

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

December 24, 2019 ~ 10:00PM Christmas Eve Communion Service

"The Lord is Come: Incarnate Joy"

Prelude ~ "In Terra Pax" (arr. Finzi) ~ Christian Kreipke, our guest this evening! Welcome!!

Welcome ~ The Rev. Paul V. Stunkel

Focusing on Compassionate Joy ~ 300 years of "Joy to the World!"

Opening Prayer ~ *in unison*

Holy God, we give you thanks that you became Joy-Made-Flesh in Jesus Christ so that your hope, love, joy, and peace could be multiplied in all of heaven and earth. Help us to remember that this is our true nature and that simply being the humans you have created us to be—including our moments of struggle and sadness—is what you want us to do fully, hopefully, lovingly, unabashedly, peacefully. Together we proclaim that the Lord has come to our hearts this day. The Lord has come to our church this day. The Lord has come to the world this day! Amen.

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

***Hymn #40** ~ "Joy to the World"

***Passing the Peace** ~ *You are invited to greet those around you by saying, "Joy to You!"*

Reception of God's Word ~ As we open to receive the Word and interpret its meaning for our lives, we connect to the depths of our being where the River of Joy is always flowing. We have only to dip into it for, we have the "joy, joy, joy, joy, down in our hearts."

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

Hebrew Scripture ~ Isaiah 52:7-10 ~ p. 683 O.T.

Carol #41 ~ "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Hebrew Scripture ~ Isaiah 9:2-7 ~ p. 638 O.T.

Carol #30 ~ "Born in the Night, Mary's Child"

Gospel ~ John 1:1-5, 10-14 ~ p. 91 N.T.

The Word in Music ~ "Noel" (C. Tomlin, E. Cash, and M. Redman) ~ St. Paul's Singers

Gospel ~ Luke 2:1-7 ~ p. 58 N.T.

Carol #31 ~ “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Gospel ~ Luke 2:8-14 ~ p. 58 N.T.

Message ~ “A River Runs Through It”

***Carol #53** ~ “What Child Is This”

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 Lord’s Table

Words of Institution

God’s Love Light illumines us through 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.

***Hymn #60** ~ “Silent Night, Holy Night”

(When sharing the light, please hold the lit candle upright, tipping **only** the unlit candle.)

***Benediction**

***Postlude** ~ “Canticle on a Christmas Theme”(arr. Kreipke)

**The Christmas Eve Offering supports the many outreach ministries
of the Board of Deacons.**

Wishing you and yours a very blessed Christmas!



*****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 office will be open!



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 31.



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. Watch for closing information on the news early in the day or go to the Livonia Public Schools website.



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.



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!

Our next **ROMANS** event will take place Sunday, January 19th following worship. We will be making necklaces to donate to the Deacons for BINGO prizes. This was a creative time of fellowship and service last year. The necklaces were so popular last year that the residents have been clamoring for more! We need lots of hands for this sit down, simple craft project! **Please mark your calendar, plan to join us, and sign up in the lobby!**

Kathy Potter, Coordinator of Christian Education



"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!!**

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.**

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.

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.



 * 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.

Stewardship

Weekly Stewardship

December 22, 2019
General Fund: \$

Building Improvement Fund: \$

Where some of your tithes and offerings go:
DTE-November: \$925.52

2020 Pledge update as of December 22, 2019

General Fund
46 pledging units: \$130,253.00

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



In memory of...

Lucille Ladouceur
December 14, 2019

Services were 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 24, 2019 - January 1, 2020

Tuesday, December 24

4:00PM Family Worship with communion
10:00PM Candlelight Communion

Wednesday, December 25

**Christmas Day
Closed**

Thursday, December 26

Closed

Friday, December 27

Saturday, December 28

Sunday, December 29

**1st Sunday after Christmas Day
10:15AM Worship.....Sanctuary**

Monday, December 30

**Noon
2019 Donations DEADLINE!!!**

Tuesday, December 31

No evening hours

Wednesday, January 1

**New Year's Day
Closed**

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

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Website

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The Rev. Paul V. Stunkel

Pastor

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.**

*Unified in Christ, our mission is to bring people to
Jesus by practicing God's will for our lives through
worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and
mission!*

SPPC Mission Statement

CCLI # 2342595 CVLI # 502166520