

DECEMBER 2024

the EPISTLE



Advent Events

Hanging of the Greens

Dec 1st-7:00pm

Come to Christmas

Dec 8th-4:30pm

Lessons & Carols

Dec 15th-9:30am

A Service of Light in the Darkness

Dec 18th-6:00pm

Christmas Pageant

Dec 22nd-9:30am

Christmas Eve

Dec 24th
5:00pm & 7:00pm

Beginning in January, the Epistle is going digital. If you still wish to receive a paper copy, please let the office know.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- Dec 1 Combined Morning Worship begins, 9:30am
Hanging of the Greens, 7:00pm, Sanctuary
- Dec 2 Ed Wynn Lunch, 10:30am
Sanders Hall
- Dec 3 Alzheimer's Lunch, 11:30am
Parlor
- Dec 4 Human Scavenger Hunt, after dinner, Sanders Hall
- Dec 5 Circle of Support, 10:00am, Parlor
- Dec 7 A Ceremony of Carols, 7:00pm
Sanctuary
- Dec 8 Come to Christmas, 4:30pm
- Dec 9 Congregational Care mt, 10:30am, Room 326
- Dec 10 United Women in Faith, 11:00am, Sanders Hall
- Dec 11 Kids@Art Show, 6:45pm, Sanctuary
- Dec 12 MomCo Meeting, 9:30am, Sanders Hall
- Dec 15 Lessons & Carols, 9:30am, Sanctuary
- Dec 18 Service of Light in the Darkness, 6:00pm, Sanctuary
- Dec 19 Circle of Support, 10:00am, Parlor
- Dec 21 Manna on Meridian, 8:00am, Faith Presbyterian
Soul Food, 9:30am, Lake Ella
- Dec 22 Christmas Pageant, 9:30am, Sanctuary
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve Services, 5:00pm & 7:00pm

CREATION *care*

HOLIDAY TIPS!

The holidays are here! Let's make them festive and sustainable. Here are a few tips:

1. Shop local businesses as much as possible, and bring your own bags to cut down on plastic.
2. Use and reuse gift bags. Reuse tissue paper...it's not recyclable. Display your gift in a basket or wrapped in fabric/tea towel/blanket/scarf from thrift stores.
3. Give Fair Trade presents this Christmas.
4. Give your PRESENCE, not just presents..... an adventure or an experience that can be shared, talked about and remembered long after the "stuff" has been covered over in the landfill or clutters your home. See ideas below
5. Spend time with children baking gifts to share with friends and neighbors.
6. Eating out? Bring your own takeout container from your home.
7. Decorate your home or table with gifts from nature: fresh pine branches, pine cones, magnolia leaves and other foliage from your yard.

Clutter-free Gifts to spark your OWN ideas

- Experiences: Tickets to movies, concerts, community theater or sporting events, Restaurant gift card, Bowling passes, Daddy-daughter date, Painting/Art classes
- Gifts of services/time: car washing, yard service, house cleaning, babysitting, massage, manicure/pedicure
- Memberships to Tallahassee Museum, trampoline park, art museum, theme parks, state/national parks
- Trips to natural wonders, hikes, camping in special places
- Gifts of consumables like a fruit basket, coffee beans/gift card, local foods, chocolates

Creation Care ministry continues to partner with Tallahassee Green Faith Alliance and the Sowing Seeds Sowing Comfort ministry by providing volunteers to work in the iGrow Garden on Dent Street. A group of us, dubbed the “divine dirt

gardeners,” meet every Monday morning to dig in the dirt 😊. Recently we led groups of student volunteers from FAMU and FSU as they met on the huge property to plant out large beds of collard, mustard, broccoli, and kale sprouts. When they are ready for harvest in a few months, the produce goes to people in the community who are experiencing food insecurity.



The Creation Care team participated in Trunk or Treat in a different way this year by providing a healthy snack of popcorn for trick-or-treaters. We partnered with Sustainable Tallahassee to buy the popcorn machine, and invite our church groups to borrow it (just clean and store it where you found it). Contact Jessie at 850-320-4040 if you would like to use it for your event.



