

# 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

- 1/1 - Office Closed
- 1/8 - Trustees meeting @ 7pm
- 1/8 - S/PPRC meeting @ 8pm
- 1/12 - Parents' Night Out @ 6pm
- 1/14 - Mission Team meeting @ 12:15pm
- 1/15 - Office Closed
- 1/15 - Finance Committee meeting @ 8pm
- 1/18 - Golden Girls Bible Study Luncheon @ 11:30am
- 1/22 - Church Council meeting @ 8pm
- 1/23 - Women's Community @ 7pm
- 1/26-1/28 - Revolution Youth Event

### 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

The Office will be closed on 1/15 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. day.

### *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.

### UPCOMING MISSIONS

Our Mission Team is meeting on 1/14 after worship to plan this year's missions.

## *From Pastor Matt*

Celebrate what God has done in 2023

- a bus load of youth to Revolution
- wonderful womens' retreat
- boxes of treats spread throughout Greenville
- 3 Sundays spent at Project Host
- faith grew
- 2 Messy Church events
- 2 Youth lead Sunday morning worship services
- a whole mess of fellowship meals shared
- 6 new members joined
- a countless number of hugs
- 25 years with Bill
- prayer breakfast at Sterling
- a jam up and awesome VBS
- Day of Hope, Day of Healing at Sterling Community Center
- relationships made, relationships strengthened
- collected for and organized at Piedmont Emergency Relief Center
- equipped almost 300 students with back to school supplies
- celebrated 7 of our rising 3 graders with Bibles.
- people took care of people in tough times
- blessed some pets
- sold a bunch of pumpkins for mission money
- spun hundreds of cotton candy cones
- return of the Block Party where hundreds got a free meal.
- prayers prayed and hymns sang
- reverse Trick or Treating
- several care and update projects will extend the beauty and life of our worship space.
- 50 boxes of food for senior adults in our neighborhood
- lots of needs were found on our giving tree
- 34 GCS students had a more excellent Christmas Morning
- New doors means our sanctuary is officially handicapped accessible.
- all were invited to The Table.

## *Happy Birthday To*

- 1/1 - TaylorMay Stephens
- 1/4 - Brooks Kanipe
- 1/4 - Ethan Roberts
- 1/8 - Chelsea Biggers
- 1/11 - Edna Patterson
- 1/11 - Lauren Roberts
- 1/12 - Murray Snow
- 1/12 - Debbie Goodwin
- 1/13 - Amber Brown
- 1/13 - Jere Byington
- 1/17 - Henry Stephens
- 1/19 - Annabelle Becker
- 1/22 - John Byers
- 1/22 - Jennifer Wham
- 1/22 - Andy Bolen
- 1/22 - Diane Roper
- 1/25 - Catherine Gilstrap
- 1/29 - Hadley Edwards
- 1/29 - Glenda Anthony
- 1/30 - Jim Storey
- 1/31 - Camille Pool

## *Happy Anniversary To*

There are no anniversaries in  
January.

## *Financial Standing for December*

Monthly goal was \$11,363.22  
Total giving was \$14,369.05  
Money transfers \$12,875.00

Expected budget was \$21,749.48  
Actual spent was \$19,528.00

Expected giving YTD is \$130,434.53  
Received YTD is \$127,293.64

# LOOK AT WHAT WE DID!



*Advent Season*





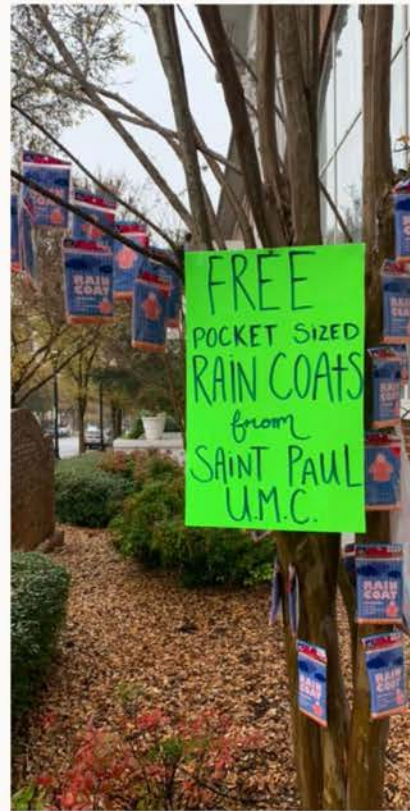
*Advent Season*





*Advent Season*





Advent Season

God will give him the throne of his father forever, his kingdom will never end." 34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. 37 For no word from God will ever fail." 38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

**Directions**  
Throughout the scriptures, fire has been an illustration for the Holy Spirit. Just like Mary in Bethlehem there are many circumstances that causes us fear:

- 1) Take a piece of paper,
- 2) write down what causes you fear,
- 3) burn it and
- 4) extinguish it in the water.

this symbolize the Holy Spirit moving us past our fears and into our Call!



*Advent Season*



Saint Paul UMC  
is decorated and  
ready for Advent.



PIC•COLLAGE