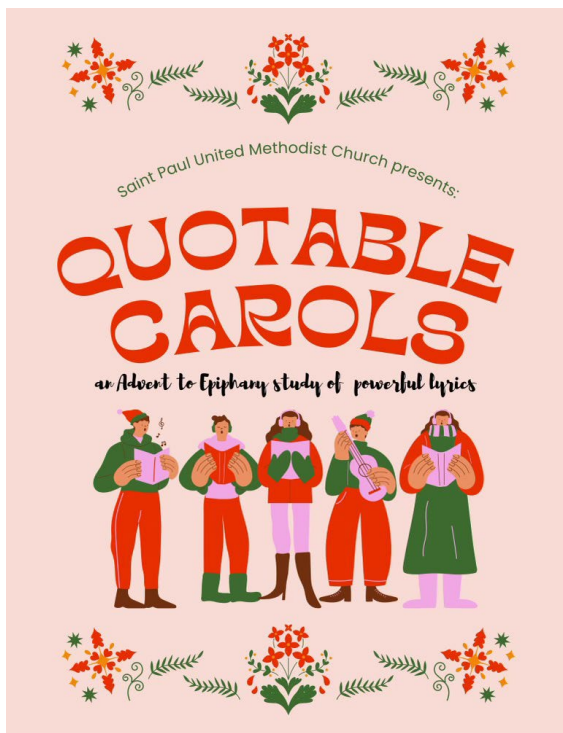




SAINT PAUL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



Third Sunday of Advent, December 17, 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 "Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head"

*Processional Hymn "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" Hymnal no.229

Lighting of the Candles

*Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Candles

Leader: See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,

People: leaving their flocks, draw night to gaze;

Leader: we too will thither

People: bend our joyful footsteps.

Leader: O come, let us adore Him,

People: O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

*Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray

All: Our God of the manger. The shepherd came rushing to you, because you pulled them in. You came to this earth, You showed them glory, You were greater than any other choice they had. Pull us to you today in that same sweet way. 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 "In the Bleak Mid Winter" Carol

Chancel Choir; John Tate, tenor

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

Luke 2:8-16

NRSV (pg.54 NT)

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Bend Our Joyful Footsteps"

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 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Hymnal no.240

*Benediction

Postlude "He is Born" Carol

Our Tithes, Offerings, and Gifts

Giving for 12/10/2023	Amount	Attendance
General Fund Memorials & Honorariums	\$2,381.04	12/10/2023
Other funds	\$120.00	In-person:
Total Giving	\$2,502.04	Online:

Today's Servers:

Reader: Payton Franks

Crucifer: Neal Franks

Acolyte: Avery Franks

Children's Worship: Edna Patterson

Advent Candles: Bill Searcy, Lauren Searcy,
and Jake Mullens

& Heather Storey

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

229

Unison

1. In-fant ho - ly, in-fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle
 2. Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing

stall; ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing, Christ the babe is Lord of
 new saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel

all. Swift are wing - ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring - ing, tid - ings
 true. Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the

Interlude, Ending

bring - ing: Christ the babe is Lord of all.
 mor - row: Christ the babe was born for you.

WORDS: Polish carol; trans. by Edith M. G. Reed, 1925 (Lk. 2:6-20)

W ZLOBIE LEZY

MUSIC: Polish carol; arr. by Edith M. G. Reed, 1926; harm. by Austin C. Lovelace, 1964 447.447.4447

240 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
 2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ - teous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

BIRTH AND BAPTISM

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

Important Dates to Remember

Sun, 12/17	Youth Group Christmas Party: Mary Pool's	5:30-7:30pm
Mon, 12/18	Finance Committee meeting: Zoom	8:00pm
Wed, 12/20	Chancel Choir rehearsal: Saint Paul	7:00pm
Thurs, 12/21	Golden Girls Bible Study Luncheon: St Paul	11:30am
Fri, 12/22	Office Closed	

Upcoming events:

Sun, 12/24	Stations of the Manger: Saint Paul	11:00am
	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Saint Paul	6:00pm
Mon, 12/25	Merry Christmas!	
12/26-12/27	Office closed	
Fri, 12/29	Office closed	

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. ***The office will be closed on 12/22, 12/25, 12/26, 12/27, and 12/29. We will be open on 12/28 for any business that needs to be done.***

Saint Paul Cares

Happy Birthday: Bowman Franks 12/18; Lauren Searcy 12/20, MaryAnn Stephens 12/24

Happy Anniversary: David & Taunja Pool celebrate on 12/17; Steve & Jimmie-Lou Vaughn celebrate 52 years together on 12/18; Richard & Martha Ball celebrate on 12/18. 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 be meeting on in January. More details to come. 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 1/8. More details to come. 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



Youth Group: We will be having our Christmas Party on 12/17 from 5:30 to 7:30pm at the home of Mary Pool located at 216 McDaniel Avenue. Come have fun with us!



Golden Girls Bible Study and Luncheon: We will be gathering at Saint Paul on 12/21 for our Bible Study and Luncheon to continue our study on the women of the Bible. Bring your bag lunch and we will provide the beverage.



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.



DECEMBER

17TH

SUNDAY

5:30-7:30 PM

Come out for an evening of
fun, food & fellowship!

at Mary Pool's house,
216 McDaniel Avenue.

*Chicken fingers & drinks will be
provided.

What to bring:

- A side dish or dessert to share.
- A pair of silly socks wrapped and ready to exchange.



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 a traditional Sunday morning worship service, we will be hosting a Stations of the Manger service. This will be different from last year's and we hope all will come and participate. Please join us at 11am. Then join us in the evening for our...



