



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](http://www.stpaulsodessa.org), CCLI 11305346 and Streaming Lic. 21184487

Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost  
Organ and Tissue Donation Sunday  
Veteran's Recognition Sunday

November 10, 2024, 8:30 AM  
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

Dave Corby

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

Liturgist – Joy Littell

Leader: Let us give thanks to God for the land of our birth with all its chartered liberties. For all the wonder of our country's story:

**People: We give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: For leaders in nation and state, and for those who in days past and in these present times have labored for the commonwealth:

**People: We give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: For those who in all times and places have been true and brave, and in the world's common ways have lived upright lives and ministered to their fellows:

**People: We give you thanks, O God.**

Leader: For those who served their country in its hour of need, and especially for those who gave even their lives in that service:

**People: We give you thanks, O God.**

\*PRAISE AND WORSHIP:

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Red Hymnal 384

\*OPENING PRAYER: (all praying): **God, Protector of the widow, the orphan, and the stranger – in a world where many know despair, you raised your Son Jesus to give hope for humanity and renewal to the earth. Continue to strengthen and unify your Church in its struggles against the forces of death in the world, where violence against creation and humanity obscures the hope of the new life you offer. Build us into a household of love and guard the walls of our spirit, that we may remain strong in service to one another. This we pray in the name of the Risen Lord, in the power of His Spirit. Amen.**

WORDS FOR YOUNG BELIEVERS: *Oh How I Love Jesus (Chorus Only)*

Red Hymnal 170

Courtney Martin 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: *Ruth 3:1-5:4:13-17* (CEB)

Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, shouldn't I seek security for you, so that things might go well for you? <sup>2</sup>Now isn't Boaz, whose young women you were with, our relative? Tonight he will be winnowing barley at the threshing floor. <sup>3</sup>You should bathe, put on some perfume, wear nice clothes, and then go down to the threshing floor. Don't make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.

<sup>4</sup> When he lies down, notice the place where he is lying. Then go, uncover his feet, and lie down. And he will tell you what to do.” <sup>5</sup> Ruth replied to her, “I’ll do everything you are telling me.”

<sup>13</sup> So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. He was intimate with her, the LORD let her become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son. <sup>14</sup> The women said to Naomi, “May the LORD be blessed, who today hasn’t left you without a redeemer. May his name be proclaimed in Israel. <sup>15</sup> He will restore your life and sustain you in your old age. Your daughter-in-law who loves you has given birth to him. She’s better for you than seven sons.” <sup>16</sup> Naomi took the child and held him to her breast, and she became his guardian. <sup>17</sup> The neighborhood women gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They called his name Obed. He became Jesse’s father and David’s grandfather.

\*GOSPEL LESSON: *Mark 12: 38-44* (CEB)

As he was teaching, he said, “Watch out for the legal experts. They like to walk around in long robes. They want to be greeted with honor in the markets. <sup>39</sup> They long for places of honor in the synagogues and at banquets. <sup>40</sup> They are the ones who cheat widows out of their homes, and to show off they say long prayers. They will be judged most harshly.”

<sup>41</sup> Jesus sat across from the collection box for the temple treasury and observed how the crowd gave their money. Many rich people were throwing in lots of money. <sup>42</sup> One poor widow came forward and put in two small copper coins worth a penny. <sup>43</sup> Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I assure you that this poor widow has put in more than everyone who’s been putting money in the treasury. <sup>44</sup> All of them are giving out of their spare change. But she from her hopeless poverty has given everything she had, even what she needed to live on.”

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

HYMN OF PREPARATION: *Take My Life, and Let It Be* Red Hymnal 399

THE MESSAGE: “Penny For Your Thoughts” Pastor Linda Ray

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 **11/10/24 Colette W Bleistine-Paying It Forward Foundation by Nance Bleistine.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (all praying): **Holy one who sees all of creation, we long to perceive ourselves as you see us. We yearn to look through your eyes and envision who you created us to be. Help us love ourselves, that we may truly love others. Help us give freely from our bounty, that we may rejoice in the gifts of others, even when they seem small by comparison. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION: Pastor Linda Ray  
Communion Server – Joy Littell  
*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:

**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:

**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.

**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: *I Am Thine, O Lord* Red Hymnal 419

***SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY***

Liturgist: Joy Littell

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

Communion Server: Joy Littell

Musicians: Duane Dillard – Minister of Music

Rev. Linda Driver Ray, Pastor  
 Bonnie Valeski, Admin. Asst.  
 Alice Mullins, Financial/Treasurer  
 Duane Dillard, Minister of Music  
 Thomas Maloney, Director of Music  
 Jin Kyung Seo, Organist/Accompanist

[lindaray@vaumc.org](mailto:lindaray@vaumc.org)  
[bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org](mailto:bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org)  
[stpodessa@stpaulsodessa.org](mailto:stpodessa@stpaulsodessa.org)  
[duanedillard@gmail.com](mailto:duanedillard@gmail.com)  
[thomaseamaloney@gmail.com](mailto:thomaseamaloney@gmail.com)  
[jinksblue@gmail.com](mailto:jinksblue@gmail.com)

(540) 207-1787  
 (302) 378-2420  
 (302) 293-9956  
 (443) 593-2470  
 (914) 450-0095

**ANNOUNCEMENTS - THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S**

<b>Sunday 11/10</b> Worship Services 8:30AM and 11AM Livestreaming and ASL Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:45AM
<b>Monday 11/11</b> Adult Bible Study 9AM, Finance Team 6:30PM
<b>Tuesday 11/12</b> Cub Scouts 6PM
<b>Wednesday 11/13</b> 4:30 ASL, TOPS Mtg 5:45 PM, Bells Rehearsal 6PM, Choir Rehearsal 7PM.
<b>Thursday 11/14</b> 10AM Prayer and Praise Group, Friends of Zoar 6PM
<b>Friday 11/15</b>
<b>Saturday 11/16</b> AA Mtg 7PM

**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 27<sup>th</sup>.** 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 17<sup>th</sup>**. 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 October, 2024, from Melissa Brooks, Finance Chair

	Actual	Budget	% of Budget
Revenue	\$ 285,951	\$ 268,524	106%
Expenses	\$ 275,296	\$ 290,333	95%

**UMCOR RELIEF SUPPLY BUCKETS:** Supplies are being **collected through November 10<sup>th</sup>**; 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 11 – Bob Beavers; November 12 – Nancy Weldin; November 13 – Ryan Ellis; November 15- Stephen Blanco, John Gill; November 16 – Rob Baker

**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](mailto:bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org).

**PRAYERS FOR:** David Dudgeon, Dorothy Dudgeon, Carolyn Akin, Jonathan Brooks, John Guy, 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 & Bev Moore and family, Angela Christian for her Aunt Joyce, Kathy Golden, 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, Faye Taylor’s nephew Matthew Smith, Barbara Lynn Manlove’s daughter Pam Hartnett, Dick Leuliette, Bob, Ken, Wells, nephew of Steve Johnson - Matthew, Vickie Bush’s mother – Pat McCall, Henry Spencer.

### **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 – 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:iluvbrmuda@gmail.com) and Nadine Johnson at [nadine.faye.johnson@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_