The Scribe

St. Paul UCC
144 E Palatine Road, Palatine IL 60067
(847) 358-0399 www.stpaul-ucc.org

December 2023

Pastor's Pen...

"We need Divine intervention" is a phrase that has often been uttered over the years. It is always said in reaction to a circumstance that goes beyond a person's control. It is said after the proud, the strong, and the capable come to the startling realization that they themselves are not God. Their expertise and connectedness have taken them only so far, and now they are left with a glaring awareness of their limitations. While some would dismiss the plea for Divine intervention as trite superstition, people of faith know better and therefore recognize it for what it is: a heartfelt *prayer.*

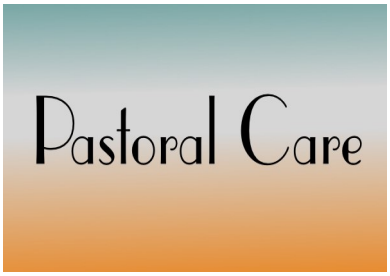
Well, the seasons of Advent and Christmas are our annual reminders that the prayer for Divine intervention has already been answered! In fact, it has been answered in **two installments**! The first installment happened in Bethlehem when the angels announced to the shepherds that a Savior had been born to them who is Christ the Lord. The second installment will come at a later date (TBA) when this same Savior returns from heaven and consummates history as we know it. You and I are currently living in that "in-between" time. We celebrate the first installment at Christmas, and we wondrously wait for the second as we had heard it referred to during Advent.

Your story hasn't been finalized yet! Your present circumstances are not the final word! Why? Because your story is caught up in and irreversibly intertwined with God's story. God's redemptive purposes for all creation also includes *you.* In a nutshell, this means that in the Ultimate-of-ultimates sense, you do have hope. So do we all!

I'll see you in worship.

David

St. Paul UCC Executive Board Members: Sharon Altergott (Spiritual Life Board Rep.), Karen Connor (Spiritual Life Board Rep.), Ed Doktor, Tom Donat, Randy Everett (Admin. Board Rep.), Robert Kraft and David Mercer (Staff Rep).



Pastoral visitation is available to those who are hospitalized, temporarily laid up at home, or going through rehab at a facility. Because hospitals and other institutions do not notify the church when a patient is admitted, we need for you or your family member to notify us. We will be more than happy to accommodate your request for pastoral care. Please note also that the pastor may be reached for emergencies at (224) 386-6285 (cell phone).

Pastor David's procedure in visiting St. Paul's shut-ins, as well as, those members who have a difficult time getting to church is to offer support, bring Holy Communion (their option) and to let them know we journey together in worship. Pastor David understands that scheduling may depend on frequency of doctor's appointments or the church member's schedule. Visitation is always available, however, as the shut-in member's health and life situation may change and more extensive pastoral care is needed. Any church member or their family member desiring more frequent pastoral visitation, or to be placed on the visitation list in the first place should contact the church office at (847)-358-0399 to make arrangements.

"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." (James 5:14)

The Pastoral Relations Committee Is Available To You!

Do you have an idea, a question, a comment, or a concern that you would like for Pastor David to know about? You have a couple of options available to you. First, you may speak directly with the pastor. Our pastor is here for ALL of St. Paul's members and he welcomes communication from ALL members. If you aren't comfortable in speaking directly with the pastor, however, then your second option is to go through the Pastoral Relations Committee. Their purpose is to foster good relations between pastor and parish through open and thoughtful communication. St. Paul's Pastoral Relations Committee members are: Debbie Everett (Chair); Tom Donat, Jim Frost, and Bob Kolze.

Please help in welcoming Diana Monacelli as our new regular vocalist at St. Paul starting Sunday, November 5th. Here is a brief bio on Diana so that you can get to know her:

Diana Monacelli is a Chicago based classical soprano with her Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music in Vocal Performance degrees from North Park University. She has led worship in many parishes around the Chicagoland area as a soloist and choir member since 2015, singing in church since childhood.

Diana has performed numerous opera roles including her recent debut as Despina in Mozart's Cosi fan tutte in Salzburg, Austria. For the past 8 years she has taught private lessons in voice, piano, and guitar. This year she was appointed director of a children's choir as well as two plucked strings ensembles. When Diana is not performing and teaching she enjoys traveling and cooking new recipes!

7 Bruce Kerlin
10 Sue Gould
12 Larry Ingram
16 Brian Lech
17 Cherrie Wickstrom
19 Gary Guenther

If there is anyone I missed, please call the church office, so we can update our records. Thank you!

