

Thank you for Serving!		
	Today – December 7	Next Sunday – December 14
LITURGIST:	Marjorie Vitale	Christmas Cantata
USHERS:	Tom Bell & Connie Bell	Dan & Ann Rhudy
ACOLYTES:	Ellie Johnson	Daphne Arthur
SECURITY TEAM:	Tom Bell & Jim Mattox	Tom Bell & Jim Mattox
ALTAR TEAM:	Ronald & Geraldine Hollandsworth	Ronald & Geraldine Hollandsworth

**This Week at St. Paul**

Sun, Dec 7	Frank Wickham & JOY Classes	9:00AM-9:50AM
	Worship Service-Second Sunday of Advent	10:00AM
	Holy Communion	
	Community Children’s Choir Sing	
	Nurture Team, JOY Classroom	After Worship
Mon, Dec 8	Staff Meeting, Spare Office	9:00AM
Tues, Dec 9	VA Native Plant Society, FH	6:30PM-8:30PM
	Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal	7:00PM-8:00PM
Wed, Dec 10	Wonderful Wednesday	
	Meal-Christmas Dinner, BYO a Dish to Share	6:00PM
	Community Children’s Choir	6:30PM-7:00PM
	Chancel Choir	7:15PM-8:30PM
	Life Recovery Ministry, AB	7:00PM
Thurs, Dec 11	Ruth Circle, Brew da Bean	10:00AM
Fri, Dec 12	Baby Shop, Pack Orders	9:30AM-12:00PM
	Christiansburg Christmas Parade, Main St.	7:00PM
	Pack 145 After Parade Hot Chocolate, FH	

**Next Week**

Sun, Dec 14	Frank Wickham & JOY Classes	9:00AM- 9:50AM
	Worship Service-Third Sunday of Advent	10:00AM
	Christmas Cantata	
	Youth Holiday Party, FH	1:00PM
	Den Meetings, AB	2:00PM
Mon, Dec 15	Baby Shop, Clients Pick Up Orders	9:30AM-12:00PM
	Church Council, JOY Classroom	7:00PM
Tues, Dec 16	Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal	7:00PM-8:00PM
Wed, Dec 17	No Wonderful Wednesday	
	Life Recovery Ministry, AB	7:00PM
Thurs, Dec 18	Preschool 3’s Gingerbread Man Christmas, FH	11:15AM
	Kiwanis Christmas Party, FH	3:30PM-9:00PM
Fri, Dec 19	Preschool 4’s Christmas Program & Party, FH	11:15AM



*Saint Paul United Methodist Church*

220 West Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073

Phone: (540)382-2410 Fax: (540)382-1373

Web: [www.stpaulvaumc.org](http://www.stpaulvaumc.org)

Church office hours Monday – Friday 9:00AM – 3:30PM



Public page - <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulcburg>

Private page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stpaulvaumc>

<https://www.youtube.com/c/StPaulUMCChristiansburgVA>

**St Paul envisions**

**“Growing into a most Vibrant, Joyful Christian Community,  
Unified in Loving Service to our Neighbors, for the Glory of God.”**

--Vision Statement, approved by Church Council, 2018—

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**December 7, 2025**

**Holy Communion**

**Ten O’Clock**

*Please ask an usher for assistance for handicap access.*

*Please turn your cell phone off or mute during worship.*

**\*Please stand for these acts of worship as you are able.**

*Welcome! We continue our Advent series, U the Steward. We weave the sacred stories and truths of the birth of Jesus, His self-giving in Holy Communion, and becoming followers of Jesus around the theme of our bodies. These are the moments that shape and re-shape us as individuals and a community.*

*God bless you as you worship God today.*

Gathering & Prelude

***“Preparation for the King”***

Arcangelo Corelli

Carolyn Mills, Pianist

Brandis Garwood, Violinist

Welcome

Pastor Mike Derflinger

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Johnson Family  
David, Ashley, Isaac, & Ellie

\*Call to Worship

Liturgist Marjorie Vitale

Liturgist: Friends, we gather to remember who we are in God’s sight, not who the world tells us to be.

**People: We sing and tell the story together of the day that all the Earth awaits.**

Liturgist: God is calling us to be faithful stewards of our bodies.

