



SAINT PAUL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A safe place to be authentic and to experience acceptance, healing, and a loving relationship with Jesus Christ.



Second Sunday of Advent December 04, 2022

864-235-3494 - saintpaulumc1107@gmail.com

Live-streaming Worship Service at 11:00am at www.facebook.com/saintpaulumcsc/

Pastor: Rev. Matthew Greer

Stay connected to your Saint Paul family

Saintpaulgreenville.org

Vimeo.com/saintpaulumc

Podcast: podomatic.com/podcasts/saintpaulumc1107

Staff

Director of Music: William H. Searcy, Jr.

Church Administrator: Melissa Campbell

Sexton: Gary Putnam

Please silence your mobile device. Thank you.

*Please stand as you are able.

Gathering

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

"Ave Maria"

Schubert

*Processional Hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Hymnal no.196
Lighting of the Candles

*Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Candle

Leader: Christmas is proof that

People: something better is coming.

(Light the first candle)

Leader: We couldn't build a tower to God.

People: We couldn't uphold our end of the covenants.

Leader: Now hear the good news. Christmas is proof that this isn't a
halfway date.

(Light the second candle)

People: Our God comes all the way, directly to us!

Opening Prayer of Confession

Leader: Let us pray

All: Oh Lord, the fruit was plucked, tasted, and humanity had to leave the garden. We confess if it was us, we would've probably done the same. But instead, we rejoice that You have returned to us to the tune of Mary's womb into a bed of hay. We rejoice that You will return again to us to the tune of trumpet sound into together, forever, with You. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Leader: Let us pass God's peace with each other. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

(Whether it be thanksgiving, smiles, forgiveness, embraces, waves from across the church, or encouragement, we pray your soul finds the peace it needs at this time.)

Welcome and Announcements

Word and Response

Children's Sermon

Children will come forward.

Following the children's sermon, we invite our K3 to 2nd grade children to follow the designated adult upstairs for a lesson and craft. Please follow the instructions on the name tag found in the back of your pew. At the end of the Prayers of the People, the

Offertory

Giving Links:

PayPal - <https://www.paypal.com/biz/fund?id=Y9NV28ABLG5LW>

Realm - <https://onrealm.org/StPaulUMC1107/give/now>

*The Doxology

Hymnal No. 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Blessing of the Legacy Christmas Gifts

Sacrament of Holy Communion

UM Hymnal pg.12

*Giving the Bread and Cup

This is the Lord’s Table. Everyone seeking the grace of God in Jesus Christ is invited to participate. The ushers will direct you to come forward as a family or individual and kneel at the altar rail. You will receive a piece of bread and a cup of juice to eat and drink with your group. Then you may return to your pew.

Sending

*Closing Hymn

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

Hymnal no.396

*Benediction

(As you leave, please respect the social distancing needs of others.)

Postlude

“Air on the G-string”

Bach

Our Tithes, Offerings, and Gifts

Giving for 11/27/2022	Amount	Attendance
General Fund Memorials & Honorariums	\$4,241.79	11/27/2022
Other funds	\$415.00	In-person: 35
Total Giving:	\$4,656.79	Online Views:

Today’s Servers:

Reader: Henry Stephens

Acolyte: Taylor-May Stephens

Nursery: Lauren Searcy

Crucifer: Charlie Stephens

Advent: Debra Hampton

Children’s Worship: TBD

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 196

1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy
2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us,
yet a King, born to reign in us for - ev - er,

let us find our rest in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -
now thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of
spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all suf -

ev - every na - tion, joy of ev - every long - ing heart.
fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

O Jesus, I Have Promised 396

1. O Je - sus, I have prom-ised to serve thee to the end;
 2. O let me feel thee near me! The world is ev - er near;
 3. O let me hear thee speak-ing in ac - cents clear and still,
 4. O Je - sus, thou hast prom-ised to all who fol - low thee

be thou for-ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my friend.
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt-ing sounds I hear;
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur-murs of self - will.
 that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser-vant be.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if thou art by my side,
 my foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And Je - sus, I have prom-ised to serve thee to the end;

nor wan-der from the path-way if thou wilt be my guide.
 but Je - sus, draw thou near - er, and shield my soul from sin.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard-ian of my soul.
 O give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my Friend.

