

Please Help Homeless Families with Family Promise



Hi, St. Paul's Family!

We will once again be providing dinners for Family Promise families from Sunday, January 29 through Saturday, February 4. Each family is in a separate transitional house, so we will need to have the meal for each family wrapped separately so they can

be delivered to each house. We will have more information on how many families and how many in each family when we get closer to the date.

If you can't prepare a meal, we are also looking for gift cards for Shop Rite or a local restaurant such as Popeyes, Pizza Hut, Ciconte's, Wawa, etc.

Please sign up on SignUp Genius when you receive an

email with the link. If you're not on our weekly eblast list, please email your info to ministry@stpaulsthorofare.com.

Or you can help by contacting Sharon via email at shrutter2@gmail.com and phone 856-848-5021 or by seeing Gary in church.

Thank you so much!

Sharon & Gary Rutter,
Family Promise Coordinators



Worship Service of Ashes & Reflection



Wed., February 22
St. Paul's at noon
Local church at 7 p.m.

CHURCH CONFERENCE was held on December 1 with our District Superintendent Rev. Glenn Conaway. We had a good turnout to enjoy a potluck supper and celebrate the ministries of our church. Thanks to PD for the delicious entrees and to everyone that came for bringing a dish to share.

**SUPERBOWL
STROMBOLI
SALE**

Pick-up Feb. 11th
More information
coming soon!

PRAYER Requests

ALL Prayers:

For our country, For the Ukrainian people, For peace Logan S upcoming MRI, Cameron always needs prayer & family, Sharon R chemo pray for good scan results, Terry D cancer spreading, Family & friends of Joshua age 10 died from meningitis, Family & friends of Nathan P age 12 leukemia, Dale Z lost mother, Janet M flu in ICU on vent, Kathy L very ill bronchitis, church members with covid, Dixielee eye discomfort from cataract surgery, Ann H seriously ill hosp, Family & friends of Jack R, Buffalo after bad storm, Sally & Laurie cancer and pain, Jeffrey L sorrows and anxiety, B & W families from SC, Jericho Road's Vive Shelter in storm, Sue T very weak needs procedure, Len H stage 4 cancer, Hope T a little better & Greg, Ruth S in rehab doing better, Bonnie chemo hosp with fever pneumonia, Ida & Jack O declining health, Jackie G neck problems, F family virus doing better, Ann R hosp stroke, Family & friends of Barbara A, Mark D heart surgery, Lynn K infections ongoing health issues, Edmund & his concerns, Jen herniated discs and loss of mother, A person who must fire workers, A mom with a family conflict, A parent with a mentally ill child, Someone dealing with pain, Patrick personal problems, Pete M gravely ill, All with cancer. Family & friends of Karen Sue C. Herb chemo & Myra, Rev. Bill D

chemo, All with unplanned pregnancies, Joe H carotid artery surgery postponed, Susie P hosp in Ky, Barb dehydrated in rehab not doing well, Donna S trying to hold together, Trista & family passing of uncle, Denise H throat procedure went well, Gale M serious covid, Sister M breast cancer, Kim liver disease now home, All those not feeling well, Those who lost loved ones this year, Norm rehabbing knee, Carla praise biopsy negative still needs healing, Family & friends of Norma C, Camille D foot surgery, Donna J hosp, Danielle F praise recovered from surgery, Tanya's nephew sick, Glenda ear infection, Lori major health issues, Jennie T hip pain needs surgery, PD & Worship Team, Don H Sr pain & blood clot after surgery, Nico 2 wks old heart surgery & parents, Jerry family problems for peace, Joe J brochitis, Jean S fell, Denise recovering from aneurism, Judy lost husband.

Every week: All those in need, unspoken requests, all service men/women, our nation and leaders.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns: Mary B., Joyce N., Hope T., Gerry M., Chris S., Janet B., Terry D., Corey T., Ruth S.

