

DECEMBER 2025

the EPISTLE



Advent Events

**Come to
Christmas**
Dec 7th-4:30pm

**Kids@Art
Musical**
Dec 10th-6:45pm

Lessons & Carols
Dec 14th-9:30am

**A Service of Light
in the Darkness**
Dec 17th-6:00pm

**Christmas
Pageant**
Dec 21st-9:30am

Christmas Eve
Dec 24th
5:00pm & 7:00pm

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dec 3 | Holiday Trivia, after dinner, SH |
| Dec 4 | Circle of Support, 10:00, Parlor |
| Dec 7 | Come to Christmas, 4:30 |
| Dec 9 | United Women in Faith, 11:00,
Sanders Hall
Silver Liners lights night, 5:30 |
| Dec 10 | Kids@Art Musical, 6:45,
Sanctuary |
| Dec 14 | Lessons & Carols, 9:30,
Sanctuary |
| Dec 16 | Ed Wynn lunch, 10:30, Sanders
Hall
Alzheimer's lunch, 11:30, Parlor |
| Dec 17 | Service of Light in the Darkness,
6:00, Sanctuary
Youth Caroling, 6:00 |
| Dec 18 | Circle of Support, 10:00, Parlor |
| Dec 20 | Manna on Meridian, 8:00,
Faith Presbyterian |
| Dec 21 | Children's Pageant, 9:30,
Sanctuary |
| Dec 24 | Christmas Eve services, 5:00 &
7:00, Sanctuary |
| Dec 27 | Soul Food, 9:30, Lake Ella |

CREATION *care*

ROOTED IN RESPONSIBILITY- CREATION CARE AS SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

December: Greening the Season — Celebrating Christmas Sustainably

As Advent begins, we're invited to prepare our hearts and homes with simplicity and care. Creation Care meets celebration this month through thoughtful gift-giving, energy-conscious décor, and reflection on the true Light of the season. By reducing waste and choosing sustainability, we honor the One who came to renew all things.

Scripture: *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* — John 1:5

Call to Action: Start an eco-conscious tradition—DIY gifts, LED lights, or recyclable wrapping—and share your ideas in the church newsletter or on the bulletin board.

Creation Care Throughout The Fall

The Blessing of the Animals during the evening worship service in Sanders Hall on November 5 was a blessing to us all. Cara Fleischer gave an uplifting message about the special relationship we have with our pets, and a reminder that we are called to love ALL of God's creatures. Afterwards, Pastor Carolyn and the prayer stewards from Good Samaritan invited people to bring their pets up for an individual blessing. Dogs, cats, lizards and even a ferret received a blessing. To create a lasting memory, guests and their pets struck a pose at our photo booth. It was truly a meowing night to remember.



Creation Scares!

Forget "TRICK or treat".....this year, it was all about Trunk or Treat. The Creation Care team created a plastic monster to remind trick-or-treaters of the dangers that plastic continues to plague us with, and to choose reusable bags instead of single-use plastics. Along with lots of candy, we fired up the popcorn machine and offered fresh, hot popcorn that would put any movie theater to shame. Did we forget to mention we won GREENEST TRUNK? Quite the honor, we must admit.

Creation Care Friday Meetings

Join the Creation Care team on Friday, December 5th at 10:00am at Ground Ops. Hope to see you there!

DECEMBER *events*

COMBINED WORSHIP FOR ADVENT

During December, 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 GROUP

The Men's Reading Group meets at Ology Northside every Tuesday at 8:00am.

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

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

All women are invited and encouraged to attend the December 9 meeting of United Women in Faith in Sanders Hall, beginning at 11:00. This is our annual holiday luncheon and there will be an abundance of food, fellowship, and fun!! Please contact Erma Sever, ermasever@comcast.net or 850-510-5807, for more information.

SILVER LINERS

Christmas Lights- Meet at the church at 5:30pm on December 9th. We will board the church bus and go to Havana for the light show. We will return to the church afterwards. If you don't drive/drive at night, we will find a ride for you if you give us plenty of notice! There are only 24 seats available on the bus. Bottled water and treats will be available on the bus. If you have questions, contact Sandy Collar (850-322-4407) or Peggy Harter (850-339-1356).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

- 1 Maria Alexander,
Stanley Etheridge,
Danny Nystrand
- 3 Addie Combs
- 4 Alan Harwood
- 6 Carolina Barber, Eloise Mansell
- 7 Nancy Schlidt
- 9 Jo Ellen Brown
- 10 Freddie Schrader
- 12 Hazel Oliver
- 13 Lynn Peacock
- 14 David Sellers
- 15 Coraline Kline, Mac Martin,
John Robert Quinton
- 16 Nancy Ross, Carl Slaughter
- 17 James Andrews, Angela Murphy,
Laura Wright
- 20 Julia Cox, Samuel Lewis,
Crill Merryday
- 21 Jonathan Leach
- 22 Dale Croft
- 23 Peggy Harter, Bekkah Sheetz
- 24 Doris Henderson, Eliza Wirth
- 25 Alicia Batailles, Bob Thomas
- 26 Susan Droessler
- 27 Cassie Griesheimer-Fischer,
Darren Shippy
- 28 Leslie Scott
- 29 Alyssa Griesheimer
- 30 Barbara Jaeger, Norma Nahoom,
Jean Quinell, Miles Quinell,
Lilah Grace Schroeder

MISSION ministries

MANNA ON MERIDIAN

As you know, the loss of SNAP funding these past few weeks has created a crisis for many that rely on those programs, and by extension a challenge for the community food banks who serve them. Thanks to your financial and volunteer support we were able to stretch our capacity this month and serve approximately 450 families during our big drive through distribution.

