



The Grapevine

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

1314 Foulk Road, Wilmington, DE 19803

Office: 302/478-3135

E-mail: stpaulsumcde@comcast.net

Website: www.stpaulsumcde.org

St. Paul's is a caring, Christ-centered congregation reaching out to the world by sharing the Good News through our Worship, Missions, Christian Education, and Fellowship.

December 17, 2023

Adult Sunday School Class today at 11:00 a.m.

Embury Room: We continue our study of **"That The World May Know"** with Ray Vander Laan. We will do two episodes (12/3 & 12/10) focusing on Galilee, from Volume 6, "In the Dust of the Rabbi," which focuses on Jesus calling his Disciples. As we approach Christmas, we will do two holiday episodes of "The Chosen." "The Shepherds" on December 17 and "The Messengers" on December 24.

Led by Brent & Carole Burdge.

Heck Room Hybrid: *Down To Earth* by Mike Slaughter. Down to Earth - - LIFESTYLE —We will examine how God's Spirit equips us to live a faith-based lifestyle. *When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.* Mathew 1:24 The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87942731599?pwd=SUM4bmlzbFVYMxVslzVad1BzUVMrZz09> additional password 486254.

Led by Agnes Barkley

Coke Room: We are studying Paul's letters to the Thessalonians. These two letters are some of the earliest letters written by Paul, and their message is still meaningful today.

Led by David McIlvaine

Advent at St. Paul's

"Prepare the way for the Lord; clear a straight path for him."

Luke 3:2

This is the season of Advent. Advent means *coming* or *arrival*. This is the time when we await with great expectation the coming of our Lord -- the great Christian festival of Christmas. Let us prepare a way for the Lord and make his path straight so that there will not be any obstacles in his way. Come, Lord Jesus. Come!

3rd Sunday of Advent "The Joy of Being Known"

Pastor Spyers

4th Sunday of Advent "Rejoice" Pastor Schuler

Christmas Eve (7 pm) "Just This" Pastor McMillan

First Sunday of Christmas "Seeing Our Salvation"

Pastor McMillan



CHRISTMAS Season SCHEDULE

Dec. 17, 9:30 a.m. Worship

Dec. 24, 9:30 a.m. Worship

Dec. 24, 7:00 p.m. Worship

Dec. 31, 9:30 a.m. Worship

Dec. 31, following Worship

3rd Sunday of Advent

4th Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve Service

1st Sunday of Christmas

Celebration Brunch

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 19, 6:30-8 p.m.

Come and join me for an evening of Christmas Caroling to the homes of a few of our more elderly members. We will meet at the church, where music sheets will be handed out, before carpooling to various locations. We will then return to the church for hot chocolate and cookies in the Susannah Wesley Lounge. Please let me know if you have any questions. - Pastor Dave

St. Paul's Christmas Eve Service. 7:00 p.m.

Come and join us on Christmas Eve for a service of Carols, Bells, Choir Anthems, the spoken Word, Christmas Meditation, Holy Communion, and the Lighting of the Silent Night Candles. Also, during the service, all children will be invited down to the altar to gather around the manger and receive a Christmas gift before returning to their seat. O come and let us adore him, Jesus Christ, our King! - Pastor Dave

New Year's Eve Day Celebration Brunch

Sunday December 31, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.

Join us for food, fun, and fellowship as we ring in 2024 with a brunch in Fellowship Hall. We will have quiche, sausage, pastries, fresh fruit and other delicious food. We will also have a sparkling cider toast to the coming year.

Today

9:00 am Choir Rehearsal
9:30 am Sunday Worship

10:30 am Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall
10:45 am Adult Sunday School, Sunday School wing

This Week

MONDAY (18)

7:00 pm Church Council, Heck Room

TUESDAY (19)

WEDNESDAY (20)

9:00 am Ugly Quilts, Asbury Room
12:00 pm Grief Support, Coke Room
5:30 pm Al-Anon, Coke Room

THURSDAY (21)

8:00 am TMWC, church-wide
5:30 pm JuBellation Ringers, Music Room

FRIDAY (22)

7:00 pm AA Meeting, Coke Room

SATURDAY (23)

10:00 am Choir Rehearsal, Music Room

2024 Annual Stewardship Campaign Results

I'm happy to announce that to date, we have received 75 Estimate of Giving Cards for 2024 totaling \$386,847,392, as well as another 8 promises to "give as able." In 2023, we had 87 promises totaling \$422,393. So, as you can see, we still have a way to go to match last year's promises and giving. If you are still intending to submit an Estimate of Giving Card for the coming year 2024, please drop your card in the offering basket on Sunday morning or mail it into the church office at your earliest convenience. Cards are now available in the Narthex and church office.

2024 Offering Envelopes

Your 2024 Offering Envelopes are now available in the hall next to the Narthex. If you are not receiving offering envelopes but would like to, please contact the church office or Tom Gorman, our church Financial Secretary, at finsec@stpaulsumcde.org

Christmas Eve Special Offering: Helping Migrant Families

As Mary, Joseph, and Jesus fled for safety to a foreign land, so throughout the Bible, we are given the mandate to care for the sojourner and migrant in our midst (Leviticus 19:33-34).

This year's Christmas Eve Special Offering will go to support churches who are working with refugees who have been bused from our nation's border to Washington, D.C. To welcome and minister to these individuals and families, Capitol Hill and Beacon of Light United Methodist Churches, of the Baltimore-Washington Conference, have partnered with other community organizations to provide emergency shelter, food, and clothing. Our Christmas Eve Offering will go to help support their efforts. If you would like to help in this ministry, please make your check out to St. Paul's UMC with "Helping Migrant Families" written in the memo line and place it in the offering basket.

Living Well Day-Long Retreat

Saturday, January 27, 2024 ♦ 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Please join us for a day-long retreat to be held at St. Paul's on January 27, 2024. The retreat will be facilitated by Rev. Amanda McMurtrey, and will focus on "Living Well." We will explore what it means to have an attitude of strength and wellness in body, mind, and spirit, both as individuals and as the body of Christ. Snacks and lunch will be provided. There is a cost of \$20 per person. Look for brochures with a tear-off form in the Narthex. You can also sign up on-line or by using the QR code on the posters in the building. Don't wait. Sign up now!

Ordering Church Flowers

We have received word from Belak Flowers, who provide the altar flowers, that after years of keeping the same price for flowers, they now have to increase their prices. Starting January 2024, the cost for the two arrangements will be \$90. We appreciate that this is the first price increase in many years.

If you would like to sponsor altar flowers for the sanctuary for worship, please contact Barbara Crawford at 302-999-0462 or barbandrodc@comcast.net.



Thank You and a Request from Ugly Quilts

Thank you for your great response in bringing in sheets for our Ugly Quilts. You were so good about that request, they now ask for mattress covers, comforters, bed spreads, and drapes. Other flat household fabrics (no towels please) are welcome too. They are busy making quilts for the homeless and your donations help a lot. Thanks again.

Office Closed During Christmas Week

The office will be closed December 25 through January 1, 2024 and will reopen on January 2, 2024.