

ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

STPAULSUMCOFFICE@GMAIL.COM | WWW.UMCSTPAULS.COM | FACEBOOK.COM/UMCSTPAULS

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Gathering		Ann Shively
Welcome		Pastor Kathy Neary
Prelude	"O Little Town of Bethlehem"	Ann Shively
Acolyte		
Advent Candle Lighting		The Moon Family
Hymn:	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	p.211 verse 3
Hymn	"O Come, All Ye Faithful"	p. 234 Vs 1-3, 6
	Congregational Singing	
Pastoral Prayer		Pastor Kathy Neary
Lord's Prayer		
Kids Time		Melinda Ginosar
Offering	Gathering our Gifts	
Offertory Music	"Mary Did You Know"	Women's Choir
Doxology	"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"	p.94
	Congregational Singing	
Offertory Prayer		
Scripture Reading	Luke 1:57-80	Phil Moon
Sermon	"Take Time to Know God"	
	Pastor Kathy Neary	
Hymn	"Holy Spirit"	
	Praise Team and Congregation	
Communion	The Great Thanksgiving	
	Prayer After Communion	
Hymn	"Joy to the World"	
	Praise Team and Congregation	
Benediction	Unison Prayer	
Closing Song	"Thanks God"	
	Jerry Shively, Praise Team and Congregation	
Postlude		Ann Shively
	Helping with worship today	
Worship Leader		Pastor Kathy Neary
Preacher		Pastor Kathy Neary
Kids Time		Melinda Ginosar
Musician		Jerry and Ann Shively
Choir Director		Jason Peters
Liturgist		The Moon Family
Lead Usher		Jerry Johnson
Praise Team Leader		Nancy Copp
Sound and Video Tech		Mosy Moran
Acolyte		Izzy Perez



This Issue

CONNECT

P.2 New Year's Eve Service, Christmas Eve Service, Trinity UMC Christmas eve service Shively Christmas Dinner

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GROW

P.3 January Bible Study

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Sunday Worship Service
11:00 am

"TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD"

1730 ST. CLAIR ROAD IDAHO FALLS, ID 83404 | 208-522-9076

CONNECT

5th Sunday Joint Worship
December 31st 10:00 am
at St. Paul's UMC

The message will be
**a Wesleyan Covenant
Renewal Service**

In 1775, John Wesley introduced a covenant service as an important part of spiritual life in the Methodist Societies. This renewal service was a time for the Methodists to gather annually in a time of self-examination, reflection, and dedication, wholly giving up themselves and renewing covenant with God.

The worship will include vocal and instrumental music centered around Gospel Music with the Praise Band. Anyone wanting to participate in the Praise Band is welcome. Praise Band rehearsal is on Wednesday at 7:00pm at St. Paul's. For more information, contact Nancy Copp.

The service will be followed by an informal New Years Eve party in the fellowship hall featuring potluck holiday hors d'oeuvres, finger foods, cookies, and holiday desserts. Please bring your favorite appetizer, cookies, or dessert to share. Coffee, Tea and Water will be served.

Start the new year off with all your friends.



CHRISTMAS EVE SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

There will be a Sunday morning worship service held at St. Paul's UMC on December 24th at 11:00 am

FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE

We hope you will join us for a special Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm at St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

TRINITY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE CAROL & LESSONS

11:00 pm
at Trinity United Methodist Church

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Join us for dinner on Christmas day at the Shively's.
gather at 2:00 p.m.

Bring a favorite Christmas dish to share and plan to enjoy food, fellowship, games and the puzzle!
See Ann Shively or call 208-520-2982.

OFFICE CLOSED

This church office will be closed December 25th- January 1st, 2023.

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, may His peace and love surround you and your loved ones. Merry Christmas and blessings for the New Year.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPSMen's Coffee Group:

Wednesdays at 8:30 am at Perkins. All men are invited.

Women's Coffee Group:

Wednesdays at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall at St. Paul's UMC.

Ladies Luncheon: Tuesday, January 9th, at 1:00 at Olive Garden.

