



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-sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Stewardship Sunday

November 17, 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

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

Liturgist – Dave Corby

One: The generous love of God abounds.

Many: We celebrate and give thanks for God's infinite love.

One: The unending grace of God surrounds us.

Many: With humble joy, we give thanks for the astounding gift of God's grace.

One: The joy of being a child of God encompasses us.

Many: With gratitude for a God who knows us by name, we give our thanks.

One: The steadfast love of God is always present and always ours.

Many: Come to the table, you are welcome here.

*PRAISE AND WORSHIP:

From the Rising of the Sun

Black Hymnal 2024

*OPENING PRAYER: (all praying): **God of goodness and grace, gather us in your arms of love. Gather us at your table to offer and to receive. Gather us in worship and prayer, that we may be strengthened with faith and courage. Gather us as those who are eager to live and to share your goodness and grace. 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: *1 Samuel 1:4-20* (CEB)

Whenever he sacrificed, Elkanah would give parts of the sacrifice to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. ