

## ST. PAUL UMC

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<http://stpaulumc.church/>

Lon Tobin, Pastor

### St. Paul United Methodist Church

is a fellowship of believers

**UNITED** by god's love,

**GUIDED** by god's word,

**EMPOWERED** by god's grace, and

**COMMITTED** to sharing our faith in

Jesus Christ with everyone.

December 21, 2022



### REMEMBER IN PRAYERS



Remember in Prayer: Harry & Fran Angstadt, Della Armbrister, Jadrian Atkins, Roy Batchelor, Amanda Bean, Geneva Berry, Danny Bird, Maya Britt, Becky Branson, J.T. Brooks, Hack & Pat Broyles, John Burgon, Sr., Diana Burton, William Byrd, Lindsey Cardwell, Stan Carpenter, Brittany Carter, Ingrid Catron, Sherry Corvin, Reed Counts, Granger Davis, Keith Dossett, George & Clara Farthing, Michelle Fisher, Alfred Grace, Irene Hager, Anisa Hall, John Hammer, Nathaniel, Kayla, & Victoria Hammer, Jennifer Hart, Tom & Jenn Hodges, Charlie Hubert, Dwight Jones, Janet Jones, Al Kanner, Karen Karnei, Bill Marshall, Danny McDaniel, Michael Melton, Mary Midkiff, John Moody, C.D. Moore, Dave Moore, Lynne Perry, Peg Phillips, George "Bud" Porter, William Reagan, Wes Robinson, Juanita Seagle, Candra Seaton, Amelia Sharitz, Sandy Shockley, Lilly Spondike, David Starke, Alfred Stephens, Cathy Stewart, Luke Taylor, Mary E. Turpin, Liz Udell, Patsye Underwood, Darrell Ward, Betty Wolford, Mary Jane Wysor.

### FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

*<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. Luke 2: 8-11*



Life certainly gets exciting around the church come Advent and Christmas! Folks are busy with all that goes into making St Paul a Christmas wonderland. There are smiles on faces and an extra bounce in steps. We look forward to what's next in the festive agenda before us. Oh, don't get me wrong, it's a lot of work, worry, and extra effort. But, somehow, we all seem to think it's worth it.

A perfect example is our Hanging of the Greens Service this year. The Advent folks swarmed the church right after Thanksgiving, decorating every nook and cranny with lights and glitter. Sharon did an outstanding job planning a meaningful worship experience involving people from all over the church. The musicians, soloists, choirs, Gentry Ringers, readers, all prepared rehearsed, and performed their assignments with skill and inspiration. And weren't the children's and young people's contributions something we will always remember?

On the surface, it's all very easily explained – it's Christmas after all. But I'm wondering if there might be a little more to the heightened sense of anticipation and excitement if we look a little deeper. Our celebration of Christmas was set arbitrarily by the early Church. If the "shepherds were in the fields keeping watch over their flocks by night," Jesus was likely born in the spring, not the winter. The season of Advent was established as a

season of preparation for Christmas mirroring the season of Lent that prepares us for Easter. Even December 25<sup>th</sup> was assigned having more to do with the winter solstice than historical fact. The Christmas season is what it is because we decided to celebrate it then. I'd like to suggest that a significant part of the current "spirit" we feel this time of the year, is that we decided to come together expecting "Christmas" to happen and then worked to make it so.

I remember a sentimental and frankly naïve song I've heard: "Why Can't Every Day Be Christmas?" Maybe it can't be, but why can't every Sunday at St Paul be characterized by pews filled with people who come expecting something special will happen? Why can't every Sunday at St Paul be a celebration of the grace of God Who cared so much for each of us, He sent His Son among us? Why can't January and March 25<sup>th</sup> find me as fired up as December 25<sup>th</sup>?

Sure, the decorations might be less, and as important as they are, are they really what fuels and sustains our faith? I don't think so. In the final analysis, what makes Christmas at St Paul so special is that the people of St Paul work together to make your church all that it is this time of year. And when you do, Christ comes to us (Advent) and will be born anew in any heart that openly receives Him (Christmas). True to His name Emmanuel, (God with us), Jesus shows up (where two or three are gathered in my name I am in the midst) His presence makes each week a "potential Christmas" if each of us decides to make it so.

*In Christ's Service, Lon*

2022

Attendance for Sunday
October & November
9:00 Son Light Worship 63, 0, 71, 51
10:55 Worship 68, 149, 60, 66
Sunday School 36, 0, 60, 66


Were You There? Did you Share? Budget Giving Received Worship Service and Sunday School						
Received	Received	Received	Received	Received	Received	Budget
Nov 20	Nov 27	Dec 4	Dec 11		YTD	2022
\$5,500	\$3,057	\$11,156	\$10,780		\$324,224	\$395,807

### PARTNER WITH US IN MINISTRY



1. GIVE BY MAIL (Cash, Check)  
330 Church Street, Wytheville, VA 24382
2. GIVE ONLINE (Debit, Credit, Draft)  
<https://stpaulumc.church>  
Donation button/link is on homepage – Giving tab

**CLICK HERE \*DONATIONS AND GIVING**

3. GIVE BY MONTHLY BANK DRAFT  
Request form from church office 276-228-5539
4. GIVE VIA CHURCH CENTER APP   
Available in app store

### PASTOR LON'S PREACHING FORECAST FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY 2023

December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve – One Service in Sanctuary- We Will Celebrate Communion  
Scripture: Text: Luke 2:1-20 Sermon: Were The Angels Only Dreaming?

