the EPISTLE

Dec 2026

We have lots to look forward to in December! Make sure to mark your calendars and make plans to join us this Advent season.



DECEMBER events

EVENING SERVICE

Join us on Sunday evenings at 6:00pm in Sanders Hall for our contemporary worship service. In December, we will not have regular worship on 12/6 due to Come to Christmas. On 12/13, we will be having a special "Carols & S'mores Night down at Generations Park.



SILVER LINERS

Our seniors ministry, Silver Liners, will be taking a tour of Goodwood Museum on December 11th. If you haven't already signed up thru Weekly Notes, please do so asap. You can also call the church office if you need assistance making a reservation- 850-385-5146



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

All ladies of the church are invited and encouraged to come and enjoy faith, fellowship, fun, and food at our monthly United Women in Faith meetings. In addition to making new friends, you'll have the chance to learn about organizations, projects, and events that impact the lives of many in our community. We are proud that the funds generated from our annual summer spaghetti dinner/auction allow us to financially support many of these organizations.

United Women in Faith meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month, beginning at 10:00, in Sanders Hall. Please note, however, that on December 8, we will meet at 11:00 instead of 10:00. This is the date for our popular holiday luncheon, which is always a wonderful time to mix and mingle while enjoying delicious salads and desserts.

We hope the ladies in our church are eager to be a part of United Women in Faith. 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.

SERIOUSLY? THINKING?: 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, davidmurrahgill@gmail.com
*This group will not meet the week prior to and following Christmas.

MUSIC MINISTRY

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.

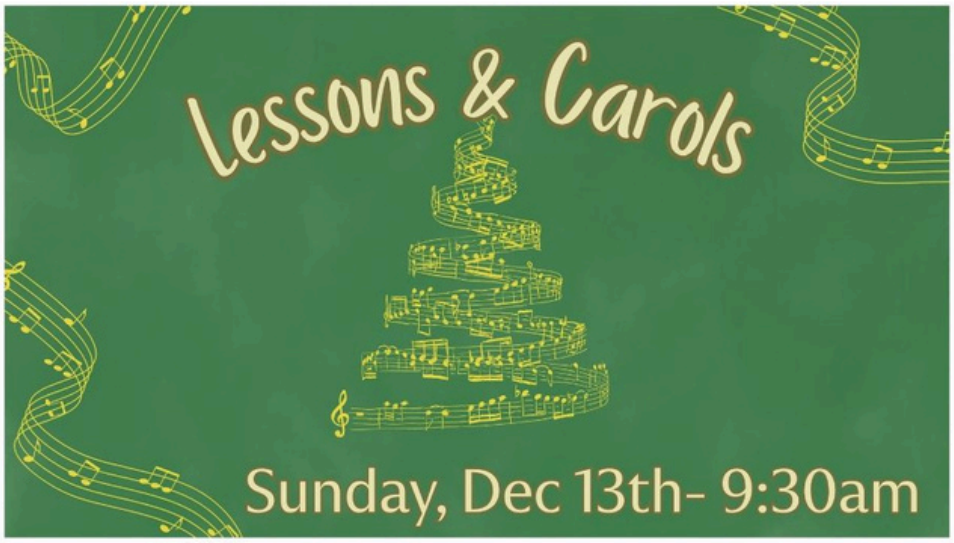
Kids@Art (Children's Worship Arts Program for Grades K-5): will be participating in the Service of Lessons and Carols presented by the entire Music Ministries on December 13th, 9:30 a.m. AND will be presenting their own musical, "Room for Christmas," on Wednesday, December 9th, 6:45 p.m. in the sanctuary. (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 Music Ministries' Service of Lessons and Carols on December 13th. We will also be caroling to our at-home members on Wednesday, December 16th.
(Contact Gaye Herndon: gaye@saintpaulsumc.org)

Covenant Chancel Choir: will be singing for our Service of Lessons and Carols on December 13th, 9:30 a.m. We will have a Dress Rehearsal for the Service of Lessons and Carols on Saturday, December 12th, 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 Service of Lessons and Carols. Dress Rehearsal is on Saturday, December 12th, 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 4th, 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.



