

Used Clothes Help the Sunday School

Please donate your used clothes and household items to the Sunday School through January!

Collections will be every Sunday, drop off by 11:45 a.m. We are working with Bargain Thrift Center in Philadelphia.

When donating the materials listed (right), please make sure they are in closed trash bags and closed boxes. You may leave your items on the back ramp any Sunday morning.

Thank you all so much for your donations!

Elaine Luoma



WE ACCEPT IN CLEAN AND UNDAMAGED CONDITION:

- CLOTHING – All sizes, genders, and ages (babies, kids and adults)
- SHOES – All seasons, sizes, genders, and ages
- ACCESSORIES – Luggage, Pocketbooks, purses, totes, backpacks, wallets, belts ties, scarves, hats, gloves, etc
- LINENS – Blankets, comforters, sheets, towels, window curtains, shower curtains, tablecloths, pillows
- TOYS AND GAMES – Hard and soft.
- HOUSEWARES – Kitchen, office, garage, holiday, décor, gardening tools and items (clean), art & craft supplies
- ELECTRONICS AND APPLIANCES – Clean, not sticky, must work and have all parts. Please keep all parts in same box, bag, or tape together.
- SPORTS EQUIPMENT
- BOOKS AND MEDIA – No mold, no magazines
- JEWELRY
- SMALL FURNITURE – Chairs, side tables, foot stools – 50lb max, must be able to be lifted by 1 person
- VINTAGE AND CURIOUS ITEMS



WE DO NOT ACCEPT

- LARGE FURNITURE OR MATTRESSES
- ITEMS THAT ARE WET, SMOKE DAMAGED, OR MILDEWED
- CARSEATS, STROLLERS, HIGH CHAIRS, CRIBS, AND PLAYPENS

Please place all items in containers – tied bags or closed boxes.

If you can't lift the container, we can't lift it! Please don't overload boxes

Super Bowl Stromboli Sale

Our Community Relations Team (CRT) is back and we are selling SUPER BOWL STROMBOLI from Liscio's!



- Spinach & Cheese
- Cheesesteak

Payment in cash or by check is due when you pick up.

We all know that delicious stromboli start with the bread, and

Liscio's is the best in the area. So plan to add a stromboli to your Super Bowl party menu and also to order some for your family and friends. Thanks so much for your support!

Order online or in church. See Mary Ann for more info.

To make your Super Bowl party a big hit, we are partnering with Liscio's to sell their stromboli. It can be picked up after church on Super Bowl Sunday, February 8th.

The stromboli (price TBD) are available in the following varieties:

- Ham & Cheese
- Pepperoni & Cheese



St Paul's will be hosting the Red Cross Blood Drive on:

- **Friday, Jan. 30, 12-5**

Our nation's blood supply is fragile. There is a significant need for blood donors! Please consider donating at this or any local drive.

Contact the Red Cross at 800-RED-CROSS or at www.redcross.org to schedule your appointment today!

Prayer REQUESTS

ALL Prayers:

For our country
 For peace and those affected by war
 For all those in the world who are hungry
 For everyone who is ill
 Kathie S getting infusions again
 Sharon R undergoing treatment
 Logan S cold weather affecting knee
 Cameron H health issues & family
 Family & friends of Dan M
 Chris M major life changes
 All who are ill
 Deena D. MS & other health issues
 Michael M knee pain replacement sched
 Mike D more testing for prostate cancer
 Dan S hosp multiple surgeries
 Nadia D home from hosp breathing problems
 Family & friends of Linda A
 Family & friends of Patrick F
 Sandy D pneumonia & pacemaker replacement
 Kathy L hosp tumor and mass
 Kristin H chemo feeling ill
 Bernice N frequent falls
 Dottie D health problems
 J family praise baby girl
 Falynn
 Residents staff families of Bristol Rehab
 Family, friends & troopers in Delaware
 Annette D hosp flu symptoms & high BP
 Lillie age 94 lost 2 children & grandchild
 Pat H in Atlas Rehab
 Zach testicular cancer
 Sandi D discomfort after surgery
 Jim M surgery difficult time
 All affected by recent shootings