Serving in the Military:

Caitlyn Um, Daniel Domeraski, Kailey Roller, Gabby Townsley, Dan Solano, Chris Yard, Rachel Rachuba, Donna Rachuba, Ed Schwebel, Brandon Howell, Shaina Serrano

Shut-Ins & Nursing Home Residents:

Edie M., Ron & Eve C., Rosie P., Mary B., Gloria L.

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2- Aleyna Rutter
- 4- David Bailey
- 4- Norm Brayan
- 4- Michelle Wright
- 7- Jessica Loveland
- 7- Trista Jones
- 10- Carly Dyal
- 10- Kurt Toppin
- 11- Lillie Marie Gogolin
- 12- Kenny Domeraski
- 13- Joyce Nuneviller
- 14- Daniel Domeraski
- 16- Laurie Schwebel
- 17- Kim Gibson
- 17- Brandon Rutter
- 17- Diane & Joe Wonsetler
- 18- Elise Narcisi
- 19- Meghan Beidle
- 20- Matt Dechen
- 25- Dottie Davenport
- 25- Patty Fish
- 25- Jackson Merckx
- 26- Nadia Domeraski

- 30- Kathleen Spellman
- 31- Logan Dugan

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 3- Melissa Strock
- 3- Diane Weems
- 9- Nicole Daws
- 10- Joanne Keegan
- 10- Don & Carol Strock
- 11- Ginny Gibson
- 16- Vince Lee
- 16- Selene Jones
- 19- Emily Bailey
- 20- Donna Sierocinski
- 21- Rosalyn Platt
- 22- Shannon McLaughlin
- 22- Kenneth Norris III
- 23- Evelyn Dallas
- 23- Joe Hoffman
- 24- Bert Turner
- 25- PypierLin Gittinger
- 26- Jennifer Spinella
- 27- Wendy Gittinger
- 27- Lynne Hoffman

THE LAMPLIGHTER

Bimonthly Newsletter of
St. Paul's United Methodist Church
PO Box 125, West Deptford, NJ 08086
Pastor: Rev. Dave Delaney
Phone (856) 845-6638
E-mail pastor@stpaulsthorofare.com
Sunday Morning Worship..... 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School.....10:45 a.m.

Staff

Editor: Trista C Jones
Assistant Editor: Denise Hosier

Regular Contributors:
Pastor Dave, Mary Ann Jones, Elaine Luoma, Patty Fish, Carol Strock

Production: Trista C Jones
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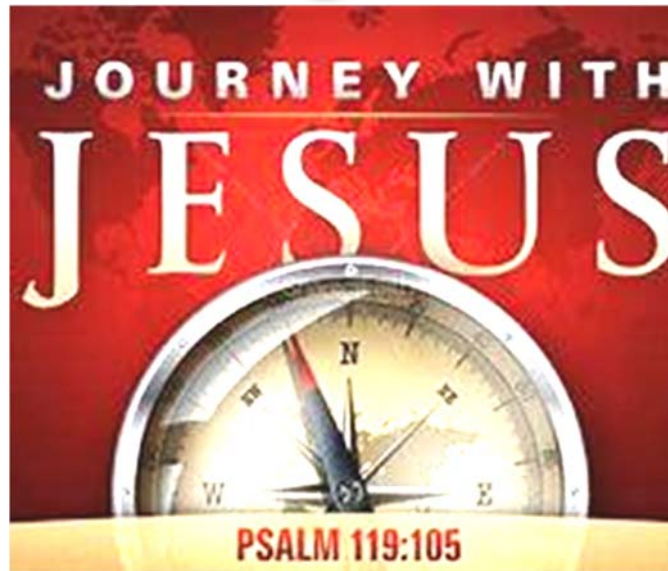
Guiding Lights Party

Follow the Light of the Lord

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

A "Journey with Jesus" ... that's exactly what I am going to be focusing on as we move into the year 2023. A shared personal journey with Jesus and with all of you because I am hoping and praying that like me, you realize that a journey without Jesus is a journey that is not worth taking.