Important Dates to Remember

Current week:

Sun, 12/4	Blessing of the Legacy Gifts	In worship
	Youth Group: Saint Paul	5:30pm
Wed, 12/7	Chancel Choir: Saint Paul	7:00pm

Upcoming events:

Sun, 12/11	Youth Group: Northside	5:30pm
Sun, 12/18	Moravian Love Feast	
	Youth Group: Home of Mary Pool	5:30pm
Mon, 12/19	Finance Committee meeting: Zoom	8:00pm
Mon, 12/26	Office Closed for Christmas	
	Church Council meeting: Zoom	8:00pm
Tues, 12/27	Women's Community: TBD	TBD

From Pastor Matt

(You can always reach me at 864-421-3800 or matthewegreer@gmail.com)

Thanks for being here today! I believe the number one reason for high church attendance is church attendance; your presence makes this a more excellent place to be on Sunday mornings.

In response to the pandemic, we had started live-streaming our services. As we are back in attendance, we have decided to temporarily stop live-streaming until a more permanent solution can be found; however, we will still be recording the service each Sunday and posting it on Facebook and our website for your viewing during the week. Thank you for your patience as we find the solution for moving forward with our technology.

Office Hours: We are open from 8:15am until 1:30pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday and 8:00 to 12:30 on Wednesday. I am available at the above contact info and Melissa is available through the church email and phone.

E-vangelism

Let someone know about our **free wi-fi hotspot** for e-learning!

Network: St. Paul Guest Password: Guest

[Share our live-stream on your Facebook page.](#)

Take five minutes and write us a **review!** [Facebook](#) or [Google](#)

Saint Paul Cares

Happy Birthday: Todd Howard, Chad Howard, Natalie Davis, 12/6; Chandler Searcy, 12/9; Katie Knobeloch, 12/10

Happy Anniversary: There are no anniversaries this week.

In your prayers, please remember:

Roger Barrett, Chelsea Biggers, Annette Bostic, Zonelle Boykin, Linda Bruce, Ray Byington, Cheyanne Cantwell, Connie Cox, *Eleanor Cunningham*, Natalie Davis, *Jesse Franks*, Catherine Gilstrap, Marie Good, Debbie Goodwin, Doris Goodwin, Lisa Harbin, Carol Head, Sue Howard, Bill Huff, Dot Huff, Lee Jenkinson, *Carol Johnson*, Jean Jones, Tinsley Lyles, Crystal McCoy, Chuck McLesky, Karsyn Miller, *Tavane Reposa*, Ronnie Roberts, Diane Robertson, Beth Rogers, Joyce Searcy, Nancy Smith, Suzanne Sprinkle, Buddy Tompkins, Joe Whitmire, friends serving in the Armed Services, first responders, and the leaders of the United States of America. (Bold = New, *Italics* = Currently in hospital or rehabilitation)

Missions: Salkehatchie, Legacy Elementary, Hinton Center

Upcoming Meetings



Trustees: Will NOT be meeting in December. Members are Ed Pool, Jason Cheshire, John Smith, Jimmie-Lou Vaughn, Debbie Goodwin, and Chris Cox. All are welcome!



S/PPRC: Will NOT be meeting in December. Members are Rebecca Roper, Tennille Crnobrnja, Jim Storey, Katie Knobeloch, Donna Connelly, Troy Gamble, Eugenia Vicars, and Pastor Matt. This is a closed meeting.



Finance Committee: Will be meeting on 12/19. Members are Becky Hollifield, David Knobeloch, Melissa Campbell, Donna Connelly, Tommy Head, Eugenia Vicars, Tracey Biggers, Jason Cheshire, and Pastor Matt. All are welcome!



Church Council: Will be meeting on 12/26. Members are Tracey Biggers, Lori Cheshire, Heather Storey, Janet Cook, Peggy Whitmire, Collins Cheshire, Eugenia Vicars, Ed Pool, Jim Storey, David Knobeloch, Becky Hollifield, Carol Head, Davis Lupo, MaryAnn Stephens, Bill Searcy, Edna Patterson, Elaine Byers, Mary Anne Terminato and Pastor Matt. All are welcome!

Announcements & Upcoming Events



Joint Youth Group: We will be meeting on 12/4 and 12/11 at Saint Paul at 5:30pm. We will be meeting on 12/18 at the home of Mary Pool. Don't forget to bring your White Elephant gift for the exchange.



Basketball Registration is now open!! We will be partnering with Aldersgate UMC again this year. Please use the link below to get started. At this time, they are not taking requests for teammates. They are trying to keep the maximum number of players to 10 but must have 7 to 8 for a team to survive. Saint Paul will cover the cost of the program, but you will need to pay for your own jersey. Please email MaryAnn Stephens at maepool@hotmail.com if you have registered to play. Thank you!

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSecSSqSXuIrHfYZdTKbYIG7Xlj-fKfxlsgtx4JQUZPnrAnvNA/viewform>



Women's Retreat: The St. Paul Women's Community Annual Retreat will be held at Montreat Conference Center in Black Mountain, NC on February 10-12, 2023. All ladies of St. Paul (and friends) are welcome!

