

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

December 15, 2019 ~ The 3rd Sunday of Advent

“Make the Blessings Known: Unabashed Joy”

Prelude ~ “*The Friendly Beasts*” (arr. K. McChesney) ~ 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 Unabashed Joy

“*Joy In The Threshold*” and **Presentation of the Chrismons** ~ Don Tulley, liturgist

Lighting of the Advent Candle ~ The Liebertz Family

Prayer ~ *in unison*

Holy God, you provide the source of our joy. It runs deep and wide underneath all of life. When we are tempted to depend on others for happiness, draw us back to you, for you are the Light that shines for us always. Help us to shine that light from within us through our own Unabashed Joy. Let us make your blessings known in our hearts this day. Let us make your blessings known in our church this day. Let us make your blessings known in the world this day... in the name of Joy. Amen.

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

***Song of Joy** ~ “*Canticle of the Turning*”

***Passing the Peace** ~ *You are invited to greet one another with “May you have unabashed 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. 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 35:1-10 (CEB) and Luke 1:46b-55 as translated in The Message

The Word in Music ~ “*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*” (L. V. Beethoven) ~ St. Paul’s Singers

Sermon ~ “Singing in Trouble”

Sung Response #48 ~ “*Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming*”

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** ~ “*No Wind At The Window*”

***Benediction**

***Hymn #40** ~ “*Joy to the World*” v. 3

***Postlude**

All are invited to coffee hour in the Parlor!

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.



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.

AND...Thanks be to God!!! And thanks to our congregation for opening your hearts for God to work through you! Last Sunday, a **ROMANS** crew of about **35 strong packaged up 192 DOZEN** boxes of cookies to encourage the youth served by Crossroads Farm in western Michigan this Christmas! That means you provided over **2304** cookies! Thanks also to the Faith Formation Committee for their efforts in making this event happen and to the VanEcks for another delicious meal! 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



Christmas Eve Services

Tuesday, December 24

Incarnate Joy ~ Isaiah 9; Luke 2

4:00PM ~ Early service for young and old will include Communion

10:00PM ~ Candlelight Communion

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. 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.



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.



Volunteers! St. Paul's will serve at **World Medical Relief** in Southfield on **Tuesday, December 17 from 9:00AM until Noon.**

Please sign up, **pick up the required volunteer release form**, and meet at 8:30AM to carpool. The site is approximately 15 minutes from the church.



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!



"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!!**

**POINSETTIAS FOR THE SEASON OF
ADVENT**

The Board of Deacons have once again decorated 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 **TODAY**. Acknowledgements will be in the bulletin next Sunday and on Christmas Eve.

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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.

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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

December 8, 2019
General Fund: \$2,068.00

Building Improvement Fund: \$385.00

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

2020 Pledge update as of December 8, 2019

General Fund
44 pledging units: \$126,713.00

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



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.



If you have **SEALED WRAPPED** plastic ware that you do not need, please bring it and we will donate it to Crossroads Soup Kitchen. A donation box is in the office.

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
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 December 15 - December 22, 2019



Sunday,

December 15

Rehearsal prior to the service

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

10:15AM Worship.....**Sanctuary**

Rehearsal following the service

Coffee Hour following the service

Monday, December 16

Tuesday, December 17

5:30PM PNC.....9

6:00PM Production Ministry.....7

7:00PM Council.....16

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

Wednesday, December 18

Thursday, December 19

9:00AM Bridge.....Genesis Lobby

6:00PM Ringers Rehearsal.....F

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

6:30PM Singers Rehearsal.....F

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

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

Friday, December 20

Saturday, December 21

Sunday, December 22

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

9:00AM Breakfast.....Genesis Hall
Rehearsal following the breakfast
10:15AM Worship.....**Sanctuary**

Reminder!

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

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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