



## *Senior Pastor's Letter*

As I prepare this message it is still October and: Congress continues wrestling with electing a next Speaker of the House; terror continues to rage in Israel; presidential candidates lob volleys of insults at each other; it's been announced Taylor Swift will be attending the Chief's game; and another Hollywood couple's marital status takes center stage.

The world seems destined to be sucked into a vortex of its own making, all the while each of us is trying to deal with our own individual chaos.

Has anyone had a "normal" day lately? You know, that day when the planets aligned and all went according to your plans? That day when the school didn't call, when no one got sick, when there was no traffic back-up, and there was no line at the grocery store?

As I write this I find myself in my own personal pit! This has been a week filled with "unexpecteds," none of which would I have desired. God and I have had some serious talks this week, more serious than our regular conversations, and even a tad bit louder.

But at least I could talk honestly with God.

Too often we are hesitant to let others see that we aren't holding it all together; that it's duct tape and spit keeping us from falling apart. Sometimes we don't even want God to see that we're not as holy as we try to be.... But have we forgotten? God already knows.

It has taken me a lifetime to learn that I can come clean with God. I can abandon the masks and pretense, I can let down the armor, I can let God see me as I prefer the world would not: as a regular human being just trying to keep it together, trying to get it right.

Beloved, I believe I am not alone. And if this sounds like you, welcome to the club! Be grateful that our God is a God who welcomes us in all of our "isness". Beloved, God is big enough to meet us in the places we find ourselves, if we are willing to stop hiding from God.

So on those days when you're feeling anything but holy, go to God; have a little talk with Jesus, and I guarantee you that you will be glad you did. The situation you're facing may not change, but you will!

-- Pastor Pat

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# Thoughts from Pastor Joey

A little over a month ago we started teasing a big announcement and if you haven't heard, here it is. We're absolutely thrilled to extend a personal invitation to you, to join us on an incredible adventure – an interfaith pilgrimage to the sacred land of Israel in February 2025.

This unique journey is a collaborative effort with our friends at Temple Emanuel, and I'll be co-leading this expedition alongside Rabbi Adam Rosenwasser. This adventure promises a unique and enriching experience that will deepen your faith, foster interfaith understanding, and create lasting memories.

Our journey will take us to the heart of the Holy Land, where you'll have the opportunity to connect with the roots of your faith, walk in the footsteps of biblical figures, visit historic religious sites, and feel the spiritual significance of the land. This trip is also designed to facilitate open and respectful discussions between Jewish and Christian participants while immersing yourself in the diverse cultures, traditions, and history.

We'll also be delving into our shared values of peace and understanding. This journey will provide us with a comprehensive look at the conflicts that have shaped the region over the centuries, including the complex relationship between Israel and the Palestinians.


I genuinely believe that this experience will be transformative. It will challenge your perspectives, broaden your understanding, deepen your faith, and help you forge meaningful connections with our Jewish neighbors. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity – seize the moment and be part of a journey that promises to be truly exceptional.


*Since our initial announcement, violence has erupted in Gaza. Despite the current tragedies, we are hopeful that a peaceful solution will be found, and our interfaith trip scheduled for 2025 will be able to go ahead.*



**ST. PAUL'S UMC & TEMPLE  
EMANUEL OF KENSINGTON**

INTERFAITH JOURNEY TO ISRAEL  
LED BY REVEREND JOEY HEATH-MASON  
& RABBI ADAM ROSENWASSER  
**/// FEBRUARY 12-21, 2025**

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EDUCATIONAL & EXPERIENTIAL JOURNEYS CREATED WITH YOU IN MIND.  
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## Contact Us

SENIOR PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen  
pallen@stpaulsk.org  
301-933-7933 ext. 101

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason  
joeyhm@stpaulsk.org  
301-933-7933 ext. 103

MINISTER OF SPIRITUAL CARE &  
FORMATION

Dr. Meg Baker  
mbaker@stpaulsk.org  
301-933-7933 ext. 104

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr. N. Thomas Pedersen  
tpedersen@stpaulsk.org

ORGANIST

Mr. Marvin Mills  
mmills@stpaulsk.org

DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNICATIONS &  
ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Erin Bone Steele  
stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org  
301-933-7933 ext. 100

FACILITIES MANAGER

Ms. Tracey Furman  
tfurman@stpaulsk.org  
301-933-7933 ext. 106

Visit us online at  
[stpaulsk.org/community/  
meet-the-staff](http://stpaulsk.org/community/meet-the-staff)

## Lectionary

### November 5

Hebrews 11:1-2, and 12:1-2

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

All Saints Sunday

### November 12

Exodus 17:1-17

Preaching: Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

### November 19

Philippians 4:1-9

Preaching: Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

### November 26

Luke 1:5-20

Preaching: Angela Pupino, Guest

First Sunday in Advent

UM Special Sunday: Student Sunday



## Memorial Bulletin

During All Saints Sunday we share the names of those who have died during the past year. To view or download the special

Memorials Bulletin, visit

[stpaulsk.org/worship/memorials](http://stpaulsk.org/worship/memorials)

## Welcoming Statement

We, the community of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Kensington, welcome you in love. Jesus Christ accepts all, excluding none. So we welcome and affirm you who are gay, straight, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or queer. We welcome you without regard to your sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, culture, race, ethnicity, ability, education, or age. We welcome you no matter your immigration, marital, or economic status. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, we welcome and affirm you as one of God's children into our community of God's unbounded love. All are celebrated here and all are safe.

