



St. Paul's United Methodist Church of Odessa
Reaching Up Reaching In Reaching Out
Pastor Linda Ray, 406 Main Street, Odessa, DE 302-378-2420
www.stpaulsodessa.org

CCLI 11305346 and Streaming Lic. 21184487

First Sunday in Advent
United Methodist Student Sunday

November 27, 2022, 11:00 AM Service

WE ENTER GOD'S GATES WITH PRAISE

WELCOME WITH MUSIC AND IMAGES

PRELUDE

Instrumental

Amy Brown

Mark Holden, Photographer & Curator

HANDBELLS PRESENTATION

Handbells Choir

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Allen, Mary and Jordan Ingram

One: This is the first Sunday of Advent when we read again of how God's people are waiting for the coming of the Messiah.

Many: Advent is the season of waiting and preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

One: Today we light the first candle as a sign of our hope.

Many: Our joyous hope that we can be restored as we watch and wait with all God's people for the promise to be fulfilled.

All Singing: A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright, A candle of Hope in November's dark night.

While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky, our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

*OPENING HYMN

Come, Thou Expected Jesus

Red Hymnal 196

*OPENING PRAYER (all praying): **Almighty God, as we begin this season of Advent remind us again that in the midst of our darkness you are bringing us peace, to calm our anxious spirits and hectic lives. Turn our hearts again toward you. Make us ready to receive your Son our Savior. Slow our pace and give us the blessing of feeling your peace in our spirits. For we ask this in Jesus' precious Name. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Oh Come Little Children

by Christoph von Schmid, 1794

Oh come, little children, O come one and all, O come to the manger Bethlehem's stall, and see what the Father in heaven so true, has done to prepare a bright Christmas for you.

Ellie Leuliette shares a blessing with our children!

FIRST LESSON: *Isaiah 2: 1-5*

2 This is what Isaiah, Amoz's son, saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 In the days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
will be the highest of the mountains.

It will be lifted above the hills;

peoples will stream to it.

3 Many nations will go and say,

"Come, let's go up to the Lord's mountain,

to the house of Jacob's God

so that he may teach us his ways

and we may walk in God's paths."
Instruction will come from Zion;
the Lord's word from Jerusalem.
⁴ God will judge between the nations,
and settle disputes of mighty nations.
Then they will beat their swords into iron plows
and their spears into pruning tools.
Nation will not take up sword against nation;
they will no longer learn how to make war.
⁵ Come, house of Jacob,
let's walk by the Lord's light.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence v. 1-4

Red Hymnal 626

*GOSPEL LESSON:

Matthew 24: 36-44

³⁶ "But nobody knows when that day or hour will come, not the heavenly angels and not the Son. Only the Father knows. ³⁷ As it was in the time of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Human One.^[a] ³⁸ In those days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark. ³⁹ They didn't know what was happening until the flood came and swept them all away. The coming of the Human One^[b] will be like that. ⁴⁰ At that time there will be two men in the field. One will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill. One will be taken and the other left. ⁴² Therefore, stay alert! You don't know what day the Lord is coming. ⁴³ But you understand that if the head of the house knew at what time the thief would come, he would keep alert and wouldn't allow the thief to break into his house. ⁴⁴ Therefore, you also should be prepared, because the Human One^[c] will come at a time you don't know.

One: May this story inspire us all.

ALL: To walk in the way that leads to life.

THE MESSAGE:

"Wait Upon The Lord With Faith"

Pastor Linda Ray

WE GIVE THANKS

OFFERTORY PRAYER :

Pastor Linda Ray

Gracious God, as we bring our gifts to you, we bring much more than earthly treasure; we bring our very lives. Transform us through our giving, that we may grow ever closer to you. Help us share your peace and love with others as joyfully and generously as you have shared your gifts with us. Amen

THE OFFERTORY

Today's **Yellow Hat** mission offering supports **United Methodist Student Sunday**
PRESENTATION TO HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

