

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

December 22, 2019 ~ The 4th Sunday of Advent

“Make the Nations Prove: Peaceful Joy”

Prelude ~ “*Christmas Joy*”(arr. M. Helman) ~ St. Paul's Ringers

Welcome and Announcements ~ The Rev. Paul V. Stunkel

Expansion of our Hearts

Procession of Symbols of Worship and Elements of Communion

“Ode to Joy”(Beethoven)~ Leigh Emmett

Focusing on Peaceful Joy

“Joy In The Threshold” ~ DonTulley, liturgist

Lighting of the Advent Candle ~ The Garvey Family

Prayer ~ *in unison*

Holy God, we await again the arrival of Your son, the Prince of Peace. We long for the peaceful waters of joy that run deep and wide underneath all of life. When we feel the chaos of life bearing down on us, help us to remember that it doesn't have to be this way. Help us to step into a slower rhythm that is your Peaceful Joy. Let truth and grace rule our hearts this day. Let truth and grace rule our church this day. Let truth and grace rule the world this day... in the name of Peace. Amen.

**you are invited to stand as you are able*

***Hymn #36** ~ “*In The Bleak Midwinter*”

***Passing the Peace** ~ *You are invited to greet one another with “May you have peaceful joy.”*

Reception of God's Word-The Children's Time to Lead Us

Please Sing: *“I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart.*

“I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

Children's Message ~ *All children are invited.*

Please Sing: *“I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart.*

“I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

Breathing Prayer

Scripture ~ Isaiah 7:13-15 (CEB) and Matthew 1:18-25 as translated in The Message ~ read by Lily Judd with dramatization by Claire Judd, Isabella Borysiak, and Elisabeth Borysiak.

The Word in Music ~ “Mary Had a Baby, My Lord” (traditional Spiritual) ~ St. Paul’s Singers

Sermon ~ “Wondrous Love: Beyond Doing What Law Requires!”

Hymn #20 ~ “Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

Transformation of Our Lives ~ Connecting with our deepest selves, we are able to accept that all of life resides within joy’s possibilities-not only the happy moments, but also the sorrows and difficulties of life. Like the work of our hearts, all that flows in can be given new life and pumped back out with renewed oxygen, giving us strength and courage for all circumstances.

Communion ~ Offering ~ Prayers of the People

Invitation to the Unifying Table

Words of Institution

God’s Word revealed in Bread and Cup

Note: round communion wafers that are gluten free, wheat free, corn free, soy free, and dairy free are available on the serving tray.

***The Lord’s Prayer** ~ *in unison*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Compassion for the World

Connecting to Joy can compel us to want this connection for all beings. We leave this place “with passion” (com-passion) for adding our love, peace, hope, and joy to the world.

***Hymn #29** ~ “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

***Benediction**

***Hymn #40** ~ “Joy to the World” v. 4



All are invited to our **Christmas Eve Services**

December 24

4:00PM ~ Worship and Communion

We will spend time around the manger and visualize holding the Baby.

10:00PM ~ Candlelight and Communion

We will encounter the Light God sends into the world as the Child-Jesus. Imagine a river of Light streaming from God to us.

December 29

All the Christmas carols you have wanted to sing.
Plus the leftovers of the Christmas Story.

******END OF THE YEAR DONATIONS DEADLINE!!!!****

All donations must be received NO LATER THAN NOON on Monday, December 30, 2019 to be credited to commitments made for the 2019 calendar year.

The Rev. Joanne Morgan~ Parish Associate

We are excited to have Jo join our ministry team as Parish Associate. Jo will provide worship leadership and preach monthly. She lives in Livonia and is thrilled at your response to her when she has filled our pulpit. Jo will also be the staff connection to our Mission/Outreach Ministry. Her experience on the last mission trip to West Virginia sealed her commitment. She brings with her a network of friendships and resources in Livonia, having served on the school board. Please make Jo welcome.



from the Mission Team to the four volunteers who spent their Tuesday morning at World Medical Relief preparing 16 boxes of medical supply towels for shipment to Africa.

RESULTS

Results of the election at the congregational meeting on December 1:

Ruling Elders- Class of 2022: Chery Nicholas, Suzanne Tabaka, Jeff Velis

Ruling Elder - Class of 2021: Mike Graham

Ruling Elder - Class of 2020: Jan Lapenta

Deacons - Class of 2022: Gary Pritchard and Mike Weber. One vacancy to be filled.

