



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

Twenty-third Sunday After Pentecost Reformation Sunday

October 27, 2024, 11:00AM Service,
WE ENTER GOD'S GATES WITH PRAISE

WELCOME WITH MUSIC AND IMAGES

Mark Holden & June Stemmler - Photographer & Curator, Gail Garner ASL Interpreter

MUSICAL REFLECTION: *Prayer For Peace* Handbell Choir
GATHERING WORDS: (Indicates please stand in body or in spirit) Liturgist – Jeanne Buckworth

One: Jesus is in our midst. Jesus, our healer, deliverer, and friend, is here.

Many: We have heard so many good things about him, but we long to meet him, to encounter him ourselves.

One: Call out to him, and do not be silent. Like Bartimaeus, shout to him and do not allow anyone to silence your voice. Cry out and tell Jesus what you need!

Many: Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us! We need a touch from you! Touch me; touch us in our need, which we lift right now in our hearts!

One: In this time of worship, celebrate God's goodness!

Many: In this time celebration of worship, know that Jesus touched your place of need.

*OPENING HYMN: *Open My Eyes That I May See* Red Hymnal 454

*OPENING PRAYER: (all praying): **Lord God, our Provider. We worship you as the one who meets our needs, who grants our daily bread, who restores our humanity. We worship you as the God who knows human need from experience, who knows want, and thirst and humiliation. And we worship you as your people, in a world where wealth is mixed with poverty; where we have all we need, but don't know how to share. Where want, and hunger and thirst and humiliation are hidden from those with the power to offer challenge and bring change. So, open our hearts. Not only that we learn sad facts about the world, but that we may feel our place in this world, as your people. Where there is need, teach us to learn where our wealth lies and help us to give. Where there is injustice, teach us to learn the causes and help us to fight. Where there is brokenness, teach us to learn of our own brokenness and help us to bring wholeness. Help us to look to you, that we neither remain ignorant of the world, nor lose ourselves in despair at its brokenness. Help us to carry our cross, to accept your gift of new life, to bring that gift to others. Amen**

WORDS FOR YOUNG BELIEVERS: *From The Rising Of The Sun* Black Hymnal 2024

From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same, the name of the Lord shall be praised. From the rising of the sun, to the going down of the same, the name of the Lord shall be praised. So praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the Lord. From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same, the name of the Lord shall be praised.

Pastor Linda Ray shares a blessing with our children!

FIRST LESSON: *Job 42:1-6, 10-17* (CEB)

Job answered the Lord:

² I know you can do anything;
no plan of yours can be opposed successfully.

³ You said, "Who is this darkening counsel without knowledge?"
I have indeed spoken about things I didn't understand,

wonders beyond my comprehension.

⁴You said, "Listen and I will speak;
I will question you and you will inform me."

⁵My ears had heard about you,
but now my eyes have seen you.

⁶Therefore, I relent and find comfort
on dust and ashes.

¹⁰Then the Lord changed Job's fortune when he prayed for his friends, and the Lord doubled all Job's earlier possessions. ¹¹All his brothers, sisters, and acquaintances came to him and ate food with him in his house. They comforted and consoled him concerning all the disaster the Lord had brought on him, and each one gave him a qesitah and a gold ring. ¹²Then the Lord blessed Job's latter days more than his former ones. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys. ¹³He also had seven sons and three daughters. ¹⁴He named one Jemimah, a second Keziah, and the third Kerenhappuch. ¹⁵No women in all the land were as beautiful as Job's daughters; and their father gave an inheritance to them along with their brothers. ¹⁶After this, Job lived 140 years and saw four generations of his children. ¹⁷Then Job died, old and satisfied.

HYMN OF PREPARATION:

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Red Hymnal 349

*GOSPEL LESSON: *Mark 10:46-52* (CEB)

Jesus and his followers came into Jericho. As Jesus was leaving Jericho, together with his disciples and a sizable crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus, Timaeus' son, was sitting beside the road. ⁴⁷When he heard that Jesus of Nazareth was there, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, show me mercy!" ⁴⁸Many scolded him, telling him to be quiet, but he shouted even louder, "Son of David, show me mercy!"

⁴⁹Jesus stopped and said, "Call him forward."

They called the blind man, "Be encouraged! Get up! He's calling you."

⁵⁰Throwing his coat to the side, he jumped up and came to Jesus.

⁵¹Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?"

The blind man said, "Teacher, I want to see."

⁵²Jesus said, "Go, your faith has healed you." At once he was able to see, and he began to follow Jesus on the way.

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

THE MESSAGE:

"Let Me See"

Pastor Linda Ray

WE GIVE THANKS

OFFERTORY PRAYER: Mighty God, as you restore sight to the blind and healing to the afflicted, use these offerings to provide refuge for the lost and mercy for those who suffer. May our gifts find those who cry out in need and who seek you with receptive hearts. Amen

THE OFFERTORY: Today's **Yellow Hat** mission offering supports **10/27/24 Our Daily Bread**.

