



THE SPIRIT

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | OCTOBER 2025

St. Paul UMC

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Learning Tree Preschool Teacher

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Teacher Assistant: Stephanie MacInnis

Teacher Assistant: Sydney Hayes

Custodian, A.J. McClellen



Forward Together

This October, St. Paul UMC will begin an important new sermon series called **Forward Together**. Over four weeks, we will explore the biblical call to stewardship and discover how God invites us to use our time, talent, and treasure to make an eternal impact.

Stewardship is not just about budgets or buildings—it is about discipleship. Jesus reminds us that everything we have is a gift from God, entrusted to us for a purpose. From the parable of the talents (Matthew 25) to Paul's words about generosity (Philippians 4), Scripture consistently points us toward living with open hands and open hearts. When we practice stewardship, we are participating in God's mission to transform lives and communities through the love of Christ.

The series will move us through four powerful themes:

- **Entrusted** – Everything we have is from God, and we are called to be faithful with it.
- **Invested** – Our giving fuels God's mission and makes a difference in people's lives.
- **Transformed** – Stewardship is not only what we do; it shapes who we are as followers of Jesus.
- **Committed** – Together, we will take bold steps of faith for the future of our church.

We are excited about what God is doing at St. Paul. Our mission to *"Reach people for Christ and develop deeply committed Christians"* is bearing fruit, and this series is a chance to celebrate that work while also looking ahead with faith and hope.

As part of this journey, we invite every member and friend of St. Paul to prayerfully consider making a financial commitment for the coming year. Commitment Sunday will be Sunday, Oct. 26. To make the celebration even sweeter, everyone who turns in a commitment card will receive a **free St. Paul UMC coffee cup**—a small reminder that when we give together, we grow together.

We believe Forward Together will be a season of joy, vision, and renewal. We encourage you to worship with us each Sunday in October at 8:45 or 11:00 a.m. Bring a friend, open your heart, and join us as we step forward in faith—together.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dylan



October emphasis: FORWARD TOGETHER



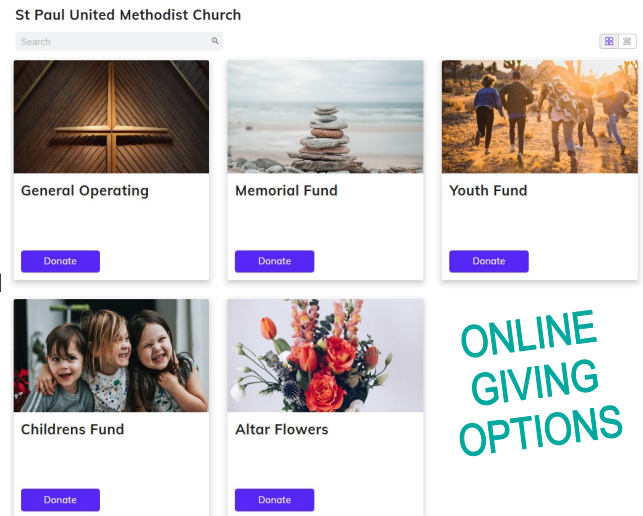
As we approach 2026, St. Paul seeks to move “forward together” along the path that God has designed. There are many ways to be a part of the opportunities that lie ahead of us as a church family. As always, putting your “hands to the plow” and volunteering is key to the movement and support of any ministry. We have a place for everyone to serve. If you see a need, don’t wait to be asked, just jump right in. If you have questions, contact any staff member or ministry leader and we will point you in the right direction.

Pledges & Financial Support options:

Did you know that you can set up your giving as a “recurring” online automatic withdrawal? We do this for our utilities and living expenses, so, why not use this convenient feature for our regular offerings to the Lord?

Consider adding St. Paul to your will and/or financial estate planning. There are many ways that you can show your support for St. Paul in your retirement years and/or final wishes. You want your family to know what your church support desires are after you are gone.

Some have stocks, bonds, or IRA’s that require minimum distribution at the fiscal year end. St. Paul is a great option for distribution of those funds. You can designate a specific ministry, or general fund.



What Is a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)?

A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) is a distribution from your individual retirement account (IRA) to a qualified charity, i.e. your local church. You must be age 70½ or older to make a qualified charitable distribution. A qualified charitable distribution is not taxed, nor is it included in your taxable income.

If certain conditions are met, QCDs also can count toward the required minimum distributions (RMDs) that people who are age 73 or older must meet each year if they have traditional IRAs (or a number of other tax-advantaged retirement plans that you can’t use for a QCD). Also important: You don’t have to itemize on your tax return to take advantage of a QCD.²

Mark your Calendars!



