



St. Paul's UMC 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

Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost

All Saints Sunday

November 3, 2024, 8:30 AM Livestreaming and ASL
WE ENTER GOD'S GATES WITH PRAISE

WELCOME WITH MUSIC AND IMAGES

GATHERING MUSIC AND PHOTOS: Mark Holden - Photographer & Curator, Gail Garner, ASL Interpreter

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

*GATHERING WORDS: (**indicates to please stand in body or spirit*)

Liturgist – Ellie Leuliette

One: In the beginning, God called the world into being, saying,

Many: "Let there be light!"

One: In the fullness of time, Jesus came from God to us, saying,

Many: "I am the Light of the world."

One: In our everyday life, we see the work of the saints,

Many: The ones in whom God's light shines.

One: So let us give thanks for the saints this day,

Many: And let us worship God.

*PRAISE AND WORSHIP:

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Red Hymnal 57

*OPENING PRAYER: (all praying): **God of new beginnings, wipe away our tears, that we may come before your throne with hearts full of song and with souls on fire. Help us live as those who are prepared to die, so when our time to depart comes, we may go forth as those who are prepared to live. Open our mouths to exclaim with delight: "Here is our God for whom we have waited!" Whether living or dying, O Lord, our hearts will always belong to you. Amen**

WORDS FOR YOUNG BELIEVERS:

Oh How I Love Jesus (Chorus Only)

Red Hymnal 170

Ellie Leuliette shares a blessing with our children!

PASS THE PEACE: (safely share words and signs of blessing)

I Love You With The Love Of The Lord

Words and Music by Jim Golbert. CCLI Song #10130

I love you with the love of the Lord, yes, I love you with the love of the Lord. I can see in you the glory of my King, and I love you with the love of the Lord.

FIRST LESSON: *Isaiah 25: 6-9 (CEB)*

On this mountain,

the Lord of heavenly forces will prepare for all peoples

a rich feast, a feast of choice wines,

of select foods rich in flavor,

of choice wines well refined.

⁷He will swallow up on this mountain the veil that is veiling all peoples,

the shroud enshrouding all nations.

⁸He will swallow up death forever.

The Lord God will wipe tears from every face;

he will remove his people's disgrace from off the whole earth,

for the Lord has spoken.

⁹They will say on that day,

“Look! This is our God,
for whom we have waited—
and he has saved us!

This is the Lord, for whom we have waited;
let’s be glad and rejoice in his salvation!”

*GOSPEL LESSON: *John 11: 32-44* (CEB)

When Mary arrived where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died.” ³³ When Jesus saw her crying and the Jews who had come with her crying also, he was deeply disturbed and troubled. ³⁴ He asked, “Where have you laid him?”

They replied, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵ Jesus began to cry. ³⁶ The Jews said, “See how much he loved him!” ³⁷ But some of them said, “He healed the eyes of the man born blind. Couldn’t he have kept Lazarus from dying?” ³⁸ Jesus was deeply disturbed again when he came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone covered the entrance. ³⁹ Jesus said, “Remove the stone.”

Martha, the sister of the dead man, said, “Lord, the smell will be awful! He’s been dead four days.”

⁴⁰ Jesus replied, “Didn’t I tell you that if you believe, you will see God’s glory?” ⁴¹ So they removed the stone. Jesus looked up and said, “Father, thank you for hearing me. ⁴² I know you always hear me. I say this for the benefit of the crowd standing here so that they will believe that you sent me.” ⁴³ Having said this, Jesus shouted with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his feet bound and his hands tied, and his face covered with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Untie him and let him go.”

One: May this story inspire us all. **ALL: To walk in the way that leads to life.**

HYMN OF PREPARATION: *Blessed Quietness* Black Hymnal 2142

THE MESSAGE: “The Home Of God” Pastor Linda Ray

REMEMBERING OUR SAINTS: *The names listed are those of church members or extended family members who have died this past year. The name is called, a candle is lit, a bell is tolled.....*

Donna Shank, Noel Lukens

You may light individual candles as you come forward for communion remembering the saints in your life.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(You may speak aloud your joys and concerns.)*

WE GIVE THANKS

OFFERTORY REMINDERS

THE OFFERTORY: Today’s **Yellow Hat** mission offering supports **11/03/24 Congo Partnership.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (all praying): **Beloved God, who was known to our mothers and fathers, and even to our spiritual forebears, have mercy on us. We do not always love as you would have us love. We do not always do as you would have us do. In our stubbornness, we turn from you when we should turn toward you. Hold us, dear One – comfort us when we mourn the passing of friends and family, and help us to know that they are rejoicing in your presence. We praise you for the grace you shower on us, constantly forgiving our errors, especially the ones that we don’t share with any but you. Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