Merry Christmas from your Creation Care Green Team!

DECEMBER events

SUNDAY NIGHT WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Join us every Sunday evening for our shared Contemporary Worship Service with Good Samaritan UMC, in Sanders Hall. This service begins at **6:00pm**. All are welcome to come.

MEN'S READING COMMUNITY

The Men's Reading Group meets on Tuesday mornings at Ology Northside. They gather each **Tuesday at 9am**. We are reading and discussing "The Christ Commission" by Og Mandino. This is a novel about a man who travels back in time to interview eye-witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus.

If you are interested in learning more about this group, please contact David Gill (davidmurrhagill@gmail.com) or Nic Fugate (ndfugate@gmail.com)

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

United Women in Faith will be meeting Tuesday, December 10th, at 11:00 in Sanders Hall. We are meeting an hour later because this will be our annual Christmas salad luncheon. Everyone attending is asked to bring either a salad or a dessert.

Come join us for a morning of service and fellowship. All women of the church are welcome. If you have any questions please contact Peggy Harter, 850-339-1356, or harterp97@gmail.com.

CRAFTY CROP

Crafty Crop will be taking December off but returns on **January 3 & 4!** Bring your projects and table space will be provided. The fellowship begins on **Friday at 4:00 p.m.** You may leave your projects all set up to continue the fun on **Saturday at 10:00 a.m.** Any questions and/or to sign up, contact Jill Merryday (850-443-9428).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Maria Alexander, Stanley Etheridge, Danny Nystrand
- 3 Adriana Combs
- 4 Alan Harwood, Gary Mason
- 7 Nancy Schildt
- 8 Darryl Scriven
- 9 Jo Ellen Brown
- 10 Ian Schrader, Annie Wilde
- 12 Hazel Oliver
- 13 Lynn Peacock
- 14 David Sellers
- 15 Coraline Kline, Mac Martin, John Robert Quinton, Hadassah Rios
- 16 Nancy Ross, Carl Slaughter
- 17 James Andrews, Angela Murphy, Laura Wright
- 20 Julia Cox, Samuel Lewis, Crill Merryday
- 21 Jonathan Leach
- 22 Dale Croft
- 23 Peggy Harter, Bekkah Sheetz
- 24 Doris Henderson, Eliza Wirth
- 25 Alicia Batailles, Bob Thomas
- 26 Susan Droessler
- 27 Cassie Griesheimer, Daren Shippy
- 28 Kristin Dowell, Leslie Scott
- 29 Alyssa Griesheimer
- 30 Barbara Jaeger, Norma Nahoom, Lilah Grace Schroeder
- 31 Corrine Waltz

MISSION ministries

CAPITAL AREA JUSTICE MINISTRY UPDATES

Here are some updates from a recent CAJM newsletter:

GUN VIOLENCE INTERRUPTION-The "focused deterrence" strategy is now being implemented! It is part of Sheriff Walt McNeil's Violence Reduction Plan and is being led by the Council on the Status of Men and Boys. The Council began reaching out to known gun violence initiators on July 8, 2024, offering them a way out of a violent lifestyle leading to arrest. Our next step for our win is to gather our people-power to ensure that the Tallahassee City Commission follows through on its commitment to invest \$5 million into this effort. Stay tuned for an opportunity to support gun violence interruption funding at an upcoming City Commission meeting.

JUVENILE CIVIL CITATIONS- So far, only the Sheriff's department is following through on its commitment to increase issuance of civil citations to 80% of eligible youth. We need more people power on March 31, 2025 to get City of Tallahassee leaders to respond to the community's needs.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR VERY/EXTREMELY LOW-INCOME RENTERS- We have pushed our city commission, county commission and Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency to invest public dollars into affordable rental housing for families earning less than 443,000 per year.

NEW ISSUE: FOOD INSECURITY- We had 37 house meetings across our area and heard that too many of our neighbors lack access to food. You are invited to join CAJM to research policies to help get food to those who are lacking it. Please attend the **RESEARCH KICKOFF** on Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 6:00pm at Jacob's Chapel Baptist Church, 2333 Lake Bradford Road.