S family loss of longtime pet
 Family & friends of Rev. Debbie S
 Pastor Kim W lost mother
 Julie C fell broke leg
 Cyndi lost husband car accident
 Len H home after cancer surg & Cathy
 Brian medical issues
 Uncle Jim hosp low platelets
 Aunt Donna
 Aunt Donna's son quadruple bypass
 Norm B praise doing better
 Hermine M at home
 All homeless, living in cars, working outside
 Tyler S adjustment to new situation
 Friends with health issues
 Jake E rehab knee surgery
 Bruce bad accident
 Jennifer very ill plus health issues
 Kristen C sudden job transfer
 Pat H hosp then rehab
 Marianne T health concern
 Jen adenocarcinoma
 Sandi D shoulder surgery
 DarLynn & Ron health issues
 Praise for a great Carol Sing
 Donna D broken leg
 Nancy F recov from surgery
 Christina F weekly infusions
 All who are sick
 Cindy F lung cancer and other issues
 Patty J & family Parkinson's
 Julie G radiation & chemo

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

Serving in the Military:

Michael Nahas, Caitlyn Um, Erynn Plasket, Dan Solano, Chris Yard, Rachel Rachuba, Donna Rachuba, Ed Schwebel, Brandon Howell, Shaina Serrano

Shut-Ins & Nursing Home Residents:

Dottie D., Sandy D., Gloria L., Chris M., Hermine M., Bernice N., Rosie P., Mary B., Sue T.

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

2- Aleyna Rutter
 4- David Bailey
 4- Norm Branyan
 4- Michelle Wright
 7- Jessica Loveland
 7- Trista Jones
 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
 17- Jean Soderlund
 19- Meghan Beidle
 20- Matt Dechen
 23- Francis Jabathy, Jr.
 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
 10- Joanne Keegan
 10- Don & Carol Strock
 11- Ginny Gibson
 16- Selene Jones
 16- Vince Lee
 19- Emily Bailey
 20- Donna Sierocinski
 21- Rosalyn Platt
 22- Shannon McLaughlin
 23- Evelyn Dallas
 23- Joe Hoffman
 24- Bert Turner
 26- Jennifer Spinella
 27- Lynne Hoffman



ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING 2025

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
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Sunday Morning Worship: 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.

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Builders of Success and Growth

“Rejoice in the Lord ...
Again I say Rejoice!”

Frankly it seems impossible that another year has arrived, but such is the truth. Last year I hit a monumental birthday and celebrated with some lifelong friends ... humans I have been friends with for SIX DECADES. That seems really weird to acknowledge.

But if you want to really get focused in on time, St. Paul's United Methodist Church has now been around for 170 years. It was in the middle of the 19th century that faith leaders decided that Thorofare needed a church in the Methodist tradition. A faith rally ... a revival ... brought people together at the site that we all know as St. Paul's United Methodist Church of West Deptford. From those early gatherings people believed that having a thriving church where God and Christ were worshiped mattered. They invited friends and family to help establish a church and then one building was constructed.

With the arrival of the 20th Century the church here had grown and a new sanctuary was needed. The church we know today was built in that first decade of the last century. Those faith leaders knew that this community needed a strong church, and they built a building to draw more people to worship. By the middle of the century a Sunday School wing and fellowship hall were added because more people were coming. St. Paul's was strong!

St. Paul's is still strong, but we live in different times. Our Sunday



School wing is no longer filled with children after church on Sunday, even though we have teachers willing to teach. Many of our pews remain empty week after week although our attendance is amongst the highest of United Methodist churches within a 20-mile radius from West Deptford.

Just before Christmas I made a snow angel on the church's front lawn. If you saw the video you saw my joy, but I have that same joy when I think about St. Paul's United Methodist Church. I rejoice in the Lord ALWAYS because of this church and because of God's love.

What we need to consider with the start of the new year is how to strengthen our church by bringing in more friends. By inviting more

families. By being activists just like this church's activists from the past.

Once upon a time it was just a preacher from the Paulsboro area who rode up on horseback or in a wagon or carriage, but today it is you and me. Our church needs each of us to always share the church's posts on our Facebook streams. I know some of you don't have Facebook but if you are on Facebook just hit share to everything we post. It would be great if you wrote something along with the shared post, but in sharing you will expose our church to your collection of online friends.

And the hardest thing we need to do is to continue to invite friends to come to church and experience firsthand the joy we have when we're together. Our love for God and Christ.

We are each a builder of the future success and potential growth of St. Paul's. The work is ours to take on and I hope we take it on with joy in our hearts!

Blessings,

Pastor Dave



GUIDING LIGHTS CHRISTMAS DINNER was a fun time. These ladies help around the church, pray a lot, and attend Bible studies.

Outreach

Welcome 2026!!