MISSION MINISTRIES

JUSTICE IMPACTED MISSION

Saint Paul's United Methodist Church Justice Impacted Mission continues to assure that we stay aware of those in our community who have been justice impacted.

First, we would like to acknowledge Saint Paul's unwavering support of our local reentry programs. The willingness to donate leftovers may be a minor effort on our part but it is making a big difference to the men in these programs. Thank you.

But 'tis the season... almost! This is the time of year where we have the opportunity to make Christmas a little brighter for justice impacted children. As we have in years past, we would like to provide gifts to children of an incarcerated parent or guardian. To facilitate this effort, there will be individual tags on Tangible Signs of Hope displays around the church. Please take a tag and shop so that you too can make a difference in a child's life. If shopping for a child is not your jam, please consider contributing to the Justice Impacted Mission fund, so that all the children can receive a gift. Saint Paul's is hosting a holiday party to distribute these gifts on Saturday December 19th . How ever you can support this mission of hope, with a gift or financial contribution, please have it to the church no later than Sunday, December 13th.

Saint Paul's is a loving and giving community. It is a pleasure to be part of it.

Thank you,

Julie and Michael McBride

mmcbride850@comcast.net

CAPITAL AREA JUSTICE MINISTRY

Giving Tuesday is December 1!

100 Champions. One Mission: $50,000 00

United for Justice. Powered by Community.

This Giving Tuesday, the Capital Area Justice Ministry is assembling a Justice League of 100 community champions committed to raising $50,000 to support the pursuit of justice and meaningful change in our community. Every champion has a purpose. Every contribution makes a difference. Together, we can accomplish extraordinary things.

Become a Justice Champion: https://www.capitalareajustice.org/justice-league/

December 8 @ 6pm: Research Kickoff – Research Review & Strategy Startup hosted at St. John's Episcopal Church.

Celebrate Listening Circle findings, review priorities, introduce the research strategy, assign teams, and commission them for the work ahead.

RSVP at https://www.capitalareajustice.org/event/research-kickoff-research-review-strategy-startup/

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET UPDATES

Thanks to ALL of you who came out to shop at the Alternative Christmas Market last month! Because of you, over $5,000 was given to help support so many different ministries.

RESIDING HOPE- GIFT CARDS

Christmas will be coming soon!

Can you imagine what it's like for a child to be away from their family at Christmas? A child who has been removed from an abusive home environment naturally feels very isolated. At this joyous time of year, these children truly miss being able to decorate their tree with family and friends and enjoy all that goes with the holiday season. Residing Hope (Florida United Methodist Children's Home) has been caring for abused, abandoned, or neglected children since 1908. And, while it is better that these children are out of that unsafe environment, they still miss that feeling of family. During this season of their life, we become their family, and with your support it can be a truly memorable Christmas.

We are currently collecting gift cards for the children at Residing Hope and there is still time to help! They request cards from Visa, Ross, Target, Walmart, Papa John's Pizza, Applebee's, McDonalds, Chick- fil- A, and Chili's. Cards need to have their receipt and the amount written on the card. If you can, purchase cards in increments from $ 20.00 to $100.00. We will also accept donations used to purchase gift cards . Please have cards or donations in by Dec 6th (donations can be given to the office or directly to Janet Clark). We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generosity, love, care, and prayers for our children.

Janet Clark, your Saint Paul's representative for Residing Hope.

CREATION CARE

Grateful for Creation- 'Tis the season of gratitude which invites us to pause and reflect on the gifts, big and small, that sustain us and that we sometimes take for granted: The love of family and friends, the air we breathe and the water we drink, the sound of a bird's song, the shade of a tree, the changing seasons. Some say that "Nature reveals God's art." Why not take your cell phone with you outside and capture a bit of that artistry. Here's a collection from a recent walk by one of our members. Photography can help you slow down and appreciate all of the beauty around you, as well as encourage you to spend more time breathing deeply in the fresh air.



