



Paradise United Methodist Church

## **THE GREETER**

**December 2025**

### **FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN . . . . .**

As I write this at 10am on December 3rd, we are digging out from the first winter snow and anticipating record cold temperatures tonight. Yippee! Winter has arrived! Nope, not a fan. Give me high 90s any day as opposed to the 9 above predicted for this evening. But I do enjoy the holidays which winter brings: Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years.

Donna and I spent a joy-filled Thanksgiving holiday with family in Arkansas and then with the kids/grandkids in Liberty last Sunday afternoon. Now, we are midway through Advent, the first season in the Church's liturgical year. It will be capped off with the lighting of the Christ candle on Christmas Eve. Then it's on to Christmas, New Year's Day and the Epiphany of the Lord as the church calendar blends with our own into 2026.

This winter will be different for me as it will be the last I will spend with you as your pastor. Advent is the season in which we are advised to prepare for the arrival of the Christ child in our lives. For Donna and me, it is a reminder that we must savor this time with you in our lives—in worship, in song, in play, in prayer, in fellowship, and in the wonder that this season brings.

There will probably be more snow and unreasonably cold temps coming this winter, and I don't like it! But I take comfort knowing that your loving presence in mine and Donna's lives will keep us warm throughout this season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Blessings on yer noggins!

Pastor Rob

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

The Adult Sunday School class is doing an Advent study by Andy Stanley. You can join us at 9:45 Sunday mornings for great discussion and fellowship.

### **NO POTLUCK IN DECEMBER**

There will be **no potluck** this month due to all the holiday activities!

### **CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

The church is going caroling this Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, and all are invited to participate to make a joyful noise and bring some holiday cheer to our homebound members.

Please plan to meet at the church at 1:15 if you would like to run through the songs before leaving sharply at 1:30. Maps will be provided, as will the words to the songs. The caroling will finish up in Smithville at approximately 3:30.

### **CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**

Flint and Tracy Howard are hosting a holiday open house on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, from approximately 5:00 to 7:00p.m. and everyone is invited to stop in at their leisure. Their address is 18515 Briar Lane, Holt, MO 64048.

### **CHURCH COUNCIL**

The Church Council will meet on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the worship service. Anyone and everyone is welcome to attend. If you have any items for the agenda, please get them to Shay or Missy by Thursday evening.

### **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

As we have done in years past, we will hold a service on Christmas Eve starting at 7:00p.m. The candlelight service will include holy communion, and it is a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of Jesus with your family and

friends. So please make time in your busy schedule to join us for this very special worship service!

**OUTREACH/MISSIONS**

As we approach the end of 2025 and begin compiling numbers for reports that are presented to the district and state conference, I find myself astonished with the amount of money and items that have been collected and distributed to folks who just need a hand to reach out and show God's endless love. Thank you, PUMC! You are so generous.

**November Collection Totals**

Smithville School District lunch debt - \$150

Smithville Pantry- Canned Soup 132, 21 cans of vegetables, 1 large container of coffee, 1 3# bag of quinoa, 1 pasta sauce and 32 individual hot cocoa/tea bags

Smithville/Trimble/Plattsburg/ATC (all pantries we support) - \$575

Trimble Pantry - monetary plus coats - gently used men's winter coats \$175

Hats/gloves/scarves for Fishes & Loaves

**December Collections:**

Smithville Food Pantry - Facial Tissue

Plattsburg Pantry - monetary

Hats/gloves/scarves for Fishes & Loaves

**INCLEMENT WEATHER**

We've had our first snow of the season! Please remember if the weather isn't good, to check the local TV stations and Facebook to make sure Sunday School and/or worship hasn't been cancelled. Also make sure your cell phone number is in ChurchTrac (see Tooti) as we are set up to send text messages. If you would

prefer us to call you, then please contact Angie to make those arrangements.

**CHURCH CONNECT APP**

ChurchTrac, our church management software, has a new app, Church Connect, available through the Google Play Store or Apple App Store or you can ask Tooti to share via a QR code that you scan with your phone's camera. You can manage your giving, look at your giving history, link on the "media" to go to the online service or Pastor Rob's podcast, look up addresses of members who've given their permission for the address to be visible to PUMC approved folks, keep up with events and sign up for events, view the bulletin every week, mark your attendance, create and share prayer requests with Pastor Rob and/or the prayer team as well as other handy things for reference.

**MONTHLY REPORT**

The monthly report for November 2025 is as follows:

Beginning Balance:	\$41,289.76
General Offerings:	+\$7,983.06
Capital Improvement:	+\$757.50
Expenses:	-\$5,736.87
Final Balance:	\$44,293.45