

ISSUE #5- 2026

the EPISTLE



Check out what's happening at Saint Paul's during
October and November!

The graphic is a vertical rectangle with a light gray background. On the left side, there is a brown tree branch with several yellow and orange leaves falling from it. In the center, there is a yellow rounded rectangle containing the text "Save the Dates" in a black, cursive font. Below this rectangle, there is a row of orange and red autumn leaves. At the bottom of the graphic, there are three pumpkins: two orange and one light orange. The text for the events is in a bold, orange, sans-serif font.

Save the Dates

October 18th - Children's Sunday

October 25th - Trunk or Treat

**November 8th - Alternative
Christmas Market**

November 22nd - Friendsgiving

MUSIC *at Saint Paul's*

MUSIC MINISTRY AT SAINT PAUL'S

As we move into October, all of our music ensembles and choirs are beginning work on our Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas offerings. Now is a great time to join us!

Preschool Music Group (for ages 3-4): meets from 5:10-5:30 on Wednesday afternoons. 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): will be leading our worship on October 18 through music, liturgy, and art. We're working on our Advent musical, "Room for Christmas" to be presented on December 9. All children in Grades K-5 are invited to join us on Wednesday evenings, 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Children's Music Room, (rm 200).
(Contact Stephany Nystrand: stephanymusictherapy@yahoo.com)

Youth Choir: All Youth, Grades 6-12, are invited to join us. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings, 7:00-7:45, in the Music Room (200) of the Children's Wing. (Contact Gaye Herndon: gaye@saintpaulsumc.org)

Covenant Chancel Choir: sings for the 11:00 a.m. (and occasionally 8:30 a.m.) services. Regular rehearsals are on Tuesdays, 6:15-7:15. You are invited to join us for our special Advent Offerings. Beginning in October we will rehearse Christmas music from 6:45-7:15. A nursery/childcare is provided, and let Cynthia know if you'd like to sing with us for a short-time commitment. (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. This group sings once a month in worship and occasionally with the Covenant Chancel Choir for special occasions. We are working on our special Advent/Christmas offerings and invite you to join us! (Contact Cynthia Prescott: prescottc1360@gmail.com.)

Special thanks to all our musicians who participated in the Celebration of Music Ministry on Sunday, September 27th! We are grateful for all your hard work and dedication to our music ministry!

Save the Date– Hanging of the Greens– Sunday, November 29th– 7:00pm

OCT-NOV events

SUNDAY NIGHT WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Each Sunday night, we offer a contemporary worship service in Sanders Hall from 6:00-7:00pm.

Upcoming Special Evening Service:

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 11 | 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Outside service in front of the Scout House near Generations Park.

All leashed or contained pets are welcome.

Join us at the 2026 Blessing of the Animals to celebrate the unique relationship we share with our pets and receive an individual blessing. The event will feature live music, a pet photo booth, treats, and more. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors with pets!

Questions? Email Cares4Creation@gmail.com



MEN'S READING GROUP

All men are invited to join us in the Men's Reading Community which meets Tuesdays at noon to discuss a book together at Ology Brewing Northside, 2910 Kerry Forest Pkwy, Unit 8. For more information contact David Gill, davidmurraygill@gmail.com

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

“Driven by God’s love and united in sisterhood, we work to improve the lives of women, children and youth. We believe love in action can change the world.” These words come from the national United Women in Faith website, and they accurately describe the mission of the Saint Paul’s unit of United Women in Faith.

We are privileged and excited to be hosting the Northwest District Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 24. This meeting will bring together members of United Women in Faith units from Gainesville to Tallahassee. We will resume our regularly scheduled meetings on Tuesday, November 10th when we hope to have a representative from Women Veterans Unite share information on this organization.

United Women in Faith members are proud to support needs in our church, our community, and beyond. Thanks to the generosity of the Saint Paul’s congregation, we raised over \$5400 at our annual spaghetti dinner/auction in July! These funds will go directly to support organizations, projects, and events that will positively impact the lives of many.

We hope the ladies in our church are eager to put love in action and expand their circle of friends by becoming a part of this amazing group. Please contact Erma Sever, ermasever@comcast.net, or 850-510-5807, with any questions, or to be added to our email group to receive information on upcoming meetings and events.



MISSION ministries

MANNA ON MERIDIAN

Manna on Meridian has our big monthly distributions the third Saturday of every month from 8-9:30 at the Manna building behind Faith Presbyterian's main building. These are our largest distributions and during them we typically serve around 300 families!

The upcoming dates for the Saturday distributions are:

- October 17th
- November 21st

If you are interesting in helping us serve our neighbors you can:

- reach out to Kevin Scott (kevingscott@yahoo.com) to learn more about volunteer opportunities
- leave donations of canned soup, boxes of cereal or other shelf-stable food items either in the marked bins outside Sanders Hall (towards the bathrooms) or at the church office

Your continued support is having a great impact in our community. Thank you for all the donations and all the folks who volunteer to help keep this ministry running!

JUSTICE IMPACTED MISSION

Saint Paul's United Methodist Church Justice Impacted Mission will again bring to Saint Paul's the opportunity to support the children and families of the incarcerated at Christmas time. We plan to start in November this year to amplify support and streamline the process. Stay tuned please for further information and thank you for working together to support those who are justice impacted.

Thank you,

Julie and Michael McBride

RESIDING HOPE

Thank you, Saint Paul's, for your overwhelming welcome and support for Elisabeth Gadd, the Chief Development Director of Residing Hope. She gave us so much information about the many services they provide at Residing Hope for the 300 children they serve every day.

Thank you again Congregation and Children for your participation in the Noisy Change offering on August 30th. You all made the day complete. The total bucket collection was \$927.51. WOW!