OFFERTORY HYMN

I Hear the Prophet Calling

Choral Anthem

*THE DOXOLOGY Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Red Hymnal 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Linda Ray

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Great God of Presence and Promised Coming, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to fulfill your desire for us to love one another. We have not followed the paths you have given us, choosing instead to follow our own. We have broken relationships, we chase consumer desires, We have rebelled against your love; We have not loved our neighbors, we spend time with family and friends out of obligation rather than sincere love. We have not heard the cry of the needy, the mouth of the poor is still hungry for mercy, The cause of the oppressed is still thirsty for justice. Free us for joyful obedience, through the Advent of Christ, Our Lord, Our Messiah, Our Hope. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor Linda Ray
Officiant Server – Ann Raymond

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through the prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

(Lifting and breaking the bread) On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave God thanks, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

(Lifting the cup) When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to God, gave it to his disciples, and said “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

ALL: AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.

Pastor: Let us join our hearts and voices in the prayer that Jesus taught us:

Our Father, which 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory Forever. AMEN.

(The congregation will come forward to partake of the bread and cup.)

Pastor: Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

WE GO IN THE SPIRIT!

SENDING HYMN
POSTLUDE

Soon and Very Soon v. 1,2,3,1

Red Hymnal 706
Amy Brown

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Liturgist: Carole Harmon

Audio/Video: Charlii Miller & John Littell

Communion Officiant/Server: Ann Raymond

Ushers: Ellie & Dick Leuliette, John & Patti Harmer, June Stemmler, John Harmon, Denis Shaffer, Laura Widger

Musicians: Amy Brown, Director of Music Ministry

ASL Interpreter: Gail Garner

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Linda Driver Ray, Pastor	lindaray@vaumc.org	(540) 207-1787
Bonnie Valeski, Admin. Asst.	bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org	(302) 378-2420
Alice Mullins, Financial/Treasurer	alice.mullins@hotmail.com	(302) 293-9956
Amy Brown, Music Ministry Director	amyrowebrown@gmail.com	(480) 677-0910
Duane Dillard, Minister of Music	duanedillard@gmail.com	(443) 593-2470

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S:

Sunday 11/27	Worship Service 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM, Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 9:45 AM
Monday 11/28	Boy Scouts, 6-8 PM,
Tuesday 11/29	Cub Scouts 6-8 PM
Wednesday 11/30	TOPS Mtg 6:00 PM, Handbell Rehearsal 6:00 PM, Choir Rehearsal 7:10 PM.
Thursday 12/01	Prayer Group Ministry, Carole Harmon's Home, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Friday 12/02	N/A
Saturday 12/03	AA Mtg 7:00 PM

2023 PLEDGE CARDS have been mailed to those who hadn't picked them up. Extra Pledge Cards are available in the Narthex. Completed cards can be dropped off to the Church Office, to Alice Mullins, Treasurer or dropped into the Pledge Card silver box at the back, side door of the Church, or mailed.

OUTSIDE CLEAN-UP of SMALL DEBRIS AND INSIDE CLEAN-UP OF CHURCH November 19, Saturday was a wonderful representation of giving and working together. Great thanks to all who donated their time and energy!

ST. PAUL'S WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE ADOPT-A-FAMILY Program in partnership with Neighborhood House this year. We have been given 10 families for whom we will be purchasing gifts. Information and the opportunity to "adopt" specific family members is available beginning November 20 in the Church Narthex. If you have already purchased gift cards for the Neighborhood House, we are still gratefully accepting them! Questions can be directed to Jennifer Rodriguez, Kris Knarr or Brenda Shaffer.

PRAYER REQUEST BOX is available in the Narthex along with the prayer request cards. Just complete the form, fold, and drop in the box on the corner shelf located at the second set of doors into Fellowship Hall.

CHRISTAMS TREE FARM OF JOHN AND BETH HICKEY and family is opening on the Friday after Thanksgiving, November 25th from 8:00-5:00. They will have precut trees, wreaths, and photo ops. John's number is (410) 708-3054. Please come out and support them. Thanks.