## Sunday Worship Schedule

In person in the Sanctuary:

**November 5, 12, 19, 26**

9:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Livestreaming at 10:30 AM each Sunday at [stpaulsk.org/worship](http://stpaulsk.org/worship)

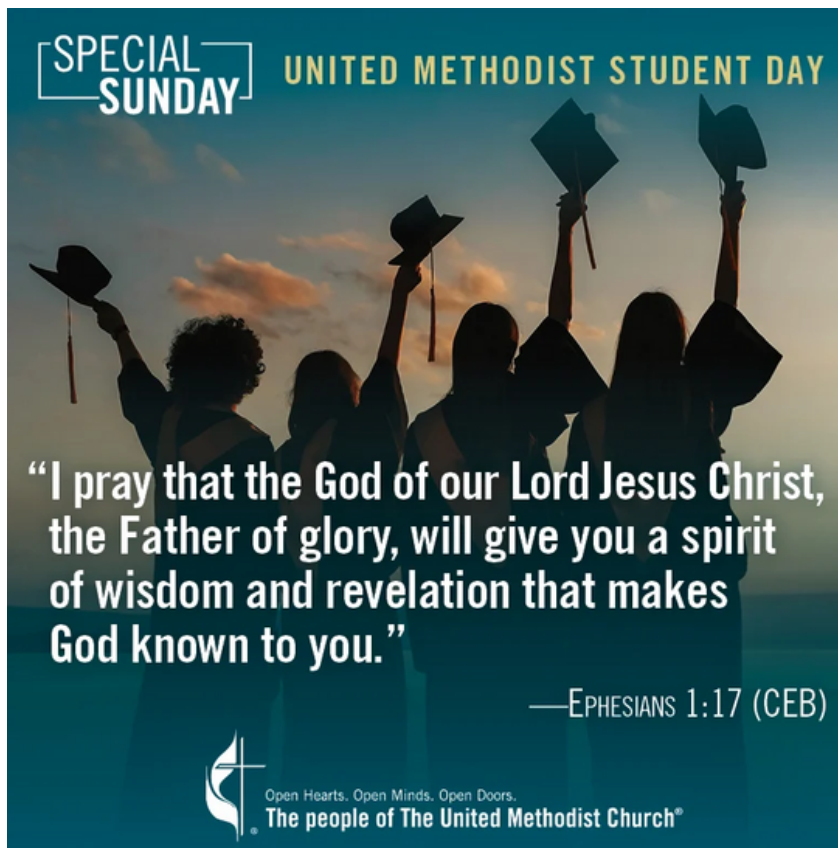
## UM Special Sunday: Student Sunday

**Sunday, November 26**

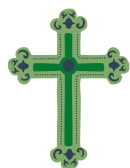
As one of the designated "Special Sundays" in The United Methodist Church, Student Sunday is set aside as a time to recognize the challenges and triumphs of students in college, and the way the global United Methodist Church can help make attending college a financial reality.

The funds received from this offering go into the United Methodist Student Loan Fund administered by the UMC General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; 100% of the dollars given on Student Sunday go to fund grants, scholarships, and loans for United Methodist students to attend the college of their choice. There are over 70 scholarships available annually, and the number of students served can increase with generous giving.

***Did you know, United Methodist Student Day was the original Special Sunday? The fund was first established in 1872!***







## SYMPATHY

*We extend our deepest sympathies to these members and friends of St. Paul's who have lost loved ones in recent months.*

**Susie Propes,  
following the death of her brother**

**Tom Propes**

**Jessica Ewers and family,  
following the death of her mother**

**Ellen Burke**

**Ann Ball and family,  
following the death of her son-in-law**

**Joseph Yeh**

**Dawn Ely and family following the death of  
her grandfather**

**Wendell Roger Shanks**

**Kensington Volunteer Fire Dept. 705 as they  
mourn the loss of master fighter, who died of  
a stroke in the line of duty,**

**Kevin Teighe**

## Congregational Care and Card Ministry

When someone from St. Paul's is facing a health issue, grief, or a joyful event like a wedding or new baby, they can let the St. Paul's community know they welcome notes from friends. Dr. Meg Baker, Minister of Spiritual Care and Formation, shares this information in our Congregational Care list, available each Sunday at the Welcome Table. Our Card Ministry volunteers also use this list to lovingly pre-address cards which can be found in the Narthex. Please pick up a card to send or pick up a list – or both! Questions? Contact Meg Baker at [mbaker@stpaulsk.org](mailto:mbaker@stpaulsk.org).



