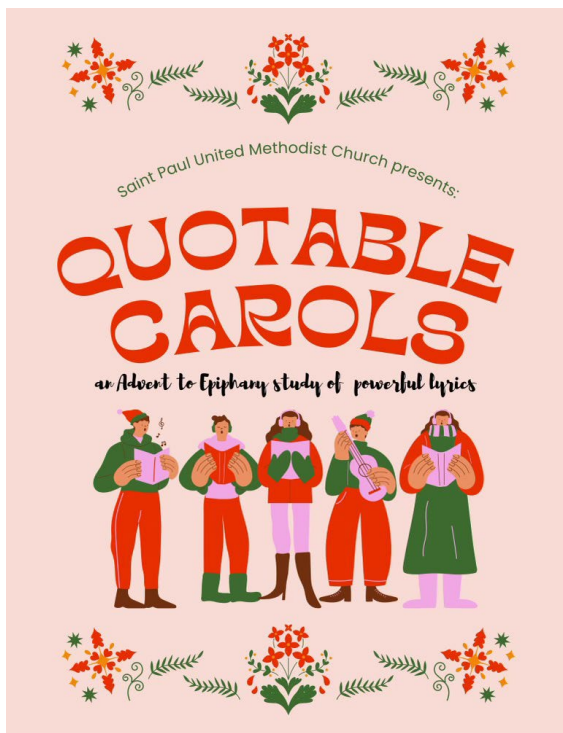




SAINT PAUL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



First Sunday of Advent, December 03, 2023

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

Welcome and Announcements

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude "Let Mortal Flesh Keep Silent" Plainsong

*Processional Hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Hymnal no.211

Lighting of the Candles

*Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Candles

Leader: Long lay the world in sin and error pining

People: 'til He appears and the soul felt its worth.

Leader: A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices

People: for yonder breaks, a new and glorious morn.

Leader: Fall on your knees; O hear the angel voices!

People: O night divine, O night when Christ was born.

*Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray

All: Oh Lord our God, the author of hope, we thank you for such a great gift. We thank you for a hope that isn't tied up in personal wishes that may or may not become; but a hope you are active in. A future hope that is seen in your works from the past and in our present life. We thank you for hope. 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.

Anthem "Born is the Light of the World" DeFord
Chancel Choir

Word and Response

Children's Sermon

Children will come forward.

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. During the Closing Hymn, the adult leaders will bring them back to the sanctuary and ensure they return to their parent/guardian.

Offertory

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.

Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, we thank you for words from scripture, words proclaimed, and words sang. May the words we hear today warm hearts and help us to fulfill our calls. Amen.

*Affirmation of Faith

"The Apostles' Creed"

UM Hymnal #881

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; **and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Gloria Patri

Hymnal no.70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

*Sermon Scripture

Isaiah 64:1-9

NRSV (pg.652 OT)

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"A Thrill of Hope"

Prayers of the People

Leader: The Lord be with you. **People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Response: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Sending

*Closing Hymn "Angels from the Realms of Glory" Hymnal no.220

*Benediction

Postlude "Postlude in F" Traditional

Our Tithes, Offerings, and Gifts

Giving for 11/26/2023	Amount	Attendance
General Fund Memorials & Honorariums	\$1,046.99	11/26/2023
Other funds	\$588.50	In-person: 50
Total Giving	\$1,635.49	Online: 136

Today's Servers:

Reader: Stephanie Gamble	Crucifer: Stephanie Gamble
Acolyte: Steele Gamble	Children's Worship: Lauren Searcy
Advent Candles: Rebecca Hollifield	& Jeannine Cox

We collected \$393.50 from the bucket collections to be split between the Missions fund and the School Missions fund in October. Thank you for your generous giving.

211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive
 2. O come, thou Wis-dom from on high, and or - der all things
 3. O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on
 4. O come, thou Root of Jes - se's tree, an en-sign of thy

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone-ly ex - ile here
 far and night; to us the path of knowl - edge show
 Si - nai's height in an-cient times once gave the law
 peo - ple be; be - fore thee ru - lers si - lent fall;

Refrain

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 and cause us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
 in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 all peo-ples on thy mer - cy call.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

5. O come, thou Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heavenly home.
 The captives from their prison free,
 and conquer death's deep misery.
Refrain

6. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
 our spirits by thy justice here;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Refrain

7. O come, Desire of nations bind
 all peoples in one heart and mind.
 From dust thou brought us forth to life;
 deliver us from earthly strife.
Refrain