From the Music Department...

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Each Sunday, after the lighting of the Advent candles, we will sing 2 verses of the Advent hymn *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* as part of our Advent journey to the birth of Jesus. The following historical account from Hymnary.org gives a view of why we traditionally sing this hymn during Advent.

This ancient advent hymn originated in part from the "Great 'O' Antiphons," a series of plainchant antiphons attached to the Magnificat at Vespers over the final days before Christmas. On each day of the week leading up to Christmas, one responsive verse would be chanted, each including a different Old Testament name for the coming Messiah (Emmanuel, Wisdom, Adonai, Shoot of Jesse, Key of David, Dayspring, Desire of Nations). When we sing each verse of this hymn, we acknowledge Christ as the fulfillment of these Old Testament prophesies. We sing this hymn in an already-but not yet-kingdom of God. Christ's first coming gives us a reason to rejoice again and again, yet we know that all is not well with the world. So along with our rejoicing, we plead using the words of this hymn that Christ would come again to perfectly fulfill the promise that all darkness will be turned to light. The original text created a reverse acrostic: "*ero cras*," which means, "I shall be with you tomorrow." That is the promise we hold to as we sing this beautiful hymn.

Please join us for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service on Sunday, December 24th at 5:00pm and will feature an intergenerational pageant. Merry Christmas!

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Ed Bartelt, friend of Charlotte Mally
Doris Brztowski
Karen and Carol Douglas
Nancy Drost, sister of Russ Drost
Russ & Michael Drost
Ed, cousin of Jackie Schultze
Jeff Florey
Bonnie Hartmann, cousin of Mary Ann Leseberg
Matthew & Michael Hayford
Carol Hennings, sister of Pat Kolze
The Hernandez Family, neighbors of Melissa Gumm
Larry Ingram
Jennifer, friend of Kris Freeman
Karen, friend of Bob & Pat Kolze
Bruce & Barb Kerlin, parents of Bruce Kerlin
Corry Klipp, friend of Melissa Gumm
Dick Kolze
Leeland Korman
Larry Layman, brother of Shirley Kolze
Holly Petersen
Kathy & Karen Peterson, friends of the Arnolds
Kathy Schuett, sister of Sharon Giles Khan
Mary Schultz, neighbor of Nancy Perry
Sherry Stephens, sister of Shirley Kolze
Judy Troutman
Nick Vendafreddo, father of Tom Vendafreddo
Beverly Young

SERVING CHRIST IN WORSHIP

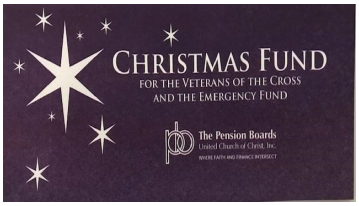
December Usher Captain:
Randy Everett

December Readers:
3: Tom Donat
10: **N/A**
17: Janet Olsen
24: Reader Needed
31: Cherrie Wickstrom

Lectionary for December:
3: Isa 64:1-9; Psalm 80:11-7,17-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37.
10: Isa 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2,8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8.
17: Isa 61:1-4,8-11; Psalm 126; Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thess 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.
24: 2 Sam 7:1-11,16; Luke 1:46b-55; Psalm 89:1-4,19-26; Rom 16:25-37; Luke 1:26-38.
25: Isa 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-7,8-20.
31: Isa 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Gal 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40.

The **2024** Bulletin sponsor sign up sheet and envelopes are **in the Narthex.** The cost is $40 per month. Please fill out the sign up sheet, take a designated envelope, place your donation inside and you can either mail it in or drop it in the collection plate on Sunday. You can also call the church office and Mary can sign you up as well. Thank you!

Boards and Committees!! The deadline for the 2023 Annual Reports is Monday, January 8, 2024. Please have them turned in to the church office by the 8th. If you need a copy of last year's report, please request via email from the church office at secretary@stpaul-ucc.org. Thank you!



THE CHRISTMAS FUND

On **Sunday, December 17th,** we will be collecting our annual Christmas Fund Offering. UCC's Christmas Fund benefits church's retired workers. For decades, the Christmas Fund, formerly known as Veterans of the Cross, has helped provide supplemental monies for pension and healthcare insurance premiums for low income retirees. At Christmas, the offering provides gift checks to hundreds of annuitants, but it also provides emergency assistance to clergy and lay employees and their families throughout the year. Envelopes will be by the bulletins beginning Dec. 10th. Thank you, Community Outreach

There will be a short Congregational Meeting after worship on **Sunday, December 10th**, for the purpose of distributing the 2024 proposed budget and the proposed Constitution/By law changes. They will both be voted on at the scheduled **January 21**, Congregational Annual Meeting. If you are unable to attend and would like the papers emailed to you, please call the church office.