**People: Mother Mary said to the angel Gabriel, “Here I am, the servant of Lord;  
let it be with me according to your word.” The Word became flesh and  
lived among us. All Earth is waiting to see what God will do when you  
and I are faithful to God!**

\*Carols

♪217 ***“Away in a Manger”, all vv.***

Liturgist Marjorie Vitale

♪210 ***“All Earth is Waiting”, all vv.***

\*Unison Advent PrayerLiturgist Marjorie Vitale

**Loving God, clear Your road in us. Clear a path through the maze of possessions, obsessions, and obligations. Make a highway on which Jesus Christ may come and take possession of the whole territory of our body and being. We pray to the glory of your name. Amen!**

Community Children’s ChoirCarolyn Mills, Director  
**“Glory Hallelujah!”, “What a Beautiful Name It Is”**  
*Children may go to Children’s Church after singing.*

AnnouncementsPastor Mike Derflinger  
*Offering our recommendations for 2026 Communion offerings.*  
*You may leave your insert on the pew.*

Sharing our Prayer Requests and PraisesPastor Mike Derflinger

Unison Prayer of ConfessionLiturgist Marjorie Vitale  
**When our faith is rooted deeply in you, O God, our lives reflect your kingdom values, yet sometimes our lives become so entangled with the needs of our bodies, that your needs and cares take second place.**  
**Forgive us, O God, and reconnect us to the Holy Spirit, source of power and life. May our lives bear fruit worthy of our faith in you, as we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once more, in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

*All pray in silence.*  
**Words of Assurance and Encouragement**  
Prayer Concerns

After each petition, all respond: *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*  
**The Lord’s Prayer**

AnthemChancel Choir  
**“The Promised King of Heaven”**  
arr. by Lloyd Larson

ScriptureLiturgist Marjorie Vitale  
**Luke 2:5-7, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

MessagePastor Mike Derflinger  
**U the Steward of Your Body**

Response to God’s Word  
Reception of New Member**pp. 34, 35, and 38**

**Service of Holy Communion**  
*Our Service of Holy Communion can be found on p. 14 and on the screen.*  
*When you come forward, please kneel or stand, whichever is most comfortable.*  
*Please let an Usher know if you would like us to bring Communion to you.*

**Our Communion Offering Goes to To Our House (TOH)**  
**TOH** provides winter shelter for homeless adults in the New River Valley and connects them with resources that lead to employment, housing, and personal economic sustainability. We are the host site 11/29-12/13. Your offering will provide breakfast and lunch food during their stay with us and incidental expenses such as laundry. You may leave a cash or check Communion offering, payable to St. Paul UMC with TOH on the memo line. Thank you!

Unison Prayer After CommunionPastor Mike Derflinger  
**O Lord our God, as we await the coming of your Son our Lord and the celebrations with family and friends, keep us faithful so that when He shall appear, He may not find us sleeping but active in His service and joyful in His praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Unison Offertory PrayerLiturgist Marjorie Vitale  
*based on Matthew 3:1-12*  
**Persistent God of new paths and surprises: You call us to prepare the way—not with platitudes, but with changed hearts and lives. We offer our gifts as signs that we long to live by your story. Let our generosity reflect the nearness of your reign and the urgency of your call. We pray in the name of the One who is coming and is already among us—Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

OffertoryCarolyn Mills, Pianist  
**“Silent Night”**  
Franz Xaver GruberBrandis Garwood, Violinist

\*Doxology  
\*Recap  
\*Closing Carol♪227 “The Friendly Beasts”, all vv.  
\*Benediction  
\*Postlude“How Great Our Joy”, German Melody  
“Joy to the World”, George Frideric Handel

Carolyn Mills, Pianist  
Brandis Garwood, Violinist

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*If you are new to St. Paul, please let us know you are here by filling out the attendance pad in the pew. How may we serve you? Check the boxes which apply to you and leave it in the pew, and leave us a best contact phone and email. Thank you.*

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**Birthday Celebrations this week** – Nate Birchfield on December 9<sup>th</sup>; Tania Camper, Margaret (Peggy) Chafin, & Geraldine Hollandsworth on December 10<sup>th</sup>; Elaine Clark on December 11<sup>th</sup>; Jo Denton on December 12<sup>th</sup>.  
**Happy Birthday to all!**

**Wedding Anniversary Celebrations this week** – Bob & Scottie Dickenson on December 8<sup>th</sup>.  
**Happy Anniversary!**

Stewardship Campaign for 2025

36 families in 37 households comprising 56 people for a total of \$176,944.  
You can turn in an Estimate of Giving Card for the remainder of 2025. Thank you.