Soup for the Soul: Tuesday, January 16th at 12:00pm

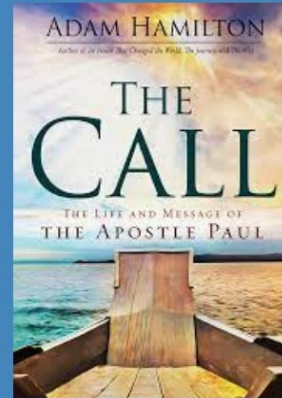
JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Kenneth Roush- Jan 01
Patti Huntsman- Jan 01
Jim Dobbins -Jan 03
Ray Anderson -Jan 06
Larry Wright -Jan 11
Sharon Johnson- Jan 11
Cheryl Stoller -Jan 13
Timbree Stoller- Jan 14
Walt Bare -Jan 20
Casey Yorgensen- Jan 21
Helen Schoonen -Jan 21
Chris Lowe -Jan 22
Jennifer Lively -Jan 22
Ann Peters -Jan 24
DJ Moran -Jan 24
Jack Way -Jan 26
Mary Tashiro -Jan 26
Bill High -Jan 27
Mary Helmer -Jan 28
Melanie Brown -Jan 28
Scott Shively -Jan 29

The Lord bless you and keep you;
 the Lord make his face shine on you
 and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his
 face toward you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

Begin the New Year with a new Study Opportunity



“Follow the journeys of Paul, beginning with his dramatic conversion, as he spread the Gospel through modern-day Greece and Turkey. Travel to the early church sites and explore Paul’s conversations with the Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians. In this six-week study, you are invited to experience faith through Christ’s greatest teacher and missionary.”

We hope you join us on this six journey.

Sunday afternoons 3-5 p.m.

Study for men and women

Begins January 21st

AND

Tuesday 1 p.m.

Women’s study Group

Begins January 23rd

If you would like to be part of either study group, please contact Connie Dobbins or Mary Bash for more information.

Bible Study Facilitators:

Connie Dobbins 208-589-9646

conniedobbins.idaho@gmail.com

Mary Bash 208-360-4208

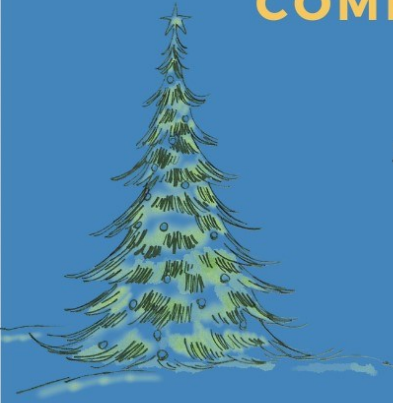
cheetah1954@live.com

COMBINED YOUTH CHRISTMAS PLAY

Rehearsal

Saturday December 23rd at 11:00 am
at St. Paul's UMC

A pizza lunch will be provided.
No memorization required
come and have fun.



SERVE

THE HABITAT HOME BUILD PROJECT UPDATE

In the backyard the sewer and freshwater connections have been made and buried. Preparations are made for a 20' x 20' concrete pad and sidewalk going to the house.

Orange tarp is keeping the dirt dry and warm before the concrete. The concrete pour will include the slab, two staircases, and replacing the front sidewalk along 18th St..



Thank You!

St. Paul's had a wonderful evening caroling on December 17th. Thank you to everyone who joined in the fun.



Thank You!

Thank you St. Paul's UMC! Christmas Adopt-A-Family takes a lot of help and hard work to happen each year. Thank you to all those who helped organize, plan, shop, donated gifts, wrapped gifts, and helped distribute God's love and blessing to each Christmas Adopted Family this year. You are truly the hands and feet of Jesus.

A special thank you to Mary Bash, Jerry Cass, Connie Dobbins, Helen Schoonen, and Sharon Evans.

Vision Of The Future Revealed

Your methodist leadership has been working for the last few months to vision a focus for the Methodist Churches in Idaho Falls. Those visions are now ready to be revealed. The vision comes in three parts. First there are the sustainers (formerly called the saints). This vision is based around supporting and fulfilling the long-time members of the church. The next two are for the Innovators looking to get outside the church into the community. Because we have two buildings with different neighborhoods, we have two Innovator Visions. Keep in mind that everyone in both congregations is invited and welcome to participate in any or all of the visions. These visions will serve the purpose of focusing the energies of the congregations and being a communication tool to assist DS Karen in her search for the perfect new minister(s) to support the churches starting next summer. The final versions of the vision will be presented to DS Karen in early January. Each vision has a scribe with an email address where you can send your comments.