## Send a Card or Note

*The following St. Paul's members are currently limited in their abilities to participate in the life of the church in-person, and appreciate your thoughts and expressions of care.*

**Mrs. Mabel Baker**

3618 Littledale Rd  
Apt. 218B  
Kensington MD 20895

**Dr. Jo Campa**

301 Russell Ave  
Wilson Building, #219  
Gaithersburg MD 20877

**Mrs. Dorothea Depenbrock**

6602 Greyswood Road  
Larmax Home  
North Bethesda MD 20817

**Mrs. Becky Little**

Oak Park Arms  
408 S. Oak Park Ave., #311  
Oak Park IL 60302

**Ms. Susie Propes**

3301 S. Leisure World Blvd.  
Apt. #2E  
Silver Spring, MD 20906

**Mr. Jim Smith**

7733 Bradley Blvd  
Bethesda MD 20817

**Mr. & Mrs. Clarence &**

**Marybelle Waldroff**  
9901 Capitol View Ave  
Silver Spring MD 20910



## Thank You, Thank You

Dear St. Paul's,

I and my family want to express our gratitude to Pastor Pat and church friends for their participation in Mich's Celebration of Life and for the personal support and many cards received during her final illness. You all were a source of strength and comfort for Mich and then for her family as we dealt with the sad loss of this bright spirit.

~Ron Kuipers

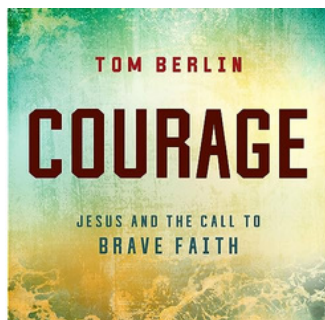
Dear Rev. Allen,

On behalf of our entire 2nd District Police Station, please accept our gratitude for inviting Officer Demond Johnson to attend your pancake breakfast during the Faith & Blue Weekend and Grief Workshop. We are truly grateful for your continuous support of our sworn and professional staff here at the 2nd District.

Sincerely,

Captain Amy Daum  
Commander 2nd District, Bethesda



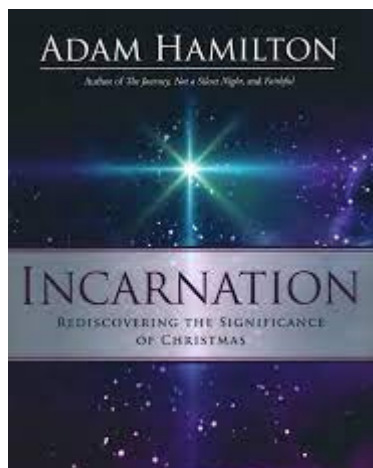


## “Courage” Wednesday Bible Study Continues

Wednesdays, November 1, 8, 15  
4:00-5:00 PM by Zoom

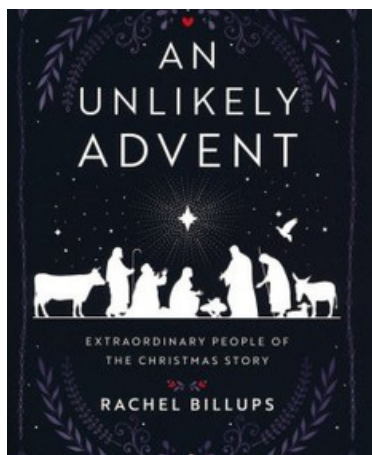
The Wednesday afternoon Bible study group continues its study of *Courage: Jesus and the Call to Brave Faith*, using the book and video segments by Bishop Tom Berlin. You can join even if you can't make all the sessions. Contact Meg Baker ([mbaker@stpaulsk.org](mailto:mbaker@stpaulsk.org)) for more information and the Zoom link.

## Register Now for “Incarnation” Advent Study



Tuesdays, November 28, December 5, 12, 19  
7:00–8:15 PM in Room 109  
\$15

Join class leader Mike McCurry for “INCARNATION: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas” using the text by Adam Hamilton. Learn the meaning behind the names of Christ and the difference He makes in our lives this Christmas. His parents gave him the name of Jesus. But the prophets, the shepherds, the wise men and the angels addressed him by other names. They called him LORD, Messiah, Savior, Emmanuel, Light of the World, and Word Made Flesh. In this class, we will explore the meaning of these titles and what they tell us about the child whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. The class fee (\$15) includes a copy of the book. Register at [stpaulsk.org/community/adult-education](http://stpaulsk.org/community/adult-education) or use the paper sign up sheet in the church office.



## Advent Study: “An Unlikely Event”

Wednesdays, November 29, December 6, 13, 20  
4:00-5:00 PM by Zoom

Experience the unexpected this Christmas. The Advent study “An Unlikely Event: Extraordinary People of the Christmas Story” explores the themes of hope, love, joy, and peace by sharing the stories of Elizabeth and Zechariah, Herod, the Magi, and the shepherds. Each set of unexpected characters has something to teach about living faithfully on the journey to Christmas. This study uses material by Rachel Billups, led by Meg Baker. For more information, or to receive the Zoom invite, please contact Meg Baker at [mbaker@stpaulsk.org](mailto:mbaker@stpaulsk.org).

## Taste and Sing

Tuesday, November 21  
12:00 Noon in the Octagon

Come for this monthly time of food and song, including a short program on a featured composer, lyricist, or theme. Feel free to request your favorite hymns. Enjoy a tasty lunch for a \$5 donation. Please contact the church office at [stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org](mailto:stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org) if you have questions.





