



St. Paul United Methodist Church

SPiRiT

Monthly Newsletter DECEMBER 2024

Contact Us . . .

Church Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fridays 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Phone: 918-687-7571

Rev. Dylan Ward

Senior Pastor

918-408-7029

Rev.DylanWard@stpaulmuskogee.com

Ineta Bebb.

Music Ministries

ibebb@stpaulmuskogee.com

Barbara Kent

Children/Youth Ministries

bkent@stpaulmuskogee.com

Beth Dunn

Nursery & Pre-School

Ministries

bethtucker61@yahoo.com

Margaret Wagner, Director

Learning Tree Preschool

918-687-3842

margaretrwagner@hotmail.com

Lynnette Lewis

Business Administrator

llewis@stpaulmuskogee.com

Joanne Nilsson

Administrative Assistant

muskogeesaintpaul@gmail.com

Melissia Harrison

Custodian

muskogeesaintpaul@gmail.com

Letter from the Pastor . . .

“Do not be afraid; for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.” -Lk 2:10-11

Advent is a special time of year. With the Christmas lights and decorations, the music that brings up so many childhood memories, and the unique services, it’s easy to see why it is so many people’s favorite time of year. We have several opportunities to celebrate this season together at St. Paul, and I want to talk about a few of them here.

Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning “arrival or coming.” It is the four-week season leading up to Christmas Eve. It consists of the four Sundays before Christmas Eve, each focusing on different themes that seek to help us prepare for the arrival of Christ into our world once again. This season has many traditions, including the Chrismon tree, Advent wreath, Handel’s Messiah on Dec. 9th, and the Christmas Eve candlelight service. All seek to help us prepare to welcome Christ into our lives once again.

Each of our Sundays in Advent is special, with the decorations that make St. Paul so beautiful, special music, and lighting the Advent wreath each week. But there are a few extra special services that I hope you’ll plan to attend.

Our Blue Christmas service will be on Dec. 18, at 6 PM. If you’ve never attended a Blue Christmas service, it is a special time for many people. We all face different difficulties in life, and Blue Christmas is a service designed specifically to celebrate the hope and peace of Christmas without any expectation about how you should feel about the season. We’ll still sing Christmas hymns, hear the Christmas story, and sing Silent Night by candlelight, but we’ll do so in a space that allows you to be as jolly or not as you might be this season.

And then, of course, we have Christmas Eve candlelight services, many people’s favorite service of the year. The tradition of gathering with family and friends on Christmas Eve night, singing some of the most iconic hymns, and singing Silent Night by candlelight to close the service is ingrained in many folks’ minds as the defining moment of Christmas. We’ll have two services this year, one at 4 PM and one at 9 PM. I hope you’ll attend one or both and bring the whole family. Invite your friends and neighbors. Christmas Eve at St. Paul is not something you want to miss.

I pray that you have a blessed and holy Advent as we prepare to welcome the Christ child into our midst again. May you be filled with the promise of Christmas and experience the incarnation of Christ in your life in this season.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dylan



Communion
Sunday, December 8
8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Worship Services



Church Potluck lunch on
Sunday, Dec. 8 after the
11AM Worship Service



Ministries & Meetings

- 10:00 a.m. Wed., Dec. 4 Backpack Food Ministry
- 10:00 a.m. Sat., Dec 7 Installation Bishop Merrill
- Noon-ish Sun., Dec. 8 Church Potluck Lunch
- 7:30 pm Mon., Dec. 9 Handel's MESSIAH
- 6:30 p.m. Tues., Dec. 10 Bridges Graduation
- 5:30 p.m. Wed., Dec. 11 Dinner Church
- 7:00 p.m. Thurs., Dec. 12 Tulsa Festival Ringers
- 5:30 p.m. Sun., Dec. 15 New Life Christmas Party
- 5:30 p.m. Tues., Dec. 17 Finance Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Wed., Dec. 18 Backpack Food Ministry
- 6:00 p.m. Wed., Dec. 18 Blue Christmas Worship

4:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m. Tues. Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

Candlelight & Communion Worship Services

- 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays Bridges Out of Poverty
- 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays Youth Group
- 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays Chancel Choir Rehearsals
- 10:00 a.m. Thursdays Ladies Handbell Choir

Altar Flowers

to the glory of God

- Dec. 1 Bob & Gayle Valor**, in celebration of their wedding anniversary, December 1.
- Dec. 8 Carole Elliott**, in loving memory of her husband, Charles.