MANNA ON MERIDIAN

We know December is a busy time and it can be hard to find time to volunteer. We will need volunteers on December 21st from 8:00-10:00am. This is a great opportunity for families to join together to help those in need. Call or text Barbara Block at 850 241 2642 to discuss!

RESIDING HOPE- CHRISTMAS GIFT CARD DRIVE

Our annual Christmas Gift Card Drive for Residing Hope Children's Home and Madison Youth Ranch is underway. We invite you to participate with us by purchasing gift cards to be given to the Children in our ministry. We will continue collecting thru December 8th. You can drop off your donation on Sundays at church or in the front office. Please see the Weekly Notes for more details.

JAIL AND PRISON MINISTRY- OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE

Our Jail and Prison Ministry is again (with member support) spreading cheer to children with an incarcerated parent or guardian in Leon Co by providing them with gifts this holiday season. There will be names available for you to choose from (with sizes) if you want to personally shop for one of the recipients, and also an opportunity to donate to the ministry directly for this program to assist a child with their gift.

Blessings, Michael Dobson (850) 241-5896

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE BED BUILD- THANK YOU

Thank you to all the volunteers that participated in the Sleep In Heavenly Peace Bed Build on November 16th. We had 66 volunteers attend and built 15 bunk beds which made 30 beds. We delivered and set up 11 of those beds, that were built that same day. The children and their parents were very excited about their new beds! Additionally, we had 52 twin size sheets sets, 13 pillows, 4 blankets, 8 comforter sets, 1 throw and 2 mattress pads donated to Sleep In Heavenly Peace from our Saint Paul's congregation. Thank you to everyone for your generosity and help in making this possible!!

MUSIC

at Saint Paul's

Advent is a busy time for the Music Ministries of Saint Paul's as we are preparing our hearts for the coming of our Savior through various services of worship and programs.

Kids@Art (Children's Worship Arts Program for Grades K-5):

will be participating in the Hanging of the Greens service on December 1, 7:00 p.m., the Service of Lessons and Carols presented by the entire Music Ministries on December 15, 9:30 a.m.

The K-3rd Grade group will be presenting the musical, "Calling All Angels." and the 4th -5th Grade group will present "Twelve Days of What?" on Wednesday, December 11, 6:45pm, in the sanctuary. As part of our musical, we will be taking an offering to support "Sleep in Heavenly Peace". We ask that you bring bedding items for twin sized beds: sheets, mattress covers, blankets, and/or pillows, or monetary gifts for that ministry. (Contact Stephany Nystrand: stephanymusictherapy@yahoo.com)

Youth Choir (grades 6-12):

will be singing for the Hanging of the Greens and the Music Ministries' Service of Lessons and Carols. We will also be caroling to our at-home members on Wednesday, December 18.
(Contact Gaye Herndon: gaye@saintpaulsumc.org)

Saint Paul's Dancers:

will be doing a special processional for the Hanging of the Greens on Dec. 1st, and a lyrical dance for the Service of Lessons and Carols. (Contact Stephany Nystrand: stephanymusictherapy@yahoo.com)

Covenant Chancel Choir:

will be singing for the Hanging of the Greens on Dec. 1, 7:00pm, and our Service of Lessons and Carols on December 15, 9:30 a.m. We will have a Dress Rehearsal for the Service of Lessons and Carols on Saturday, December 14, 10:00-11:00am, in the sanctuary. We will also be singing for the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.
(Contact Cynthia Prescott, Adult Choirs Director: prescottc1360@gmail.com)

Se'lah:

will be singing for the Hanging of the Greens and the Service of Lessons and Carols. Dress Rehearsal is on Saturday, December 14, 10:30-11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. We will also join the Covenant Chancel Choir for the 5:00pm Christmas Eve service.
(Contact Cynthia Prescott, Adult Choirs Director: prescottc1360@gmail.com)

Handbell Choir:

will be participating in the annual community event, Ring in the Season, at First Baptist Church, Tallahassee, on December 6, 7:00 p.m. (Please note this change of day and time.) Everyone is invited join us for this delightful way to begin our Advent/Christmas Season, with 5 other Handbell Choirs from throughout the Tallahassee/South Georgia area in this massed ringing event. We will be playing for our Hanging of the Greens and Service of Lessons and Carols, also.