Monthly Potluck

**Monthly POTLUCK
Sunday, October 5**

Bring your favorite Italian dishes for our monthly potluck meal after the 11AM service Sun., Oct. 5. Invite friends & family.

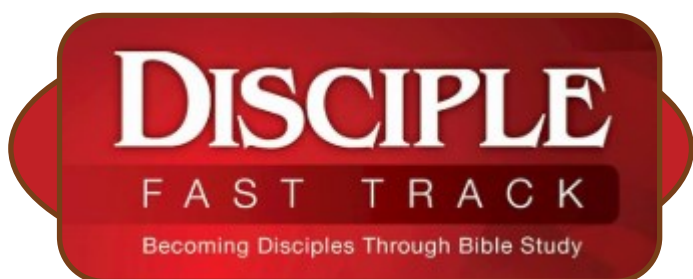


**Backpack FOOD Ministry
10:00 AM Wednesdays
October 1, 15, & 29
every other Wednesday
in the weight room**

We pack food bags for over 125 local school children who may not have enough food available to them over the weekends. Come and spend about 45 minutes and pack “assembly style” food bags that will be delivered to our schools. It’s so rewarding and a fun time with friends!

Can you help to receive the food delivery orders? Contact Glenda Broome at 918-781-2733.

If you’re not sure this is for you, come once and see for yourself how fun and rewarding it can be!



MONDAYS 1:00 P.M. & 6:15 P.M.
in the large conference room.

Backpack Food Program Fund Raiser October 12 - 31 (and all year long too!)



What your donations provide . . .

The average cost per snack bag is approximately \$7.00 each in 2025! We serve 125 children every week during the school year. Which makes the monthly cost for the program \$875+. This program is 100% self funded, meaning your donations keep this ministry going. Whether it’s a monthly regular donation, or a one time gift, your support means everything.

Any questions? Call or text Glenda Broome at 918-781-2733

All Saints Sunday—Sunday, November 2

All Saints Sunday, the first Sunday in November, is set aside to honor church members who have gone on before us during the past year. In the Worship Service a family member or friend may select a rose at the “time of remembrance” in honor of their loved one.



OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28 Worship Services 8:45 AM - Rowsey Chapel 10:00 AM - Sunday School 11:00 AM - Sanctuary	29 Learning Tree 9 AM - 2 PM Disciple Fast Track 1PM & 6:15 PM	30 11:00 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Bridges	1 Learning Tree 9 AM - 2 PM 10AM Backpacks  7 PM Chancel Choir	2 10AM Ladies Handbell Choir Rehearsal	3 Learning Tree 9 AM - 2 PM	4
5 COMMUNION SERVICE  Monthly Potluck 1-3:30 p.m. St. Paul 101 Worship Services 8:45 AM - Rowsey Chapel 10:00 AM - Sunday School 11:00 AM - Sanctuary	6 Learning Tree 9 AM - 2 PM Disciple Fast Track 1PM & 6:15 PM	7 11:00 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Bridges	8 Learning Tree 9 AM - 2 PM 5:30 PM DINNER CHURCH 6 PM Youth Group 7 PM Chancel Choir	9 10AM Ladies Handbell Choir Rehearsal	10 Learning Tree 9 AM - 2 PM	11
12 Worship Services 8:45 am - Rowsey Chapel 10:00 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Sanctuary 3PM Blessing of the Animals 	13 Learning Tree 9 AM - 2 PM Disciple Fast Track 1PM & 6:15 PM	14 11:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 PM Bridges	15 Learning Tree 9 AM - 2 PM 10AM Backpacks 6 PM Youth Group 7 PM Chancel Choir	16 10AM Ladies Handbell Choir Rehearsal	17  YOUTH TRIP FRONTIER CITY	18  YOUTH TRIP GATHERING PLACE
				FALL BREAK 		
19 Worship Services 8:45 am - Rowsey Chapel 10:00 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Sanctuary 6:15PM Disciple Fast Track	20 Learning Tree 9 AM - 2 PM Disciple Fast Track 1PM only 6:00 p.m. Pre-Charge Conference Meeting	21 11:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 PM Bridges	22 Learning Tree 9 AM - 2 PM 5:30 PM DINNER CHURCH 6 PM Youth Group 7 PM Chancel Choir	23 10AM Ladies Handbell Choir Rehearsal	24 Learning Tree 9 AM - 2 PM	25 TULSA 6TH GRADE YOUTH TRIP SLICK ACTION
26 Worship Services 8:45 am - Rowsey Chapel 10:00 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Sanctuary	27 Learning Tree 9 AM - 2 PM 1PM & 6:15PM Disciple Fast Track	28 11:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:30 PM Bridges	29 Learning Tree 9 AM - 2 PM 10AM Backpacks 6 PM Youth Group 7 PM Chancel Choir	30 10AM Ladies Handbell Choir Rehearsal	31 Learning Tree 9 AM - 2 PM	1 3-5 PM BLOCK PARTY FALL FESTIVAL 