Upcoming Mission Projects & Offerings

• January

- ◇ Our first Sunday offering (Jan. 4) will benefit Human Relations Sunday.
- ◇ On the third Sunday (Jan. 18) the offering is for Blanket Sunday.

Blanket Sunday is a CWS outreach. Church World Service began 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.

• February

- ◇ Our first Sunday offering (Feb. 1) is for our St. Paul's Food Pantry.
- ◇ On the third Sunday (Feb. 15) 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.

Cheri Clement



Family Promise Mission Project

Jesus said... "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." Matthew 8:20

Yes, that's right! Jesus was homeless. He relied on the generosity of friends and strangers to have a place to lay his head.

At St. Paul's we open our hearts to homeless families through the Family Promise program. Family Promise helps homeless working families achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response. They operate four transitional homes to house families for a few months so

they can save money for permanent housing.

Three weeks a year our volunteers provide food and meals for families in the program. We support the families with gift cards to ShopRite or various local restaurants. A signup link will be posted on the website before each of our Family Promise weeks that our members can sign up to donate. Or see Gary or Sharon Rutter to sign up.

Please be generous with this important mission project!



Worship Services of Ashes & Reflection



**Wednesday,
February 18**

**7:00 a.m. Holy Communion
12:00 noon St. Paul's
7 p.m. Community
Service (location TBA)**



CHRISTMAS CAROL SING was absolutely fantastic! Thanks to Patty & Dave Fish!

I Just Want to Celebrate!

There are a lot of songs from my life that include a reference to celebration.

There's Rare Earth's 'I Just Want to Celebrate,' and of course Kool and the Gang's 'Celebration.' Three Dog night sang 'Celebrate,' and of course Roberta Flack and Peabo Bryson's 'Tonight I Celebrate My Love.'

I think it is important to celebrate good things, great people, and accomplishments that we share in. All too often we forget in the moment to shout out 'good job!' We know people who try to defer being thanked for what they have done.

So as this New Year begins, I want to CELEBRATE all of you!! I don't want to try and list names, because inevitably I will leave out a name and make someone feel awful or worse, neglected.

First, I want to celebrate each person who sits in our pews on Sunday morning and that's most of you who are reading the newsletter. Well, perhaps you only sit in a pew occasionally, but when you are there I notice you. Ok, maybe I don't remember everyone's name but I look around the church, even into what I call the "cheap seats" to see who is in worship. I notice you even when you are texting ... oops, maybe I shouldn't mention that.

I celebrate those of you who worship online. We have regulars, including folks who live close by and others who live at the ends of the earth. We don't see their faces and many never comment on our Facebook, but they are there week after week and consider St. Paul's



their church. Some of you are my personal friends and I guess I am especially thankful to those of you who know me from outside of ministry, because you have found a church home with some amazing people at St. Paul's.

I continue to celebrate all of our amazing worship services during Advent and Christmas and right into the New Year. All of the people who read Scripture, sing songs, greet people, and are activists to make each Sunday so joyful and special at our church.

Speaking of activists, I celebrate our leadership team!!! Volunteers who are always ready to step up to take on 'stuff' that every day worshippers don't have to worry about. They complete silly forms for the Conference or ensure that the heat is on for worship and meetings. I truly celebrate our staff. Since there are only three I can name them, Trista, Bela, and Jim. You are a joy to work with, and your work has such a positive impact on the people who call St. Paul's home.

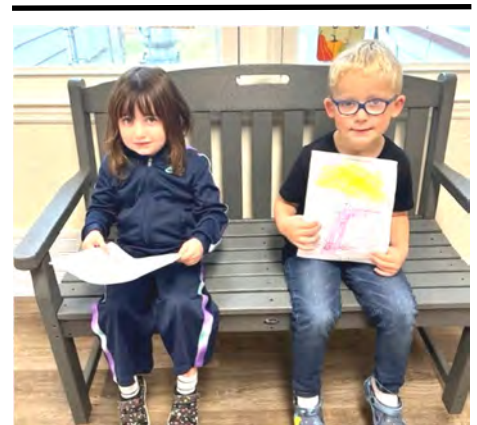
I almost forgot to celebrate the Food Pantry team, because you feed the hungry and care for the poor. Thank you so much for fulfilling Jesus' teaching on all of our behalf! And I truly celebrate the Red Bird team and keep hoping/dreaming that more of you will join us this year!

And I know I will forget something, but thanks to all of you who support our ministries financially!! It takes money to have a church and that money comes from you!

I just want to celebrate another day of living ...

Blessings,

Pastor Dave



IT'S A BENCHI! Remember all those plastic bags and wraps we collected?

