

Saint Paul UMC

EPISTLE

Welcome to Saint Paul's new newsletter. Join us as we explore what is to come this month and the great adventures we have had in the past month!

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Happening This Month

- 12/3 - Christmas Child gifts due
- Youth Group Shopping - 12:30
- Messy Church/Wreath Workshop
- 12/8 - Parents' Night Out
- 12/10 - Blessing of the Gifts
Moravian Love Feast
- Journey to Bethlehem movie
- 12/11 - S/PPRC meeting
- 12/12 - Fellowship Luncheon
- 12/13 - Covered Dish dinner and
Caroling
- 12/18 - Finance Committee meeting
- 12/21 - Golden Girls Bible Study
- 12/22 - Office Closed
- 12/24 - Stations of the Manger
Candlelight Service

Always Happening

- Chancel Choir rehearsals every
Wednesday night at 7pm
- Sunday School every Sunday at 10am
- Worship Service every Sunday at 11am
- Youth Group every Sunday at 5:30
unless otherwise noted.

Office Closure for Holidays

The Office will be closed on 12/22,
12/25, 12/26, 12/27, 12/29, and 1/1.
Melissa will be in the area for
emergencies so please contact the
office via email.

From Pastor Matt

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 you start to pledge:

- 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.

UPCOMING MISSIONS

Project Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone you volunteered to sponsor a child for Christmas this year! We will be helping 35 children have a very special Christmas morning. Don't forget gifts are due by December 3rd and the Blessing of the Gifts will be on December 10th.

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.

From Pastor Matt

"You'll shoot your eye out kid!"

"Where's the Tylenol?"

"Merry Christmas, you filthy animals."

"I'm sorry I ruined your lives and crammed 11 cookies into the VCR"

Could you place those quotes, Saint Paul family? They are great lines from 4 of my favorite Christmas movies (and I've already watched each one before December even started); however, there is a Christmas movie I love even more, Angela's Christmas. It's an animated, Netflix Original film, set in 1914 Limerick, and clocks in at 40 something minutes. Even though I'm not the target audience or key demo, I still find it wonderful.

From the start of the film the viewer learns that Angela's family has faced and is still facing many hardships. The scenes of the home, stories they share, ethical debates over providing warmth or obeying laws, and older siblings giving up their coats paint the picture of poverty this family lives in. From these experiences Angela (who is "nearly 6 years old") spots a major problem with the nativity at Saint Joseph's Christmas Eve Service. While peering at the baby doll in the manger, she whispers, "he'll catch his death, the baby's cold". With the goal to keep the baby warm, she steals the baby Jesus doll out of the manger and tucks him inside of her coat.

In the journey back home to tuck baby Jesus in her warm bed, she breaks the doll. At this point, my absolute favorite Christmas movie quote is spoken. As Angela picks up baby Jesus to see the damage she says to the doll, "and you're smiling at me even though I hurt you". Oh my Angela, could any fewer words summarize the grace and love that is found in Jesus Christ?!

So during this Advent and into Christmas season, each time you see a nativity scene, may you be reminded of a living God that smiles upon you. A living God that loves people just by seeing them (Mark 10:21). Not because of what you have done or what you have abstained from, but simply because of who Jesus is.

Happy Birthday To

12/1 - Graham Johnson
12/2 - Blythe Knobeloch
12/3 - Collins Cheshire
12/4 - Charlie Stephens
12/6 - Todd Howard, Chad Howard, Natalie Davis
12/9 - Chandler Searcy
12/10 - Katie Knobeloch
12/11 - Jake Mullens
12/15 - Tennille Crnobrnja
12/18 - Bowman Franks
12/20 - Lauren Searcy
12/24 - MaryAnn Stephens
12/30 - Ray Byington

Happy Anniversary To

12/3 - Steve & Nicole Ackerman
12/13 - Elliott & Christine Hall
12/17 - David & Taunja Pool
12/18 - Steve & Jimmie-Lou
Vaughn
12/18 - Richard & Martha Ball

Congratulations!

Financial Standing for November

Monthly goal was \$9,643.52
Total giving was \$7,964.16
Money transfers \$7,875.00

Expected budget was \$21,749.48
Actual spent was \$19,070.13

Expected giving YTD is \$119,090.06
Received YTD is \$112,924.59

Bible Study, Sunday School, and Other Groups

We have Sunday School classes for all ages every Sunday morning at 10am. Golden Girls Bible Study luncheon for our mature ladies meets every month on the third Thursday at 11:30. Our Women's Community and our Men's Community meet monthly in the evenings at various locations. Our Youth Group meets each Sunday at 5:30. We also have monthly Fellowship Lunches and Dinners.

