The Scribe

St. Paul UCC
144 E Palatine Road, Palatine IL 60067
(847) 358-0399 www.stpaul-ucc.org
December 2024

Pastor's Pen.....

Around the first of November, 93.9 FM began playing their annual marathon of Christmas music. They play it all day, every day, and will continue to play it until about 6:00pm on December 25 when they deem Christmas to be over. At least that's how they did it last year. Looking back, I was surprised that they ended their Christmas music marathon on December 25 itself!

American culture's timing of Christmas differs markedly from that of the Western church. For the latter, we go through the four weeks of Advent which precede Christmas. Then, when Christmas itself comes, we recognize December 25 as being only the first day of Christmas -- with 11 more to go! It goes without saying that there's a huge gap between current pop culture and Christianity, but nowhere is that more apparent than in the stark differences between the way they each think of Christmas.

That all aside, Christmas Eve this year will feature one service at **5:00pm**, rather than the two services, early and late, as we've had in years past. This decision came as a result of discussion between the Board of Spiritual Life and the Worship Committee, as some of our committee members noted that attendance at the late Christmas Eve service has been steadily declining over the years. So, while it was acknowledged that it isn't easy to let go of something that has been a cherished tradition for many, the life changes among our congregation necessitated its discontinuation. I want to assure everyone, however, that many hands are going into producing a Christmas Eve service in both form and content that highlights the true meaning of the season. We will hear the Nativity story read straight from the Bible, and we'll sing carols. There will be communion and there will be candlelight. It *will* be a classic Christmas Eve service; one which affords the occasion all of the tasteful artfulness that we can muster, and of which the Savior certainly deserves!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

David

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

Please welcome **Debbie Halawith** who joined our church, becoming a member of St. Paul on Sunday November 24th!

Debbie lives here in Palatine and has a background in the Catholic Church. Debbie says that she especially likes the camaraderie with other people here at St. Paul, as well as the choir, soloist, pianist, and pastor's sermons.

Please say hello to Debbie & welcome her as soon as you get the chance!

Advent Schedule

Advent Readers and Candle Lighters

December 1– Cherrie Wickstrom and Tom Donat
December 8- Lynn Golden and Steve Barr
December 15– Chuck and Margie Anderson
December 22– Sunday School
Christmas Eve–Kim Cichon and Sharon Altergott

Coffee, Cookies, & Conversation for Advent

Join with the pastor during the season of Advent for informal conversation about the Advent readings from the Sunday lectionary. No Bible expertise necessary

10:30 to 11:30am in Fellowship Hall.
RSVP appreciated but not required.

Thursday December 5th	**10:30-11:30am**
Thursday December 12th	**10:30-11:30am**
Thursday December 19th	**10:30-11:30am**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a congregational meeting on December 8th after service regarding the budgets. We would really appreciate everyone being there.

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.

Randy Cichon **Richard "Dick" Kolze**

Kim Cichon

Finding Peace in a Messy World

December 1st at 3:00PM-5:30PM
****This Sunday****

Come Join Our Messy Church Event

Creativity, Celebration, and Hospitality

Messy Church is a form of church that combines four "F's" faith, food, fellowship and fun, **but not as you know it.**
Regardless of your age or life journey, come and join us as we celebrate our messy lives through creativity hospitality and more!

All are welcome to join us for activities, mission project, story telling, singing, a meal and more...

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

If I have missed anyone, please let me know!

Milestone Birthday For Gary

The Sunday School would like to thank Michelle, Diana and the choir for all of your dedication and hard work in providing beautiful music each week.

Christmas Cards:

Because of the limited response, the health committee will no longer collect Christmas cards that have been received for the congregation this year.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the past years.

BOOK EXCHANGE – 2025

The Health Committee will hold the annual Book Exchange in January.

Please begin to save your books, CD's, DVD, and magazines. You can bring your items starting on Jan. 5th.

Care Team Announcements

The St. Paul CARE Team's purpose is to acknowledge and show care and concern for our church members' various life events such as birthdays, membership anniversaries, joys, and challenges.

Anyone who is currently a member of and interested in remaining on the CARE Team or anyone not currently on but interested in joining the CARE Team, should **please contact either of the co-chairs by Friday, December 13**, so we can update our records.

Thank you so much.

Kim Cichon (kimmy4443@gmail.com)
Mary Faust (mefmbf4@aol.com)

2025 Offering Envelopes

The 2025 Offering envelopes are available for pick up in the Narthex **during the months of November and December**.

Please note some envelope numbers have changed due to consolidation. If you know of someone who is unable to attend worship, please feel free to take them with you and drop them off. **Thank you!**

December 15th
will be our musical program
with our amazing choir,
Diana and Michelle.
Let your family and friends
know!!