Please reach out to Tennille Crnobrnja (tennille.crnobrnja@gmail.com) if you have any questions. We look forward to resuming our weekend retreat!



Help Needed: We are needing volunteers in two areas!

First, the pre-school/K5/1st Grade Sunday School class needs a second person to work with Teresa each Sunday. If you are interested in one Sunday or multiple Sundays, please contact Eugenia Vicars or Heather Storey.

Second, we are needing volunteers to run the camera during the services on Sunday. All you have to do is press record, check the sound, and set the camera or pan and zoom. Training will be provided. If you are interested in helping out, please contact the office or Mary Anne Terminato.



Golden Girls Bible Study and Luncheon: The Golden Girls will not be meeting in November or December. Enjoy the holiday break and we will gather again on January 19th.



Revolution!: Youth and parents, please mark your calendar. Revolution weekend is coming up January 27-29. More information will be coming soon.



S/PPRC is collecting for the **Staff Christmas Bonuses** for Melissa, Bill, and Gary from now until Sunday, December 18th. We ask that you please give generously as we work to thank our wonderful staff for their continued dedication and the critical roles they play for Saint Paul. We truly couldn't do it without them. Please ensure you designate your donation as "Staff Christmas

Bonus" when donating.

Opportunities to Serve



Legacy Christmas: A huge thank you to everyone involved in making this event so successful again this year!



Furman Wesley Foundation: We will be collecting for the Furman Wesley Foundation the rest of November. Bring your dollars and choose Clemson, Carolina, or Furman. Let's see who can bring the most to help support the foundation.

Reverse Advent: Pick up your calendar in the narthex or look in the bulletin to join our Reverse Advent. Bring all the good to the Christmas Eve service. Let us give back to those in need in our community.

Sunday School & Children's Worship

We will have the nursery and Children's Worship available on 12/4 and 12/11; however, they will not be available on 12/18 or 12/25 due to the Moravian Service and Christmas.

REVERSE ADVENT

2022

A Spiritual Discipline Of Reaching Out

from Saint Paul United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Learn about & pray for: <u>Project Host</u> https://www.projecthost.org	28 Can of corn	29 Can of DICED tomatoes	30 Can of kidney, black, or chili beans	1 Can of green beans	2 Chicken or beef stock or broth	3 Can of Veg-All or type of mixed vegetables
4 Learn about & pray for: <u>Place of Hope</u> https://united-ministries.org/homeservices/place-of-hope/	5 Adult socks White or Black	6 Stocking cap	7 Vaseline / Petroleum Jelly	8 Bar of soap	9 Foot powder or body powder	10 Laundry detergent
11 Learn about & pray for <u>those needing emergency shelter</u> https://united-ministries.org/homeservices/housing/	12 Wash cloth	13 Shower liner	14 All purpose cleaner	15 Towel	16 Dish detergent	17 Silverware Spoons/forks/ knives
18 Learn about & pray for <u>the neighbors of Saint Paul</u>	19 A box of Nutragrain bars for snacks for the Legacy staff	20 Gatorades/ "Sports" drinks for 1st responders	21 Writing utensils for the 2023 Pack the Backpacks events	22 Notebook or binder or the 2023 Pack the Backpacks events	23 A pack of underwear or socks for students at Legacy Elementary	24 Invite someone to the Christmas Eve Service at 6:00



**Christmas is proof that:
"Something Better Is Coming"**



**JOHN HAS IT GOING ON (LUKE 3:1-14), COULD THAT
"SOMETHING BETTER" BE HIM (LUKE 3:15)?????**

Short answer: NO :(

Deeper answer: John, like every pastor now,
JUST uses water; BUT this "something better"
will baptize with FIRE (Luke 3:16)

**BAPTIZE WITH FIRE? AH HA!!! THIS MUST BE THE
REFINER, AHA THE MESSIAH, AHA JESUS!
(AS PROPHESED IN: ZECHARIAH 13:9, PSALM 66:10,
ISAIAH 48:10, MALACHI 3:3, AND LOTS AND LOTS AND
LOTS MORE)**

"I know the purifying is complete when I
can see my reflection in the silver."
- a random old tale about a refiner that a
bunch of preachers have used over the years

**THEREFORE... THE "SOMETHING BETTER"
THAT IS COMING IS NOT JESUS ALONE BUT
ALSO THE TRANSFORMATION WITHIN OUR
HEARTS, SPIRITS, FRUITS, TEMPERS, AND
GIFTS,**