LOOK AT WHAT WE DID!

Things were a little calmer this month, but we still had some fun.



A Note from S/PPRC

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.

Saint Paul UMC
presents a very merry



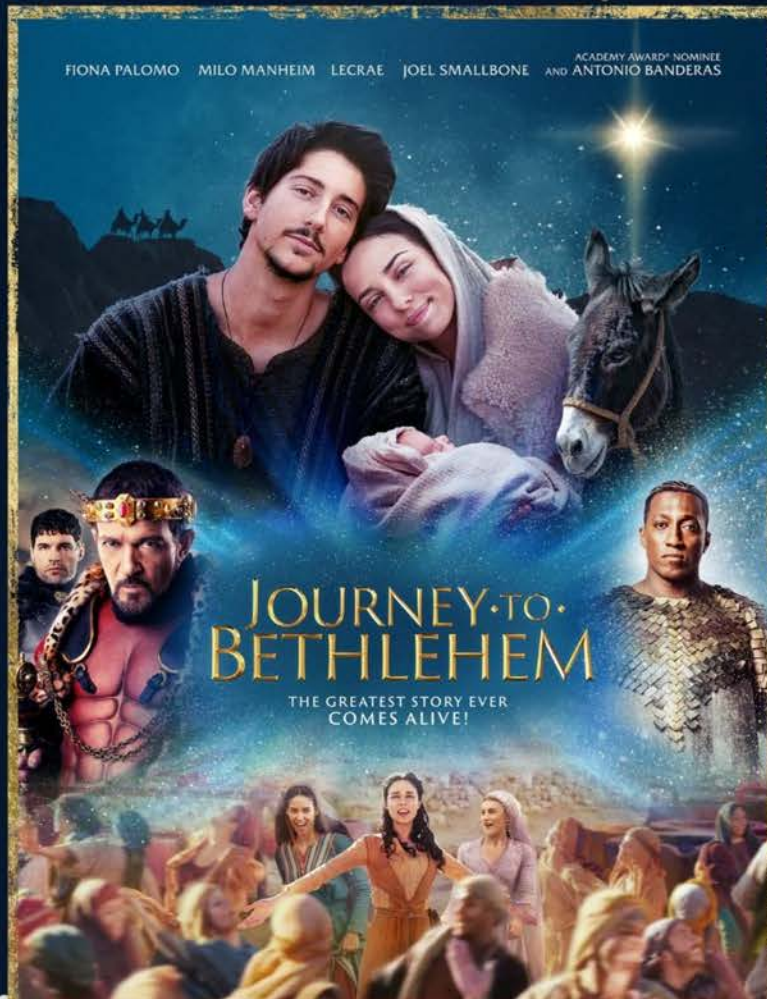
December 4:00-5:30
with cookout style
dinner at 5:30



Join us for Messy Church and Advent Wreath Workshop

Come out on December 3rd from 4 to 5:30pm for Messy Church, our Annual Advent Wreath Workshop and a cookout dinner! You can RSVP using the links in your bulletin or the Weekly Update or call the office.

Saint Paul UMC
family & friends
Christmas Movie Night



Our gift to
you:

**FREE
ADMISSION**

Sunday
December
10th
2:00 pm
showing

**Camelot
CINEMAS**



In lieu of our traditional worship, on Sunday morning of December 24th, we will be hosting a Stations of the Manger at 11am. Please come and join us, then return in the evening for our candlelight service.





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>					1	2
					<p>Ramen Noodles</p> 	<p>Chef Boyardee Beefaroni</p> 
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>Velveeta Mac & Cheese Cup</p> 	<p>Chef Boyardee Ravioli</p> 	<p>Chef Boyardee Rice with Chicken and vegetables</p> 	<p>Beanee Weenes</p> 	<p>Goldfish Snack size</p> 	<p>Fruit Cups- Mixed Fruit</p> 	<p>Quaker Granola Bars</p> 
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>Oatmeal</p> 	<p>Pudding Cups</p> 	<p>Chef Boyardee Spaghetti</p> 	<p>Nutri Grain Bar</p> 	<p>Fruit Cups- Pineapple</p> 	<p>Teddy Grahams Snack Size</p> 	<p>Variety Cracker Pack</p> 
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>Chef Boyardee Lasagna</p> 	<p>Cereal Individual size</p> 	<p>Fruit cups- Peaches</p> 	<p>Campbell's Soup Cups</p> 	<p>Grits</p> 	<p>Applesauce cups</p> 	<p>Cheez Its Snack size</p> 
24						
<p>Vienna sausage</p> 