

**St. Pauls
United Church of Christ**

The Candles of

Hope

Peace



Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 8, 2024

**St. Pauls United Church of Christ
Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin**

(* = YOU MAY STAND.)

RINGING THE BELLS AND WELCOMING THE LIGHT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: “Prelude on Creator of the Stars of Night,” arr. Calahan

CENTERING SONG: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel,” vrs. 2 #119

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: In a world that is lonely,

ALL: we will save a seat for you.

Leader: In a world that is anxious,

ALL: we will light candles against the gloom.

Leader: In a world that is weary,

ALL: we will sing songs of joy and truth.

Leader: I am not alone.

ALL: We are not alone.

Leader: For here in this place, God is weaving us together.

ALL: Light the candles! Sing with joy!

We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.

***OPENING HYMN:** “To Be Known” #INSERT

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE:

Leader: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?

Where do we start?

Pastor: Let us begin together. Let us begin arm in arm.

Let us begin by holding each other up,

instead of tearing each other down.

Let us begin with words of peace.

Leader: Yes, let us begin with peace.

Pastor: Today we light the candles of hope and peace. May these lights remind us of what could be. May these lights mark a new beginning. May peace flow like a river, and may it start with us.

Leader: Arm in arm, hand in hand, side by side. May we begin again. Amen.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Family of faith, one of the beautiful things about the prayer of confession is it is often a prayer we say together. There are times when we close our eyes, bow our heads, and exchange private words with our Creator. But there are other times when praying out loud as a community allows us to right our relationship with God and with one another as well. This is one of those moments. So as a community, please join me in our call and response prayer of confession. Join me in speaking the truth of our lives. Join me in practicing grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & WORDS OF FORGIVENESS:

Pastor: I have tried to make my own way. I have tried to lace my own shoes, to build my own house, to kindle my own faith. I have said a thousand times, “turn back,” as if I am fine on my own. But the days are long and I am forgetful. I need your help. Can you remind me?

ALL: We will remind you of this everlasting truth:

You are not alone. Where you go, God goes. You are held in grace. Trust in this good news.

Pastor: Thanks be to God! I remember. I believe.

ALL: Now we acknowledge our need for help. We, too, have tried to make our own way. We have tried to lace our own shoes, to build our own houses, to kindle our own faiths. We have said a thousand times, “turn back,” as if we are fine on our own. But the days are long and we are forgetful. We need your help. Can you remind us?

Pastor: I will remind you of this everlasting truth: You are not alone. Where you go, God goes. You are held in grace. Trust in this good news.

**ALL: Thanks be to God! We remember. We believe.
Alleluia! Amen.**

***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

ALL: Holy God, The words of this world whip around us like a mighty wind. We are caught up in news reports, in text messages, in emails and notifications. We are drowning in updates from the media, caught off guard by the constant hum of it all. But here on this bright morning we remember: you too are speaking. Still the voices around us. Calm our minds and center our hearts so that we can hear your words above the wind. We are leaning closer. We are at the edge of our chairs. We are beginning again. Speak to us, as only you can. Amen.

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

ALL: And, also, with you.

READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Liturgist's Reading: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (P. 787)

Pastor's Reading: Ruth 1 (P. 308)

SERMON: *"We Can't Go Alone"* **Pastor Emma Sancomb**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

...We ask these things in the name of Jesus who taught us to say when we pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

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.

***SERMON HYMN: “Creator of the Stars of Night” #127**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

We believe in a with-us God:

**a God who walks with us in the valley,
dances with us on the mountaintop,
sings with us through the night
and rejoices in the morning.**

**We believe that this with-us God
wired us for relationship,**

**saying to creation on the very first week,
“Humans should not be alone.”**

**Therefore, in an effort to be who God called us to be,
we strive to live like the Trinity—
connected, united, and centered.**

We believe in the power of community.

We commit to learning each other's names.

**We choose to journey with each other,
like Ruth with Naomi.**

And we remember that no one can go through life alone.

Thanks be to God, for lighting our way.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Leader: We believe in the God of peace, and God's confidence in us to carry forth the mission of loving and caring for this community and the wider community. Let us now share our gifts and resources so that we may continue to walk humbly with God and our neighbors.

OFFERTORY



(Please place your offering in the plates as they are passed, give through your usual method, or click on the QR code to the left by using your cell phone camera and clicking on the St. Pauls Giving website.)