Poinsettia dedications for Advent are printed in a special keepsake bulletin insert for Dec. 15, 22, & 29.

TULSA FESTIVAL RINGERS



7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 12

The **Tulsa Festival Ringers** will share their bell choir talents at 7:00 p.m. on Thurs., Dec. 12, at St. Paul UMC. Make this event part of your holiday tradition! Donations will be accepted.

Church Family Celebrations

Birthdays

12/1	Christina Booher	12/19	Bob Crawford
12/1	Millie Hilfiger	12/19	Jim Hall
12/3	Bob Woods	12/19	Poppy Hilton
12/5	Kathryn Durland	12/19	Chloe Roberts
12/5	Kenny Sambrano	12/20	Patty Ramirez
12/5	Zollie Saxon	12/21	Doug Hendricks
12/6	Weldon Key	12/22	Gabriel Ramirez
12/8	Lisa Schilt	12/22	Jeff Mueller
12/9	Scott Scenter	12/22	Luke Hall
12/10	Jim Davis	12/22	Aislyn Hensley
12/12	Billie Flinn	12/23	Kay Rogers
12/14	Samuel Hensley	12/25	Carole Cole
12/15	Meacham Pool	12/25	Jaime Gile
12/16	Ineta Bebb	12/31	Jenee' Hensley
12/17	Nita Thompson	12/31	Don Anderson
12/18	Stephen Crank		

Anniversaries

12/1	Kem & Becky Hearon
12/1	Bob & Gayle Valor
12/17	Michael & Nannette Morrison
12/21	Carlile & Linda Roberts
12/22	Jim & Jennifer Neely
12/27	Steven & Erin Goss
12/30	Fred & Susan Winters



DINNER CHURCH

Our next weekday Dinner is on

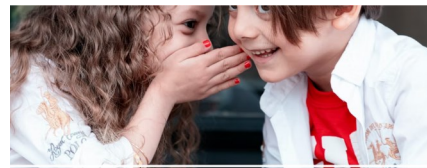
Wednesday, December 11

join us for Spaghetti w/meat sauce,
salad, bread sticks & dessert

Donations of desserts are appreciated.

BACKPACK
Ministry

10:00 a.m. Wed., Dec. 4 & 18
in the Weight Room








INVITE SOMEONE TO CHURCH



Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve
Communion & Candlelight Services
4:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
1 10:00 AM Sunday School 8:45 & 11:00 am Worship Services in the Sanctuary	2 9am-2pm Learning Tree Preschool	3 5:30 p.m. BRIDGES	4 9am-2pm Learning Tree Preschool 10 AM Backpacks 6PM Youth Group 7PM CHANCEL CHOIR	5 10AM Ladies Handbell Choir Rehearsal	6 9am-2pm Learning Tree Preschool	7 Installation Service Bishop Merrill - OKC Leave @ 10:00 a.m.	
8 10:00 AM Sunday School Worship Services 8:45 am - Rowsey Chapel 11:00 am - Sanctuary Communion	9 9am-2pm Learning Tree Preschool 7:30 PM Handels' MESSIAH	10  2024 Bridges Graduation 6:30 p.m.	11 9am-2pm Learning Tree Preschool 5:30 pm DINNER CHURCH 6PM Youth Group Old Fashion Christmas 7PM CHANCEL CHOIR	12 10AM Handbell Choir Rehearsal  7:00 p.m. Tulsa Festival Ringers	13 9am-2pm Learning Tree Preschool	14	
15 10:00 AM Sunday School Worship Services 8:45 am - Rowsey Chapel 11:00 am - Sanctuary 5PM New Life Christmas Party @ Stout's home	16  Angel Tree Gifts Due	17  5:30 p.m. Finance Meeting	18 Butter Braid DELIVERY 10 AM Backpacks 6:00 PM Blue Christmas Communion Worship 7PM CHANCEL CHOIR	19	20	21	
22 10:00 AM Sunday School Worship Services 8:45 am - Rowsey Chapel 11:00 am - Sanctuary	23 Christmas Break No Learning Tree ←	24 4 PM & 9 PM Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary 	CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED			27 →	28
29 10:00 AM Sunday School Worship Services 8:45 am - Rowsey Chapel 11:00 am - Sanctuary	30 Christmas Break No Learning Tree ←	31	1	2	3	4	
CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED				10AM Ladies Handbell Choir Rehearsal			