Recycling Reminder

Everything seems to be wrapped in plastic more and more. Remember that those overwraps on bulky items can be recycled along with pharmacy bags and the common plastic bags. Keep up your recycling efforts. It was ALL of you who helped Creation Care collect 1,000 pounds of plastic! Pat yourself on the back every time you see the green bench out by the garden. Take a minute to sit and rest and breathe and tilt your head back and look up. You will see the beautiful new steeple, the iconic landmark that Saint Paul's is, and give thanks for all of those 75 years of service to God and neighbor.





One more reminder.... we have a Silverware Lending Library available for you. If you find yourself in need of extra place settings over the holidays and are determined NOT to resort to plasticware, contact Jessie at perry386@msn.com and she will set you up.

CREATION CARE
SILVERWARE LENDING LIBRARY
SAINT PAUL'S UMC

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS at Saint Paul's

WEDNESDAYS IN DECEMBER

During the month of December, our Wednesday schedule is a little different. On 12/2, we will be holding a Town Hall meeting at 6:00pm in Sanders Hall. All are invited to join us on 12/9 for the Kids@Art musical, *Room for Christmas* at 6:45pm. And on 12/16, we will have our annual *Light in the Darkness* service at 6:00pm.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER

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.
In December, we will have dinner on the 2nd, 9th, and 16th.

YOUTH ROOTED

YOUTH UPDATES & DECEMBER EVENTS

Our youth have been busy this fall...and December has loads to look forward to!
On 12/6, the youth will be helping with the cookie decorating station at Come to Christmas. Next, our youth will head out to visit some of our shut ins on 12/16 for their annual caroling night. And finally, it's party time on 12/20...all youth are invited to our Christmas Party (details coming soon).

Wednesday Night Youth will meet on 12/2 and 12/9 (we will be out caroling on the 16th).

If you have any questions about our Youth program, please contact our Director, Casey Fernandes- casey@saintpaulsumc.org





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We have lots to look forward to in December! Mark your calendars and make plans to join us for all the fun!

COME TO CHRISTMAS

On Sunday, December 6th, all are invited to our annual Advent Workshop & Dinner. The fun begins at 4:30; we will have stations to visit, dinner, and time with Santa! To help us prepare, please make sure to rsvp.
https://saintpaulsumc.breezechms.com/form/cometochristmas2026

KIDS@ART MUSICAL

Come check out our amazing children's choir on Wednesday, December 9th, as they present their musical, *Room for Christmas.* The show will begin at 6:45pm in the Sanctuary (doors open at 6:30pm). We will be taking a special offering to help support Sleep in Heavenly Peace; monetary donations or twin bedding is welcomed.

ELF DAY

Children of all ages are invited to join us on December 19th from 1 pm to 5 pm in the foundation and the nursery. This Play Day is open to the littles, one and up! We'll make handmade gifts for the grown-ups in our lives and go home with a few fully wrapped surprise gifts. We will also play some fun Christmas games, eat some tasty snacks, and watch a Christmas movie. Last year was such a blast. Please sign up to join us! For more information, please reach out to Leslie Scott.
https://saintpaulsumc.breezechms.com/form/25ca77823

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

On December 20th, during the morning worship service, we will celebrate the birth of Jesus by putting on our Children's Christmas Pageant. We will have costumes and plenty of roles for any child who can walk down the church aisle and would like to participate. We will practice during the Sunday School hour on December 13th. Please sign up on Breeze to let me know you are interested.
https://saintpaulsumc.breezechms.com/form/christmaspageantdec1720236939





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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SUNDAYS AT SAINT PAUL'S- December
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

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 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
Financial Assistant- Melissa Edelstein
Church Treasurer- Timothy Scott
Website Administrator- WPTallahassee
Video Coordinator- Jay Wirth

OUR BISHOP- Rev. Tom Berlin
OUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT- Rev. Catherine Fluck -Price
OUR MISSIONARY- Charissa Jaeger-Sanders