220 Angels from the Realms of Glory

1. An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2. Shep - herds, in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions
 4. Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far; seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
 hope and fear; sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Refrain

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant light: Come and wor - ship,
 ye have seen his na - tal star:
 in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Important Dates to Remember

Sun, 12/3	Christmas Child Gifts due: Saint Paul	
	Sterling food bag packing: Saint Paul	10:30am
	Youth Shopping for Christmas Child	12:30-3:00pm
	Messy Church & Advent Wreath Workshop	4-6:00pm
Wed, 12/6	Chancel Choir rehearsal: Saint Paul	7:00pm
Fri, 12/8	Parents' Night Out	6-9:00pm

Upcoming events:

Sun, 12/10	Blessing of the Gifts	In worship
	Moravian Love Feast	In worship
	Journey to Bethlehem movie: Camelot Cinema	2:00pm
	Youth Group: Saint Paul	5:30pm
Mon, 12/11	S/PPRC meeting	
Tues, 12/12	Fellowship Luncheon: Buffalo Cornbread	11:30am
Wed, 12/13	Covered Dish and Caroling: Saint Paul	5-7:00pm
	Chancel Choir rehearsal	7:00pm

From Pastor Matt

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

It's that time of the year where the Finance Committee will be asking for pledges. I want to guide you on your spiritual journey and (even though I'll never see them) this includes stewardship as it relates to your pledge cards. Here are some suggested steps when the pledge sheets come:

- 1) Pray.**
 - 2) Consider the needs of the church and community.**
 - 3) Consider the works of God through Saint Paul UMC that have been accomplished over the past few years.**
 - 4) If you are unsure about 2 or 3, come ask me!**
 - 5) Consider your income; what should you pledge?**
 - 6) Give.**
-

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/or contact the office via the church email and phone during these hours.

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: Collins Cheshire 12/3; Charlie Stephens 12/4; Tod Howard, Chad Howard, Natalie Davis 12/6; Chandler Searcy 12/9

Happy Anniversary: Steve & Nicole Ackerman, 12/3. Congratulations!

In your prayers, please remember:

Roger Barrett, Chelsea Biggers, Annette Bostic, Linda Bruce, William Bruce (Bruce/Terminato family), Ray Byington, Connie Cox, Natalie Davis, Tony DeYoung, Jesse Franks, *Catherine Gilstrap*, Marie Good, Debbie Goodwin, Doris Goodwin, Carol Head, Sue Howard, Bill Huff, Dot Huff, Beth Jeffers, Lee Jenkinson, Carol Johnson, Jean Jones, Larry Jones, Brent Kanipe, Tinsley Lyles, Chuck McLesky, Betty McWhite, Karsyn Miller, Alan Myers, Faye Mulligan, Ronnie Roberts, Diane Robertson, Beth Rogers, Allison Royster, Joyce Searcy, Nancy Smith, Suzanne Sprinkle, Alicia Terminato, *Lily Thompson*, 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)

Praise be Given:

Upcoming Meetings



Trustees: Will NOT be meeting in December. Members are John Smith, Jimmie-Lou Vaughn, Deborah Goodwin, Chris Cox, Neal Franks, and John Sprinkle. All are welcome!



S/PPRC: Will be meeting on 12/11 at 8pm via Zoom. Members are Rebecca Roper, Troy Gamble, Steve Vaughn, Edna Patterson, and Christine Hall. This is a closed meeting.



Finance Committee: Will be meeting on 12/18 at 8pm via Zoom. We will be joined by Walker Riley, our investment advisor. Members are Becky Hollifield, David Knobloch, Tommy Head, Stephen Newman, Eugenia Vicars, Edna Patterson, Jimmie-Lou Vaughn, and Tracey Biggers. All are welcome!



Church Council: Next meeting to be determined. Members are Tracey Biggers, Heather Storey, Peggy Whitmire, Collins Cheshire, Eugenia Vicars, David Knobloch, Becky Hollifield, Carol Head, MaryAnn Stephens, Bill Searcy, Edna Patterson, Elaine Byers, Davis Lupo, and Mary Anne Terminato. All are welcome!

Announcements & Upcoming Events



Christmas Gifts: Sponsors, please don't forget to have your gifts to the church by 12/3 for blessing on 12/10. The gifts can be dropped off with Melissa in the office or the social hall. Please let Melissa know if you have left your gifts in the social hall. Also, please be sure your bags are labeled with your child's number. Thank you!



Youth Group: Directly following church on 12/3, the youth will go out to eat and then to the Powdersville Walmart to shop for Christmas gifts for the two children they are sponsoring. They can be picked up at 3pm at the church.