Weekly at St. Paul:

Monday:

AM 7:00 Donut Hole Group (AA)
9:00 Learning Tree Preschool
CARD Senior Nutrition Program
PM 1:00 Disciple Fast Track Study
6:15 Disciple Fast Track Study

Tuesday:

AM 7:00 Donut Hole Group (AA)
9:00 CARD Senior Nutrition Program
9:30 Staff Meeting
11:00 Open Bible Study
PM 12:00 Al-Anon
5:30 Bridges Out of Poverty
6:00 Emotions Anonymous (1st & 3rd)

Wednesday:

AM 7:00 Donut Hole Group (AA)
9:00 Learning Tree Preschool
CARD Senior Nutrition Program
PM 6:00 Youth Group (6-12 Grade)
7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday:

AM 7:00 Donut Hole Group (AA)
9:00 CARD Senior Nutrition Program
10:00 Ladies Handbell Choir
PM 6:30 It's in the Book (AA) Women only
6:30 Good Shepherd Clinic (1st & 3rd)

Friday:

AM 7:00 Donut Hole Group (AA)
9:00 Learning Tree Preschool
CARD Senior Nutrition Program

Saturday:

AM 9:00 Donut Hole Group (AA)

Sunday:

AM 8:45 Worship—Rowsey Chapel
10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Worship—Sanctuary

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mon.—Thurs. 8AM-4PM & Fri. 8AM-3PM

CANDY

Donations of candy can be brought by Wednesday, Oct. 29, and placed in the bin located in the Atrium.



Can
we fill
the
CAN?



Of
course
we
CAN!

The COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY

3:00 - 5:00 PM on
Saturday, November 1

GAMES * HOTDOGS * CHIPS
DRAWINGS FOR PRIZES



Come enjoy an afternoon of family fun.

What is needed?

4 bicycles & helmets

2 children's (boy/girl)

2 older kids (boy/girl)

Candy

Who is needed?

EVERYONE!

Volunteers

Set-up & take down

Food (Cooks & servers)

Games

Greeters

Registration table

Clean up

Sign up with

Abigail 918-348-9262

Barbara 918-840-0104

or email **"Help with BP"** to
church@stpaulmuskogee.com

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Learning Tree Preschool @ St. Paul UMC



Dear St. Paul Family,

Our little St. Paul Stars are shining brightly this fall! Each week we gather for chapel with Pastor Dylan, where the children are hearing the promises of God through the stories of Noah, Abraham & Sarah, Moses, Naomi & Ruth, Hannah & Samuel, and David. It is a joy to see their eyes light up as they begin to understand that they can trust in God!

In the classroom, our older students are practicing vowels and their sounds, while our younger ones have especially loved hands-on science activities! Ms. Tiff & Ms. Sydney's Fruit Dissection connected both the parts of fruit and the Fruits of the Spirit from Galatians for the students. Between music, movement, and even a parachute day in the gym during rainy weather, our Stars are staying active and joyful!

UPCOMING

This month, we are excited to add some fall fun into our learning from our staff brainstorm! Soon, we'll be decorating pumpkins, and to wrap up October, our students will carve a **giant pumpkin** together! We'll turn this into a math adventure by weighing, measuring, estimating, and counting just how many seeds are inside.

Looking ahead, our students will explore animals, shapes, transportation, weather, and community helpers all while growing in literacy, math, discipleship, social-emotional skills, and critical thinking. At Learning Tree, we believe that education goes hand-in-hand with faith formation, and we aim to provide a environment filled with grace where kids can grow into a love for learning!

GET INVOLVED!

We are so grateful for the support of our church family. One of our ongoing needs is simple: **snacks**! With 22 students each day, store-bought nut-free items like Cheerios or crackers are a big help! Your generosity keeps our children well cared for and reminds them of God's abundant love.