*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God for all that love has done
Creator, Christ, and Spirit one. Amen.*

*DEDICATION

Leader: Loving God - we dedicate these gifts that have been shared for the welfare of your beloved community. May they bring peace into the world and serve as a signal that God is with us, that a day of peace can be known as we become peacemakers in the name of Christ. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN:** “Called as Partners” #453

***BENEDICTION**

As you leave this place,
may you have the wisdom to lean on one other.
May you have the courage to hold onto hope,
the compassion to do the good that is yours to do,
and the confidence to trust that God sees you as a blessing.
For in a world full of dead ends,
Advent invites us to begin again.
So start here.
Start now.
Start with love and begin again.
In the name of Christ,
our new beginning,
go in peace.

POSTLUDE: “Postlude on Waltham,” Wilbur Held

+ Liturgy by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

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RESOURCES FOR PERSONAL DEVOTIONS

Lectionary Readings for

December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

Children's Program

~Luke 3:7-18

~ Isaiah 58:9b-12

~Phil 4:4-7

~ Zep 3:14-20

LITURGIST SCHEDULE:

Dec 8 Gladys Hoagland
Dec 15 Blaine Harris
Dec 22 Jeff Jegl
Dec 24 Amy Krohn
Dec 29 Kam Lindow

USHER SCHEDULE:

Dec 8 Team #4: Medrow, Schweigert, Maury
Dec 15 Team #5: Nooyen, Toebe, Tracy
Dec 22 Team #6: Dethloff
Dec 24 Team #1: Maury, Martin, Rubatt
Dec 29 Team #2: Gibowski, Gardebrecht

GREETER SCHEDULE:

Dec 8 Chris Sparrow
Dec 15 Mike Maury
Dec 22 Kam & Tom Lindow
Dec 24 Julie Loth
Dec 29 Gibowski

COFFEE HOUR HOST:

Lincoln Lodge Masons
The Cookie Crew
Kam Lindow
None
Sue Schuelke & Mike Gresen

OUR STAFF:

Pastor: Rev. Emma Sancomb
Minister of Music: Dr. Kelly Kazik
Bell Choir Director: Chris Sparrow
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Russell Knoth
Admin. Asst.: Stephenie Osuji

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You can reach the office at 262-251-5160 or  
email [saintpaulsinthefalls@gmail.com](mailto:saintpaulsinthefalls@gmail.com)

Pastor Emma's email: [pastor@stpaulsucc.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulsucc.org)

Kelly's email: [music@stpaulsucc.org](mailto:music@stpaulsucc.org)

## **OFFICE HOURS**

Pastor Emma: **Wednesday 9:30am-3pm or by appointment**  
Church Office: **Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 10:00am-2:00pm**

## **CPR (Church and Pastor Relations Committee) MEMBERS**

Julie Loth [jmhloth@gmail.com](mailto:jmhloth@gmail.com)  
Mike Dethloff [mdethloff62@gmail.com](mailto:mdethloff62@gmail.com)  
Terry Tracy [terencepatricktracy@gmail.com](mailto:terencepatricktracy@gmail.com)  
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Sue Schuelke [sschuelk@charter.net](mailto:sschuelk@charter.net)  
Jennifer Seehaver [jennifer@seehaver.com](mailto:jennifer@seehaver.com)

## **SEARCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Andy Toebe  
Pam Gibowski  
Drew Olson  
Chris Sparrow  
Paul Martin

**PRAYER REQUESTS (To be added to the prayer chain, please contact Julie Loth 262-422-0267)**

- Darlene Eisen - who is home recovering from a broken hip.
- Jaye Gardebrecht - Her brother, Kurt has started treatment for his cancer that has returned.
- Carol Rubatt - We celebrate that her CT scans came back good.
- Jean Lipenski - Brother, Dan, is recovering from a stroke.
- Jegl Family - Jeff's mother-law-law, Jannette, had surgery on Tuesday for her breast cancer.
- Steve Hecky - 6-year-old grandson, Graham's continued medical journey.
- Julie Loth - Dear friend/pastor (Jim Martin), who married her and her husband has a new cancer diagnosis.