Pastor Linda Ray
Communion Server – Ellie Leuliette
Communion Setting 2257-a

Reader 2 (singing) :The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Reader 2: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

Reader 2: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Reader 1: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth: God of Abraham and Sarah, God of Miriam and Moses, God of Joshua and Deborah, God of Ruth and David, God of the priests and the prophets, God of Mary and Joseph, God of the apostles and the martyrs, God of our mothers and our fathers, God of our children to all generations. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Communion Setting 2257-b

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

Reader 2: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. As the Suffering Servant, Jesus took upon himself the penalty which we merit, bore within himself our sins, our sicknesses, our infirmities, and through his suffering and death bridged the gap of sin which we have cast between ourselves and each other, between ourselves and you. In his death, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus our savior, friend and Lord, has brought an end to sickness and death to sin and separation. By his presence we know the grace and peace of God and are empowered to share these mercies with the whole world.

(Lifting the bread) On the night in which Jesus gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, 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."

Reader 1: (Lifting the cup) When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to the 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:

Communion Setting 2257-c

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Reader 2: 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. Renew our communion with all your saints, especially those whom we name before you. Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, strengthen us to run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith. 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.

Communion Setting 2257-d

ALL: Amen. Amen. Amen. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Reader 2: Let us join our hearts and voices in the prayer that God continues to teach us:

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 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.

COMMUNION SONG:

Here Is Bread, Here Is Wine

Black Hymnal 2266

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

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY AND SERVICE

CLOSING MUSIC:

When We All Get to Heaven

Red Hymnal 701

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Liturgist: Ellie Leuliette

Audio/Video: Charlii Miller, John Littell, John Cate, Carlotta Cline, Garrett Ray

Communion Server: Ellie Leuliette

Musicians: Duane Dillard – Minister of Music

Flowers today are donated by Kris Elliott in memory of her sister Karen Knarr Greenlee.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|----------------|
| 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 | stpodessa@stpaulsodessa.org | (302) 293-9956 |
| Duane Dillard, Minister of Music | duanedillard@gmail.com | (443) 593-2470 |
| Thomas Maloney, Director of Music | thomaseamaloney@gmail.com | (914) 450-0095 |
| Jin Kyung Seo, Organist/Accompanist | jinksblue@gmail.com | |

ANNOUNCEMENTS - THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday 11/03 Daylight Savings Time Begins!! Clocks go back 1 hour! Worship Services 8:30AM Livestreaming and ASL and 11AM, All Saints Sunday Candle Lighting Ceremony for Loved Ones Who Passed, Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:45AM

Monday 11/04 Adult Bible Study 9AM, Nurture Team Mtg 1PM, Trustees Mtg 6:30PM

Tuesday 11/05 Election Day (please vote if you haven't already), Cub Scouts 6PM

Wednesday 11/06 4:30 ASL, TOPS Mtg 5:45 PM, Bells Rehearsal 6PM, Choir Rehearsal 7PM.

Thursday 11/07 10AM Prayer and Praise Group, Stewardship Mtg. 6:30PM

Friday 11/08

Saturday 11/09 AA Mtg 7PM, Church Fall Clean-up Day 9AM-Noon

PLEASE BE AWARE!! The outside back steps are continuing to be a work in progress. For your safety, please do not cross or disturb the taped off areas.

ST. PAUL'S UMC ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN BEGAN SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27th. A letter from the Stewardship Committee Chair, Steve Johnson, is at the end of this bulletin, along with the Pledge Card and the Time and Talent Card. Your letter and cards are available for pick-up at the worship service today and for the next several weeks. Please pray about this opportunity to support your church and then complete and return your cards by November 17th. You can drop them into the offering at any worship service in your sealed envelope with PLEDGE written on it, or anytime to the Church Office. You can also mail them to the office to St. Paul's UMC, PO BOX 253, Odessa DE 19730.

FINANCE NEWS: Finances through September 30, 2024, from Melissa Brooks, Finance Chair

| | Actual | Budget | % of Budget |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Revenue | \$210,439 | \$268,524 | 78% |
| Expenses | \$241,041 | \$290,333 | 83% |

ALL SAINTS DAY: Sunday, November 3, 2024, We will be remembering all those who have passed on with special candle lighting, candle lighting stations and prayers. Please join in to commemorate all those loved ones that have gone before.

