

The MESSENGER

CALENDAR

A publication of St. Paul United Methodist Church

DECEMBER

- 1 & 2** Walk Through
Bethlehem 6:30 –
8:00 pm – Road to
Damascus Christian
Church, Mount Airy
- 3** Advent Bible Study - New
Hope and St. James UMC
2:30 pm at Sun Valley
Assisted Living, Route 27,
Taylorsville
Seasonal Sounds Concert
6:30 pm – St. Paul UMC
- 6** Food Bank open 5:30 –
7:00 pm – St. Paul UMC
New Windsor Town
Christmas Tree Lighting
6:00 pm – Park on Route
75 and Main Street
A.A. & Al-anon 7:30 pm –
St. Paul UMC
- 10** Advent Bible Study - New
Hope and St. James UMC
2:30 pm at Sun Valley
Assisted Living, Route 27,
Taylorsville
Annual Candlelight Worship
Service in Historic Log
Meeting House 4:30 pm –
Strawbridge Shrine
- 12** Ad Council 7:00 pm St.
Paul UMC
- 13** Food Bank Opens 5:30 –
7:00 pm – St. Paul UMC
A.A. & Al-Anon 7:30 pm –
St. Paul UMC
- 16** Christian Men's
Fellowship Breakfast 8:00
am Buttersburg Inn
Cards for Encouragement
10 am – 12pm – St. Paul

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are fast approaching the season of Advent. Scripture says, Luke 2:10-11– *But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.* This good news has nothing to do with buying gifts, or making them for others, which can be either exciting or tedious (sometimes both). This is a time to prayerfully examine the lens of our how we shape our experience at this time of year. We have the option of focusing our experiences through the eyes of the Christ Child. This shift from gifts, parties, spending money, decorating and baking--- to the grace of God coming to us through the tiny child bringing peace, love, hope and joy to one and all. This shift in focus can soften our hearts and let the Gospel (the Good News) reshape us from the inside out. The anticipation of Jesus our redeemer coming to reshape our very understanding of who we are and how we should experience living in this world is a gift that offers us wholeness and a glimpse of the Kingdom of God.

We begin the shift with prayer each day, alone with God, at meal times, and with our families. Pray through scripture and hear the words when Jesus says "seek first the Kingdom, and all these will be added", He is encouraging us to set off on a journey to a world unseen. The Kingdom is a way of being. God says His name is "I am", and that means that His "is-ness" is all-encompassing, He is real in a way that nothing else is. So seeking Him and the Kingdom is about seeking that perfection in love that only a heart open to Him can even imagine. This time of year is about "being" and serving as Christ's hands and feet as we wait for his coming.

I am called to urge you this year to include the lighting of the Advent candle in your daily living to refocus your intention to live Christ centered lives as signs of the Kingdom to come with your family, place of work and community. Your homework is to search the scriptures. Let us be the change, and live the Kingdom on earth as it is in Heaven. Many blessing to you and your families during the Advent, and Christmas seasons and into the New Year.

In Christian love,
Pastor Shari

JANUARY

- 3** Food Bank Opens 5:30 – 7:00 pm – St. Paul UMC A.A. & Al-Anon 7:30 pm – St. Paul UMC
- 9** Ad Council 7:00 pm St. Paul UMC
- 10** Food Bank Opens 5:30 – 7:00 pm – St. Paul UMC A.A. & Al-Anon 7:30 pm – St. Paul UMC
- 17** Community Meal 5:00 – 6:45 pm – St. Paul UMC
Food Bank Opens 5:30 – 7:00 pm – St. Paul UMC A.A. & Al-Anon – St. Paul UMC
- 24** Food Bank Opens 5:30 – 7:00 pm – St. Paul UMC A.A. & Al-Anon – St. Paul UMC
- 27** Christian Men’s Fellowship Breakfast 8:00 am Buttersburg Inn
Cards for Encouragement 10 am – 12pm – St. Paul UMC
Visit to Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC. Time to be determined
- 30** UMW Winter Banquet 6:00 pm Springdale Preparatory School
- 31** Food Bank Opens 5:30 – 7:00 pm – St. Paul UMC A.A. & Al-Anon – St. Paul UMC

New Windsor Food Ministries

The primary mission of our food pantry is to provide basic food items to families who suffer from food insecurities. In addition we encourage Christian fellowship by holding the community meal each month.