## Confirmation Class

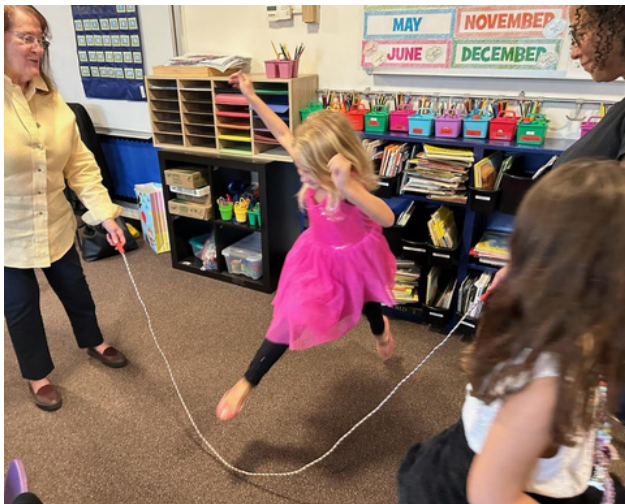
*Designed for Youth in Grade 7+  
Registration Nov. 12-19*

Registration for our 2024 Confirmation Class begins Sunday Nov. 12 and ends Sunday Nov. 19, 2023. A sign up sheet will be in the Narthex. Confirmation class this year will be led by Pastor Pat and Pastor Joey. Read more about confirmation at [stpaulsk.org/community/youth](http://stpaulsk.org/community/youth)

## Sunday School

From Meg Baker, Minister of Spiritual Care & Formation

This has been an exciting fall season at St. Paul's! On days when Sunday School meets, children in Grades K-5 begin the Sunday School hour in the chapel for a time of prayer and song, then break out into two age groups for classroom instruction. We have been exploring stories and parables from the Gospel of Matthew and singing songs of welcome and joy, including the Nigerian song "Funga Alafia" as well as "Our God Is So Great." For more information, please contact Dr. Meg Baker ([mbaker@stpaulsk.org](mailto:mbaker@stpaulsk.org)). Many thanks to the many grown-ups who help lead our Sunday School program!



***Please note that children join their families for worship at 10:30 in the Sanctuary on the first Sunday of each month.***

***Sunday School classes will not be held on Thanksgiving weekend, November 26.***

***Busy Bags with quiet activities are available at the Welcome Desk. Those who need a break during worship are welcome to use the Octagon or the Library near the restrooms.***

In addition to Bible stories and songs, Sunday School class is full of surprises!

*Photos clockwise from top left: Sarah Beck and Dee Dee Gray-Weaver lead the kids in jump rope. Students in Chapel Time learn about Uganda from Betsey Katiti. Silhouette artist Dottie Patch visits Ellen Goleb's class and uses her scissors to cut out custom silhouette portraits.*



**Childcare for infants and toddlers is available in the 2nd floor Nursery during the 10:30 worship service each week.**



## Community Pancake Breakfast



*Saturdays*  
*November 4, 2023*  
*December 2, 2023*  
*Serving hours: 8:00-10:30 AM*  
*in the Fellowship Hall*

All are welcome at the monthly Community all-you-can-eat Pancake Breakfasts. Come join us for scrambled eggs, pancakes, fresh sage sausage, grits, fruit and beverages.

Rather than a fixed price, we are requesting that guests, upon arriving, make a generous donation. As a guide, the suggested amount is \$8 for adults and \$2 for children under 12, or \$20 for a family of 4. Proceeds from these activities support projects and charities identified by St. Paul's United Methodist Men to benefit the whole church and community efforts beyond St. Paul's. For questions or to volunteer, please contact Jerry Watkins (j50.09w@verizon.net), or read more at [stpaulsk.org/community/pancake-breakfast](http://stpaulsk.org/community/pancake-breakfast). Come out and join us for a delicious meal as we continue our pancake breakfast tradition which began in 1970.

## Interfaith Hoppy Hour

*Saturday, November 11, 2023*

*4:00-5:00 PM*

*BabyCat Brewery (10241 Kensington Parkway, Kensington MD 20895)*

Pastor Joey from St. Paul's and Rabbi Adam from Temple Emanuel invite everyone for a time of fellowship and engaging conversation about the Bible, religion, and related topics from different faith contexts. Enjoy building relationships with our Temple Emanuel neighbors down the street in a casual setting. All are welcome! BabyCat Brewery sells craft beer, non-alcoholic drink options, and snacks. They also allow patrons to bring in their own food, encourage ordering from neighboring restaurants, and regularly host a food truck on site. Visit [www.babycatbrewery.com](http://www.babycatbrewery.com) for more information or contact Pastor Joey ([joeyhm@stpaulsk.org](mailto:joeyhm@stpaulsk.org)).



## Music Ministry



Everyone can be involved in music and worship at St. Paul's!

- **Sanctuary Choir**, made of adult and advanced youth singers, rehearses each Sunday at 9:30 AM, sings at 10:30, and continues to welcome new members! Contact Tom at [tpedersen@stpaulsk.org](mailto:tpedersen@stpaulsk.org).
- **Joyful Ringers** bells are ringing with rehearsals 7:00-8:00 PM on Wednesdays. If you can count, you can ring bells! Contact Tom at [tpedersen@stpaulsk.org](mailto:tpedersen@stpaulsk.org).
- **Children's Choir** is for all kids in grades K-6! We meet in the Multi-Purpose Room on Sundays, 11:45AM-12:30 PM. Email our children's choir director Christina Griffin at [clgriff18@gmail.com](mailto:clgriff18@gmail.com) to get all the details.

