

# THE EPISTLE



***Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises. Psalm 98:4***

## JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD IS COME!

In the year 1719, writer Isaac Watts penned the words to this beautiful hymn that we often sing at Christmas. Based on Psalm 98, the lyrics remind us that we are to shout joyfully to the Lord because the Messiah has come to redeem us.

Each week, as we journey through Advent, we will consider a line from this hymn.

**December 1:** *“Let every heart prepare him room.”*

We are reminded to keep watch for the Lord will come again.

**December 8:** *“No more let sin and sorrow grow...”*

The forerunner prepares: Christ is coming!

**December 15:** *“He comes to make His blessings flow...”*

The forerunner explains: Christ is here!

**December 22:** *“...And wonders of His love.”*

The promised virgin birth is announced to Joseph.

**December 24:** *“Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!”*

It is my prayer that joy will fill your heart and overflow into your life as we celebrate the coming of King Jesus.

*Pastor Susan*

## Prayer List

**Nursing Home:** Ann Thompson, Kathleen Padgett, Irene Riddle, Eileen Quattlebaum, Lewis Bobb, Peg Bolton

**Shut Ins:** Linda Beber, Grace Givens, Helen Humphries

**Military:** Chuck Bearon, Ryan Caulder, Robbie Grafton, Parker Hite, Patrick Wilson, Matthew Rollins, Ben Walker, Ryan Matthews, Susannah Nunamaker, Recruit James Therell, Saluda National Guard, Steven Parker, Will McMeekin

**Friends and Family:** Marsha and Hascal Goff, James Grasso, Bob Frenette, Keith Turner, Bill Whitefield, Slick Shealy, Vickie Rogers

**Condolences:** The pastor, staff, and congregation extend loving sympathy to the family of Virginia Corley.

*(Friends and Family will be listed for three weeks. To add or delete a name from the prayer list, please call the church office or use the prayer cards located in the pews.)*

## December Birthdays and Anniversaries

3-M/M Jerry Rhodes

4-Harrison Beddoes, M/M Gene Trotter

8-Don Perry

9-Robert McMeekin, Kristi Dockery

15-Sherrie Wilson, Ali Reese Dockery

18-Bonnie Sawyer, Tyler Long

20-Jill Altman

22-Andrew McDaniel, Matthew McDaniel, LeeAnna Fingerlin

23-Ryan Martin

24-Esther Sample

25-Kristen Sawyer

28-Matthew Perry

29-Kim Prater Hunt

30-Kori Liner

## Memorials

In memory of Virginia Corley by Kay Rankin, In memory of Billy Coleman by Ron and Kindra Smith, In memory of Leonard Bean by Julia Wills

## Best Wishes

Congratulations to Jeffrey Herlong Miller and Samantha Rae Mahal who were united in marriage on October 19, 2019. They are residing in Kingsport, Tennessee.

## Welcome New Members

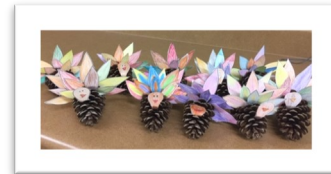
We welcome to our St. Paul family of Christian believers David and Kaitlin Oswalt and their daughters Anna Grace and Adeline Elizabeth. David and Kaitlin joined by church transfer and Anna and Adeline joined by baptism on November 10, 2019.

## Backpack Ministry

We will meet on Sunday, December 1, at 1:30 P.M. in the Family Life Center. Thanks to the 12 people who helped last month and packed the bags in no time flat. We hope to see you again plus some! Remember—many hands make light work.

## GiG Kids

We will meet December 4 from 5 to 6pm in the FLC. It will be the last meeting for the year.



The GIG Kids have been Sunny Servers this year. Here are some of the great projects they have completed to show God's love: made chocolate chip cookies for Christ Central, provided treats for Halloween for the children at Bowers Rodgers Home, brought items and made boxes for Operation Christmas Child, and made turkeys for patients at Saluda Nursing Center.

## Local Missions

After hearing the needs of Saluda County and the agencies that provide assistance, we are planning a monthly mission focus.

For December our mission project will be Safe Home, which provides help to victims of domestic violence.

Please prayerfully consider one of the following and respond as you feel lead.

- 1) To adopt a family contact Sandy Webb at [sandy.safehome@yahoo.com](mailto:sandy.safehome@yahoo.com) or Leslie McCravey at [leslie.safehome@yahoo.com](mailto:leslie.safehome@yahoo.com)
- 2) Donate cleaning supplies such as Clorox wipes, Lysol, laundry detergent. A box will be in the prayer room for drop-off.

# December 2019

SH=Social Hall  
FLC=Family Life Center

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

<b>1</b> Backpack Ministry 1:30pm in FLC MYF 4pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> GiG Kids 5pm in FLC	<b>5</b> Knitwits 6:30pm in SH	<b>6</b> MYF Christmas Outing	<b>7</b> Adult Ministries to Lynch's Woods in Newberry Depart 10am
<b>8</b> Epworth Christmas Gifts Due	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Girl Scouts 6pm in SH	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Breakfast with Santa & Blood Drive at Crossroads Outreach 9-11 Christmas Parade
<b>15</b> MYF Christmas Party Cantata 4pm followed by Soup and Sandwich in FLC	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Loved Ones Gone 7pm in SH	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Knitwits 6:30pm in SH	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service 6pm	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 5th Sunday Breakfast 9am followed by A Service of Lessons and Carols in sanctuary	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve				

## St. Paul United Methodist Church

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On Facebook---St. Paul UMC of Saluda, SC



### Epworth Christmas Gifts

The Angel Tree is in the vestibule. This year we will have the wishes of 20 children on the tree. Please consider providing gifts for the children to open on Christmas morning—gifts that bring smiles and excitement and show they are loved and cared for!

Place your gifts in the Laura Rollins classroom by December 8th. All gifts need to be UNWRAPPED and UNBAGGED and tagged! Please consider donating unused wrapping paper, gift bags/tissue paper, and gift boxes. Place any gift cards or monetary contributions in a sealed envelope with your name, contact information, the dollar amount, and number of gift cards.

### Breakfast with Santa

Crossroads Outreach Ministry will host a Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 14, at 9:00 A.M. The Bloodmobile will also be present and all who are able are encouraged to come and donate blood that morning. Each donor will receive a \$10 gift certificate.

### Christmas Cantata

Please come hear the musical presentation of the St. Paul Choir, community voices, and players on December 15th at 4 P.M. Join us after the presentation for soup and sandwiches in the Family Life Center.

### Christmas Eve Service

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service will be on Tuesday, December 24, at 6 P.M. and a special offering will be received for the Backpack Ministry. Be thinking about who you will invite, pick up, and bring to worship this evening!

### 5th Sunday in December

On December 29, we will meet in the FLC at 9:00 for breakfast followed by A Service of Lessons and Carols in the sanctuary at 10:00 A.M.

### Adult Ministries

Join us for a family hike to Lynch's Woods in Newberry on December 7, from 10:30 to 1:30. Bring a snack or picnic lunch. We will depart at 10:00.