WEDNESDAY

nights

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES

Thank you to all those who joined us for Wesleyan Rooted last month! We enjoyed our time together as we explored our Methodist roots.

Due to special Advent events, our Wednesday Night Classes will pause until January...but there are still lots of things planned for Wednesdays in December!

Dec 4th- Human Scavenger Hunt- Holiday Edition (after dinner)

Dec 11th- Kids@Art Performance- 6:45pm

Dec 18th- Service of Light in the Darkness- 6:00pm

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER MENUS

Dec 4- Beef Stroganoff

Dec 11- Shepherd's Pie

Dec 18- Shrimp Alfredo

Dec 25- NO Dinner- MERRY CHRISTMAS

On Wednesdays, the doors open at 5:00 and we serve food from 5:15 until 6:00. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children 10 and under. Dinner includes a salad, drinks and dessert. Kids meals are chicken nuggets, fruit and a cheese stick.

YOUTH

rooted

GREETINGS!

In Sunday School we completed the last of the Wesleyan rooted series by talking about the different ministries Saint Paul's has to offer. We are excited for Confirmation in the spring so that we can dig even deeper into our Wesleyan roots.

Coming up this Advent season we are looking forward to Youth Caroling with Ms. Gaye, decorating cookies during Come to Christmas, and our annual Youth Christmas Party. The Youth Christmas party will have a \$15 white elephant game and a Nativity themed escape challenge.

Are you looking to unload old craft supplies cluttering your house this season? Please keep the youth in mind as we are trying to build our craft closet. You may contact me directly or bring them by the youth corridor on Wednesdays or Sunday mornings. Thank you too Ms. Debbie Eggebraaten and Ms. Kjrsten Henriksen for getting us started. Keep an eye out for Sunday Night Youth dates and sign ups! We appreciate all of the support for our future church leaders.

Blessings,

Casey



FAMILY events

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES!

I hope that you will be joining us for all our Advent events this season! Please make plans to attend the Morning Worship Service on December 22nd. We will be holding our annual Children's Christmas Pageant. This promises to be a cute, sweet, and possibly hilarious opportunity for all our children, from walking babies to fifth graders, to get involved in worship. If you would like your children to participate, please sign them up via the breeze link in the weekly notes.

KIDS@ART
presents
"12 DAYS OF WHAT?" & "CALLING ALL ANGELS"
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11TH- 6:45PM

Come to Christmas
December 8th
4:30pm

Schedule
4:30-Doors Open
5:00-Santa Arrives
6:00-Dinner
7:00-Stations Close
*Stations stay open during Santa & dinner

Free event- Donations are welcome

COME TO CHRISTMAS SIGN UP

Please use the QR code below to sign up



YOUTH EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Hanging of the Greens
December 1st

Lessons & Carols
December 15th

Christmas Caroling
December 18th

Christmas Party
December 20th

Come to Christmas
December 8th

Christmas Eve Services

5:00pm **SANCTUARY**

7:00pm **OUTDOOR CHAPEL**



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DECEMBER SUNDAYS AT SAINT PAUL'S

9:30am Worship
 10:45am Sunday School for all ages
 6:00pm Contemporary Service

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 4:00pm
 Friday - Closed

Find us on  at SaintPaulsUnitedMethodistChurch

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OUR STAFF AND EMAILS

Senior Pastor
 Rev. Dr. Latricia Scriven
 latricia@saintpaulsumc.org

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 Jay Wirth

OUR BISHOP
 Rev. Tom Berlin

OUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
 Rev. Catherine Fluck-Price

OUR MISSIONARIES
 Delbert & Sandy Groves,
 Zambia