CHORAL ANTHEM:

Walk Worthy

Chancel Choir

*THE DOXOLOGY:

Red Hymnal 95

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (all praying): **When we want to be a church ever-reforming, yet cling to comfortable ways: Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us! When we want to honor your "still speaking voice," but are fearful of insights which challenge old assumptions: Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us! When we want to live into Jesus' dream of oneness but fail to listen to voices of difference: Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on us. Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

Pastor Linda Ray
Communion Server- Kris Elliott

Reader 1: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Reader 1: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

Reader 1: 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. By your Will and through your Word you created the universe, gave it purpose and life, and called it good. Into this creation you placed us, and called us to tend and to keep it; but we quickly turned from your Will and, like the sheep we were called to shepherd, we went astray. But you have not left us lost in the wilderness; you sent your Law and the Prophets to proclaim your Will, and in the fullness of time you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, as a Suffering Servant, to deliver us back into the safety of your family. And so with your people on earth and the great company of heaven we praise you as we 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.

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:

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

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. By your Holy 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, Holy God, now and forever.

ALL: AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.

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.

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

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

WE GO IN THE SPIRIT

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY AND SERVICE

SENDING HYMN:

My Hope Is Built

Red Hymnal 368

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Liturgist: Jeanne Buckworth

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

Communion Server: Kris Elliott

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

Widger, Ryan Vitsorek, Brook Ellis

Director of Music: Thomas Maloney, Organist/Accompanist: Jin Kyung Seo

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Thomas Maloney, Director of Music

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(914) 450-0095

Jin Kyung Seo, Organist/Accompanist

jinksblue@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS - THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday 10/27 Worship Services 8:30AM Livestreaming and ASL and 11AM, Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:45AM, Trustees Nominations Vote, Youth Group Event 12:30PM @Charlotte and Ronnie Miller's

Monday 10/28 9AM Men's Bible Study

Tuesday 10/29 Cub Scouts 6PM

Wednesday 10/30 4:30 ASL, TOPS Mtg 5:45 PM, Community Choral Concert @St. Paul's 7PM

Thursday 10/31 10AM Prayer and Praise Group

Friday 11/01

Saturday 11/02 AA Mtg 7PM

PLEASE BE AWARE!! The outside back steps will be **demolished beginning Wednesday, October 23, 2024.** Workers and trucks/equipment will be in the back lot that day and the ensuing week. For your safety and to avoid any damage to your cars, park your vehicles at the front of the church. Everyone will be notified on the availability and safety of the back lot as we go forward with this project.

ST. PAUL'S UMC ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN BEGINS THIS 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% |

NOTICE: IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

NOTICE IS GIVEN FOR THE ELECTION OF ST. PAUL'S UMC TRUSTEES TO BE HELD ON

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2024

| CLASS OF 2025 | CLASS OF 2026 | CLASS OF 2027 |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| | | John Littell |
| | | Charlotte Miller |
| | | Al Schrum |

YOUTH GROUP: St. Paul's is organizing activities to invite the youth of our community to attend and have fun! This event is for any youth between 6th and 12th grades. Pass the word and invite a friend!! Scarecrows are going to be made at our **first event on Sunday, October 27th at 12:30PM at Charlotte and Ronnie Miller's.**

****** ARE THE ITEMS WE NEED MOST!**

Old bib overalls

Old jeans

Old flannel shirts

Handkerchiefs

Artificial fall flowers

Floppy hats ****

Old sunglasses

Markers

Old rag mops

Old brooms*****

1 inch dowel rods ****

Pumpkin treat or treat buckets to use as heads ****

Cash donations to purchase what we don't get are greatly appreciated!! **Please see Charlotte Miller or Janet Miller for any information.**

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE TABLE!

CHORAL CONCERT AT ST. PAUL'S: We are excited to host a reception following our upcoming choral concert, to include our choir, as well as Thomas Maloney's school choirs, on **Wednesday, October 30th at 7:00 pm.** We need your help, as we are looking for volunteers to provide individually wrapped snacks to share with our guests. (PLEASE BE MINDFUL OF NOTHING WITH PEANUT BUTTER OR NUTS! Thank you for helping us to prevent any allergic reactions!)

This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our church's hospitality and create a warm, welcoming atmosphere. If you can contribute snacks, please complete the sign-up sheet on the table in the Fellowship Hall or contact Karen Ellis at iluvbrmuda@gmail.com or Carole Harmon at car.har416@gmail.com. Your generosity will help make this event a delightful experience for everyone. Thank you for your support! The Nurture Team

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!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY continues to be held Mondays, October 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 9AM. Come and you will be fed!

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: October 27 – Dawn Buckworth, Andrew Shaffer, Randy Spence, Avery Widener; November 1 – Kimmey Reeves; November 2 – Morgan Gottlieb, Gene Messick

ANNIVERSARIES: October 30 – Mark & Sue Holden

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, Mary Ingram's friend Maureen, 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, Alice Mullins' brother - Clarence Brooks, 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 for surgery, Beth O'Grady's mother, 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, Alice Mullin's sister – Karen, Faye Taylor's nephew Matthew Smith, Barbara Lynn Manlove's daughter Pam Hartnett, Dick Leuliette.

YELLOW HAT COLLECTIONS FOR OCTOBER 2024

10/06/24 World Communion Sunday

10/13/24 Friendship House (Robin Cross)

10/20/24 Autism Walk (Dawn Buckworth)

10/27/24 Our Daily Bread

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.

Men’s Bible Study will again be held in October, Mondays 7,14,21,28, 2024 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.



"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 Guld
- _____ 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: _____



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