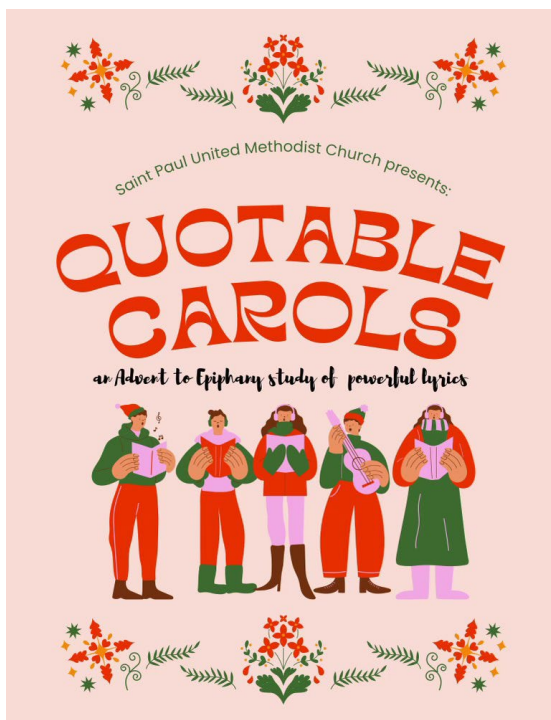




# SAINT PAUL

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



**January 7, 2024**

864-235-3494 - [saintpaulumc1107@gmail.com](mailto:saintpaulumc1107@gmail.com)

Live-streaming Worship Service at 11:00am at [www.facebook.com/saintpaulumcsc/](https://www.facebook.com/saintpaulumcsc/)

Pastor: Rev. Matthew Greer

Stay connected to your Saint Paul family

[Saintpaulgreenville.org](http://Saintpaulgreenville.org)

[Vimeo.com/saintpaulumc](https://Vimeo.com/saintpaulumc)

Podcast: [podomatic.com/podcasts/saintpaulumc1107](https://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 "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen" Carol

\*Processional Hymn "Once in Royal David's City" Hymnal no.250

Lighting of the Candles

\*Call to Worship from "We Three Kings"

Leader: Field and fountain,

**People: moor and mountain,**

Leader: following yonder star.

**People: O, star of wonder, star of night.**

Leader: Star with royal beauty bright.

**People: Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

\*Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray

**All: Oh Lord, may we be like the Magi following You. May we go the distance through the wilderness, may we stand up against what's wrong, may we continue to follow even in our limited understanding. 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 "Go Tell It on the Mountain" Carol

Steve Vaughn, bass

## Word and Response

Children's Sermon Children will come forward.

We invite our K3 to 2<sup>nd</sup> 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>

\*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, give us humble, teachable, and obedient hearts, that we may receive what you have revealed and do what you have commanded. 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.**

\*Scripture Lesson Matthew 2:1-12 NRSV (pg.1 NT)  
Leader: The word of God for the people of God.  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Field and Fountain, Moor and Mountain"

Sacrament of Holy Communion UM Hymnal p.12

\*Giving the Bread and Cup  
The ushers will direct you to come forward in small groups 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. Gluten-free wafers are available. You may remain in prayer, then return to your seat via the outside aisles.

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.**

Sending

\*Closing Hymn

“The First Noel”

Hymnal no.245

\*Benediction

Postlude

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flock by Night”

Carol

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**Our Tithes, Offerings, and Gifts**

<b>Giving for 12/31/2023</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
General Fund Memorials & Honorariums	\$2,213.34	12/31/2023
Other funds	\$20.00	In-person: 25
<b>Total Giving</b>	<b>\$2,233.34</b>	Online: 85

**Today's Servers:**

Reader: Charlie Stephens

Crucifer: Henry Stephens

Acolyte: TaylorMay Stephens

Children's Worship: MaryAnn Stephens

Nursery:

## Once in Royal David's City 250

1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle  
 2. He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of  
 3. Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day, like us he  
 4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing

shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a  
 all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his  
 grew; he was lit - tle, weak, and help - less, tears and  
 love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

man - ger for his bed; Ma - ry, lov - ing moth - er  
 cra - dle was a stall. With the poor, the scorned, the  
 smiles like us he knew; and he feel - eth for our  
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
 low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 sad - ness, and he shar - eth in our glad - ness.  
 on to the place where he is gone.