Our last fifth Sunday in 2026 is November 29th. Also, on November 8th, at the Alternative Christmas Market, we will begin collecting Christmas gift cards for the children in Residing Hope's care. Most requested cards are Visa, Ross, TJ Max, Walmart, Target, Papa John's Pizza, McDonalds, Chick Fil A and Chill's (increments in \$20.00 to \$100.00 please).

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET

Join us for our annual Alternative Christmas Market on Sunday, November 8th. A variety of church ministries will be represented and shoppers will have the opportunity to donate to these ministries in honor of a loved one. Come join us as we shop for a good cause!

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS DINNER

We thank Flo Dickinson for volunteering to lead a group in hosting the International Missions dinner on October 18th to raise funds for all 3 of our missions in nearby countries! The meal will take place after the 11:00 service on the 18th. Tickets are \$12.00/adult and \$6/children under 12 (donations of any amount are welcome!). Please use the link below to make your reservations.

Proceeds from this meal will help us do numerous things for our sister churches. We will be able to provide food for those in need, help build protective structures, and provide assistance to our newest UMC Missionary, Charissa Jaeger-Sanders, who is in Costa Rica teaching at the Latin American University of the Bible, future church leaders.

The menu for the meal will be Caribbean and will be prepared by our own members.

<https://saintpaulsumc.breezechms.com/form/internationalmissions2026>

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE– NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR

Our annual Bed Build will be held on Saturday November 7th, from 9:00am-noon. This is a wonderful, hands-on service experience and no experience is needed! We will cut the wood, sand, stain, and assemble new bunk beds. We will also collect bedding for children who have never had a bed of their own. The sign up for this event will be coming soon; keep an eye out in Weekly Notes.

CAJM– CAPITAL AREA JUSTICE MINISTRY

The Capital Area Justice Ministry continues to push for local policies that even the playing field and share God's love through systemic changes.

Team Leaders Assembly

Hosted at Saint Paul's October 13 @ 6PM

Reflect on Listening Circle findings, identify themes and priorities, equip new leaders, and determine next steps.

Register here: <https://www.capitalareajustice.org/event/team-leaders-assembly-10-13/>

Network Assembly

October 27 @ 6PM (Location TBD)

Launch the organizing year, welcome new congregations, introduce research teams, and celebrate Listening Circle successes. Register here: <https://www.capitalareajustice.org/event/network-assembly-10-27/>

They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love:

- 1.Dignity: Tell your faith journey through your actions
2. Integrity: Actions that don't put expectations on others
3. Belonging: Lead with love and empathy

WEDNESDAY

nights

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES

Our current Wednesday night classes, Disciple Fast Track & Learning to Lead will continue throughout October and into November. Registration for Disciple Fast Track has closed, but new attendees are welcome to join Learning to Lead at 6:00pm on Wednesdays in rm 326.

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.

To sign up for dinners— A sign up link can be found in Weekly Notes and you can also use the pew pads on Sunday mornings to RSVP for the current week.

On the 3rd Wednesday of each month, our youth group will be preparing the meal. Proceeds from these dinners will go towards supporting our youth program. The first dinner cooked by our youth will be in September.

YOUTH

rooted

As we move into the fall season, I want to thank our church family for your continued support of our Rooted Youth Ministry. It has been an exciting year, and we are grateful for the many ways you invest in the lives of our youth.

One of our favorite events of the season is coming up soon, Trunk or Treat! We look forward to welcoming families from our church and the community for a fun and safe evening of fellowship. Be sure to mark your calendars for October 25th and consider volunteering or decorating a trunk.

I am also excited to share that Sunday Night Youth is back! Every 2nd and 4th Sunday from 5-7, dinner is included. Thank you to everyone who has signed up to sponsor a dinner!

A special thank you goes to everyone who supports our Third Wednesday Youth Dinners. These meals provide a wonderful time of fellowship while also helping fund opportunities that make a lasting impact on our youth. Because of your participation, we are able to provide mission trip assistance, camp scholarships, and support for youth who might otherwise be unable to participate in these life-changing experiences.

Thank you for believing in our young people and for partnering with us as we continue to help youth grow in their faith, build meaningful relationships, and discover ways to serve Christ and others. We are blessed by your support and look forward to all that God has in store this fall.

Grace and Peace,
Casey Fernandes
Youth Director



FAMILY *events*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's Sunday– October 18th

Make plans to join us for this special Sunday as our children help to lead worship. We'll hear music from our Kids@Art choir and get a chance to see our youngest leaders in action!

Trunk or Treat– October 25th

We will welcome boys and ghouls of all ages to parade around our maze of trunks from 3:30 to 5:30, gathering candy and showing off their awesome costumes. We need you to do this, though! Please sign up to host and decorate a trunk. There have been so many creative trunks every year and remember there are prizes to be won for best trunk. Sunday School classes, small groups, or individual families can sign up. All you need is a trunk (or a boat disguised as a trunk), a theme and you're on your way. The deadline to sign up will be October 18th.

Save the Date– Church Dance– November 13th

Mark your calendars and find your dancing shoes...we have another church dance coming! After our 80's night last spring, we are ready for another night of fun!

Save the Date– Hanging of the Greens– November 29th

Join us as we kick off the Advent season with our Hanging of the Greens service. We will decorate the sanctuary and celebrate with music. This is a wonderful event for the whole family.





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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Find us on  at SaintPaulsUnitedMethodistChurch

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

Financial Assistant

Melissa Edelstein

Church Treasurer

Timothy Scott

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
prescottc1360@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

Charissa Jaeger-Sanders