Last year we were very successful in meeting both of these goals thanks to everyone who contributed to our cause through donations of cash, gift cards, food donations and time. Thanks again to everyone for your support!

Our free community meals are very popular both with our pantry guests and our church members. We encourage everyone to attend these meals and to bring a friend. You don't have to belong to St. Paul to attend these meals. They are scheduled for Dec. 20 and Jan. 17 from 5-6:45pm.

Finally we as a committee would like to encourage anyone interested in joining us to contact a current member and attend a meeting. We could use a few more teams of two or three persons willing to help a few times a year. If that is not possible we always need help with the cooking and serving of the community meal.

Thanks again and God bless you!

Menu for December Meal
 BAKED HAM
 SCALLOPED POTATOES
 HONEY CARROTS
 SALAD
 DESSERTS

Menu for January Meal
 PORK ROAST
 MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY
 SAUERKRAUT
 SCALLOPED APPLES

Food Pantry Schedule:

The food pantry is open every Wednesday evening from 5:30-7pm.

Thank you to the following people for volunteering to serve!

DECEMBER:

- 6: Dale Lowman, Rose Allen, Larry Thompson
- 13: Bob and Winnie Freyer
- 20: Bonnie and Bobbie Joe Graham
- 27: Melvin and Rebecca Gress



WHAT IS A BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE OR LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE?

Blue Christmas/Longest Night Worship With Those Who Mourn

Blue? Yes, blue as in the blues. As in "I am feeling blue." Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other dis-ease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our congregations and communities. There is a growing attentiveness to the needs of people who are blue at Christmas. Increasing numbers of churches are creating sacred space for people living through dark times. Such services are reflective, accepting where we really are, and holding out healing and hope.

Some churches hold a service of worship on the longest night of the year, which falls on or about December 21st, the Winter Solstice. There is an interesting convergence for this day as it is also the traditional feast day for Saint Thomas the Apostle. This linkage invites making some connections between Thomas's struggle to believe the tale of Jesus' resurrection, the long nights just before Christmas, and the struggle with darkness and grief faced by those living with loss.

Blue Christmas service this year is a community healing service. It will be held at **St. Paul United Methodist Church on Sunday, December 17, at 4:00 PM.** Several of our churches are coming together for this service. Please bring friends, family, neighbors and co-workers that may benefit from a moment of healing into the hope of God's Son, Jesus, the light of the world.

DECEMBER

- 17** Advent Bible Study – New Hope and St. James UMC
2:30 pm at Sun Valley Assisted Living, Route 27 Taylorsville
Community Blue Christmas Service 4:00 pm – St. Paul UMC
Healing Service 7:30 pm – Linganore UMC
- 20** Community Meal 5:00 – 6:45 pm – St. Paul UMC
Food Bank Opens 5:30 – 7:00 pm – St. Paul UMC
A.A. & Al-Anon 7:30 pm – St. Paul UMC
- 24** Christmas Eve Family Service 5:00 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 11:00 pm
- 29** Food Bank Opens 5:30 – 7:00 pm – St. Paul UMC
A.A. & Al-Anon 7:30 pm – St. Paul UMC

Advent



Advent Bible Study – *Faithful, Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph.* Participants from New Hope and St. James are joining together with residents of Sun Valley Assisted Living to examine Christmas from the perspective of Joseph. This four-week study begins Sunday, November 26, 2:30pm at Sun Valley Assisted Living, Rte 27, Taylorsville. Folks interested in joining in please call Pastor Mary Buzby ([443-465-5024](tel:443-465-5024)).

Thursday School – Children's Christian Education program. Sunday School on Thursday afternoons from 5:45 – 6:30 in the New Hope Social Hall. For ages K – 5th grade. Contact Diane Chaney for more information and to register your child.

E-mail: dianechaney47@gmail.com

Reminder of ongoing ministry:

TEDDY BEAR MINISTRY. St. James maintains a supply of teddy bears for those visiting shut-ins, whether at home, in hospital or rehab facilities. Please take one of our bears to someone who might be suffering physically, emotionally or spiritually. Let them know that the bears are theirs to hug and know that they come with our prayers and best wishes for Christ's peace in their lives.



The Advent Wreath

Advent is a Christian Festival that can be observed in the home as well as in the church.