## The Lydia Circle

The Lydia Circle Sisters meet once a month. In December, we will enjoy a special lunch event at the home of one of our members! Ladies who are interested in the Lydia Circle Sisters should contact Susan Schwarz at [susan10748@aol.com](mailto:susan10748@aol.com) or 301-339-8242 for more information.

## UMM Apple Update

The United Methodist Men's group thanks everyone who supported our Fall Apple Sale! Fresh, local apples, applesauce, and cider were a hit.





## Annual Craft Fair

November 4, 5, 12

St. Paul's Yarn Ministry is happy to announce our annual craft fair will be held this year! Come shop for handmade items ranging from holiday decor, cookie mixes, jewelry, homemade jams and chutneys, hats, scarves, baby items, tote bags and more! All proceeds will be donated to charities. This year, we are once again coupling our craft fair with the Saturday, November 4 Pancake Breakfast and will be set up outside of Fellowship Hall. On the following Sunday mornings, November 5 and November 12, we will move our items to the Narthex. Don't miss this opportunity to do some early holiday shopping and support charities!



## Holiday Giving Updates!

We are delighted to announce that several volunteers have stepped up to serve as coordinators for 2023! With guidance and support from our Ministry Table leaders and church staff, they will arrange and hold Holiday Giving activities for the season.

There will be a variety of opportunities for St. Paul's friends to participate in Holiday Giving Project efforts. Whether you can tackle something big or do something small, it all adds up to make the holidays brighter for our neighbors. Look for more information from our Coordinators, coming soon! You may also reach out the Ministry Table representative Grace Graham at [grace.graham2@gmail.com](mailto:grace.graham2@gmail.com) to offer to help.

## Gathered for Worship... Scattered for Service 2023



Scattered for Service "alternative gift" program will be offered this December!

A Scattered for Service gift is really three gifts in one.

- It's a gift to the beneficiaries you choose, whether you're supporting local charities or global programs.
- It's a gift to those in whose honor you make your choice and who receive acknowledgement cards.
- And it's a gift to yourself, saving you from the hassle of shopping for "stuff" when you can give to worthwhile efforts to bring comfort, cheer, and peace on earth.

The Scattered for Service catalog will be printed in the December issue of the Epistle newsletter, and online at [stpaulsk.org](http://stpaulsk.org). Select from our 16 hand-picked charities and select the one(s) you wish to support. You can choose to receive personalized acknowledgement cards, knowing 100% of your contribution will go to the organization(s) you wish to support.



## Prayerwaves

Wednesdays  
10:00 AM by telephone

St. Paul's Prayer Waves ministry is a weekly telephone conference call during which members and friends connect and take turns praying the prayers of the people. We feel honored and privileged, even empowered that people ask us to pray along with them, and we often give thanks for their trust and faith. All who wish to join us in prayer are welcome. To receive the prayer requests list and log-in reminders by email, contact Dr. Meg Baker, Minister of Spiritual Care & Formation, at [mbaker@stpaulsk.org](mailto:mbaker@stpaulsk.org).

On Wednesday, dial 425-436-6326 a few minutes before 10:00 AM so we are ready to begin on time. Then enter access code 774042 followed by the # sign.

## Your Prayer Requests Are Welcome



***The Scriptures encourage us to pray for one another (James 5:16) and to make petitions, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving for all people (1 Timothy 2:1).***

You may use one of the yellow prayer cards available in the Sanctuary pews each week or you may submit your prayer requests online anytime at [stpaulsk.org/community/prayer-requests](http://stpaulsk.org/community/prayer-requests). In either case, you may specify whether you would like your prayer concern shared with the pastors only or with both the pastors and the PrayerWaves team. You may also reach out to Meg Baker at [mbaker@stpaulsk.org](mailto:mbaker@stpaulsk.org).

## Still Wednesday

Contemplative prayer is a lifelong discipline, and is what we are created to wake up to. To cultivate a relationship with the Divine, to hear God, is our purpose in this human life. God's love is our anchor, foundation, and inspiration for how we live our lives.

Join us in the practice and discipline of Contemplative Prayer  
Still Wednesday nights 7-8pm in the Sanctuary

Contact Kenzie Raulin ([kenzier@rcn.com](mailto:kenzier@rcn.com) or 301-237-1520) if you have questions.



## Save the Date: Drumming the Beloved Community

Coming Wednesday, January 17, 2024, 7:00-8:00 PM

Still Wednesday hosts special guest leader and renowned drummer Katy Gaughan. She will lead us in a unique form of contemplative prayer involving drumming. No experience necessary! We will look to experience the One pulse that gives rise to all rhythms of life while we play or listen. Drums will be provided or you may bring your own.





## Stewardship

*We are in the midst of our annual stewardship campaign and are enjoying hearing the testimonies from within our own body about giving. We wanted to take a moment to dive a bit into what the Bible says about giving as we each discern and prepare in this season.*

*~Anne Dean and Gregg Molander  
on behalf of the Stewardship Team*



***Let all that you do be done in love. – 1 Corinthians 16:14***

Stewardship has a significant role in the life of our church family. It is the giving generously of time, talents, and financial gifts with which God had entrusted to us so that we may become the hands and feet of Christ through discipleship and servant leadership.

***Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. – Galatians 6:2***

As stewards of St. Paul's, we are called to care for our congregation and the community around us. When we offer what we have, God multiplies it in ways we do not expect. And, we have done just that in 2023: we led, we dreamed, we served, we dialogued, we witnessed, we gave, we explored. Your financial support provided school supplies to kids in need, nourished women and families in a local shelter, welcomed migrants fleeing violence in their home countries and kept a local food pantry running.

***Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered. – Proverbs 11:25***

By faithfully giving our time, talents, and financial resources, we are participating in a divine partnership where God takes our offerings, blesses them, and multiplies them for the greater good of our church and community. In 2024, your giving will continue to reap blessings beyond our church walls. In 2024, just imagine what we can do together in God's world.

***Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor. – Deuteronomy 15:7-8***

This year's stewardship campaign continues until Sunday, November 19. We hope you will use this time to not only reflect on your spiritual gifts but also on how you have experienced abundance and overflowing generosity in your life at the church.

We invite you to prayerfully consider your stewardship for the upcoming year. Consider renewing or increasing your giving in 2024. Pledge online at [stpaulsk.org/giving](http://stpaulsk.org/giving), pick up a form at the Welcome Desk, or return the pledge form by mail or in person by November 19.

***Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. – 2 Corinthians 9:7***

Trust that our contributions, no matter how humble they may seem to us, are from God and are blessed and multiplied to meet the needs of our church and community. May God's grace and abundance be with you as you consider your role in our church's continued journey of faith.



## Get to Know St. Paul's Hunger Ministry

Our signature effort to provide for those who are food-insecure in our ZIP code.

### Who We Serve:

Anyone with an address in the 20895 ZIP code! We see about 125 families each year. Recipients include retirees on fixed income, people with disabilities, families with young children, and those who are unemployed or underemployed.

### What You Can Do

**Donate grocery items.** Check out the shopping list! Donations can be placed in the bins in the Narthex any time.

**Make a financial contribution.** This allows us to purchase food at bulk rates through our partners at Capital Area Food Bank, and grocery gift cards that let families choose perishable foods or purchase hygiene items with dignity. Go to [stpaulsk.org/giving](http://stpaulsk.org/giving) or put "Hunger Ministry" in the memo line of your check.

**Give your time.** We have spots for all ages to serve as greeters, delivery drivers, workers sorting and bagging groceries, and other helpers. Email [hunger@stpaulsk.org](mailto:hunger@stpaulsk.org) to get started!

**Talk to us!** Pat Maloney, Kathleen Stephens, Angela Harvey, Sandie Chen, Debra McCurry, and Erin Steele serve as leaders and coordinators. Ask any of us, and we'll help you get involved.

### What we provide each month:

- A bag packed with pantry staples
- A take-out meal prepared by our partners at Campus Kitchens
- Breads and sweets donated by Levain's Bakery
- A grocery-store gift card for meat, dairy, frozen foods, or hygiene products
- Additional resources at Thanksgiving and Christmas

### Pantry Staples Needed Monthly



Box of breakfast cereal  
Instant oatmeal  
Soup  
Rice  
Beans  
Pasta  
Pasta Sauce - can or plastic jar  
Mac & Cheese  
Canned Chicken Breast

Canned Tuna (or other fish)  
Canned Vegetables  
Fruit (including Applesauce) in cans or plastic jars  
Peanut Butter  
Shelf stable milk (32 oz carton)  
Ground coffee  
Cooking oil

### Please Remember:

**We cannot accept glass!**  
Glass breaks and shards are dangerous for our volunteers & recipients. (Also, have you ever tried mopping up an entire jar's worth of tomato sauce off of boxes and bags? Not fun.)

**We can't give out any "expired" food.**  
Please check the sell-by/best-by/use-by date. It should be at least a full month in the future from your donation time.

**Our donors and volunteers make everything possible! THANK YOU!!**



## New! Sipping Ministry Sign Up

New! There is a “Sipping Ministry” sign-up chart on the office bulletin board! We have also created a one-sheet guide for how to serve as host for a smooth, successful fellowship time.

This after-worship social gathering with coffee and snacks occurs whenever a church group, family, or friends offer to host. Simply select a date and write in your group name on the chart, then follow the instructions. Please contact Erin Steele in the church office at [stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org](mailto:stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org) or 301-933-7933 ext 100 if you have any questions or need help signing up.



## Stephen Ministry

St. Paul's United Methodist Church has had a Stephen Ministry program for more than 25 years. We are a group of trained lay-people who provide confidential one-on-one comfort to those who need a listening ear as they navigate life challenges like birth and death, job changes, divorce, illness, or depression and stress. Often just having someone to listen can help along the way to release pent-up emotions and help one find understanding of how to move forward. We are here to walk with you, and we invite you to use us. Contact Meg Baker ([mbaker@stpaulsk.org](mailto:mbaker@stpaulsk.org)) or call Virginia Bickford at 301-598-5496 for more information.