Vision 1 - Sustainers (inside the church)

The sustainers of our churches are the people who have served God with faith and love through the traditional ministries of our congregations. We wish to support and encourage the growth of these ministries so that all might come to know Christ through our work.

Our vision is to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ through ministries of care, discipleship growth, fellowship and fun, and service. We will develop ministries in these areas for our congregations, openly expanding these ministries beyond the walls of our churches.

The four areas of ministry (care, discipleship growth, fellowship and fun, and service,) are in answer to God's two great commandments: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' Matt. 22:37-39 NRSV

Our ministries shall inclusively serve all people with open hearts, open minds and open doors. "All" means people of all races and all ethnicities, all physical and mental, emotional challenges, all learning styles, all economic conditions, and all gender expressions. All means all.

We are dedicated to the creation of fun, loving and more importantly, safe fellowship events and safe sanctuaries for all people. We hope to help people experience the love of Christ through all our activities.

Vision: Examples of ministries we will begin, continue, support and grow are:

Care: We will develop a Care Ministry Team to connect with sustainers in our churches, retirement centers, in the hospitals/rehab, and in their homes. We will offer such services as spiritual care, communion, transportation or just a compassionate heart to listen, comfort and provide a little laughter and joy.

Discipleship growth: We will offer a variety of educational and spiritual growth opportunities for members of all ages both on Sundays and during the week. Sunday school, study groups, Bible studies, prayer groups and Vacation Bible School will be offered.

We will open our churches to offer lay leadership classes, Spanish classes, English as a Second Language classes and provide needed tutoring when requested.

We will continue to offer our Women's Ministries that includes United Women in Faith (Trinity) and Women's Outreach Group (St. Paul's) These two sustainers groups are open to all.

We will provide opportunities to serve within the worship services in both churches. These opportunities include serving as worship leaders, lay leaders, lay speakers, Deaconesses, Home Missioners, liturgists, acolytes, communion servers, ushers, choir members, and Praise Band members.

We will develop and present creative worship that helps all participants to encounter the love of God and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

We will improve and grow our connection with our online worshipers and be mindful of their attendance with us as they worship online.

Fellowship and fun: We will provide safe, welcoming, and inclusive fellowship for all. We will offer opportunities to create relationships and connections to strengthen our community. We will provide such activities as potlucks, dinners, tea parties, fundraisers, concerts, movies and game nights. We will support our Men's Groups, Ladies Lunch Groups and Soup for Souls. We will encourage and support our church members to express and use their talents. We will create an atmosphere of inclusion for people to express needs, wants and ideas for new activities and to welcome assistants/participants during our activities.

Service: We will provide opportunities for our people to serve others within our churches and community.

Such as taking food to our ill congregants, ensuring we have a mailing list to mail notices to those without internet ability and providing materials and information bilingually.

We proudly serve our church families and our communities, extending ourselves wherever and whenever we are called. We will be open to God's leading us to expand our ministries to our wider community as we listen and learn about their needs.

Scribe: Melinda Ginosar -
melindaginosar@gmail.com

Vision 2 Innovators - Supporting Children

Supporting Children and Their Care Givers in the Foster Care System Through the Holy Spirit and direction from our Lord, Jesus Christ, the IFCMC is focusing its Vision on the care and welfare of foster children in our community. We will focus on partnering with groups that support the foster care system to enrich both the church members' and the caretakers' spiritual growth. This vision will lead us to two main areas of service:

1. Addressing food insecurity for children: We will partner with existing community programs to fight child hunger. Bonneville County in 2020 had a food insecure population that was 8 percent of the population and numbered 9,450. Food insecure children made up 9 percent of all children under age 18 and numbered 3,400.(1) Even though these numbers are an improvement over previous years, the vision team believes that this issue must be addressed because no one should have to go hungry.

There are several organizations in the community that are directly involved with food insecure children.