Deacon - Class of 2020: Karen Bright

Trustees - Class of 2022: Cameron Barsy, Allen Nicholas, Steve Smith

Foundation Trustee - Class of 2024: Rich Sherby

Nominations Committee - 1 year terms: Georgia Hunt and Jeff Velis.
2 positions yet to be filled.

Financial Review Committee: Marion Davis, Jim Day, John Lapenta

Adult Sunday Forums: The *Christian Century* class meets on Sundays at 9:00AM in room 9. Please consider stopping in to this engaging and relevant class addressing the church and our role in the world today. The class discusses current events as presented in the magazine of the same name.

Prayer Gatherings to pray for our church community, ministries, members, and leadership take place at 6:30PM in the Parlor prior to committee meetings (generally on the first Tuesday of each month). (**NOTE:** No gatherings on the third Tuesday). **All** are encouraged to attend, especially anyone who is coming to meetings that night. We are praying through the directory as well as accepting prayer requests which can be left in Kathy Potter's mailbox or emailed to christianeducator@stpaulspresbyterian.church. If you are unable to attend, consider setting aside this or another time to pray for your church family and ministries. **"For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them." Matthew 18:20.**



CARES of Farmington Hills has been selected by the Faith Formation Committee to be the recipient of our **2019 Giving Tree** collection! CARES of Farmington Hills serves Farmington, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Redford and other surrounding communities in a variety of ways. Their food and clothing pantry are open Tuesday through Saturday by appointment. They offer, but do not receive funding for **toiletry items** and so are usually very short on these items. We are now collecting the following: **soap, shampoo, conditioner, baby shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, feminine sanitary supplies, small hand sanitizers, small boxes of band-aids**, etc. Please consider making a donation. We will be accepting items **through Sunday, January 5th**. Your generosity will bring a bit of **JOY** to someone in need and, most likely to **you**, too!



The **Pulpit Nominating Committee** thanks you for your patience and prayers as we seek to find St. Paul's next pastor. As this is a **confidential process**, **we ask that you respect our privacy as the committee works through the process.** We understand you are anxious, however, we seek to maintain the integrity of this search. We will provide details once they are available to be shared with everyone. Thank you again for your patience.



Highlights from the December 17 Council Meeting...

- ◆ Welcomed new elders and thanked the elders whose terms are ending.
- ◆ Elders will send thank you notes to those who have pledged and finance committee will send letters to those who have not pledged.
- ◆ Annual meeting of the congregation will be February 2, 2020.
- ◆ A new Commercial water heater was installed at a cost of \$10,000.00.



In addition to the regular schedule, St. Paul's will be closed on December 25 and 26 and on January 1. No evening office hours on December 24 and 31.



St. Paul's participates in the "2 cents per meal" Presbyterian Hunger Program. Each time we have a community meal, banks are placed on the tables and all are encouraged to contribute. The money collected supports local hunger programs, including our own Food Pantry. If you would like to participate at home, please pick up a bank in the office.

This is an ongoing ministry, so if you fill a bank, you are always welcome to start a new one!



St. Paul's Policy: If Livonia Public Schools are closed for a weather-related reason, St. Paul's is closed and ALL meetings and/or events for the day and evening are cancelled. NO exceptions. Please watch for closing information on the news early in the day or go to the Livonia Public Schools website.



"Crack Open a Hymn Book"

Sunday, January 5, 2020 ~ Soup Luncheon at noon

We will begin the new year by appropriately opening the new hymn books, adhering the honor/memorial plates, and exploring some of what the hymn book has to offer. **Please sign up!!**

 * From the Board of Deacons: *
 * Chancel Flowers and *
 * Food Baskets *
 * Envelopes for ordering are in the office. *
 * Payment of \$20.00 is required at the time *
 * the order is placed. *
 * The flower chart in the lobby is *
 * available to reference availability only. *
 * Please DO NOT write on the chart, *
 * but check for available dates *
 * BEFORE ordering. *
 * Flowers may be placed from February 9 *
 * through November 22, 2020 *
 * Food Baskets may be *
 * designated for any Sunday. *
 * Donations for food baskets support the *
 * outreach ministries of the Deacons. *



BOARD OF DEACONS FOOD PANTRY

Donations of the following items are always gratefully accepted!

