

ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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January 14, 2023

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Gathering		Ann Shively
Welcome		Pastor Kathy Neary
Prelude		Todd Shively
Acolyte		Izzy Perez
Call to Worship		Chris Holden
Hymn	"Come and Fill This Temple"	
	Praise Team and Congregational Singing	
Pastoral Prayer		Pastor Kathy Neary
Lord's Prayer		
Kids Time		Melinda Ginosar
Offering	Gathering our Gifts	
Offertory Music	"I Shall Not Be Moved"	Chancel Choir
Doxology	"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"	p.94
	Congregational Singing	
Offertory Prayer		
Scripture Reading	1 Samuel 3:1-20	Chris Holden
	John 1:43-51	Nancy Copp
Sermon	"When God Calls, Perspective Changes"	
	Pastor Kathy Neary	
Hymn	"Be Thou My Vision"	p. 451
	Congregational Singing	
Communion	The Great Thanksgiving	
	Prayer After Communion	
Hymn	"Jesus Calls Us"	p. 398
	Congregational Singing	
Benediction		Pastor Kathy Neary
Closing Song	"Thanks God"	
	Jerry Shively 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		Chris Holden and Nancy Copp
Lead Usher		Jerry Johnson
Praise Team Leader		Nancy Copp
Sound and Video Tech		Mosy Moran
Acolyte		Izzy Perez



This Issue CONNECT

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GROW

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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

YEAR END FUND REPORT

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Funds Report

Totals for Period: 1/01/2023 to 12/31/2023

Fund #	Description	Amount
2130	Youth camp Scholarship (2310)	100.00
2181	Schaumleffel	9,200.00
2190	Good Samaritan Fund (2190)	200.00
2194	Community Giving	150.00
2321	Human Relations Sunday (2321)	740.00
2322	One Great Hour of Sharing- 2322	375.00
2323	United Methodist Student	625.00
2324	World Wide Communion	625.00
2325	Peace With Justice	742.46
2327	Native American Sdy	1,725.00
2330	Campus Ministry	375.00
2340	UMCOR	5,414.35
2351	Women's Outreach Ministry	4,325.00
2355	Easter Basket Ministry	1,355.00
2356	Christmas Eve Offering	290.00
2357	Christmas Families	1,940.00
2358	Women's Bible Study	130.00
2360	Imani Mileli Misc	4,651.75
2361	Miscellaneous Designated	2,390.00
2366	Coffee and Fellowship	150.00
2516	Misc. Memorials	85.00
2519	Miscellaneous Memorials	615.00
4110	Pledged Giving	151,305.25
4120	Non- Pledged Fund	86,834.35
4130	Collection Plate	6,408.47
4140	Sunday School	132.00
4196	Soup for Seniors Luncheon	30.00
4411	Education	377.00
4710	Building Use	364.00
4720	Miscellaneous Income	793.93

Grand Total 282,448.56

Reading the Bible Again

I often get questions from folks about my interpretation of the Bible passages that we read in worship services. My interpretations of the texts sound unfamiliar and they wonder (or argue!) how I know what I know about the Bible. My interpretations are rooted in understanding the Bible as a collection of writings by people who were trying to put into words their experiences of God. These writings are sacred to us, because they can lead us to have our own experiences of God's presence in our lives. That is why we take the Bible seriously and use our interpretations to shape our church communities. This approach is different than reading the Bible as a historical or scientific text that literally is written by God or God's chosen scribes. In the Methodist tradition we do not read the Bible seeking historical or scientific fact, but we do read the Bible seeking to deepen our relationship with God. We take the Bible seriously, not literally. A really good book that can introduce you to some of these ideas about reading the Bible is by Marcus J. Borg. The book is "Reading the Bible Again for the First Time." This book is best read with a few friends so you can support each other as you discuss the many parts that might be challenging. It is available from Amazon (of course!). Grab some good friends, discuss the book, and enjoy the journey to new thoughts!

I'd love to hear what new insights you might have.

-Pastor Kathy Neary

Newsletter Submissions

Articles and information need to be submitted by Wednesdays at 10:00 am to be entered into the Newsletter



FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Men'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 February 13th at 1:00pm. New Hong Kong on Jeanie Lee Drive

Soup for the Soul:

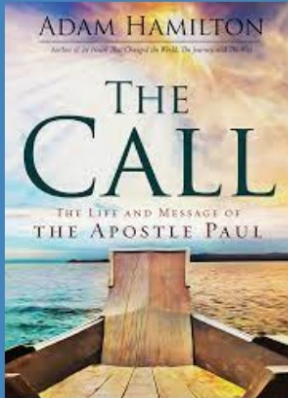
Tuesday, January 16th at 12:00pm. Come feed your soul with great company over a warm bowl of soup. All are welcome. Chili will be served along with a dessert.



Church Council Meeting

There will be a Church Council Meeting
January 13th, 2024 at 9:00 am.