**Don't forget to complete the Who's in the Pew form located on the end of the pew near the main aisle. PLEASE put completed forms in the offertory plate.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **MUSIC DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENT**

Dear St. Pauls UCC,

After careful and prayerful consideration, I have decided not to renew my contract with the church, which ends 12/31/24. I have come to the conclusion in recent weeks that this decision is the healthiest thing for the congregation moving forward. It has been an honor to serve you these past 6 months and I wish you all the best moving forward.

Dr. Kelly Kazik, Director of Music

### **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHEARSALS**

**The final rehearsal is today following worship!**

St. Pauls is looking for adults and confirmands to participate in this year's Children's Program to be held on **Sunday, December 15th**. Not an actor? No worries! Opportunities to narrate, help with props, help children offstage, etc. would be appreciated as well.

**Practice after church will be today, December 8. Next Sunday is our Children's Program.**

### **ADOPT A FAMILY**

**The tree in Guild Hall still contains many tags for the families St. Pauls has adopted for Christmas!** Please consider taking a tag and buying the suggested gift for a family member in our community who could use the assistance to make their Christmas a little brighter. Wrap the gift, put the identifying tag on it and return it under the tree by **next Sunday, December 15th**.

### **REVERSE ADVENT TREE**

Just like in past years, we have the Falls Food Pantry Reverse Advent Tree in Guild Hall. The list and more information will be printed on our website, in the Evangel, and copies are next to the "tree".

## COLLEGE STUDENT CARE PACKAGES

We are putting together care packages for our college students. If you have a student, please let the church office know and please provide their address. If you'd like to donate small snacks, gift cards, or a note of encouragement, we have a box in Guild Hall. We will plan to ship in January in time for the start of the second semester. Thank you!



# St. Pauls UCC Annual Cookie Walk

December 14th  
2 p.m. - 4 p.m.



\$12/pound

Wide variety of cookies!



Sponsored by  
St. Pauls UCC  
Women's Fellowship



St Paul's Church directory photos  
& personal family photos!

Church directory photos:  
Dec. 8th, 15th, 22nd.  
Choir room, after church.



Personal holiday family photos-  
Message Katie at 414-659-1365 or talk to me in  
person to book.

Indoors at my studio in Menomonee falls!



Katie Elizabeth Photography

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“ ...the Glory of God  
shone around them...  
Luke 2:9 ”

Be the Light

## The Christmas Fund

*"And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them..." —Luke 2:9*

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you!

You will find a Christmas Fund envelope in today's bulletin. We will be accepting an offering for The Christmas Fund on Sunday, December 22nd. As always, offerings can be put in the offering plate or mailed to the office any time before the 22nd.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8**

- 9:30am - Service
- 10:45am - Fellowship
- 10:45am - Directory Pictures
- 10:45am - Children's Program Rehearsal

## **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10**

- 6:30pm - Choir Practice
- 7:30pm - Bell Choir Practice

## **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11**

- 4:30pm - Bible Study

## **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12**

- 9:00am-9:00pm - Cookie Baking

## **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13**

- 9:00am-9:00pm - Cookie Baking

## **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14**

- 9:00am - Meditation Group
- 9:00am-Noon - Cookie Baking
- 12:00pm-5:00pm - Cookie Walk

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15**

- 9:30am - Children's Christmas Program
- 10:45am - Fellowship
- 10:45am - Directory Pictures
- 11:00am - Women's Fellowship

## **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17**

- 6:30pm - Choir Practice
- 7:30pm - Bell Choir Practice

## **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18**

- 4:30pm - Bible Study

## **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21**

- 8:00am-1:00pm - Blood Drive

# To Be Known

WALTHAM 8.8.8.8

Words by Anna Strickland, 2024

Music by John Baptiste Calkin, 1872



Re - call the truth that we once knew:  
For in the gar - den God de - clared  
In ev - ery age hu - man - i - ty  
Both you and I are in - ter - twined



We were not made for sol - i - tude  
That our brief lives on earth be shared  
Re - lied on mu - tu - al - i - ty  
The warp and weft of hu - man - kind



We need com - mun - i - ties of faith  
With part - ners, friends, and fam - i - ly  
Our God - breathed spi - rits weren't de - signed  
So please don't try to go a - lone



Where we can feel God's warm em - brace  
Who hold us in our joy and grief  
To be di - vid - ed and con - fined  
Your hu - man heart needs to be known