Per Administrative Council – No Services on Christmas Day – Enjoy time with your family

January 1st - No Communion  
Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 Sermon: Reflecting on Time

January 8th  
Scripture: Matthew 3: 13-17 Sermon: Down to the River

January 15th  
Scripture: Isaiah 49: 1-7 Sermon: Beyond Destiny

January 22th  
Scripture: Matthew 4: 12-23 Sermon: Whose Calling?

January 28th  
Scripture: Micah 6: 1-8 Sermon: 3 Steps Toward Sanctification

**SYMPATHY**

Our sympathy and Christian love go to Barbara Justice and her family in the death of Clarence Justice on Tuesday, November 22, 2022.

Our sympathy and Christian love go to Rudy & Connie Neese, Kasey & David Crockett and Katie & Derek Alexander and their family in the death of Victoria “Vicki” Lynn Neese on Friday, December 2, 2022.

**MEMORIALS**

**In Memory of Vicki Neese:**

Maintenance: G. W. & Gail Catron  
Preschool: Sue Jones

**In Memory of Clarence Justice:**

Maintenance: G. W. & Gail Catron

**2022 UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH SERVICE AWARD**

Kenny Ervin and Bob Litton are the recipients of the 2022 United Women in Faith Service Award. They have served consecutive terms as chair of the Board of Trustees. They have worked together to keep our very old church in working order, and they have made sure that our properties are well taken care of. When something breaks, doesn't work, or doesn't look good, we call Bob or Kenny. We cannot thank them enough for the inconvenience we have caused them or the hours they have spent in taking care of our church and property.

**THANK YOU**

A note of thanks to those that volunteered to deliver fruit baskets to shut-ins.

**PERSONAL LISTENING DEVICE FOR SANCTUARY**

Would you like improved sound, clarity and volume in the sanctuary? Please be aware of our personal listening system, ask the ushers in the narthex for the little device to take with you to your seat

**PACK UP & CLEAN UP - CHRISTMAS**

If you are able to help with pack up and clean up on January 3, 2023, please at the Church at 9 am.

**WYTHEVILLE CONCERT SERIES**

<p>Wytheville Concert Series Events</p>		<p>Grieg &amp; Beethoven Anna Billias, piano Julie Goudimova, cello Kevin Matheson, violin Friday, February 3rd at 7:00 pm Snyder Auditorium at WCC</p>	
	<p>Beethoven's "Archduke" Harold Brown, piano Julia Goudimova, cello Kevin Matheson, violin Friday, March 10th at 7:00 pm St. John's Episcopal Church</p>		<p>All – American Program The Rainier Trio Saturday, April 22nd at 7:00 pm Snyder Auditorium at WCC</p>

*Merry*  
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY  
*New Year*



**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE THAT WERE ABLE TO HELP WITH  
MAKING THE CHRISTMAS CANTATA – THE OTHER WISEMAN  
A WONDERFUL EVENT**



**HARRY ANGSTADT**

We so wanted to be there but due to Fran and my condition it was a no. St. Paul is our home for almost 50 years. I understand the program was dedicated to me for almost 50 yrs. of service. I am most humbled and honored for this. Singing the Lords praises and bringing it home to the people has been my way of service. I hope and pray He sees it that way. I started singing when I was still a kid, about 13, the choir director asked my mom if I had permission to join. Mom said yes and so started a long journey singing for the Lord. When we moved to Wytheville, I needed a choir and church. K. Stanford Umberger said come with me. That was the best move I ever made. Our choir has the reputation as being the best music in this area. They are the backbone of many fine choir and it is my passion it continues. To Betsy many thanks for keeping Marley straight and always keeping our performances top notch. To my family keep it humble but proud. With that I will close before I wash it away. Peace Harry Angstadt

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

Contact Information for Pastor Lon Tobin Cell Phone: 276-620-4125 Email: [lon.tobin@stpaulumc.church](mailto:lon.tobin@stpaulumc.church)

Please remember to update the church office with changes in mailing address, landline and cell phone numbers by contacting Cheryl Grubb in the church office at 228-5539 or by email [cheryl.grubb@stpaulumc.church](mailto:cheryl.grubb@stpaulumc.church)

Please contact the church office to schedule events, 276-228-5539 or [cheryl.grubb@stpaulumc.church](mailto:cheryl.grubb@stpaulumc.church)

Church Office will be closed on December 26, 2022 & January 2, 2023.

Church Office will be open limited hours December 27, through December 30, 2022. If you need assistance, please contact Pastor Lon.