Begin the New Year with a new Study Opportunity

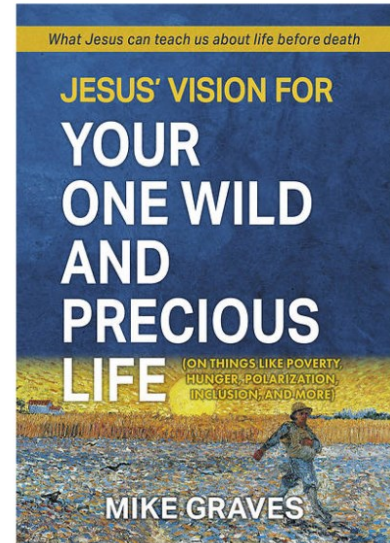


“Follow the journeys of Paul, beginning with his dramatic conversion, as he spread the Gospel through modern-day Greece and Turkey. Travel to the early church sites and explore Paul’s conversations with the Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians. In this 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.

Community Bible Study beginning February 14th at Trinity United Methodist Church at 3:00 pm In the church parlor. Everyone is welcome.



If you met Jesus for coffee once a week for half a year, what do you think would be your biggest takeaway? What would he be most passionate about? Rather than focusing on the seven last words of a dying Jesus, Mike Graves draws the reader's attention to the seven first words – or, as he calls them – the seven essential sayings. With each of the seven words of Jesus, Graves leads us in an exploration of the Gospels, provides social commentary on our day, and concludes each chapter with practical suggestions as well as reflection questions.

This study will be facilitated by Jeanie Hughes. For more information contact Jeanie.

**TRANSPORTATION
BRAINSTORMING SESSION!!**



St. Paul's has a growing need for transportation to Sunday services and Special Events. Our local retirement communities and assisted living facilities do not offer transportation to their residents on Sundays. GIFT (Greater Idaho Falls Transit) does not operate on Sundays. Chris Holden would like to brainstorm transportation ideas and options. a meeting is scheduled

**Tuesday, January 16th at 2:00pm in
St. Paul's Fellowship Hall.**

**THE HABITAT HOME BUILD
PROJECT UPDATE**

This week the Habitat crew worked on installing icicles and snow drifts on the house. These are the sort of bespoke touches that make it truly an Idaho House.



2023 Christmas Adopt- a- Family Report

In 2023 St. Paul's UMC served what we label as 26 units. The breakdown of that number is 21 families and 4 individuals. That is 46 adults and 63 children. We received one 1 emergency family that consisted of 2 adults and 5 children.

2023 Referral breakdown

- 7 families from Head Start
- 7 families from St. Vincent DePaul
- 6 from St. Paul's UMC
- 3 from individuals
- 2 from Hawthorne Elementary
- 1 emergency

2023 Budget Breakdown

St. Paul's started with \$7,480.78
In November we received a donation of \$740.00. That put St. Paul's at a total of \$8,220.78 to use for the 2023 Adopt-a-Family.

We spent \$4,550.00 on Winco Gift Cards. And \$150.00 on Walmart Gift Cards. That leaves the Christmas Adopt-a-family with a remaining \$3,520.00.

Thank you to everyone that helped make this a wonderful year.

**Be on the Look out for a Christmas in
July Fundraiser for the 2024 Christmas
Adopt-a-family.**

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.

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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.

Vision Of The Future Revealed Continued

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.

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Vision Of The Future Revealed Continued

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

This Week At St. Paul's UMC & Trinity UMC

Saturday, January 13

Church Council Meeting at 9:00 am

Sunday, January 14

8:30am Fellowship Coffee & Donuts at Trinity UMC

9:00am Worship at Trinity UMC

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

Fellowship time following service at St. Paul's UMC

Choir Practice at 12:30 pm at St. Paul's UMC

Monday, January 15

Scouts BSA Female Troop at 6:30pm at St. Paul's UMC

Tuesday, January 16

Soup for the Soul at 12:00pm at St. Paul's UMC

Transportation Brainstorm Meeting at 2:00 pm at St. Paul's UMC

N.A at 7:00 pm at Trinity UMC

Wednesday, January 17

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

Women's Coffee Group at 9:30am at St. Paul's UMC

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, January 18

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

Friday, January 19

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

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

Saturday, January 20

Sunday, January 21

8:30am Fellowship Coffee & Donuts at Trinity UMC

9:00am Worship at Trinity UMC

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

Fellowship time following service at St. Paul's UMC

Choir Practice at 12:30 pm at St. Paul's UMC

Bible Study at 3:00 pm at St. Paul's UMC

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Phone: 208-522-9076

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2024 CHURCH COUNCIL & STAFF

Pastor: Pastor Kathy Neary

Council Chair: Chris Holden

Member Delegate: Cindy Mason

Trustees: Jim Mason
Jeff Bell
David Lively
Cindy Mason

Treasurer: Lacey Moon

SPRC: Tracy Gohr
Jennifer Lively

Missions Coordinator: Jerry Cass

Council Secretary: Linda Moore

Finance Secretary: Lynda Fennern

Ministry Coordinator: Melinda Ginosar

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But you, O Lord, are a shield around me;
you are my glory, the one who holds my
head high.

Psalms 3:3