I memorized Psalm 119: 1-5 when I was a child, either as part of a Sunday School lesson or in Vacation Bible School. My faith education was something that my parents knew would pay dividends later in life, and I am so glad that they sacrificed their "free time" to ensure that my brother and I had the church as a foundation for our lives. Every week we sat together in church, and when my brother and I were in Sunday School my parents were also in class, at church, learning more about their faith. On our drives to brunch after church or to my grandmother's house our car was filled with conversation about church as well as singing the songs of faith. I guess it comes to me as no surprise that many years later my brother regularly attends two different churches, and I am here at St. Paul's. We were gifted an everlasting gift through my parents' example and lives. A "Journey with Jesus."



I am not one for New Year's resolutions but my friends, I am one to issue challenges. For the good of your spirit I want to challenge you to join me in a "Journey with Jesus" in 2023, which begins with worship. And when I say worship, I mean worshiping with joy and an energized sense of our need to PRAISE THE LORD!! Christmas Eve's services felt so good as I ran around the sanctuary ringing the bell and shouting Merry Christmas ... it's a feeling that belongs in worship all the time. "Praise God in His sanctuary! Rejoice in the Lord ALWAYS! Let every living thing PRAISE THE LORD!"

I am going to ask, encourage, and implore all of you to not only worship 'in church' with regularity, but also to invite friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors to come to worship with you, letting them know that at St. Paul's we worship with joy, and we PRAISE THE LORD! I am thankful that our

FACEBOOK streaming allows people like my family to worship online because they can't be in church, but I am loving having the sanctuary nearly full on Sunday mornings. There is a special energy that people share when they are worshiping God with joy and love in person.

My sermon themes are going to be focused on how we should be living our faith. Our worship services will continue to be filled with joy and praise! I am confident that those worshiping in St. Paul's sanctuary will continue to provide any and all individuals who walk through St Paul's doors with love and friendship!

We are blessed that in 2023 we can call St. Paul's United Methodist Church of West Deptford our home church. That's not a resolution but a fact. Please join with me in growing the church's missions and ministries, so that in the coming days we are truly the beacon of faith in our community! Invite your friends to church and find ways to become more active in our ministries so that we can take on even more work for God as we move forward into the Light of His path on our "Journey with Jesus."

Blessings,

Pastor Dave

Outreach

Welcome 2023!!

Upcoming Mission Projects & Offerings

- **January**
 - ◇ Our first Sunday offering (Jan. 1) will benefit Human Relations Sunday.
 - ◇ On the third Sunday (Jan. 15) the offering is for Blanket Sunday.

Church World Service was born in 1946 when 17 denominations came together to form an agency "to do in partnership what none of us could hope to do as well alone." The mission: Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, comfort the aged, shelter the homeless. Blanket Sunday is a CWS outreach.

- **February**
 - ◇ Our first Sunday offering (Feb. 5) is for our St. Paul's Food Pantry.
 - ◇ On the third Sunday (Feb. 19) we will be supporting Family Promise.

Our food pantry and Family Promise are both important mission projects of our church and we hope you will give generously.

Many thanks to all of the St. Paul's family for your generous outpouring of support to our Mission Projects. We remain a community of love for all.

Cherie Clement



Sunday School

Used Clothes Help the Sunday School

Please donate your used clothes and household items to the Sunday school through January 22! Collections will be every Sunday, dropoff before 12 p.m. We are working with Bargain Thrift Center in Philadelphia.

When donating the materials below please make sure they are in closed trash bags and closed boxes. Please leave your items on the back ramp.

Elaine Luoma

We DO ACCEPT the following items:

- **CLOTHING AND SHOES** - All sizes (men's, women's, children's and babies') styles, and seasons of clothing and shoes (sandals, boots, sneakers and dress shoes).
- **ACCESSORIES** - including pocketbooks, purses, totes, school bags, backpacks, wallets, belts, ties, scarves, hats gloves.
- **HOUSEHOLD LINENS** - blankets, bedspreads, comforters, quilts, bed sheets, towels, shower curtains, window curtains and draperies, tablecloths, pillows.
- **SOFT TOYS** - stuffed animals and dolls.
- **HARD TOYS** (smaller than 24"x24"x24") and **GAMES**
- **HOUSEWARES** kitchen, office, garage, decorative & holiday items 24" or smaller.