Each bag contains: a roll of paper towels, a large roll of toilet tissue, 1 large or 2 small cans of tuna, 1 can of meat (SPAM, etc.), 2 boxes of macaroni and cheese, 2 cans of soup, 2 cans of vegetables, 1 can of fruit, 1 box of gelatin, 1 package of pasta, 1 can of pasta sauce, 1 can of pasta (ravioli, etc.), 1 package of a side dish (potatoes, rice dishes, tuna helper, etc.), 1 sleeve of crackers (saltines or graham), 1 box of cereal, 1 jar of peanut butter, 1 jar of jelly or jam, and sample sized toiletries.

Here are some things we need, please:



SEALED WRAPPED plastic ware to donate to Crossroads Soup Kitchen. A collection box is in the office.

SWIVEL-STYLE PLASTIC HANGERS for the dresses. Please place in the **smallest** lobby shopping cart.



NEWSPAPER - just the printed pages - no inserts - for the community garden project. A box is under the lobby sign-up table.



Stewardship

Weekly Stewardship

December 15, 2019
General Fund: \$4,272.00

Building Improvement Fund: \$190.00

Where some of your tithes and offerings go:
City of Livonia-water: \$1,474.68

2020 Pledge update as of December 15, 2019

General Fund
45 pledging units: \$129,413.00

Building Improvement Fund
26 pledging units: \$31,750.00



In memory of...

Lucille Ladouceur
December 14, 2019

The funeral service was held on
December 20



THE WEEKLY OFFICE SCHEDULE IS:

Monday - Work day for Pastor Paul and Wanda IN THE OFFICE.

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday - Regular Office hours - 9:00AM - 5:00PM.

Tuesday and Thursday Evening Office hours - 6:00PM – 9:00PM

Friday-Closed.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Carol Townsend, Joyce Barton, Pam Phillips
Suzanne Tabaka, Jim & Joanna Roye, Bill Dust
Nola Bonandrini, Tamar Duthie
Frank & Nancy Saunders, Janet Pridgeon
Jerry Stone, Beverly Dearth
Anita Falk, Kathleen Warren, Bob Liebertz
Lila Hindmarsh, Susan Grant, Grace Campbell
Bruce Phillips, Barbara Kett
Katie Potter ~ granddaughter of Kathy Potter
Christine Piastowski ~ daughter of Karen Bright
Janet Kusuhara ~ cousin of Meta Tulley
John Barclay ~ uncle of Steve Boyak
Dorothy Farquhar ~ aunt of Eric
Eli Nicholas ~ father of Allen
Joe Ducsay ~ friend of Mike & Carol Graham
Mark Osborne ~ son of Janet
Sarah & Mason Young ~ cousins of Judy McGregor
Tony S. ~ cousin of Gail Artinian
Diane Calloway ~ cousin of Gail Artinian
MaryAnn Tabaka ~ mother of Suzanne
Eric Tabaka ~ nephew of Suzanne
Cyndi Knecht ~ daughter of Doris
Joe Perko ~ friend of Wanda & Bob Seymour
David Bonandrini ~ son of Nola & Ben
Zoe Marcus ~ friend of Karen Erwin
Gideon Janku ~ great nephew of Bob Westbrook
Judy Siegfried ~ sister-in-law of Pam Phillips
Randy Tillman ~ son of Gloria Rubbo
Leslie Benoit ~ daughter of Tamar Duthie
Mary Rayes ~ friend of Pat Hutchison
Adam Schilling ~ grandson of Ron & Janet Frank
Eric Schilling ~ grandson of Ron & Janet Frank
Donald Keller III ~ son of Jan Lapenta
Scott Davis ~ son of Sheldon & Marion Davis
Jill Haddox ~ friend of Connie Shoup

Please review the prayer list and report any changes to the office as soon as possible.

Calendar for December 22 - December 29, 2019



Sunday, December 22 9:00AM
Christian Century Forum.....9
9:00AM Breakfast.....Genesis Hall
Rehearsal following the breakfast
10:15AM Worship.....Sanctuary

Monday, December 23

Tuesday, December 24
4:00PM Worship.....Sanctuary
10:00PM Worship.....Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 25
Closed



Thursday, December 26
Closed

Friday, December 27

Saturday, December 28

Sunday, December 29
9:00AM *Christian Century Forum*.....9
10:15AM Worship.....Sanctuary



PLEASE check our website:
www.stpaulspresbyterian.church for
current St. Paul's information, now
including the weekly bulletin!

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Website

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The Rev. Paul V. Stunkel
Pastor

The Rev. Joanne Morgan
Parish Associate

Presbytery of Detroit: www.PbyDetroit.org
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): www.pcusa.org

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church...
feeding people- body, mind, and spirit.

CCLI # 2342595 CVLI # 502166520