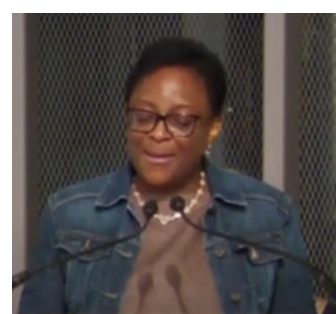
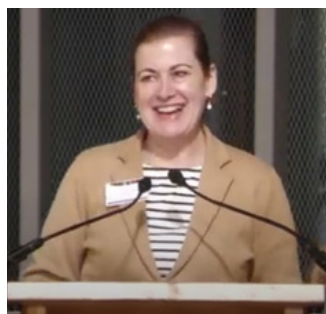


## Welcome Ministry

Covering the welcome table and greeting people on Sunday morning is an easy, fun way to serve the church. Families can serve together. Please contact Meg Baker at [mbaker@stpaulsk.org](mailto:mbaker@stpaulsk.org) for more information or to volunteer!

## Lay Readers

Thank you to those who serve as Lay Readers during worship services at St. Paul's! We welcome all who would like to serve in this way. The role of the lay reader includes leading the congregation in the Call to Worship and the Opening Prayer as well as reading the Scriptures. Those who wish to serve in this way during the 9:00 service may sign up online at [stpaulsk.org/community/calendar-events](http://stpaulsk.org/community/calendar-events). Those wishing to read for the 10:30 service are encouraged to contact Dr. Meg Baker at [mbaker@stpaulsk.org](mailto:mbaker@stpaulsk.org), 301-933-7933 ext. 104.





## Looking Ahead: Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

**November 26, December 3, 10, 17** are the four Sundays of Advent this year, and we worship at 9:00 and 10:30 AM. The Third Sunday in Advent, December 10, will be our traditional “Music Sunday” worship service at 10:30 AM, showcasing our Sanctuary Choir and Joyful Ringers bell ensemble.

### Christmas Eve, Sunday December 24, 2023

St. Paul’s will have two services. The single morning service at 10:30 AM is a traditional worship service with Communion. The Christmas Eve service at 7:00 PM will feature a blend of Scripture, Hymns, and readings, without Communion.

## Looking Ahead: Advent Resources

by Meg Baker

Advent comes from the Latin word, *adventus*, meaning “coming.” In the season of Advent, we prepare for the coming of Christ: the promised coming of the Messiah to the Jews, the coming of Jesus being born in Bethlehem, the promised return of the risen Christ in final victory, and the continual coming of Christ into the lives and hearts of believers. This year, Advent begins on Sunday, November 26, and ends on Christmas Eve.

Each of the resources listed below provides an opportunity to journey meaningfully through this season and prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus and his message of peace.

- **Advent 2023:** This booklet offers daily devotions to help readers prepare for Christ’s birth. Each day’s reading includes a passage of Scripture, a short devotion, and a brief prayer or daily practice.
- **Those Who Dream:** Beginning with the first Sunday in Advent, this daily devotional follows the Revised Common Lectionary through Epiphany. Each day offers something new: commentary, poetry, visual art, coloring pages, journaling, and Sabbath prompts. As you walk through these day by day, may you dream alongside prophets and angels, Mary and the Magi. Together, may we seek God’s dreams for our world.

Copies of both booklets, along with other Advent materials, will be available in the Narthex later this month. We hope these resources will be helpful to you in celebrating this glorious season at home.



## Advent Crafts for Kids

*Saturday, December 2*

*9:00-10:30 AM in Fellowship Hall*

St. Paul’s annual Advent Craft Workshop for children will be held in conjunction with the Pancake Breakfast in December. Children – and youth and adult friends – have the opportunity to make a variety of Advent and Christmas-related crafts. The workshop is free of charge; donations are welcome. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Meg Baker ([mbaker@stpaulsk.org](mailto:mbaker@stpaulsk.org)).

## Looking Ahead: Poinsettias

Poinsettias will grace our Sanctuary at Christmas time! Please consider sponsoring a poinsettia and making a dedication in honor or in memory of a loved one. Dedications will be printed in a special booklet and you may take your plants home following worship. You may order at the table in the Narthex in person paying cash or check on Dec. 3 & 10, or use the online form and pay by credit card. The link will be available on our website and in the Weekly news email newsletter starting Dec. 1.





## 2-Year Bible Reading Plan

Two years ago, our pastors offered the entire congregation the opportunity to read through the Bible together, using a plan developed by Dr. Steven Witmer of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. We are now in the final months of this journey! If you followed the plan from the beginning, you will have read the entire Bible in two years. Of course, many readers are only able to follow the plan for a season, but any amount of time spent with the biblical text benefits us on our faith journey.

As we do these final readings, make some notes about things that you find interesting, inspiring, or puzzling, then email Pastor Pat at [pallen@stpaulsk.org](mailto:pallen@stpaulsk.org) to share your thoughts!