Weekly at St. Paul:

 Church Committee Meetings

Monday:

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

Tuesday:

AM 7:00 Donut Hole Group (AA)
9:00 CARD Senior Nutrition Program
PM 12:00 Al-Anon
5:30 Bridges Out of Poverty
6:00 Emotions Anonymous 2nd & 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
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)
PM 6:30 It's in the Book (AA) Women only

Sunday:

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



A Program of Prison Fellowship®

Thank you for selecting or funding an Angel Tree child this year!

**Wrapped gifts are due:
Sunday, Dec. 15**

Questions? Contact the church office 918-687-7571.

Don't enjoy shopping??

Give a donation and let our youth be your "personal shoppers" for an Angel. Just mark your check/envelope **Angel Tree**, and they'll take care of the rest.



**New Life SS Christmas Party
5:00 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15
at the Stout's home.**



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. 18. You may also call the church office with your dedication information at 918-687-7571.

If you would like to have your poinsettia, you can take it home on Sunday, December 29, after the 11:00 a.m. services.

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

adminassistant@stpaulmuskogee.com

**CARD Senior
Nutrition Program
at St. Paul UMC**



**Free LUNCH
for anyone
60+ years old
Mon-Fri
9am-1pm**

**To sign up contact Becky
918-341-5000 ext. 302**



St. Paul will hold a worshipful and reverent Blue Christmas service that honors those who have lost loved ones or are experiencing grief or sadness during the holiday season. Childcare will be provided.



Bridges Out of Poverty GRADUATION DAY!

6:30 p.m. Tues., Dec. 10

You are invited to come celebrate the graduates from the Muskogee Bridges Out of Poverty Fall 2024 program. The participants have diligently attended classes each week at St. Paul to learn skills for successful lifestyle habits. We are proud to host this amazing nationally recognized program. See you at 6:30 p.m. on Tues., Dec. 10.

Learning Tree Butter Braids Delivery on Wed., Dec. 18



USHER MINISTRY (Monthly rotation)

8:45 a.m. Ushers

- 1st Sun.: Jim Baker, Mark Unger
- 2nd Sun.: Marilyn Gilder, Jo Gibbs
- 3rd Sun.: Omar Reed, Kermit Lyday
- 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, Youth Group

2024 HOLIDAY Planning Guide

HOLIDAY EVENTS

- 7:30 p.m. Mon., Dec. 9—Messiah
- 6:30 p.m. Tues., Dec. 10 –BOP Graduation
- 5:30 p.m. Wed., Dec. 11—Dinner Church
- 7:00 p.m. Thurs., Dec. 12—Festival Ringers
- 5:30 p.m. Sun., Dec. 15—New Life Party
- 6:00 p.m. Wed., Dec. 18—Blue Christmas

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Tuesday, December 24

4:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m. Services
Communion Candlelight Worship

Church Offices Closed

Dec. 25, 2023 to Jan. 1, 2025

GREETER MINISTRY (Monthly rotation)

8:45 a.m.

- 1st Sun.: L. & P. Christensen
- 2nd Sun.: Ray Griffin
- 3rd Sun.: Christina Booher
- 4th Sun.: L. & P. Christensen
- 5th Sun.: Ray Griffin

11:00 a.m.

- Ed & Pam Johnson
- J. Boydston, Ted Hine
- B. Flinn / B. Hearon
- K. Lyday / S. Daniels
- J. Boydston/B. Hearon

VAN MINISTRY (Monthly rotation)

- 1st Sun.: Drivers: Johnny & Glenda Broome
(Dec. 1) Caller: Linda Foster
- 2nd Sun.: Drivers: Scott & Sam Hensley
(Dec. 8) Caller: Joan Odell
- 3rd Sun.: Driver: Robbie Evans, Tamra Scherer
(Dec. 15) Caller: Renee McMillin
- 4th Sun.: Driver: Kermit Lyday, Manny Ramirez
(Dec. 22) Caller: Margaret Thacker
- 5th Sun.: Driver: Kelly & Diane Beach
(Dec. 29) Caller: Joan Odell