Federal Hill Christmas Trees
32762 Galena Sassafras Rd.
Galena MD 21635



Friday, December 2nd 7:30 PM
Saturday, December 3rd 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM
Sunday, December 4th 2:00 PM
Everett Theatre, Middletown, DE
Ticket Prices Children 2 ~ 17 - \$10 Adults 18+ - \$15

For tickets see a cast member, go to
www.everetttheatre.com,
call 302-602-1638, or
www.godspowerandlightco.org



Director: Cheryl Shields
Assistant Director/Choreographer: Anika Moten
Music Directors: Aiden Briggs and Zephyr Doyle
Pianist: Christopher Ponce

BOOK ADAPTED BY REBECCA RYLAND
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY BILL FRANCOEUR
Find us at www.godspowerandlightco.org



God's Power & Light Company



www.thrivent.com

Produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc., Englewood, Colorado

GP & L is a nonprofit organization (#83-1839443) under IRS Code Section 501(c)(3)

For tickets, contact Charlotte Miller, 302 383 7434 or Bev Fawcett.



ST. PAUL'S
United Methodist Church of Odessa
Reaching Up, Reaching In, Reaching Out

St. Paul's Mission Statement

Reaching Up to praise God in vibrant worship

God calls us to live out our discipleship grounded in Christ's awakening us to the glory and majesty of God in all creation, and we respond together by worshiping God with our gratitude and praise. Standing or lifting our hands high are both ancient postures of worship, and so our dance of discipleship involves reaching up with our hearts, souls, and bodies, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.
For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.*

Psalms 100:4-5 (NRSV)

Reaching In to deepen our spiritual walk with Christ

Christ accepts us as we are, and then calls us to follow him and learn from him, growing in our spiritual walk through practices the church calls spiritual disciplines: prayer, fasting, meditation, studying God's Word, individually and with others. As we grow in the knowledge of God, we discover more about the extraordinary plans God has for our lives.

"If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

John 8:31-32 (NRSV)

Reaching Out with acts of love and compassion

Here's where it all comes together! Assured of God's eternal love, strengthened by the grace and knowledge of Christ, we are ready for the Holy Spirit to kindle a fire in our lives, gifting us for the labor of love God has prepared for us to accomplish. Having fallen in love with God, we love and serve our neighbors.

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Matthew 25:40 (NRSV)

Current list of Committees, Chairs and Members as of 05/2022

Pastor	Rev. Linda Driver Ray
Ministry Candidate	Min. Adrienne Dillard
Lay Leadership	Janet Miller, Melissa Brooks, Mark Holden
Church Leadership Co-Chairs	Steve Johnson & Cathy Blanco
Trustee Chair	Charlii Miller
Trustee Committee	Charlii Miller, John Littell, Lynda Lambert
	Rev. Linda Driver Ray (Ex-Officio), Barbara
	Lynn Manlove, Don Mueller, John Cate,
	Cathy Blanco, Steve Johnson
SPRC Chair	Rick Pulling
SPRC Committee	Rick Pulling, Nancee Bleistine, Ellie Leuliette,
	June Stemmler, Janet Miller, Rev. Linda Driver Ray
	(Ex-Officio), Joy Littell, Cathy Blanco, Steve Johnson
Finance Chair	Vacant/Hap Bonham – Interim Chair
Treasurer	Alice Mullins
Finance Committee	Hap Bonham, Angela Christian, Carolyn Stanley
	Rev. Linda Driver Ray (Ex-Officio), Sandy Urstadt,
	Ann Baker, Alan Martin, Melissa Brooks
Worship Arts Committee	Barbara Lynn Manlove, Ellie Leuliette
	Nancee Bleistine, Janet Miller
Missions	Sue Holden, Dawn Buckworth, Sandy & Bob
	Urstadt, Charlotte Miller, Nadine Johnson
	Karen Ellis, Patti & John Harmer, Barbara
	Bonham, Joy Littell, Mark Holden, Nancy Judd,
	Ann Newswanger