THE CLOCKS 'FALL' BACK THE WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 3RD!!! BE SURE TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR BEFORE BED ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND!!!

CHURCH FALL CLEAN-UP will be **Saturday, November 9th, from 9-12 noon.** As last year, there will be index cards of tasks in Fellowship Hall that we need your help to complete, inside and outside the church. You can come by during the week prior, **beginning Monday, November 4th,** to volunteer your time helping with any of those tasks. Please bring any tools necessary for outside cleanup, i.e., rakes, gloves, clippers etc.

Trucks and trailers are needed to haul yard -waste away. If you cannot physically help, donations of donuts, snacks, juice and water are much appreciated for our helpers. Please see Charlii Miller, Trustee Chair with questions or direction. Last year everyone really did a great job of pulling together and the church and grounds looked wonderful.

UMCOR RELIEF SUPPLY BUCKETS: Supplies are being **collected through November 10th**; all items must be new and exactly as described below to all fit in the bucket used. The buckets have already been donated - supplies needed are:

One 32-64 oz bottle liquid laundry detergent
One-16-40 oz bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner--no spray cleaners
One 16-34 oz bottle liquid dish soap
One 4-8 oz pump spray air freshener
One 6-14 oz pump spray insect repellent (pack of 10-20 wipes also acceptable)
One scrub brush with or without handle
18 reusable cleaning wipes--no terry cloth, microfiber or paper towels remove from packaging
Five scouring pads-no stainless steel or ones with soap in them remove from packaging
'36-50 clothespins
One 50-100 ft clothesline (cotton or plastic)
24 roll of heavy duty trash bags (33-45 gallon) remove from packaging
Five N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1-3 mm thickness)
Two pairs kitchen gloves--durable for multiple uses
One pair work gloves--cotton with leather palm or all leather

COMPASSIONATE CARD MINISTRY: As our Compassionate Card Ministry reorganizes, we are extending an invitation to anyone who would like to become a part of this ministry. We meet during the year to make the beautiful cards you receive; it is always fun! It is through our dedicated members that we can keep this ministry going. At this time, we need additional members who can help us to make the cards and be our writers and senders of these cards. For more information, please contact Jen Rodriguez at 302-932-2458, or Ellie Leuliette at 484-432-4673. Everyone is welcomed and appreciated!

FROM THE TREASURER: If there is a need for reimbursement, the **Committee Chairperson will need to complete a Disbursement Voucher**, list the account number, attach any receipts, and submit within 14 days; this is the best practice for auditing purposes. Once completed, place the Disbursement Voucher with receipts directly into the Treasurer/Financial black box which is hanging on the wall, on the landing leading up the stairs, to the church office. Disbursement Voucher forms are located in the mail bin outside the church office. Billing and reimbursement checks are sent out Tuesdays of each week. Thanks so much, Alice Mullins, Treasurer.

BIRTHDAYS: November 4 – Nick Pompeo; November 9 – Brianna Reed, Dick Sommer

ANNIVERSARIES: N/A

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. You can also email Bonnie in the Church Office at bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org.

PRAYERS FOR: David Dudgeon, Dorothy Dudgeon, Carolyn Akin, Jonathan Brooks, John Guy, Maria Gregors, Levi Schrum and family, Marilyn Hendershot, Dennis Downes, Jeffrey & Cheryl Martin, Nancy-sister of Alice Rizzo, Ethan Porter, George, Dylan Green, Blain Shoun, Kevin Quiveors – Al Calbazana's brother-in-law, Thomas Maloney's mother, John Littell, and Brenda Shaffer's nephew, Scott, Mindie, and Bo Pleasanton, Ellen McMichael and Norman Parks, David Sheats, Diane Shoun's sister-in-law, Amanda Branlund, who is going through cancer treatment, Keith Brady who was in a recent bad auto accident and has a traumatic brain injury, Terry Sweeney, Michael Whitehead who is doing better but still grateful for prayers, Barbara Apigian, Dan Moore, Angela Christian for her Aunt Joyce, Kathy Golden, Rev. Cheryl Jensen, Sue Austin, Frank Hartenstein - Beth O'Grady's father waiting on medical tests, friend of Karen Ellis, Georgiana

Fennemore, Michael Stanley, Phil Elliott, Phil's parents, Sue and Mark Holden, Rosalie Lukens and family on the passing of her husband Noel, Dawn Buckworth, Charlii Miller, Faye Taylor's nephew Matthew Smith, Barbara Lynn Manlove's daughter Pam Hartnett, Dick Leuliette, Barbara Lynn Manlove, Bob, Ken, Wells, nephew of Steve Johnson - Matthew, Vickie Bush's mother – Pat McCall.

