



DECEMBER 2020

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Dear friends,

Advent is here and there is reason to celebrate. God has not turned God's back on us. The story of Advent is the story of the light of God penetrating the darkness and spreading God's love. It is the story of salvation. Our need is great to see the star in the sky. We are in need of gathering at the manger to worship. Let's prepare our hearts for Jesus to come to us in a fresh and personal way.

One of my daughters-in-law wrote something which blessed me and I want to share. Kristin Mason is married to my older son (David) and is an ordained minister with the Nazarene Church.

God bless,

Emery

"I don't know about you, but I'm not sure I have ever needed to sing "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" as much as I have this year. Advent has arrived and it is my favorite time of the year. We are waiting in anticipation for the arrival of Christ. That waiting can be joyous anticipation, but it can also be filled with darkness, anxiously awaiting light. I'm finding myself feeling the heaviness of this year. So much hurt, heartbreak, illness, and despair. It seems as though it will never end. It seems as though the darkness has won. But friends, there is hope. Darkness never, ever wins. Light will always have the last word. It is ok to cry out and wonder where God is. It is ok to feel the heaviness as we wait. Eventually, the light will break through the darkness, even if it starts with a tiny flame. We wait in anticipation because we know that God has never and will never leave His people. "A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices." May it be so."

Kristin Mason

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### What you can anticipate concerning schedules during December?

We are entering December with the plan of continuing to gather in-person for some activities (as has been approved by our Re-Launch Team) as well as providing online alternatives. Our plans are subject to change based on what we hear from civil authorities or decisions made by our Re-Launch Team. If changes are made, this will be announced on Facebook and our website.

We encourage individual groups to continue to prayerfully use wisdom regarding their specific group. Even if a group has been given permission to meet within certain guidelines, each group can make choices not to meet for a while. Individuals and families are also encouraged to make prayerful decisions. Deciding to worship from home can be a faithful and wise decision which some people will make.

We pray that God will watch over each one, help us to maintain our "love connections," and enable us to care for each other in ways that matter.



### St. Paul text-alerts

If you would like to receive a text alert from the church when there are changes to our schedule or some other news that we feel everyone should be aware of, sign up at this link: <https://www.remind.com/join/stpaul01>






**Organ Recital of  
Christmas Music**  
10:30 a.m.  
**Sunday, Dec. 20**  
in the Sanctuary  
**Vicki Smith**  
**Organist**



United  
Methodist  
Women

## **December Meeting** **10:30 a.m. Tues., Dec. 8** **Upstairs Fellowship Hall**

We will meet upstairs in Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 8. The District Treasurer, Alexandria Miller will be here to install the new officers for 2021. Bring a sack lunch and we can eat at our tables and enjoy a time of fellowship (safely) together.



**Congratulations!**

Welcome **Kahl'el Daniel** who weighed in at 8 lbs. 7 oz. and arrived at 11:57 p.m. on Sun., Nov. 30. Momma Ashley Daniel is doing great and husband Jay with big brother "Jello" are filled with joy.

Welcome **Nathan Scott Brinsfield**, who weighed in at 8 lbs. and 20 1/2" long, was born at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 15. He is the son of Samantha (Morris) and Scott Brinsfield, and grandson to Jim & Tammy Morris.



**Finance Committee**  
**5:30 PM**  
**Tuesday,**  
**Dec. 15**





## ANGEL TREE GIFTS

We are participating in the prison fellowship Angel Tree program again this year. In the Atrium you will find a Christmas tree with paper angels. On the angel is a gift request from a child who has a parent in prison and is at risk for possibly not having a "Christmas" otherwise.

**All Angels must be signed out on the list.**

If you want to select an angel but are NOT getting out or comfortable shopping in person, call the church office and consider shopping online. If needed, you could have the gift shipped directly to the church and we'll wrap it for you!

We're trying to be creative to accomplish mission-ministry as safe as possible.

Wrapped gifts with the angel tag on the gift need to be returned to the church office by **Sunday, December 13.**

If you have any questions please contact the church office 918-687-7571



**St. Paul has a great resource FREE to you!**

This **FREE** resource is just an email away! Email Joanne at the church office and she will send you a link to access **rightnow MEDIA**. The App can be downloaded onto your phone or tablet.

muskogeesaintpaul@gmail.com

**Learning Tree Fall Fundraiser  
DELIVERY DAY Friday, Dec. 11**



We have a tradition of decorating the Sanctuary Chancel during Advent with beautiful poinsettia plants in honor or memory of a person or special event.

To participate, please fill out a form or contact the Church Office by Wed., Dec. 9.