## Schedule for November & December 2023

Nov 1	1 Tim 5.1-6.2b	Ps 112
Nov 2	1 Tim 6.2c-21	Ps 113
Nov 3	2 Tim 1.1-2.13	Ps 114
Nov 4	2 Tim 2.14-3.9	Ps 115
Nov 5	2 Tim 3.10-4.22	Ps 116
Nov 6	Catch-up day	Ps 117
Nov 7	Titus 1-2	Ps 118
Nov 8	Titus 3	Ps 119
Nov 9	Philemon	Ps 120
Nov 10	Heb 1	Ps 121
Nov 11	Heb 2	Ps 122
Nov 12	Heb 3.1-4.13	Ps 123
Nov 13	Heb 4.14-6.20	Ps 124
Nov 14	Heb 7	Ps 125
Nov 15	Heb 8	Ps 126
Nov 16	Heb 9.1-10.18	Ps 127
Nov 17	Heb 10.19-39	Ps 128
Nov 18	Heb 11	Ps 129
Nov 19	Heb 12	Ps 130
Nov 20	Heb 13	Ps 131
Nov 21	Catch-up day	Ps 132
Nov 22	James 1.1-18	Ps 133
Nov 23	James 1.19-2.26	Ps 134
Nov 24	James 3.1-4.12	Ps 135
Nov 25	James 4.13-5.20	Ps 136
Nov 26	1 Pet 1.1-12	Ps 137
Nov 27	1 Pet 1.13-2.10	Ps 138
Nov 28	1 Pet 2.11-3.7	Ps 139
Nov 29	1 Pet 3.8-4.11	Ps 140
Nov 30	1 Pet 4.12-5.14	Ps 141



Dec 1	2 Pet 1	Ps 142
Dec 2	2 Pet 2	Ps 143
Dec 3	2 Pet 3	Ps 144
Dec 4	Catch-up day	Ps 145
Dec 5	1 Jn 1.1-2.2	Ps 146
Dec 6	1 Jn 2.3-27	Ps 147
Dec 7	1 Jn 2.28-3.24	Ps 148
Dec 8	1 Jn 4	Ps 149
Dec 9	1 Jn 5	Ps 150
Dec 10	2 John	Prov 1-2
Dec 11	3 John	Prov 3-4
Dec 12	Jude	Prov 5-6
Dec 13	Catch-up day	Prov 7-8
Dec 14	Rev 1.1-8	Prov 9
Dec 15	Rev 1.9-20	Prov 10-11
Dec 16	Rev 2	Prov 12-13
Dec 17	Rev 3	Prov 14
Dec 18	Rev 4-5	Prv 15.1-29
Dec 19	Rev 6	Prv 15.30-16.33
Dec 20	Rev 7.1-8.5	Prv 17-18
Dec 21	Rev 8.6-9.21	Prv 19-20
Dec 22	Rev 10-11	Prv 21-22.16
Dec 23	Rev 12	Prv 22.17-23.35
Dec 24	Rev 13	Prov 24
Dec 25	Rev 14	Prov 25
Dec 26	Rev 15-16	Prov 26
Dec 27	Rev 17	Prov 27
Dec 28	Rev 18.1-19.10	Prov 28
Dec 29	Rev 19.11-20.15	Prov 29
Dec 30	Rev 21.1-22.11	Prov 30
Dec 31	Rev 22.12-21	Prov 31

Fun kid-friendly news, trivia, puzzles, and Bible verses prepared by our Director of Christian Education, Dr. Meg Baker.

## Can I Have a Vowel?

See if you can solve this verse from Ephesians 5:20 (International Children's Bible version) using five **A**'s, eight **E**'s, four **I**'s, six **O**'s, and two **U**'s.

\_\_lw\_\_ys    g\_\_v\_\_    th\_\_nks    t\_\_    G\_\_d    th\_\_  
 F\_\_th\_\_r    f\_\_r    \_\_v\_\_ryth\_\_ng,    \_\_n    th\_\_  
 n\_\_m\_\_    \_\_f    \_\_r    L\_\_rd    J\_\_s\_\_s    Chr\_\_st

## Notes on November

**Ah, November... a time for hot apple cider, hay rides, family gatherings. Plus, we get a 25-hour day on November 5!**

**It might surprise you that this month is also celebrated as Aviation History Month, Military Family Month, and Banana Pudding Lovers Month. Ironically, given that turkey is the signature dish of a major holiday, November has also been named World Vegan Month!**

**And, there are two very important November holidays. On November 11, we celebrate Veterans Day and give thanks for those who have served in the U.S. military. Then, of course, there's Thanksgiving Day, November 23, when we give thanks for all that God has given us.**

**Bonus Holiday!** In 1999, the home economists of Whirlpool Home Appliances established November 15 as "National Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day."



## What's in a word?

See how many words you can make from letters in the word

**THANKSGIVING**

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____  | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____  | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____  | 15. _____ |
| 6. _____  | 16. _____ |
| 7. _____  | 17. _____ |
| 8. _____  | 18. _____ |
| 9. _____  | 19. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 20. _____ |

*Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for mankind, for He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.*

PSALM 107:8-9







# St. Paul's

United Methodist Church

10401 Armory Avenue  
Kensington, MD 20895

[stpaulsk.org](http://stpaulsk.org) | 301-933-7933

## Worship with St. Paul's

### Worship In-Person:

In the Sanctuary

Sundays at 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

November 5, 12, 29, 26

### Worship Online:

Worship-at-Home Livestreaming every Sunday at 10:30 AM

[stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home](http://stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home)

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## November 2023

## Epistle Options

### Email (color)

Send an email to [stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org](mailto:stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org)  
to be added to the email list.

### Download (color)

Go to [stpaulsk.org/community/epistle-weekly-news](http://stpaulsk.org/community/epistle-weekly-news)

### Mail (black & white)

Contact the church office at [stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org](mailto:stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org)  
to be added to the mailing list.