Please contact Bonnie Valeski at bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org with any changes or additions

MISSIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

WEEKLY GATHERINGS – CHURCH BUILDING

OFFICE HOURS Tuesday -Thursday, 9AM-2:00PM

- Boy Scouts –Mondays 7-8:30PM
- Cub Scouts –Tuesdays 6-8PM, beginning Sept. 20th
- TOPS Meeting – Wednesdays 6 PM.
- St. Paul’s Prayer and Praise Group Ministry – Thursdays 10 AM
- St. Paul’s Handbell Rehearsal – Wednesdays at 6 PM in the Music Room
- St. Paul’s Choir Rehearsal – Wednesday at 7:10 PM in the Sanctuary
- AA Meeting – Saturdays 7 PM

MONTHLY GATHERINGS

- Finance Meeting – 2nd Monday 6:30 PM
- Trustees Meeting – 2nd Tuesday 6:30 PM
- SPRC Meeting – 4th Thursday 6:30 PM
- Leadership Meeting – 3rd Tuesday 6:30 PM
- PFLAG Meeting – 3rd Thursday 6:30 PM
- Reconciling Ministries – 2nd Thursday, 6:30 PM, will resume in January 2023

Reconciling Ministries Informational Meetings

The Reconciling Committee will NOT BE MEETING November or December. We will resume meetings in January, again the Second Thursday of each month at 6:30. We plan on doing a four-part series of a book study. Stay tuned for more information.

Upcoming Yellow Hat Schedule for December 2022:

<http://www.stpaulsodessa.org/VANCOOnlineGiving>

12/04 El Ayudante Child, Yesprin

12/11 Neighborhood House

12/18 Love Thy Neighbor Fund

12/25 St. Paul's General Fund

Adult Bible Study will begin as a hybrid meeting, (in-person and Zoom), October 16, 2022, in Fellowship Hall at 9:45 – 10:45 AM. Zoom Mtg. ID 839 3481 5178, Passcode 779997.

Flowers for Worship

If you are interested in honoring a loved one with flowers at the altar on a particular Sunday, we are asking you to contact Alicia Blackwell, from Wildflowers by Alicia to place your order. Alicia can be reached at (302) 593-9884. Also, please email the church office so we make sure the information is added in the bulletin.

Compassionate Card Ministry

The Compassionate Card Ministry is made up of 20 dedicated members of our congregation who create hand-made cards and encouraging messages to those in our directory, within our congregation, those on our prayer lists and others who are brought to our attention. Our purpose is to spread kindness and love to others through uplifting and personalized sentiments on hand-made cards. If you are not in our directory and would like to be added to our list, or if you know someone who would benefit from the blessing of a card, please contact Nancee Bleistine, nbleistine@yahoo.com or 609-217-1924.

Prayer and Praise Group Ministry

Carole Harmon hosts a prayer circle, currently Thursday mornings at 10 AM - in person. Please contact Carole if you are interested in joining the group or have a special prayer request. You can also find prayer request cards and box on the corner shelf in the Narthex.

VANCO: Manage Your Giving Online

Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

- 1) Visit the church website at www.stpaulsodessa.org and click on the VANCO Online Giving button to the left of the screen.
- 3) Click on the Link to Online Giving thru VANCO button, then
- 4) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your RECURRING CONTRIBUTIONS.

Family Life

Children's Sunday School will begin again on October 23, 2022, at 9:45 -10:45 AM via Zoom, ID 868 3752 1062, Passcode 817993.

Love Thy Neighbor Fund

Our "Love Thy Neighbor Fund" was created to help those in need in the MOT community. This fund may support a time in someone's life when he/she may need a little kindness and generosity to help endure and survive a challenging situation. If you can donate, please make checks payable to St. Paul's UMC and then write in the memo area it is for "Love Thy Neighbor Fund." Please note, this fund is SEPARATE from the Yellow Hat. Thank you, Love Thy Neighbor Committee

Deep Roots

Nadine Johnson & Karen Ellis continue to work with the "Deep Roots" mission. This group works with families who are disconnected through homelessness and provides transitional shelter and other services to families in need. They need your help as they continue to contact members of the church to help with making meals once a month feeding approximately 50+ individuals. Here's hoping you will be able to help us with this very important and necessary mission. Thanks so much! Contact Karen Ellis at iluvbrmuda@gmail.com and Nadine Johnson at nadine.faye.johnson@gmail.com.