We now have a beautiful recycled bench in the side foyer, used by children and adults alike! Thanks so much to Norm Branyan for leading us in the project. We are still collecting plastic bags, now for Jeff Hartnett and his *Interact Club* of Overbrook High School. They are working to earn a bench for the school. So keep saving those bags!

God Calls Us to Help the Poor

“Whatever you have done for the least among you ... you have done for me.”



A happy RED BIRD ... all of you need to know that I love going to the Red Bird Mission each year even though I have absolutely no job skills when it comes to carpentry, plumbing, or electrical work. I won't touch power tools and never trust me to cut a piece of wood.

Red Bird moves my heart as mission teams I have been part of help some of the poorest Americans have a better life. In 2026, the people served by Red Bird missionaries such as your fellow church members will be poorer than ever before due to government cutbacks.

I so want to plead with you to consider joining us from July 5th through July 10th this summer. There is work that anyone can do to help, regardless of your age or lack of skills. I am proof of that. This is great chance to take on a mission with your children or grandchildren or friends.

I think I first went to Red Bird 20 years ago and have gone almost every single summer since. I have started to think about how valuable to my faith walk these trips are and am wondering if I will have a church connection to go to Red

Bird once I retire. I have met awesome people from other churches and had incredibly special times of worship. I have had my heart warmed as people we have helped have thanked our mission teams, and I have enjoyed special meals with my fellow team members.

Please start to think about joining us this year ... God calls us to help the poor and we are doing just that, but Red Bird also gives you time to think about God there in the mountains and the valleys. I come out of Red Bird stronger in faith each year.

I personally would love to see us double or triple our numbers this year ... come and join us. Talk to me or Jim Clement!

Blessings,

Pastor Dave



SUNDAY SCHOOL BAZAAR WAS FANTASTIC!

We had lots of help and made enough to cover all our Sunday School materials and expenses, plus Vacation Bible School. A million thanks to Mary Ann Jones for chairing. Without her, this event wouldn't happen!

WHAT'S HAPPENING



CHURCH CONFERENCE and Potluck Supper were well attended! Pastor Dave commented, "You might notice the banner we are holding. I did my best to find a banner that said **BELIEVE** but the one in the photo was the only one I could find. I should note that after the photo many in attendance started singing some song about a bird flying. What a fun time we had! What an awesome church we have! What a amazing things we do in mission together for God!"



CHICKEN BBQ was a great success. Many thanks to everyone that helped and/or bought dinners. Especially thanks to overall Chair Sharon Rutter, who does so much! We made about \$2,500 to help our finances.

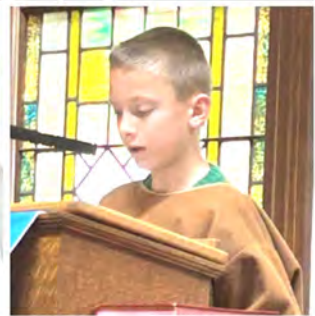
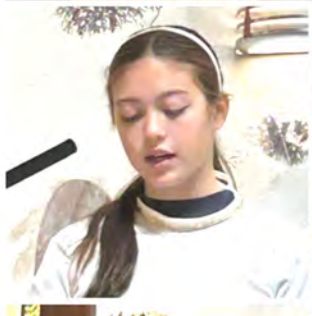


THANKSGIVING: Our food pantry team gave out 100 turkeys the weekend before Thanksgiving. What an awesome way to show the love of Jesus to our neighbors! A million thanks to food pantry coordinator Carol Strock, everyone that donated, and everyone that helped! We have some awesome volunteers!

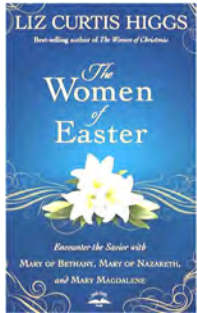


HELPERS DURING WORSHIP: We thank everyone that sings, plays, reads scripture, and helps out with worship by greeting, etc. Photo doesn't include everybody! Thanks to all!

Children's Ministry



Women's Bible Study Coming in February



Our start date for our Women's Bible Study is Wed., February 4. We will be reading and discussing the book "The Women of Easter" by Liz Curtis Higgs. We should complete our study by Easter.

The cost of the book is \$8.00 per book. If you'd like a book, please let me know. I will take your name and distribute the books in January. Please pay cash if you are able.

I have missed our time together and look forward to seeing you all again! Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2026!

Love, Patty



THANK YOU TO SPECIAL PERFORMERS: What a wonderful time we had on Dec. 5 at our annual Christmas Carol Sing! Many thanks to our special performers: Tiffany Daly, Carla Branyan, Scarlett Hartnett, Declan Hartnett, Debbie Richman, Kathy Mander, Merryjeanne Minder, Molly Coralluzzo, Denise Hosier, Joe Hoffman, Rich Favretto, Ed Schwebel, Norm Branyan, and Pastor Dave.

It was a great night filled with wonderful music, readings, and of course, Dave Fish's jokes! And we topped it all off with Lapp's ice cream. Thanks also to Bev Betz and Norm Branyan for manning the computer, camera, and FB. Thank you to Trista for loading the carols in the computer, Jim Clement for setting up Hickman Hall, Brenda Toppin who helped Dave with getting the tablecloths on, and to all who helped serve and clean up after the ice cream social.

And special thanks to all of you for your support for our carol sing! It was so good to see our church filled and for your great enthusiasm for some Christmas fun. It is an event that we all look forward to, and we couldn't do it without all of you!

Patty



DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS: Thanks so much to Worship Chair Carla Branyan and our volunteers, who came in on a Saturday morning to decorate the church.



AN ABUNDANCE OF FOOD was collected during November to help our food pantry feed the hungry. Thanks, everyone, for your many donations!

St. Paul's Calendar

January-February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:30am Worship First Sunday of Christmas	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 7:00am New Year's Eve Holy Communion 7:00pm NA Mtg	1 January New Year's Day 12:00pm New Year's Day Communion Service	2	3 8:00am Men's Breakfast Pistons 8:00pm AA meeting
4 9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Soup Sunday Human Relations Sunday Offering 2nd Sunday of Christmas	5 6:30pm Girl Scouts Meeting	6 Epiphany 10:00am Deptford Designers	7 7:00am Holy Communion 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study Zoom	8 7:00pm Choir Practice	9	10 8:00pm AA meeting
11 The Baptism of Christ 9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School 1st Sun after Epiphany	12 6:30pm Girl Scouts Meeting	13 9:00am Food Pantry setup HH	14 7:00am Holy Communion 8:30am St. Paul's Food Pantry 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study Zoom	15 7:00pm Choir Practice	16	17 8:00pm AA meeting
18 9:30am Worship 10:30am Megan's Pretzel Sunday 10:45am Sunday School Mission: Blanket Sunday 2nd Sun after Epiph.	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 7:00pm Leadership Team	20 10:00am Deptford Designers	21 7:00am Holy Communion 8:00am Men's Breakfast Pistons 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study Zoom	22 7:00pm Choir Practice	23	24 8:00pm AA meeting
25 9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School 3rd Sun after Epiph.	26 5:30pm Girl Scout (2) Mtg. 7:00pm Guiding Lights at Sharon R's	27	28 7:00am Holy Communion 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study Zoom	29 7:00pm Choir Practice	30 11:30am Red Cross Blood Drive	31 1:00pm Girl Scouts Meeting 8:00pm AA meeting
February 1 9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Soup Sunday Food Pantry Offering 4th Sun after Epiph.	2	3 10:00am Deptford Designers	4 7:00am Holy Communion 10:00am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study Zoom	5 7:00pm Choir Practice	6	7 8:00am Men's Breakfast Pistons 8:00pm AA meeting
8 9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School 10:45am Super Bowl Stromboli Sale 5th Sun after Epiph.	9 6:30pm Girl Scouts Meeting	10 9:00am Food Pantry setup HH	11 7:00am Holy Communion 8:30am St. Paul's Food Pantry 10:00am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study Zoom	12 7:00pm Choir Practice	13	14 Valentine's Day 8:00pm AA meeting
15 9:30am Worship 10:30am Megan's Pretzel Sunday 10:45am Sunday School Mission offering: Family Promise Last Sun after Epiph Family Promise Week	16 Presidents' Day 5:30pm Girl Scout (2) Mtg.	17 10:00am Deptford Designers	18 Ash Wednesday 7:00am Holy Communion & Ashes 8:00am Men's Breakfast Pistons 10:00am Women's Bible Study 12:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:00pm Community Ash Wed Worship Location TBA	19 7:00pm Choir Practice	20	21 8:00pm AA meeting
22 9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School 1st Sun in Lent	23 7:00pm Guiding Lights HH	24	25 7:00am Holy Communion 10:00am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study Zoom	26 7:00pm Choir Practice	27	28 8:00pm AA meeting