We also have a new website with updated information. Please check us out at <https://www.mannaonmeridian.org/>.

Thank you all so much for your support!

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.

Janet Clark- Saint Paul's representative for Residing Hope.

CAPITAL AREA JUSTICE MINISTRY

The Capital Area Justice Ministry had a successful Network Assembly on October 28. Thanks to everyone who attended! Due to unprecedented times, CAJM will add two issues to our impact teams and begin planning for these (as well as the current issues) on December 9 at the Research Kickoff Event. Please RSVP here if you plan to attend: <https://www.capitalareajustice.org/event/research-kickoff/>

The CAJM issues we have committees for now are:

Affordable Housing (transitioning to monitoring phase)

Civil Citations

Food Insecurity

Gun Violence Interruption

Immigration

Mental Health

If any of these topics are of interest to you, and you'd like to help shape how we approach these topics, please plan to attend the Research Kickoff Event on December 9. Thanks for the continued support!

MUSIC at Saint Paul's

MUSIC MINISTRY AT SAINT PAUL'S

Advent is a busy time for the Music Ministries of Saint Paul's as we are preparing our hearts for the coming of our Savior through various services of worship and programs.

Kids@Art (Children's Worship Arts Program for Grades K-5): will be participating in the Hanging of the Greens service on November 30, 7:00 p.m., the Service of Lessons and Carols presented by the entire Music Ministries on December 14, 9:30 a.m.

AND will be presenting their own musical, "Uncertain Poor Shepherds," on Wednesday, December 10, 6:45 p.m. in the sanctuary. (Doors open at 6:30.)

As part of our musical, we will be taking an offering to support "Sleep in Heavenly Peace". We ask that you bring bedding items for twin sized beds: sheets, mattress covers, blankets, and/or pillows, or monetary gifts for that ministry.
(Contact Stephany Nystrand: stephanymusictherapy@yahoo.com)

Youth Choir (grades 6-12): will be singing for the Hanging of the Greens and the Music Ministries' Service of Lessons and Carols. We will also be caroling to our at-home members on Wednesday, December 17.

(Contact Gaye Herndon: gaye@saintpaulsumc.org)

Covenant Chancel Choir: will be singing for 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.

We will have a Dress Rehearsal for the Service of Lessons and Carols on Saturday, December 13, 10:00 a.m., in the sanctuary.

We will also be singing for the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

(Contact Cynthia Prescott, Adult Choirs Director: prescottc1360@gmail.com)

Se'lah: will be singing for the Hanging of the Greens and the Service of Lessons and Carols. Dress Rehearsal is on Saturday, December 14, 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. We will also join the Covenant Chancel Choir for the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

(Contact Cynthia Prescott, Adult Choirs Director: prescottc1360@gmail.com)

Handbell Choir: will be participating in the annual community event, Ring in the Season, at First Baptist Church, Tallahassee, on December 5, 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to join us for this delightful way to begin our Advent/Christmas Season, with 5 other Handbell Choirs from throughout the Tallahassee/South Georgia area in this massed ringing event.



WEDNESDAY *nights*

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

We have lots to do on Wednesdays during December! Mark your calendars and make plans to join us...

Dec 3rd– Holiday Trivia Night- after dinner

Dec 10th– Kids@Art Musical– 6:45pm

Dec 17th– Service of Light in the Darkness– 6:00pm

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.

Dec 3

Spaghetti & Meatballs

Dec 10

Smorgasbord Night

Dec 17

Youth hosting- Pizza Night

Dec 24 & 31

Off for the holidays

YOUTH *rooted*

November was a full and joyful month for Rooted Youth! We kicked things off with an unforgettable Lock-In filled with worship, games, late-night laughter, and meaningful connection. Sunday Night Youth continued to thrive as students grew in faith and friendship. Our group also enjoyed serving at the Alternative Christmas Market, helping support missions and spreading the spirit of generosity. As we enter Advent, we're excited for a season of hope, preparation, and celebration together. Be sure to stop by our cookie-decorating station at Come to Christmas; we'd love to see you there and share some festive fun!

Blessings,
Casey





FAMILY *events*

Our First "Elf Day"!

We will be pulling all of Santa's Elves into his workshop for a fun couple of hours of making gifts, treats, and celebrating Christmas together. On December 13th, elves from one year old to 5th grade will gather in the foundation from 1-5 pm. If your elves are interested in joining us, please make sure to sign them up!

<https://saintpaulsumc.breezechms.com/form/25ca778>



Children's Christmas Pageant

One of our favorite traditions at Saint Paul's is the Children's Christmas Pageant on the Sunday before Christmas. Every year, we reenact the story of Jesus's birth. It is always adorable and usually funny as well. Children from toddlers to 5th grade are welcome to sign up. Angels, Shepherds, animals, and the other main characters are all needed. Please sign up to receive more information about when and where to prepare for the pageant. <https://saintpaulsumc.breezechms.com/form/christmaspageantdec17202369>






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

SUNDAYS AT SAINT PAUL'S

9:30am Worship
10:45am Sunday School for all ages
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. 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