Thank you for your prayers and support of the Learning Tree preschool ministry. Our vision is that each student and their family will feel the warmth and embrace of the St. Paul congregation as our preschool becomes more closely woven into the life of the church. These children are not only a joy in our classrooms; they are a gift to our whole faith family. Through their laughter, curiosity, and growth, we catch a glimpse of God's Spirit at work in beautiful and hopeful ways.



ABIGAIL SHAW

LEARNINGTREE@STPAULMUSKOGEE.COM

New Members!

WELCOME!

Penn Henthorn 405-234-6508
26633 US- 62 penthorn@okumc.org
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Abigail Shaw 918-348-9262
Louis Shaw-Bolen learningtree@stpaulmuskogee.com
(son)



2025 FALL MENUS

- Oct. 8: Pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad, coleslaw
- Oct. 22: Baked potato bar w/pulled pork
- Nov. 12: Marry Me Chicken with angel hair pasta, tossed salad
- Dec. 10: King Ranch Chicken, tossed salad

St. Paul Hats & Polos

During the month of October St. Paul hats and polo shirts are available to order. These quality items show our church logo & name. The proceeds will support our growing Children's Department.



HAT = \$20
POLO = \$35

The order sheet is in the Atrium. Payments can be placed in the offering, mailed, or made online.

Thank you!




Rehearsals 7PM Wednesdays

**CHANCEL
CHOIR**



**Ladies
Handbell
Choir**



Birthdays

2 James Hilfiger	17 Keaton Davis	26 Jack Griffin
3 Will Pool	17 Brighton Davis	27 Connie Stout
5 Clay Blevins	19 Jackson Sharp	28 Kayla Boos
6 Tom Wagner	19 Jordan Sharp	28 Ted Hine
12 Brittani Dugan	22 Evan Houser	30 Ann Cox
12 Erin Weeks	23 David Hix	30 Mike Pierceall
16 Betsy Kennedy	23 Tamra Scherer	31 Cynthia Johnson
18 Toni Morton	25 Harrison Garrison	

Anniversaries

7 Tom & Betsy Kennedy
17 Kyle & Tera Shores
20 Steve & Joan Odell
22 Rex & Nicole Houser
23 Shawn & Melissa Raper
24 Mike & Diann Pierceall
25 Bud & Marilyn Hinshaw



BLESSING
of the **ANIMALS**
3:00 p.m. on
Sunday, Oct. 12
in the Courtyard
in front of Rowsey Chapel

Altar Flowers

to the glory of God

- Oct. 5** Sherry Hotchkiss, in loving memory of her husband, Dallas Hotchkiss.
- Oct. 12** Kai Garrison, in loving memory of Jack and Donna Garrison.
- Oct. 19** Jack Hodge Family, in loving memory of his father, James Hodge.
- Oct. 26** John Griffin, in loving memory of Martha Griffin.

USHER MINISTRY

8:45 a.m. Ushers

- 1st Sun.:** Jim Davis, Mark Unger
- 2nd Sun.:** Marilyn Gilder, Jo Gibbs
- 3rd Sun.:** Omar Reed, Virgil Rose
- 4th Sun.:** Don Elgin, Omar Reed
- 5th Sun.:** Bob & Bonnie Belle Dunkelberger



11:00 a.m. Ushers

- 1st Sun.:** Mike Pierceall, Michael Blakeslee, Ted Hine, Ed Johnson, Weldon Key
- 2nd Sun.:** Ron Wright, Don Elgin, Todd Graybill, John Griffin, Scott Kanny, Manny Ramirez
- 3rd Sun.:** Johnny Broome, Scott & Sam Hensley, Jim Neely, Bob Woods
- 4th Sun.:** Erin Goss, Diane Beach, Jenee' Hensley, Amber Hilfiger, Patty Ramirez, Margaret Thacker
- 5th Sun.:** Roy Flinn, Taylor Foster

GREETER MINISTRY

8:45 a.m.

1st Sun.:

2nd Sun.:

3rd Sun.:

4th Sun.:

5th Sun.:

11:00 a.m.

Ed & Pam Johnson

J. Boydston, Ted Hine

B. Flinn / B. Hearon

Sidney Daniels

J. Boydston/B. Hearon

VAN MINISTRY

1st Sun.:

Drivers: Kelly & Diane Beach
Caller: Linda Foster

2nd Sun.:

Drivers: Scott & Sam Hensley
Caller: Joan Odell

3rd Sun.:

Driver: Robbie Evans, Tamra Scherer
Caller: Renee McMillin

4th Sun.:

Driver: Roy & Billie Flinn
Caller: Margaret Thacker

5th Sun.:

Driver: Andrew Heymans
Caller: Sidney Daniels