we look ahead, we’re excited for our upcoming Youth Lock-In and a full season of Advent activities, there’s so much to look forward to! Don’t forget to stop by the Youth and Children’s Ministries table during the Ministry Fair. We’d love to see you, share what’s happening, and help you find ways to get involved.

Thank you, Saint Paul’s, for continuing to walk alongside Rooted Youth as we grow in faith, fellowship, and service!

Blessings,
Casey





FAMILY events

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

October Play Day

We had such a blast at Play Day! We started by "traveling" through the magic hula hoops (Five to be precise) and when we landed in Ancient Egypt, we gathered our camels and materials, finally arriving at our destination. Here we learned about how Moses grew up and how he came to learn his true heritage. Next, we commemorated our trip with a torn paper collage where our camels played a starring role. We finished up by decorating a pyramid cookie with icing and tons of sand (sanding sugar that is). We hope to have another Play Day in December for all our children. Thank you for coming out and supporting us. We hope you had fun and learned something about Exodus.



FRIENDSGIVING

Join us for our annual Friendsgiving lunch! We ask that you bring a dish to share (we know you love dessert, but don't forget about those veggies!). Turkey, stuffing and gravy will be provided. We will gather for lunch in Sanders Hall after the 11:00 service. Dishes can be dropped off to the kitchen before the service.




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
*Nov 30th- Morning worship at 9:30

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. Carolyn Williamson
carolyn@saintpaulsumc.org

Associate Pastor

Rev. MaryAnn Piccioni
maryann@saintpaulsumc.org

Church Administrator

Linda Fletcher
linda@saintpaulsumc.org

Communications

Amy Leach
amy@saintpaulsumc.org

Director of Operations & Administration - Joyful Beginnings

Melissa Edelstein

Church Treasurer

Timothy Scott

Interim Director of Education and Engagement - Joyful Beginnings

Melissa Edelstein
melissa@saintpaulsumc.org

Director of Children & Family Ministries

Leslie Scott
leslie@saintpaulsumc.org

Youth Director

Casey Fernandes
casey@saintpaulsumc.org

Director 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