

ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

January 7, 2023

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Gathering		Ann Shively
Welcome		Melinda Ginosar
Prelude	"Star of the East"	Ann Shively
Acolyte		
Call to Worship		Ken Roush
Hymn	"We Three Kings of Orient Are"	
	Congregational Singing	
Pastoral Prayer		Melinda Ginosar
Lord's Prayer		
Kids Time		Melinda Ginosar
Offering	Gathering our Gifts	
Offertory Music	"Three Wise Men Traveling"	Chancel Choir
Doxology	"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"	p.94
	Congregational Singing	
Offertory Prayer		
Scripture Reading	Matthew 2:1-12	Ken Roush
Sermon	"Welcome the Stranger"	
	Rev. Don Yeager	
Hymn	"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"	
	Praise Team and Congregation	
Communion	The Great Thanksgiving	
	Prayer After Communion	
Hymn	"Open the Eyes of My Heart"	
	Praise Team and Congregation	
Benediction		Rev. Don Yeager
Closing Song	"Thanks God"	
	Jerry Shively, Praise Team, and Congregation	
Postlude		Ann Shively
Helping with worship today		
Worship Leader		Melinda Ginosar
Preacher		Rev. Don Yeager
Kids Time		Melinda Ginosar
Musician		Jerry and Ann Shively
Choir Director		Jason Peters
Liturgist		Ken Roush
Lead Usher		Jerry Johnson
Praise Team Leader		Nancy Copp
Sound and Video Tech		Mosy Moran
Acolyte		



This Issue

CONNECT

- P.2 Reading the Bible Again, New Years Celebration Photos
- P.3 Fellowship Groups, Brainstorm Session

GROW

- P.3 January Bible Study

SERVE

- P.4 Home Build Update, Offering Update
- P.5 Visions of the future revealed
- P. 6 Ministry of Sustainers-Vision
- P. 7 Ministry of Sustainers-Vision
- P. 8 Weekly Events

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

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

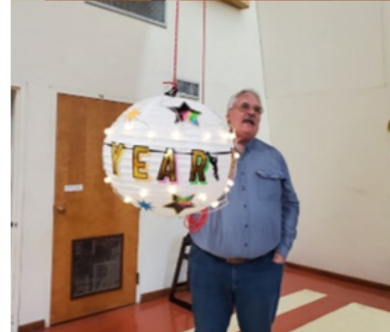
experiences of God. These writings are sacred to us, because they can lead us to have our own experiences of God's presence in our lives. That is why we take the Bible seriously and use our interpretations to shape our church communities. This approach is different than reading the Bible as a historical 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



New Years Eve Celebration

Thank you to everyone who came to the New Years Eve potluck on Sunday. It was a fun time and great way to start to close out one year and begin the new year. We appreciate everyone who came and help set up and clean up.

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, January 9th, at 1:00 at Olive Garden.

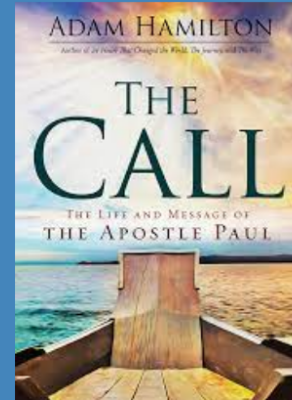
Soup for the Soul: Tuesday, January 16th at 12:00pm

SERVE

**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.**

**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 Thesalonians. 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

THE HABITAT HOME BUILD PROJECT UPDATE

The siding is going up on the west side of the house. The concrete parking pad walkway and rear steps are poured and are curing under the orange blankets. The gravel driveway is in place. In the front the new sidewalk and front steps are poured and curing under the orange blankets. The blankets should be able to come off by Friday.



Special Offering Update

Christmas Eve Offering was dedicated to Habitat for Humanity. We received \$1,407 in the Offering Plate.

Thank you to everyone who gave and has help support this wonderful organization this past year.

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.

Vision Of The Future Revealed Continued

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.

Vision Of The Future Revealed Continued

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 Of The Future Revealed Continued

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

Sunday, January 7

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

Monday, January 8

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

Tuesday, January 9

Ladies Luncheon at Olive Garden at 1:00pm
N.A at 7:00 pm at Trinity UMC

Wednesday, January 10

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 11

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

Friday, January 12

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

Saturday, January 13

Church Council Meeting at 9am all are welcome

Sunday, January 14

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

He has made everything beautiful
in its time. He has also set eternity
in the human heart; yet [a] no one
can fathom what God has done
from beginning to end.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

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

ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1730 St. Clair Road
Idaho Falls, ID 83404
208-522-9076

Visit our website!

www.umcstpauls.com

StPaulsUMCoffice@gmail.com

facebook.com/umcstpauls [stpaulsumcidahofalls](https://stpaulsumcidahofalls.com)