## The First Noel

245

1. The first No - el the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor  
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the  
 3. And by the light of that same star three Wise Men  
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, o'er Beth - le -  
 5. Then en - tered in those Wise Men three, full rev - erent -

shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay  
 east, be - yond them far; and to the earth it  
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was  
 hem it took its rest; and there it did both  
 ly up - on the knee, and of - fered there, in

keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 gave great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
 their in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.  
 stop and stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.  
 his pres - ence, their gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.

*Refrain*

No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

## Important Dates to Remember

Sun, 1/7	Removal of the decorations: Saint Paul	After worship
	Youth Group: Ice on Main	5:30pm
Mon, 1/8	S/PPRC meeting: Zoom	8:00pm
Tues, 1/9	Fellowship Luncheon: TBD	11:30am
Wed, 1/10	Chancel Choir rehearsal: Saint Paul	7:00pm
Fri, 1/12	Parents' Night Out: Saint Paul	6-9:00pm

## Upcoming events:

Sun, 1/14	Youth Group: Saint Paul	5:30pm
Mon, 1/15	Finance Committee meeting: Zoom	8:00pm
Thurs, 1/18	Golden Girls Bible Study Luncheon: St Paul	11:30am

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## From Pastor Matt

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

*I am starting out the new year with a new phone! Please take a couple of minutes to send a text to the number above with your name. Thank you!*

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**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.

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## Saint Paul Cares

**Happy Birthday:** Chelsea Biggers, 1/8; Edna Patterson, Lauren Roberts, David Pool, 1/11; Murray Snow, 1/12; Amber Brown, 1/13

**Happy Anniversary:** There are not anniversaries this month.

## 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)

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## Upcoming Meetings



**Trustees:** Will be meeting on in 1/8 at 7pm at Saint Paul. Members are John Sprinkle, Deborah Goodwin, Chris Cox, Neal Franks, Marcus Stephens, Elliott Hall, and Stephanie Gamble. All are welcome!



**S/PPRC:** Will be meeting on 1/8 at 8pm via Zoom. Members are Troy Gamble, Steve Vaughn, Edna Patterson, Christine Hall, John Tate, Janet Cook, and Eugenia Vicars. This is a closed meeting.



**Finance Committee:** Will be meeting on 1/15 at 8pm via Zoom. Members are Stephen Newman, Davis Knobloch, Eugenia Vicars, Tracey Biggers, Pastor Matt. All are welcome!



**Church Council:** Will be meeting on 1/22 at 8pm via Zoom. Members are Tracey Biggers, Heather Storey, Camille Pool, Eugenia Vicars, David Knobloch, Stephen Newman, John Sprinkle, Carol Head, MaryAnn Stephens, Bill Searcy, Edna Patterson, Debra Hampton, Elaine Byers, Mary Anne Terminato, and Pastor Matt. All are welcome!



**Missions Team:** Please coordinate a meeting date to plan out our missions for 2024 by contacted Edna Patterson at <mailto:ednapatterson04@gmail.com>. Members are: Edna Patterson, Rebecca Roper, Debbie Goodwin, Lori Cheshire, Debra Hampton, Peggy Whitmire, Teresa Ferrell, and Pat Tompkins



**Worship Team:** Please coordinate a meeting date to plan out 2024 and elect your representative to Church Council by contacting Davis Lupo at <mailto:ldavis1@aol.com>. Members are: Davis Lupo, Peggy Whitmire, Bill Searcy, Stephanie Gamble, Eugenia Vicars, Edna Patterson, Katie Knobloch, John Tate, Becky Smith, Becky Hollifield, and Raina Newman.

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## Announcements & Upcoming Events



**Youth Group:** We will be meeting on 1/7 to go ice skating at Ice on Main. An will be meeting at Saint Paul on 1/14.



**Removal of the decorations:** We will be removing the advent decorations today directly after the service. We need volunteers to help take them down, pack them away, and move them to the third floor.



**Fellowship Lunch:** We will be gathering on 1/9 at 11:30am. Location to be determined. Please RSVP:

<https://forms.gle/BHZfUH7v2FCJeGW7A>



**Parents' Night Out:** The first Parents' Night Out for 2024 will be on 1/12 from 6 to 9pm. Drop off the kids for dinner and a craft while you have a night out. Please RSVP:

<https://forms.gle/oZkTKMJyCdPiWPGJ9>



**Golden Girls Bible Study Luncheon:** Will be on 1/18 at 11:30am at Saint Paul. Let us enter the new year with our continued study of the women in the Bible. Bring your lunch and let's learn.