This simple ceremony takes place in the home when the family is gathered together during the main meal. It is a time to remember the First Coming of Christ and to anticipate His Second Coming.

The Symbols

The Circle of the Wreath: God Himself, His eternity and His endless mercy, without beginning, nor end.

The Green of the Wreath: Our hope of newness, renewal, and eternal life.

Light of the Candles: The Light of God that came into the world through Christ to bring newness, life and hope.

Lighting of the Candles: The progressive departure of darkness from the world as the more and more light is shed through the candles.

Four Colored (purple or blue) Candles: The four weeks of Advent, representing the four centuries between the time of the Prophet Malachi and the birth of Christ. A period of waiting, expectation and preparation.

The First Candle: A time of expectation and hope.

The Second Candle: The peace that is to come.

The Third Candle: It symbolizes joy for the promise is almost fulfilled.

The Fourth Candle: The love of God for mankind.

The Fifth White Candle: Called the "Center Candle", it is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to display that the light of Christ has come into the world in fulfillment of the prophecies. This center candle may also be the Christ candle taken into the New Year as a reminder of Christ with us.

Mincemeat for Sale

The UMW is selling mincemeat. The price is \$10.00 per 1-1/2 lb. package. Contact Barbara Misenaar at 410-635-2470 to order, or ask any UMW member.

United Methodist Women Winter Banquet

The UMW will host their Winter Banquet on Tuesday, January 30 at 6:00 pm at Springdale Preparatory School. The tickets prices are \$14.00 for adults and \$8.00 for children, under 2 are free. The meal will be served buffet style and will include: turkey, cornbread stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, sweet potato casserole, green beans, salad bar, homemade dinner rolls, drinks, Smith Island cake, pumpkin or sweet potato pie, apple pie and coconut cake. Final count is needed by January 14, 2018.



DECEMBER

- 1 – Marsha Smith
- 9 – Paul Smith
- 11 – Janet Colburn
- 11 – Jeff Perryman
- 12 – Sharon Blaney
- 15 – Bonnie Talbert
- 20 – Ronald Warehime
- 25 – Christy Bennett
- 25 – Hazel Graybill
- 26 – Sue Bowen

JANUARY

- 3 – Debbie Phillips
- 5 – Bonnie Graham
- 8 – Mike Lehman
- 17 – Erin Brothers
- 21 – Becky Gress
- 24 – Bob Freyer
- 28 – Cody Moretz
- 30 – Jacque Wilhelm

**ST. PAUL
SUNDAY
SCHEDULE:**

- 9:15** Adult Sunday School
- 10:30** Worship Service
- 11:00** Children's Sunday School

Seasonal Sounds Concert

Ela Wiswakarma, Director

at St. Paul United Methodist Church

200 Main Street, New Windsor, MD 21776

Sunday, December 3

**6:30 gathering music & refreshments, 7pm
concert**



St. Paul United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 250, 200 Main Street
New Windsor, MD 21776
www.stpaulnewwindsor.com

OFFICE CONTACT INFO: 410-635-2442 • stpaulnewwindsor@gmail.com • Open Mon. 9am – 3pm &
Thurs. 3pm – 6pm

DEC 2017 – JAN 2018

The MESSENGER

A new year brings with it a sense of new beginnings! Some use this time to clean and organize. Others may attempt a healthier diet. As a Christian, changing your habits may help shake up your spiritual life. What changes might you make in the next year?

Change your pew - Some of us worship from the same pew every week. Choose to worship from a new seat for a season. It will give you a new perspective—literally. You will see the service from a different point of view, but it also changes the people around you. What a great way to really get to know your church family!

Read another version of the Bible – You may know the Bible fairly well. There are verses you have memorized, and stories you know by heart. Reading from a different version of the Bible can help bring new life to those passages. The choice of one word over another may give you some new insight you hadn't thought of before.

Use a devotional - Devotionals are helpful aids, but we can become stuck in a rut with them. If you have been using the same devotional for more than a year, you may benefit from trying something new this year.

Get rid of negativity – We all have seasons when we fall into a pattern of negativity. Discouraged by the news, family drama, even church politics, we can fall into the habit of complaining. Remove negativity from your lives and choose instead to find things to celebrate! It will lift your spirits and renew your passion for what matters most. Find where you see the love of Jesus in the world and celebrate it!