Our Daily Bread Food Donations

214 N Broad St, Middletown, DE 19709

Volunteers Needed – day and evening hours and different areas of need, filling bags, handing out meals, etc.

Volunteer Opportunities can be found at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COE4FAEA82CA3F5CF8-volunteer>. Volunteer opportunities for late October and November – several slots for Clean Up and one more person to help with donations on Tuesday. Please consider a few hours of your time to help those much less fortunate. Contact Sue Holden, Missions Co-Chair, at 802-324-6167, susieq2951@aol.com, with any questions. Also, find information and volunteer sign-up forms on the website,

<https://www.ourdailybreadmot.com>. **On-line Training Coming Soon!**

ODB is most thankful to all who donate either monetarily or in kind. Your generosity helps ODB feed those in our community who are facing food insecurity. Listed below are the items needed to stuff our side bags and other items that are needed on a regular basis. Donations can be dropped off on Tuesday from 9:15 to 11:30 a.m.

- Individual bottles of water
- Individual bags of salty snacks
- Individual packets of sweet snacks
- Individual fruit cups and/or applesauce
- Fresh fruit (apples, bananas, oranges)
- Boxes of breakfast cereal
- Boxes of mashed potatoes
- White bread
- Baked beans (large cans)
- Gallon size zip-loc bags
- Lg black garbage bags
- Cans of soup

Thank you for any and all kindnesses!

Neighborhood House

Neighborhood House really appreciates St. Paul's ongoing support in so many ways. At this point, we are low on some items in the food pantry. These items are especially needed right now in our food pantry, though all donations are gladly accepted with the inventory being low now.

- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Cereal

- Tuna/Tuna Helper
- Tissues
- Spaghetti/Pasta
- Pasta sauce
- Frozen meats/canned meats (Spam, Chef Boyardee, beef stew etc.)
- Soup

Donations can be left inside the Church. We look forward to another great year working together to feed the hungry. Thanks to all, Marilyn Hendershot, Family Services Specialist, Neighborhood House, Inc.

PFLAG Meeting

Meetings are held at 6:30 PM on the 3rd Thursday of each month, presently via Zoom. Please join us if you would like to be supported or offer support and please spread the word to all corners of our communities. We are currently working on a system which will help youth who have been rejected by their parents, find families who will help them. Please contact Mark Holden, (Mark@maholden.com) or call 802-279-8100.

JOYS & CONCERNS: If you know someone, you'd like to add to our prayer list, please email the church office or visit the church website (www.stpaulsodessa.org) to complete a prayer request. **There is also a Prayer Box in the Narthex in which you can drop your completed request.** Please email the office when someone can be taken OFF the list. If you or a loved one needs a pastoral visit, please call or email the church office to schedule.

Prayers for: Noel Lukens, Matthew Smith, Naomi Betts, Jerrod Bolline, Sue Holden's sister, Betsey Snipes, Bill Smith, Beth, Matt & Louise Latocha, Carol Myers, Darryl Dillard, Kathy Golden, Jessica Schrum and Family, Joyce, Aunt to Angela Christian, Dave Corby, Kenzel Messick, David Dudgeon, Kimberly, Ike Guessford, Pat Williams, Jim Wilhelm and father, Seth Holden, Pastor Danese Collins, Daniel Moore, Amy, Robbi, Melissa Davis, Joanne Lambert, Donna's mom.

Birthdays: November 29 – Heidi Allen; November 30 – Sibyl Pompeo; December 1 – Konark Christian, Ryan Scott.

Anniversaries: November 28 – David & Rev. Cynthia Koski