

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

December 1, 2019 ~ The 1st Sunday of Advent

“Prepare Him Room: Hopeful Joy”

Prelude ~ “O Come All Ye Faithful” ~ St. Paul's Ringers

Welcome and Announcements ~ The Rev. Paul V. Stunkel

Procession of Symbols of Worship and Elements of Communion

Focusing on Hopeful Joy

“Joy In The Threshold”

Lighting of the Advent Candle ~ The VanEck Family

Prayer ~ *please respond as directed*

Holy God, you are our joy. You are the joy that runs deep and wide underneath all of life. This is our hope, that You are ever-present and constantly shifting our fear to compassion and grinding our swords into plows.

Congregational Response: Let us prepare him room in our hearts this day.

Let us prepare him room in our church this day.

Let us prepare him room in world this day... for Hope. Amen.

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

***Song of Joy #464** ~ *“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”*

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

Reception of God's Word

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.

The Children's Time to Lead Us ~ *All children are invited. At the conclusion, children ages 3 and above have the option to participate in supervised Sunday School.*

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 2:1-5 (CEB) and Romans 13:11-14 as translated in The Message

The Word in Music ~ “Joy” (J. Ingram, P. Wickham) ~ St. Paul's Singers

Sermon ~ “Preparing Room in the Heart”

***Response** ~ *“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”*

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 fleshed out 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

Connection 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** ~ "A Place At The Table"

Congregational Meeting

***Benediction**

"Joy to the World" v. 1

***Postlude**

to the volunteers who prepared the church for the
Advent and Christmas season!
And to Jim and Charlotte Day who also provided lunch!



Highlights from the November 19 Council Meeting...

- ◆ Joanne Morgan will be the Parish Associate, preaching when Paul is not available
- ◆ Christmas Eve services are at 4:00PM and 10:00PM
- ◆ Congregational Meeting called for December 1 for the purpose of electing officers



Redford Civic Symphony Concert
“Holiday Cheer and Pops”
Featuring holiday favorites and
a few new ones as well!
Sunday, December 8 @3:00PM
Sanctuary

Our Annual **Cookies for Crossroads** ROMANS 12:4 event is just around the corner!

As usual, **180 dozen homemade Christmas Cookies** have been requested to add some joy to the at-risk rural youth of western Michigan served by Crossroads! That's a lot of cookies!!

Sunday, December 8th following worship, we will gather for a meal, a brief carol sing and decorating and boxing of the Christmas cookies you provide! **Please sign up** in the lobby indicating attendance and cookie donation details. The event needs advance planning and coordination, so please sign up early!! All are encouraged to participate! We will have activities for all mobility levels!! It's a time of festivity and fellowship! See you there!



Medium sized sturdy cardboard boxes are needed for transporting the packaged cookies on December 8. If you have some to donate, please bring them to Kathy Potter on or before December 8.



The Annual Children/Youth Family Christmas Breakfast is taking place on **Sunday, December 22 at 9am in Genesis Hall!** We have breakfast together and hold an **ornament exchange!**

For the exchange, **please bring a wrapped inexpensive ornament for each child/youth participating.** Also, if your child would like to bring an additional ornament to add to our

Sunday School Christmas tree, bring an **unwrapped ornament with their name and year written on it.** We will add it to our tree and it will be a part of our Christmas tree for years to come! For any children participating in worship that morning, we will have a **rehearsal between breakfast and the exchange**, so please plan to be here early and be ready to eat at 9am! **Please sign up in the lobby** if your family will be attending and indicate how many will be with you.
Kathy Potter, Coordinator of Christian Education

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. Beginning **Sunday, December 1st** we will be collecting the following items: **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.

**All women are cordially invited to Sarah Circle
Wednesday, December 4**

at noon in Room 9

Please bring a lunch and the study book Beatitudes from the Back Side

Questions? Please contact Georgia Hunt at 734.427.3493.



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.



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!



"Crack Open a Hymn

Book"

Sunday, January 5, 2020

A special time of opening the new hymnal "*Glory to God*,"
inserting the honor/memorial plates,
and exploring the songs included.

Lunch will be provided!

**POINSETTIAS FOR THE SEASON OF
ADVENT**

The Board of Deacons will once again decorate the sanctuary with their silk poinsettias. For a donation of \$10.00, you may memorialize or honor someone with this **symbolic gift**, and your donation will support the many ongoing ministries of the Board of Deacons. Envelopes for ordering are in the office and will be accepted through December 15. Acknowledgements will be in the bulletin on the 4th Sunday of Advent and on Christmas Eve.

* From the Board of Deacons: *
* The dates for 2019 are filled. Watch for *
* the new flower chart with 2020 dates! *
* The flower chart in the lobby is *
* available to reference availability only. *
* Please DO NOT write on the chart! *
* Food Baskets may be *
* designated for any Sunday. *
* Donations for food baskets support the *
* outreach ministries of the Deacons. *
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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

November 24, 2019
General Fund: \$3,802.00

Building Improvement Fund: \$425.00

Where some of your tithes and offerings go:
DTE-October: \$694.95

2020 Pledge update as of November 24, 2019

General Fund
34 pledging units: \$110,378.00

Building Improvement Fund
23 pledging units: \$28,600.00

FYI

For Your Information

Regular office hours are Tuesday through Thursday from 9:00AM to 5:00PM. The office is also open on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00PM until 9:00PM. Pastor Paul's day off is Friday and the office is closed on Friday.

Mondays continue to be reserved as "prep" day **in the office** for Pastor Paul and Wanda.

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, Lucille Ladouceur
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
Henry Alexander ~ friend of Ron & Janet Frank
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
Marcy Hare ~ daughter of Lucille Ladouceur
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
Eric Schilling ~ grandson of Ron & Janet Frank
Dottie Kinville ~ mother of Jeff Kinville
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 November 24 - December 1, 2019



Sunday,

December 1

9:00AM *Christian Century Forum*.....9

10:15AM Worship.....Sanctuary

Congregational Meeting to elect officers

Worship Rehearsal following the service

Monday, December 2

Tuesday, December 3

5:30PM PNC.....9

6:30PM Prayer Gathering.....Parlor

6:45PM Trustees.....Genesis Lobby

7:00PM Faith Formation.....11

7:30PM Mission/Outreach.....16

7:30PM Administration.....9

7:30PM NA.....J/K

Wednesday, December 4

10:30AM Moving with the Spirit.....Parlor

Noon Sarah Circle.....9

Thursday, December 5

4:30PM Worship Committee.....16

6:00PM Redford Rehearsal.....Sanctuary

6:45PM Girl Scouts.....Social Hall

7:30PM NA.....J/K

7:30PM AA/Alanon.....Genesis Lobby/9/22

Friday, December 6

6:00PM SOLAR Party.....Social Hall

Saturday, December 7

Sunday, December 8

9:00AM *Christian Century Forum*.....9

10:15AM Worship.....Sanctuary

ROMANS 12:4 following the service

Worship Rehearsal following the service

3:00PM Redford Civic Symphony Concert

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