December Stewardship

AMOUNT NEEDED FOR DECEMBER \$29,379. We have four Sundays in December.  
December Offering Counters: Ashley Johnson, Ken Skidmore

TOTAL NOVEMBER STEWARDSHIP	11/30	Total
General Fund – Offerings and Loose Plate	\$360	\$18,201.54
General Fund – Online Giving	\$585.22	\$6,032.02

SPECIAL OFFERINGS	11/30	Total
Communion Offering (MCEAP)	\$	\$115
Baby Shop	\$	\$340
UMCOR	\$	\$100
Fellowship Hall Use	\$	\$100
To Our House	\$190	\$1,376
Flower Fund	\$	\$75

To give an offering, you may place your gift in one of the offering plates located at the front of the sanctuary, or in the narthex (entrance). You can also mail it to the church office, or give online.  
We invite you to use the offering envelopes in the pew. God bless you!

Worship Attendance November 30, 2025				
In-Person Adults	Children’s Church	Livestreaming (Real Time)	YouTube (Recorded)	Total Worship
62	6	13	69	150

Mike Derflinger, Pastor, mikederflinger@vaumc.org, 540-631-4469  
Carol Slaughter, Administrative Assistant, office@stpaulvaumc.org, 540-382-2410  
Carolyn Mills, Organist & Director of Choirs, organist@stpaulvaumc.org  
Robin Raines, Custodian, rainesrobin88@yahoo.com

PRAYER LIST – Team Luke is our Caring Team this week  
SPUMC Congregation, friends, family members and neighbors

**Cancer Patients:** Tommy Flinchum, Shirley Hodge, Gary Sparks  
*Roger Adkins, Loran Albin, Rob Bedford, Stephanie Boyd, Jennifer Canevari, Tina Cooper, Jamie Epperly, Skip Fenton, Tommy Harris, Ruth Jones, Sue Lough (godmother to Beth Brown’s daughter), Danny Lucas, Dana Nelson, Susan Perry (Margie Vitale’s sister), Billy Proffitt, Sasha Simpkins’ mother*

**Parkinson’s:** Jim Clark, Clara Sowers

**Alzheimer’s:** Susan Chase, Roger Woolwine  
*Gerald Mills*

**Health Issues:** Dubby Charlton, Ed & Sandra Hayes, Sherri King, Brian Porter, Tabitha Rust  
*Sherry Burke, Susan Burnett, Barbara Clevenger, Missy Foster-wife of Dotte Foster’s grandson, Jonathon Hudson (leg amputation) and wife Julie, Tim & Jackie Rosche (Jackie has dementia), Tina Smith, Wayne Spencer, Al & Louise Whealton, Mary & Don Wiggett, Sue Williams*

**Stroke:** Bob Chapin, Vickie Charlton, Bonnie Cochran, Jordan McCoy

**Pregnancy:** Eliza Kerr (December)

**Unspoken:** Amy Bishop, Lauren Craighead-prayers for calmness in a time of stress

**Recuperating from Surgery at Home:** Stephanie Turner

**Youth & Children:**  
*Dalton Close & the Close Family, Dalton is 16, diagnosed with Stage 4 Diffuse Midline Glioma, Claire Shores, 3, leukemia*

**Additional Prayers:** for the Johnson Family, for our Nation.

*If you wish to place someone on the prayer list for prayer only, please contact the church office, or write their name on the attendance pad with “prayer” after their name. If a person would like to receive ministry from our caring teams (cards, phone calls, visits, food, etc.) please list an address/phone number for our caring teams. Thank you!*

**Pastor Mike will be on medical leave Wednesday and Thursday.**

**Ruth Circle will meet for our annual Christmas coffee on Thursday, December 11, 10:00 am, at Brew da Bean Coffee Shop.** Wear your holiday gear and join us for good food and fellowship. All women invited.

**Thank You!** To John Eanes, Gary Sparks, and Dickie Goss for moving the bookcase with glass doors from the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor down to the new Archives Room.

**Please remember our members in assisted living:**

Ruth Boothe, Rm 308, Kroontje Health Care Center, 1000 Litton Ln.,  
Blacksburg, VA 24060, Cell: 919-906-5097

Wayne & Dolores Brockenbrough, Apt.217, English Meadows, 3400 South Point Dr.,  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Susan Chase, rm.106, Commonwealth Senior Living, 201 Wheatland Ct.,  
Christiansburg, VA 24073

Bonnie Cochran, rm. 208, Commonwealth Senior Living, 201 Wheatland Ct.,  
Christiansburg, VA 24073

Kathy Davis, 328 Fieldstone Ln., Blacksburg, VA 24060  
(540-250-2163 - mail cards to Rachel Link, 1534 Catawba Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24060)

Marg Modlin, 3719 Knollridge Rd., Salem, VA 24153

Wilma Snuffer, Q6, 3939 Daugherty Rd., Salem, VA 24153 (Hospice called in)

Margaret Woolwine, rm. 235, English Meadows, 3400 South Point Dr.,  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Roger & Brenda Woolwine, Manchester Commons – Woodside Place,  
6351 West Lake Road, Erie, PA 16505 (Brenda's Cell Number: 540-320-0986)