We DO NOT accept the following items:

- **FURNITURE OR MATTRESSES**
- **ELECTRONICS OR APPLIANCES**
- **WET, SMOKE DAMAGED OR MILDEWED ITEMS**
- **BOOKS**
- **RECORDS**



SUNDAY SCHOOL BAZAAR was a huge success, earning over \$3,000 to fund our Sunday School and Vacation Bible School programs. Thanks so much to everyone who helped! And a special thanks to Mary Ann Jones for organizing and to Elaine Luoma, Sunday School Superintendent. You two awesome ladies make our SS programs happen. Without you, we wouldn't be bringing so many children to Jesus.

SHARE Our Faith Story & Your Talents

“You will be my witnesses to the end of the earth.”

When Jesus spoke those words on the Mount of Olives before He ascended into heaven, I am sure no one would have imagined that a person living in West Deptford New Jersey and attending St. Paul’s United Methodist Church could actually be a witness to every corner of the world. The truth is ... each of us can share our faith story, share information about our church, and encourage people around the world to worship with us on Sundays and Wednesdays. If we choose, we can take on the Jesus challenge every single day, because once any of us share something on our social media it can literally go around the world!

What it takes is a simple act of SHARING on FACEBOOK or perhaps cutting and pasting information from our website to your social media. I would hope that you have “liked” St. Paul’s Facebook page and that you are



looking at our church’s page frequently. In addition, our website has lots of great information about St. Paul’s. We are looking for someone to manage the church’s Instagram account so that we can reach new audiences, so if you are interested, please let PD know.

It is so easy to share FACEBOOK postings from St. Paul’s to your own page, because all you have to do is click “SHARE.” Yes, by

sharing you will be letting all your social media friends know that you go to church and that your church is St. Paul’s. Yes, you might have to answer their questions if they didn’t know you had a church. But by sharing the website (www.stpaulsalive.org) or our Facebook page you might guide that friend to discovering God and Christ.

We have had people from around the world worshipping with St. Paul’s because someone from the church family, like you, shared St. Paul’s contact information.

We stream Sunday morning’s worship services each week! We stream our Wednesday morning service of Holy Communion. And our Wednesday evening Bible study is streamed.

So are you ready to start sharing and cutting and pasting? It is an easy way for each of us to fulfill Jesus’ call to be witnesses to the end of the earth.



WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

These fabulous ladies of the Women’s Bible Study group had lunch at Ciconte’s on Nov. 30th. They wrapped up the fall session and celebrated together!



Our group is looking forward to starting up again in mid-February. Stay tuned for more information coming soon.

Comics in the Bible ARE BACK!

Our weekly Wednesday evening Bible Study, which is ZOOMED online only, is bringing back PD's COMICS BIBLE STUDY, and this time it's being incorporated into his popular "Lectio the group Divina" style Bible study that is returning in January. The Wednesday evening group recently completed a study on Jeremiah.



In this class we utilize different translations of Scripture to help the class members gain insight while using a variety of questions as the teaching tool for digging into God's Word. PD's love of comics was used in a former Bible Study at St. Paul's, and he is now weaving elements of that study into this Spring's Bible study.

Anyone in the world can join our Wednesday one-hour Bible Study, which is held at 7:30pm on most Wednesdays. The Wednesday study group even has a few members who have never set foot in St. Paul's: Gail in North Carolina's Outer Banks and Bon and Jon in North Jersey. During the winter months Chris has been joining the study from Florida, and

Pastor Dave has even led the study from the front seat of his car. Zoom opens up this study group to anyone in the world who is interested in discovering new meaning from God's Word.

"Lectio Divina" is a traditional style of Bible Study that involves the repeated reading of one Biblical

The study will use both Old and New Testament Scripture lessons following the Common Lectionary's time schedule.

Reach out to PD or the church office for more information and to access the ZOOM link for the study group.

Pastor Dave

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING was incredible!