Our Annual
Christmas Pageant will be
held on December 22nd
If you are interested in being a part
of this beautiful event, please
contact Linda Hayford or let Debbie
know and I can pass it on to Linda

If you ordered a
beautiful poinsettia plant,
please pick it up after
Christmas Eve service
or after service on
Sunday the 29th

Christmas Eve Service will begin at 5:00pm

Raise Right makes Christmas gift shopping easy. Order for everyone on your nice list this year. Order a Starbucks gift card for your neighbor, a Target gift card for your daughter-in-law, or Home Depot for the handy man in your life. For a limited time, several $5 and $10 gift cards are available for various stores that make great stocking stuffers.

You can also purchase gift cards to buy your holiday meal. Jewel, Mariano's, Meijer, Walmart and more are available. You receive 100% of the gift card amount you purchase and a percentage of the purchase is donated to Community Outreach. We recently purchased Thanksgiving meals for four families through the Palatine Township office thanks to your generosity.

Place your order by December 1 and receive your cards December 8.
Please your order by December 8 & receive your cards December 15.

If you have any questions, please see Sue Lech or email at s.lech@comcast.net

Below is the Raise Right (Scrip) form , print it off and fill it out. If you go to www.raiseright.com you can see all of the gift cards that are available.

There is no activation fee on the VISA gift cards

St Paul United Church of Christ/Palatine, IL

Name	email or phone
Check #	Order total

Date

Common products	QTY	Total
Amazon $10.00		$
Amazon $100.00		$
Amazon $25.00		$
Dairy Queen $10.00		$
Jewel Osco $100.00		$
Jewel Osco $50.00		$
Mariano's (IL) $100.00		$
Mariano's (IL) $50.00		$
Starbucks $25.00		$
Visa Gift Card - No Activation Fee		$
Visa Gift Card - No Activation Fee		$
Visa Gift Card - No Activation Fee		$
Walgreens $100.00		$
Walgreens $25.00		$
Walmart $100.00		$
Walmart $25.00		$
Walmart $50.00		$

Product	QTY	Total
		$
		$
		$
		$
		$
		$
		$
		$
		$
		$
		$
		$
		$
		$
		$
		$
		$
		$

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Family and Friends of Janet Degner
Family and Friends of Richard "Dick" Kolze

Ed Bartelt, friend of Charlotte Mally
Doris Brztowski
Karen and Carol Douglas
Nick & Michael Drost
Ed, cousin of Jackie Schultze
Elena, daughter-in-law of Mary Carlisle
Jeff Florey
Bob Hasselmann, brother of Shirley Shimka
Matthew & Michael Hayford
Carol Hennings, sister of Pat Kolze
The Hernandez Family, neighbors of Melissa Gumm
Larry Ingram
Ashley Karr, friend of the Everetts
Bruce & Barb Kerlin, parents of Bruce Kerlin
Jay Kolze, nephew of Bob & Pat Kolze
Leeland Korman
Larry Layman, brother of Shirley Kolze
Russell Nebbia, father-in-law to Nicholas Drost
Ethel Otto
Holly Petersen
John Riley, friend of Melissa Gumm
Kathy Schuett, sister of Sharon Giles Khan
Mary Schultz, neighbor of Nancy Perry
Sharon, neighbor of Bob & Pat Kolze
Bonnie Stallone, daughter of Jim & Shirley Schimka
Sherry Stephens, sister of Shirley Kolze
Beverly Young
Rosann friend of Sharon Khan
Cassandra Trost

SERVING CHRIST IN WORSHIP

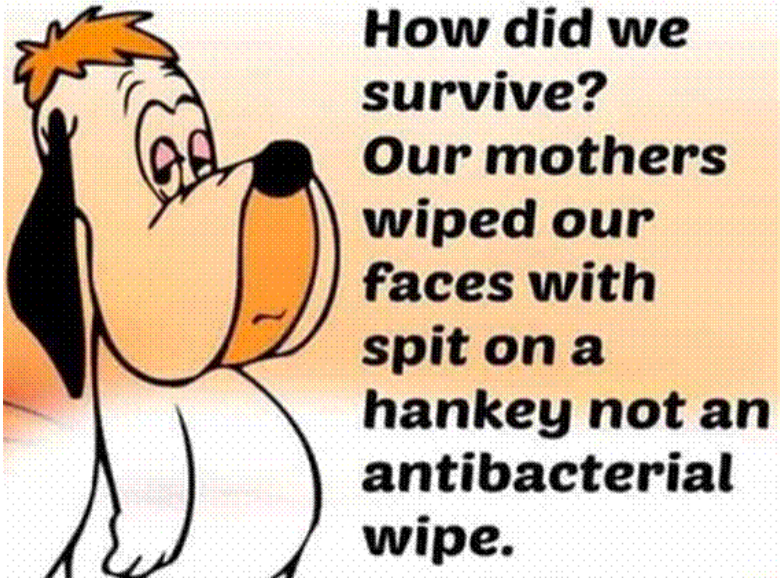
December Usher Captain:
Randy Everett

December Readers:
1: Tom Donat
8: David Russell
15: Kim Cichon
22: Janet Olsen
24: Kim Cichon
29: Kim Cichon