2. Supporting and advocating for children in crisis as they participate in the foster care system: We will partner with existing agencies to strengthen and improve the foster care system in Bonneville County. From October 2022 through September 2023 there were 228 children served by Foster Care in Bonneville County. The biggest issues in foster care are the shortage of homes that are available for temporary or permanent housing, support for the existing CASA program, and the support and care for foster children who “age out” of the system. The needs of the foster care system are addressed by several parties including state social workers, local police officers, and court appointed advocates (CASA) for the children. We will partner with these entities by offering to: assist in helping with our organizational skills in advertising or educating others to become foster families, show others how to become an advocate for a foster child, deal with transportation issues, and offering support for those who have daily contact with foster children and foster families. With God’s help we will carefully listen to these partners to discover other avenues of support. Privacy laws prohibit some activities, but we hope to offer the support necessary to assist those helping foster children.

(1) University of Idaho Extension Office

(2) East Idaho News 11/29/2021

Scribe: Cindy Mason -

cinamason@gmail.com

Vision 3 - People Experiencing

Homelessness.

Ministry with People Experiencing Homelessness in Idaho Falls

Our vision for this ministry is inspired by the “Go and Do Likewise” theme of the 2023 Oregon-Idaho annual conference that centered around the story of the Good Samaritan from Luke 10:30-37. In this passage, Jesus invites his disciples to make a difference in their communities by “going and do likewise.” We feel called to do the same in our church context with people experiencing homelessness in Idaho Falls. Our Homeless Vision Statement:

Sharing God’s Love with persons experiencing homelessness in Idaho Falls to assist them in developing a better life through continuing the homeless services program, expanding homeless services offered, coordinating with other local homeless services resources, and resolving the root cause of homelessness in Idaho Falls.

1. We currently provide showers, laundry, documentation, sleeping bags, and light counseling services.
2. We would like to expand our ministries to include providing Food, Shelter, Medicaid signups, Acute Medical care, Medication, Fuel for heat, Drug and alcohol treatment signups, and Personal safety from Domestic abuse.
3. We will partner with other providers to expand our ministries without creating redundant efforts and to make people aware of the community-wide services.
4. We would also like to address the causes of homelessness by: Providing Low-income housing, Supporting Job services, encouraging education & Job training, supporting living wage efforts, Preventing Domestic abuse, encouraging Alcohol and Drug abuse programs, providing a safety net for financial disasters and basic training in Financial Literacy & Budgeting.

Scribe: Don Rohde - donrohde@aol.com

Sunday, December 24th 4th Sunday in Advent

8:30am Fellowship Coffee & Donuts at Trinity UMC

10:00am Worship at Trinity UMC

Worship Service at 11:00 am at St. Paul's UMC

Fellowship time following service at St. Paul's UMC

Christmas Eve Service 7:00pm at St. Paul's UMC

Christmas Eve Service 11:00 pm at Trinity UMC

Monday, December 25th

Merry Christmas! Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26th

St. Paul's Office Closed

N.A at 7:00 pm at Trinity UMC

Wednesday, December 27th

St. Paul's Office Closed

Men's Coffee at 8:30 or 9am @ Perkins

Upper Room Study at 10:00 am at Trinity UMC

Gather at the Table @ 6:30pm at Trinity UMC

Cub Scout Pack Meeting at 6:30 pm at Trinity UMC

Praise Band Practice at 7:00 pm at St. Paul's UMC

Scouts BSA at 7:30 pm at Trinity UMC

Thursday, December 28th

St. Paul's Office Closed

Women's AA Group Meeting at 6:30 pm at St. Paul's UMC

Friday, December 29th

N.A. at 7:00pm at Trinity UMC

Candlelight N.A. at 7:00 pm at Trinity UMC

Sunday, December 31st New Year's Eve

**Combined Wesleyan Covenant Renewal Service 10:00 am
at St. Paul's**

New Years Eve party featuring potluck holiday hors d'oeuvres

OFFICE CLOSED DEC 25TH-JAN 1ST

**HAVE A SAFE AND JOYFUL CHRISTMAS
AND NEW YEARS!
GOD BLESS.**

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who
takes away the sin of the world!"

John 1:29

2023 CHURCH COUNCIL & STAFF

Pastor: Pastor Kathy Neary

Council Chair: Chris Holden

Member Delegate: Joni Pace

Trustees: Jim Mason
Jeff Bell
David Lively
Cindy Mason

Treasurer: Lacey Moon

SPRC: Tracy Gohr

Missions Coordinator: Jerry Cass

Council Secretary: Linda Moore
Finance Secretary: Lynda Fennern

Ministry Coordinator: Melinda Ginosar

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Visit our website!

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