We enjoyed some wonderful piano and vocal solos, and of course PD's wild version of the Twelve Days of Christmas. Our annual Ice Cream Social followed, hosted by the men of the church.

What a wonderful kick-off to the holiday season!



Here's What's Happening!



ACOLYTES Riley Hort & Logan Sierocinski served in Sunday worship during Nov.



CHRISTMAS PARTY with Santa



CHRISTMAS WREATHS adorned the front door of the church. Thanks very much to Bernice Nolte for providing these in memory of her husband Ray. She does this each year and we much appreciate the welcoming holiday decorations.



WORSHIP TEAM & FRIENDS decorated the church for the holidays. Thanks to everyone that helped, and special thanks to Carla Branyan for organizing the decorating, leading the Worship Team this past year, and for taking the photos!



Children's Ministry



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT was performed by our children the Sunday before Christmas. The kids were incredible! Thanks so much to teachers and leaders for organizing! Many congrats to Kylie G. for bringing the most friends to Sunday School!

Love Your Neighbors as Jesus Loved ALL

“Love your neighbor as yourself.” Leviticus 19:18

Since my arrival at St. Paul’s I have emphasized a teaching lesson from both the Old Testament and New—one that Jesus qualifies as one of the two commandments on which all the other laws and commandments fall upon. The lesson is loving one’s neighbor as you love yourself, or even more specifically, love your neighbors as Jesus loved ALL people.

Right before Christmas my hometown, Buffalo NY, experienced the “Blizzard of the Century” resulting in more than 30 deaths. It was a powerful storm with near hurricane strength winds. This glimpse out my friends Gale and Mike’s front window merely gives a hint of what it was like, but it’s out their front window that I want to share a reminder of who we are called to be.

We are called to be loving to all our neighbors. In good times and in bad times. We are taught not to hate nor to carry animosities but to forgive those who have caused us harm or discomfort. We pray regularly asking God to forgive us as we forgive those who have harmed us. So it’s pretty clear that people of faith get the message.

A storm erases political divisions ... devastation causes people to rush to rescue those who might be overwhelmed based solely on their membership in the human race. That’s what happened again in Buffalo in December throughout this storm.

The neighbors across the street from Gale and Mike’s home have never stepped out of their homes



to say hi, but suddenly they had no food. Gale’s daughter Kiera offered to make lasagna and suddenly strangers were eating together and playing board games when there was no place else to go.

A Buffalo police officer had traded his scheduled vacation day for December 23 weeks ago and now found himself rescuing an intergenerational family from their snow-covered car. Only one member of the family spoke English and told him that they had driven from North Carolina to see Niagara Falls and did not know about the storm. He saved their lives. Ironically, he was the police officer who rushed to the scene of the terrible terrorist shooting in Buffalo last May and was the one who handcuffed the terrorist. His comment to the Buffalo News reflected that amidst the storms and awful realities of the world, people still come together out of love for their neighbors and community.

There are stories of individuals coming with their snowmobiles to rescue strangers buried in their

cars or isolated in their homes. Ordinary people stepped up to provide meals and showcased love to people they may never see again.

And so that brings me back to all of us safely ensconced in New Jersey, where we will never see snowfalls of 7 feet nor have drifts of more than 4 feet like my friend Dale had to shovel out from.

Do we have to wait for a storm to love all our neighbors? I don’t think so! What do we have that some of our neighbors are missing out on?

Yes, it might just be love or understanding, but even more tragically some of our neighbors might be missing out on the love of God and God’s saving grace through Jesus Christ.

Do you have enough love for your neighbors, your friends, your co-workers, and your family to help them out of the storm of the unfaithful, leading them to the rescuing arms of Jesus Christ? Invite them to church ... join a Bible study with them ... invite them to join you on our July mission to Kentucky!

I am thankful that it appears that all my friends in the Buffalo and Western New York community have survived this storm. Some, like Gale and Mike, have stepped up and helped strangers. But please keep my “home” community in your prayers over these next few weeks as people mourn and recover from the storm.

Pastor Dave