Messy Church: We will be hosting a Messy Church event on 12/3 from 4 to 5:30pm. A Cheeseburger supper will be included. Please RSVP at:

<https://forms.gle/hnV6FA9xS4hBFV5s8>



Advent Wreath Workshop: During our Messy Church Event on 12/3, we will be hosting our Annual Advent Wreath Workshop, as well. Please RSVP at: <https://forms.gle/RuqxwzzYYPGVq6Wo7>



Kids4Christ and Little Lambs: Our children's choirs are rehearsing during the Sunday School hour. Kids4Christ practice on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and Little Lambs practice on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.



A note from SPPRC: We are collecting for the Staff Christmas Bonuses for Melissa, Bill, and Gary through Sunday, December 17th. Please consider a generous donation to help us thank our wonderful staff for their continued dedication to St. Paul. Please ensure you designate your donation as "staff Christmas Bonus" when donating.



Christmas Eve Offering

Each Christmas Eve we designate our offering to go toward one of Saint Paul's mission projects. This year the offering will be designated for Saint Paul's School Fund. This fund supports the purchase of food for the weekend food bags for Sullivan Center and food boxes for homeless families through the Special Services Department of Greenville County Schools. Thank you for your support through your giving on Christmas Eve.

FOOD DRIVE

FOR THE SENIOR ADULTS AT THE
STERLING COMMUNITY CENTER

**FOR BEST STEWARDSHIP PLEASE SEE THE LIST
OF ITEMS AND QUANTITY NEEDED IN THE
NARTHEX OR DROP SOME CHANGE IN THE
BUCKET UNDER IT!**



**IN THE PAST, BOXES OF
FOOD HAVE BEEN GIVEN
TO THESE SENIORS
BECAUSE MANY OF THEIR
NORMAL FOOD RESOURCES
ARE NOT OPEN BETWEEN
CHRISTMAS AND NEW
YEARS DAY. WITH FUNDS
NOT AVAILABLE FOR
BOXES THIS YEAR, MAY
WE AT SAINT PAUL UMC
FILL THE GAP AND
PROVIDE!**

Saint Paul UMC
presents a very merry



December 4:00-5:30
with cookout style
dinner at 5:30



Reverse Advent 2023

Dear friends of Saint Paul UMC,

The Children's Ministry is sponsoring a Reverse Advent Project to support our School Fund Project of providing Weekend Bags for students at Sullivan Center.

We will collect individual size snacks, breakfast options and microwavable meals. Students can't learn and be at their best if they are hungry or wondering where their next meal is coming from. We want to help them be the best they can be while showing that someone cares about them.

On the reverse side of this letter, you will find a calendar with an item for each day of Advent to place in a box or bag. Please bring the box or bag to the Christmas Eve Communion Service at Saint Paul on Christmas Eve and place at the Chrismon tree.

























We are grateful for your support of this project.

Children's Ministry of Saint Paul UMC
Eugenia Vicars, Children's Coordinator



Reverse Advent December 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Please place food items in reusable grocery bags to bring to the church on Christmas Eve.</p>					<p>1</p> <p>Ramen Noodles</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Chef Boyardee Beefaroni</p> 
<p>3</p> <p>Velveeta Mac & Cheese Cup</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>Chef Boyardee Ravioli</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>Chef Boyardee Rice with Chicken and vegetables</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>Beanee Weenes</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>Goldfish Snack size</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>Fruit Cups- Mixed Fruit</p> 	<p>9</p> <p>Quaker Granola Bars</p> 
<p>10</p> <p>Oatmeal</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>Pudding Cups</p> 	<p>12</p> <p>Chef Boyardee Spaghetti</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>Nutri Grain Bar</p> 	<p>14</p> <p>Fruit Cups- Pineapple</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>Teddy Grahams Snack Size</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>Variety Cracker Pack</p> 
<p>17</p> <p>Chef Boyardee Lasagna</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>Cereal Individual size</p> 	<p>19</p> <p>Fruit cups- Peaches</p> 	<p>20</p> <p>Campbell's Soup Cups</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>Grits</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>Applesauce cups</p> 	<p>23</p> <p>Cheez Its Snack size</p> 
<p>24</p> <p>Vienna sausage</p> 						



This year on December 24th, in lieu of Sunday School and a traditional Sunday morning worship service, we will be hosting a Stations of the Manger service. Please plan to bring the family and experience this in the Fellowship Hall at 11am.

Then join us in the evening for our...