**And our dear friends and neighbors:**

Former Pastor: Rev. Art & Willie Wingfield, 650 N Jefferson St., Apt. 218,  
Roanoke, VA 24016

Mary Childress, rm. 113, Commonwealth Senior Living, 201 Wheatland Ct.,  
Christiansburg, VA 24073

**A leaky roof was discovered in the kitchen about a month ago.** Trustees have agreed and signed a contract with Lilly Home Improvement Inc. Total cost will be \$9840.00 of which half (\$4920.00) has been paid. There is a large tote placed in the kitchen floor to catch water, please do not move. Work is to begin 12/10/2025, weather permitting. If any questions just ask. ~ Patsy, Trustee's Chair

**We welcomed Kyle and Tara Kersey into membership on November 30th.**

Kyle joins by transfer of letter from Christ Episcopal Church in Bluefield WV, and Tara joins by Profession of Faith. Kyle is a caregiver for his mother who lives in Bluefield, and Tara is a stay-at-home Mom. Their children Edgar (10), Owen (7), and William (5) were baptized previously at Christ Episcopal, and all of them attend Auburn Elementary School. Welcome!

Address: 3286 Springview Drive, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

Kyle cell, email: 540-449-5043, kskersey@gmail.com

Tara cell, email: 540-250-8976, Fiercegrace77@yahoo.com

**Today we welcome Sherry Bishop into membership.** Sherry joins by transfer of letter from Christ Episcopal Church in Pearisburg VA. She works as a team lead at Kollmorgen in Radford. Sherry is already involved in our chancel choir, and will serve as a Liturgist in 2026. Welcome Sherry!

Address: 60 Chrisman Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073.

Cell, email: 540-750-9206, [sherbev2@icloud.net](mailto:sherbev2@icloud.net)

**Missions in December!**

**Our December Communion offering today will go to TOH (To Our House).** It is so fitting that we use our Communion offering to provide housing in the month we observe Christ's birth, knowing that He did not find "room in the inn." After we receive today's Communion offering, we will issue a second check to TOH this week.

**Today is the final day to receive new and gently used winter coats.** Infant sizes to Size 6 will be given to the Baby Shop. Size 7 to 16 will be donated to the Montgomery County Christmas Store. Donations can be dropped off in the large wooden box in the narthex or on the stage in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you.

**Hosting To Our House (TOH) – November 29<sup>th</sup> through December 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**Update:**

- **Dinners:** We have the dinners for the first week provided. Thank you!!

- **Financial support needed:** For our second week. We need about \$500 to provide breakfast and lunch for all the guests from 12/6-12/12. Please put donations of cash, checks, or gift cards into the offering plate or drop off/mail them to the Church office. Clearly mark your check or envelope with "TOH" and it will be gathered together and presented to the TOH program.

- **Gift bags** for the guests: pending

- **Medical screening:** being arranged, needs not identified yet

- **Move in/out** & church contacts for TOH staff: Will coordinate with UMM

~ Tom Bell, UMM President, [tom72bell@aol.com](mailto:tom72bell@aol.com)

**Next Sunday is our choir's annual Christmas Cantata, and our community Children's Choir will help them with a carol.** This is a wonderful opportunity to invite a friend, a family member, neighbor, and anyone who you think might need a "pick-me-up" this holy season. We encourage you to wear the festive colors of red, green, blue, gold and white throughout December.

**Community Children's Choir**

Daphne Arthur  
Ezra Arthur  
Ellie Johnson

Edgar Kersey  
Owen Kersey  
William Kersey

Isaiah Mallory  
Rose Mallory  
Jillian Miller  
Piper West

**Youth Helpers**

Nolan Arthur and Isaac Johnson

**Your Input is Needed!**

One idea Council has for 2026 is to expand our impact with our monthly Communion offering. Currently, each month this offering goes to MCEAP. This is an important ministry in the community and to members of St. Paul.

Council proposes that the Communion offering in January be given to MCEAP. Then, beginning in February 2026, we would designate the monthly Communion offering to other ministries but including MCEAP in future months, too. Are there other ministries and missions you would like to see receive our monthly Communion offering? You can suggest local, regional, national, or international programs and our ministries, too. Wherever humankind needs help.

Please leave your completed insert in your pew. You can also mail it to the church, or give it to Brad. This insert will be in the December 7th and 14th bulletins. Council will meet on December 15th to consider all entries as they make their decision. The 2026 Communion offering calendar of recipients will appear in the January newsletter. Thank you.

My suggestions are:

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