December Greeters:
1: Ron Bohat
8: Jackie Schultz
15:NEED****
22:NEED****
24:NEED****
29:Sally Graf

Lectionary for December
1:Jeremiah 33: 14-16, 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13, and Luke 21: 25-36
8: Luke 1: 68-79, Philippians 1: 3-11, and Luke 3:1-6
15: Zeph 3: 14-20, Philippians 4: 4-7, and Luke 3:7-18
22:Psalm 80: 1-7, Hebrews 10: 5-10, and Luke 1: 39-45
24: Isiah 62: 6-12, Psalm 97, and Luke 2: 8-20
29: 1 Sam 2:18-20, Psalm 148 and Luke 2: 41-52

I got your nose!
@Wumo
12-21-15
GOCOMICS.COM/WUMOVISION

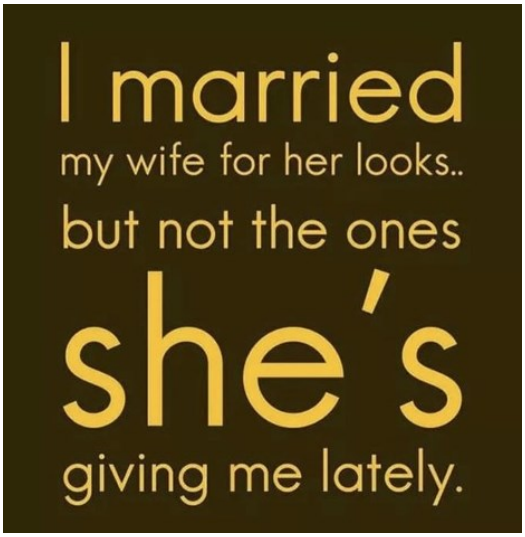

How did we survive? Our mothers wiped our faces with spit on a hankey not an antibacterial wipe.

When I'm bored I go around putting these stickers on paper towel dispensers
VOICE ACTIVATED
SAY LOUDLY
"PAPER TOWEL NOW!"

I CALL THIS ONE "THE SERVICE BELL." HIT IT A BUNCH OF TIMES AND THEY'LL COME RUNNING.
Patreon.com/ScottMetzgerCartoons
METZGER

LAZY
IS SUCH AN UGLY WORD
I PREFER THE TERM
SELECTIVE
PARTICIPATION

A million kids want to clean up the earth.
A million parents want them to start with their rooms.


I married
my wife for her looks..
but not the ones
she's
giving me lately.

H N B Z Z J M L V Z E G Y B R B D I N F
W Q Y P J Y U J K I A I E T O A N I R Z
D B Y P R F E I G R H I L L I Q W A N O
P L R R H N T E P E E H S E D V N O K B
H Z H T D W Y E W V L O H B M K I G A V
C N I L L A I U V H K Z C F I A U T P I
U A O O E G C L G Z G H F N W K C M A R
F G U K W U M A W J M H C Q N U I W D N
T H G I N T N E L I S E D E S E R T H W
K K C V M M I H Z N N Y P Z A B R S G J
U L D V J Z B R D S D K M O Q V T L D D
P V P I Q C I U E U F M G W Z L O F O I
G A R Q X T W N G R W K B F N U T T E O
T S W F Z O S P N C R G Q H G F E K U L
C I Q X V B B Z U F Z L W S X E I H A Y
R N H D R O F U V Y U Z S B T C U I W S
A K S Y D N L P O H G B G L J A Q G B A
D V J H P J I D H V N A J W C E B M T U
L D B F V E V J G H O H I W U P C L Y D
E P X Z T A E N K Q Z O D B W W R F E P
Inn
Hay
Stable
Desert
Silent Night
Camel
Quiet
Nativity
Peaceful
Faithful
Gold
Sheep
Myrrh
Cradle
Frankincense
printabulls

REVERSE
ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A FOOD BANK.

December 1 - box of cereal
December 2 - peanut butter
December 3 - stuffing mix
December 4 - boxed potatoes
December 5 - macaroni and cheese
December 6 - canned fruit
December 7 - canned tomatoes
December 8 - canned tuna
December 9 - dessert mix
December 10 - jar of applesauce
December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
December 12 - cranberry sauce
December 13 - canned beans
December 14 - box of crackers
December 15 - package of rice
December 16 - package of oatmeal
December 17 - package pasta
December 18 - spaghetti sauce
December 19 - chicken noodle soup
December 20 - tomato soup
December 21 - can corn
December 22 - can mixed vegetables
December 23 - can carrots
December 24 - can green beans