YELLOW HAT COLLECTIONS FOR NOVEMBER 2024

11/03/24 Congo Partnership

11/10/24 Colette W Bleistine-Paying it Forward Foundation by Nance Bleistine

11/17/24 Adopt-A-Family (Brenda Shaffer & Youth)

11/24/24 United Methodist Student Day

Please make sure ALL checks are made payable to St. Paul's UMC, including checks for the Yellow Hat missions, writing the organization's name on the memo line.

All donations are collected, recorded, entered in the system, and deposited into the Church's operating account on a weekly basis. Also, on a weekly basis, a check is mailed to the specified yellow hat organization for the total amount collected.

It is very important that donations be placed in the offering plate, yellow hat or mailed to St. Paul's UMC. You are also welcome to drop off donations in the black box on the wall just inside the side door to the Church, making sure it is secured in an envelope with your name on the front. This is to guarantee acknowledgement of your donations when the yearly contribution statement is sent for tax purposes.

Thank you all for your continued support for St. Paul's as we are growing in our faith through generosity. Alice Mullins, Treasurer



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)

MISSIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

WEEKLY GATHERINGS – CHURCH BUILDING

OFFICE HOURS Tuesday -Thursday, 9 AM-2 PM

- Cub Scouts –Tuesdays 6-8 PM
- TOPS Meeting – Wednesdays 5:45 PM.
- St. Paul’s Prayer and Praise Group Ministry – Thursdays 10 AM @Carole Harmon’s Home
- St. Paul’s Handbell Rehearsal – Wednesdays 6 PM.
- St. Paul’s Choir Rehearsal – Wednesdays 7 PM
- AA Meeting – Saturdays 7 PM

MONTHLY GATHERINGS

- Finance Meeting – 2nd Monday 6:30 PM
- Trustees Meeting – 1st Monday 6:30 PM
- SPRC Meeting – 4th Thursday 6:30 PM
- Leadership Meeting – 3rd Tuesday 6:30 PM
- Reconciling Ministries – TBD

Adult Bible Study will resume Sunday, September 15, 2024 at 9:45AM.

Bible Study for all will again be held on Mondays, at 9AM.

Children’s Sunday School will resume Sunday, September 15, 2024 at 9:45AM.

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 at bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org 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 Ellie Leuliette.

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.

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>. 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 11:30AM

- 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 kindness!

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.

Currently we are really low on personal hygiene products as well as some food items:

1. **Bottled water**
2. **Toilet paper, Toothpaste, Soap, Shampoo & conditioner**
3. **Peanut butter & jelly (medium size)**
4. **Pasta sauce**
5. **Tuna/Tuna Helper**
6. **Hamburger Helper**

These non-perishables are needed to keep our pantry stocked:

Chef Boyardee, beef stew, Spam ,pancake mix/syrup, snacks - cookies, crackers etc.

ADDITIONALLY, THERE IS ALWAYS A NEED FOR ADULT SIZED DISPOSABLE DIAPERS AS WELL AS FOR BABIES/CHILDREN IN SIZES 4, 5, AND 6, AND WIPES. WE HAVE NUMEROUS MOMS WITH BABIES AND TODDLERS WHO TAKE THEIR MONEY FOR FOOD AND BILLS TO BUY THEM.

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.

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.



St. Paul's United Methodist Church
406 Main Street - Post Office Box 253 - Odessa, Delaware 19730

October 27, 2024

Dear St. Paul's Family,

As we gather together in this blessed season, I am reminded of the profound invitation we find throughout Scripture: "Come to the table." This invitation is not merely a call to share a meal, but a divine invitation to partake in community, fellowship, and the grace of God.

In Luke 14:16-24, Jesus tells the parable of a great banquet where the host invites many to come. When the invited guests make excuses, the host opens the invitation wider, urging others to join him at the table. This story reflects our church's mission: to create a welcoming space for all, regardless of background or circumstance. It reminds us that God's love is inclusive and abundant.