Do you want to participate but are staying safer at home? Just email Joanne at the church office or call 918-687-7571 with your dedication information.

If you would like to have your poinsettia, you can take it home on Sunday, December 27, after the services. Or pick it up Monday or Tuesday, Dec. 28-29, and enjoy it the New Year.

The cost is \$17.50 each. Payment can be submitted online at our web giving page, or click here: [Poinsettias](#)

adminassistant@stpaulmuskogee.com

**2020 HOLIDAY  
Planning Guide**

## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

**Thursday, December 24**

**Candlelight Services**

**5:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.**

**Church Offices Closed**

**Thursday, Dec. 24—Friday, Dec. 25**

**Thursday, Dec. 31 & Friday, Jan. 1**



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

12/1 Jared Johnson	12/16 Ineta Bebb
12/1 Christina Booher	12/16 Trinity Hamlin
12/3 Bob Woods	12/17 Judy Payne
12/4 Michelle Johnson	12/17 Nita Thompson
12/5 Kathryn Durland	12/18 Stephen Crank
12/5 Kenny Sambrano	12/19 Bob Crawford
12/5 Zollie Saxon	12/19 Jim Hall
12/6 Vann Beard	12/19 Poppy Hilton
12/6 Weldon Key	12/19 Chloe Roberts
12/7 Katie Hughey	12/20 Susan Asquith
12/8 Lisa Schilt	12/20 Cale Hughes
12/9 Scott Scenter	12/21 Doug Hendricks
12/9 Cathy Young	12/21 Holly Hughes
12/10 Shelby Clark	12/22 Sam Bennett
12/10 Jim Davis	12/22 Luke Hall
12/11 John Gage	12/22 Asilyn Hensley
12/11 Grace Sherrick	12/24 Kent Johnson
12/12 Billie Flinn	12/25 Carole Cole
12/12 Sue Henson	12/25 Jaime Gile
12/13 Leigh Ann Mathews	12/25 Madison Hayes
12/14 Samuel Hensley	12/31 Jenee Hensley
12/14 Jack Johnson	
12/15 Meacham Pool	

# Happy Anniversary

12/1	Kem & Becky Hearon
12/1	Bob & Gayle Valor
12/17	Brad & Natalie Giulioli
12/17	Michael & Nannette Morrison
12/21	Carlile & Linda Roberts
12/27	Steven & Erin Goss
12/30	Fred & Susan Winters



## Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 5:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

## SP PRAYER LIST

### Prayer Concerns

Gladys Waite	Kristi Wilson-Harris	Johnny Cook	Dan Myers	Bob Pruden	Del Easton
Mary Willhite	Susan Gourd	Jamie Hibbs	Raymond Sewell	Larry Christensen	John Ross Maloy
Terry & Judy Seymour	Barbara Fillman	Ellen Roberts	Jack & LouAnn Morrow	Susan Asquith	Sherry Hotchkiss
Bud Hinshaw	Nancy Tkacik	Anne Pringle	Mildred Noblin-Henderson	Esther Lowery	Emmerson Carr
Barbara Synar	Phyllis Coplan	Marilyn Gilder	Sidney Daniels		

### Memorial Gifts

**Jerry Lowery:** Esther Lowery, Weldon & Barbara Key, Lisa Harbison, Jan Wilkerson, Bob & Gayle Valor

### COVID-19 Essentials: (and many, many others . . .)

Stay Home Services Employees	James Hilfiger	Sarah Ruefer	Allison Ruefer-Roberts	Joe Broome
Good Shepherd Clinic Volunteers	Lindsay Nicholson	Kathy Beene	Aaron & Krissy Ritchie	Tom/Cherie Baker
Dr. Ziad Hawa & COVID-19 patients	Terra Curry	Teachers/Students		

### Nursing Home/Homebound

Virginia Riede, Edward Warren, Fred Bliss, Nita Keys, Edna Terpening, Margaret Procter, Susan Auten, Mable Eagan, Doreen Causon, Sandy Hine, Lavell Bailey, Myrna Stretch, Wanda Jean Gile, Frank/Lucy Wernitz, Herman Ensign, Lyle Nelson

### Armed Forces

Vann Beard, Trenton Cox, Matthew Hamilton, Tyler Hinds, Col. Kimberly Howerton, Cale Hughes, Briana Hull-Moreno, Cpt. Ashley Lampe, Jeffrey Laughlin, Steven Mashburn, Devin Riede, Kaylin Riede, Kevin Winters

# DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
No Sunday School for Children or Youth during December. (Nursery still open)		1	2	3 10a.m. Ladies Handbell Choir	4	5 
			7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir			
6 <b>COMMUNION SERVICE</b> Worship Services 9:00 AM - Sanctuary 11:00 AM - Sanctuary & Livestream (Facebook) Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Various Rooms (No Children's/Youth SS)	7	8 10:30 a.m. UMW Meeting 	9 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	10 10a.m. Ladies Handbell Choir 5:30 p.m. Trustees Meeting	11  Learning Tree Fundraiser Delivery	12
13 Worship Services 9:00 AM - Sanctuary 11:00 AM - Sanctuary & Livestream (Facebook) Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Various Rooms (No Children's/Youth SS)	14 6:00 p.m. Care Ministry Meeting	15 5:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting	16 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	17	18	19
20 Worship Services 9:00 AM - Sanctuary 11:00 AM - Sanctuary & Livestream (Facebook) Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Various Rooms (No Children's/Youth SS) 10:30 a.m. Organ Recital of Christmas Music Livestream FaceBook	21 Christmas Break - No Learning Tree	22	23 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 5:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m. 	25 	26
	CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED					
27 Worship Services 9:00 AM - Sanctuary 11:00 AM - Sanctuary & Livestream (Facebook) Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Various Rooms (No Children's/Youth SS)	28 Christmas Break - No Learning Tree	29	30 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	31 THE NEW YEAR IS 	1	2
	CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED					

## Weekly at St. Paul:

### Sunday:

AM 9:00 Worship—Sanctuary  
10:00 Sunday School (Nursery/Adult only)  
11:00 Worship—Sanctuary

### Monday:

AM 7:00 Donut Hole Group (AA)  
9:00 Learning Tree Preschool  
10:15 Staff Meeting

### Tuesday:

AM 7:00 Donut Hole Group (AA)  
PM 12:00 Al-Anon

### Wednesday:

AM 7:00 Donut Hole Group (AA)  
9:00 Learning Tree Preschool  
PM 7:00 Chancel Choir Ladies

### Thursday:

AM 7:00 Donut Hole Group (AA)  
10:00 Ladies Handbell Choir  
PM 6:30 It's in the Book (AA) Women only  
6:30 Good Shepherd Clinic

### Friday:

AM 7:00 Donut Hole Group (AA)  
9:00 Learning Tree Preschool

### Saturday:

AM 9:00 Donut Hole Group (AA)  
PM 6:30 It's in the Book (AA) Women only

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM  
Monday-Thursday  
Friday 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

St. Paul United Methodist Church  
2130 West Okmulgee  
Muskogee, OK 74401

*\*Return Services Requested*



*December*

## Sunday Volunteers

### 9:00 a.m. Worship Service

#### Ushers/Greeters

- Dec. 6:** Virgil Rose, Ben Robinson, Ray Griffin  
**Dec. 13:** Marilyn Gilder, Jo Gibbs, Jim & Darlene Davis  
**Dec. 20:** Bob & Bonnie Dunkelberger, Judy Hoffman  
**Dec. 27:** Christina Booher, Oleta Smith, Charlene Schoeppel

### 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

#### Ushers/Greeters

- Dec. 6:** Weldon Key, Ed Johnson, Robert Hall, Ted Hine, Mike Pierceall, Jack Hodge, Ed & Pam Johnson, Carl/ MaryBeth Scott  
**Dec. 13:** Ron Wright, Todd Graybill, Bill Settle  
**Dec. 20:** Tracey Szabo, Melissa Raper, Rachael Ritchie, Charlene Schoeppel  
**Dec. 24:** **5:00 p.m.** Ron Coplan, John Griffin, Will Coplan, Michael Blakeslee  
**Dec. 24:** **10:00 p.m.** Eric Elgin, Don Elgin, Calvin Moore, Roy Flinn  
**Dec. 27:** Johnny Broome, Bob Woods, Scott Hensley, Sam/Ann Cox, Becky Hearon, Billie Flinn

#### Sound Board:

**Sound Board & Video** Doug Hendricks, Don Anderson, Jim Morris  
St. Paul United Methodist Church records events & services. Attending events & services grants St. Paul permission to use your likeness in photograph, video, or other digital media ("photo") in any and all of its publications, including web-based publications, without payment or other consideration.

### Altar Flowers:

To the Glory of God and in; honor/memory of. . .

- Dec. 6:** Shannon Evans to the memory of my grandmother Jean Clothier.  
**Dec. 13-20-27:** Poinsettias for Advent

Church office email:

[Adminassistant@stpaulmuskogee.com](mailto:Adminassistant@stpaulmuskogee.com)



Notice: Please do not use wifi while attending the 11:00 a.m. worship service. The wifi usage needs to be available to live stream successfully.