Saturday Men's Group
December 16, 10:00am
"Stories from Christmas Past" and planning ideas for 2024 with Xmas coffee cake. Bible discussion, optional, 9am

Women's Fellowship will meet on **Saturday, December 9th at 9:00am**
Please bring a sack lunch—dessert, coffee and tea will be provided.
We will be making Christmas gifts for the children who attend the Christmas Eve service.
All materials will be provided. Please sign up at the East Entrance.
Friends are always welcome! Thank you.
Blessings, Linda Hayford & Dee Langguth

Arrangements have been made with d'Vine Wine and Gifts, 243 East Northwest Highway, Palatine, for fund raising for St. Paul during the holiday season from November 6th through December 31st. Receipts from our purchases will be saved and 10% will be sent to us the first of January.

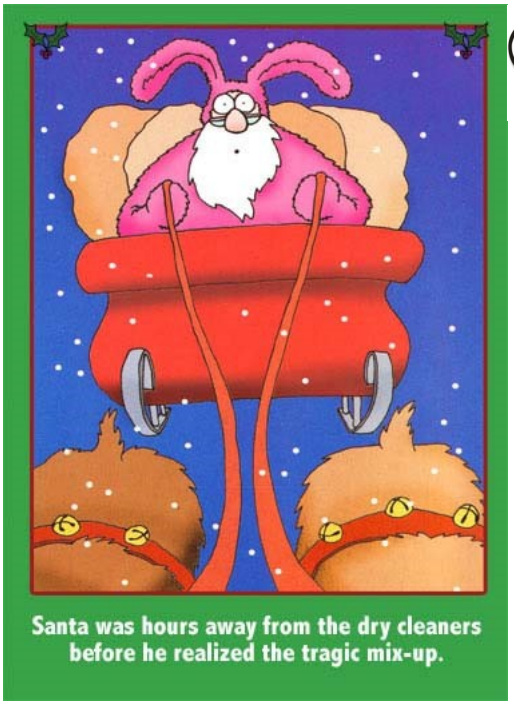
This specialty shop offers wine and craft beer, food items, one-of-a-kind gifts, home and seasonal decor, hostess gifts, and gift baskets.

Flyers are available at church and may be used as often as people wish during this time period. It can be shown in printed format or in electronic format on a phone or tablet. Mention you are shopping for St. Paul UCC in Palatine.

On **Sunday, December 10th**, our church will be a place of joy and peace as the Chancel Choir presents *Peace and Joy* at the 10:00a.m. service. Christmas is not just about a holiday; it's a time to honor the birth of Jesus. Please join us in rejoicing as we share in the timeless story, enjoy the sounds of the choir, sing carols, and embrace the spirit of the season!

On the Lighter Side...brought to you by the Health Committee...
Merry Christmas Version

My wife said, "For Christmas take $200 and buy me a Nativity set and if there's anything left over you can spend it on fishing stuff!"



Christmas Treats

P	D	T	M	F	M	S	S	A	H	P	H	L	K	N
Q	A	A	U	F	I	U	M	Z	H	Q	F	Y	M	Q
G	E	E	E	A	N	O	U	C	O	O	K	I	E	S
S	R	S	K	O	C	I	L	C	L	O	V	E	S	L
E	B	O	A	M	E	T	P	E	G	D	U	F	E	Ë
G	R	O	C	S	M	P	R	E	H	E	P	L	I	O
N	E	G	T	M	E	M	A	N	H	A	U	A	R	N
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G	N	I	F	F	U	T	S	A	G	R	P	D	R	U
E	T	A	L	O	C	O	H	C	B	U	I	G	C	B
X	X	S	E	O	T	A	T	O	P	T	E	E	W	S

BUCHE DE NOËL
CANDY CANE
CHOCOLATE
CLOVES
COOKIES
CRANBERRIES
EGGNOG
FLAT BREAD
FRUITCAKE
FUDGE
GINGERBREAD
GOOSE
GRAVY
HAM
MINCEMEAT
NUTS
ORANGES
PUMPKIN PIE
SCRUMPTIOUS
STUFFING
SUGARPLUMS
SWEET POTATOE
TURKEY