As we reflect on this theme, I encourage you to consider how you can respond to this invitation. Coming to the table means engaging with one another, sharing our gifts, and contributing to the life of our church community. It means opening our hearts to those who may feel excluded and extending our hands to those in need.

Stewardship and Generosity

Our church thrives because of the generous hearts of our members. This year, we invite you to consider how you can support St. Paul's through your time, talents, and treasures. Your contributions enable us to continue our mission of service, outreach, and worship, ensuring that all are welcomed to the table.

We will be hosting a stewardship campaign over the next few weeks, and I encourage each of you to pray and reflect on how you can participate. Whether it is through financial giving, volunteering your time, or sharing your talents, every act of stewardship is a vital part of our church community.

Our expected and unexpected non-recurring expenditures this year along with a proposed aggressive budget for 2025 requires everyone to strongly consider increasing your financial commitment to St. Paul's UMC. **Accordingly, we are asking you to carefully (prayerfully) consider a 10% increase in total giving in 2024 for the 2025 program year.** We believe this will place us in a much stronger financial position for the coming year.

Join With Us

Let us gather in unity, love, and purpose. We will have opportunities to celebrate our community with a special service on Stewardship Sunday, November 17th, where we will reflect on our commitments and our collective mission. I hope you will join us as we come to the table together.

In closing, let us remember that our table is set wide enough for everyone. Together, we can create a space where all are invited to experience God's love and grace. Thank you for being an essential part of our St. Paul's family.

With blessings and gratitude,

Steve Johnson
Chair - Stewardship Committee
St. Paul's United Methodist Church



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

“Come to the Table”

I pledge my support as a vital member or friend of St. Paul's United Methodist Church of Odessa with my prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

My/our commitment to **prayer** is to pray for our Church and other needs ___ times each month.

My/our commitment to **presence** this year is to attend worship service ___ times each month.

I/we make a financial **pledge** of \$ ___ to the 2025 **General Budget** (Jan. 1-Dec. 31).

I/we will contribute this pledge to the **General Budget**:

\$ ___ weekly (52 contributions), or

\$ ___ semi-monthly (24 contributions), or

\$ ___ monthly (12 contributions),

\$ ___ as follows: _____

Annual giving estimates can be adjusted at any time. They may be placed in the offering plates in worship, mailed to the church office, or through online bank or credit card payments – see

stpaulsodessa.org

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

“Come to the Table”

TIME AND TALENT SURVEY

I feel God calling me to serve in these areas: Please mark each category of interest where you are willing to volunteer your time and talents at St. Paul's this year. A separate survey should be used for each individual in your household including children and youth.

Administration

___ Leadership Team Co-chair

___ Leadership Team Member

___ Auditor

___ Bookkeeper/Treasurer

___ Computer Consultant

___ Finance Team, Chair

___ Finance Team, member

___ Counter

___ Lay Leader

___ Lay Leadership Team (Nominations)

___ Lay Servant

___ Membership Team

___ SPRC (Staff-Parish), chair

___ SPRC (Staff-Parish), member

___ Stewardship Team

___ Trustees, chair

___ Trustees, member

___ Maintenance Team

___ Yardwork

PROGRAM

___ Nurture Team, co-chair

___ Prayer Ministry participant

___ Compassionate Card Ministry

___ JOY (Just Older Youth)

___ Fellowship Time Coordinator

___ Green Church Team

___ Bible Studies

___ Congregational Care

___ Deaf Ministries

___ ASL Interpreter

___ Photographer

___ Reconciling Ministry Team

___ Health Ministries Team

___ Safe Church Team

___ United Methodist Men, member

___ United Methodist Women, member

___ United Methodist Youth, Member

___ Outreach Team, co-chair

___ Neighborhood House

___ Deep Roots

___ Our Daily Bread

___ Friendship House

___ Youth Mission Trip

___ Wawa Food Distribution

___ Yellow Hat Offerings

___ Scouts

___ Witness Team, co-chair

___ Worship and Arts Team

___ Acolyte

___ Altar Guild

___ Greeter

___ Usher

___ Lay Reader

___ Communion Assistant

___ Drama

___ Praise Team Member

___ Choir Member

___ Handbell Choir Member

___ Instrumentalist—Which instrument:

___ Worship Tech Assistant

___ Website

___ Adult Bible Study, leader

___ Adult Bible Study, participant

___ Children's Sunday School, teacher

___ Children's Sunday School, participant

Name:

Phone:

Email: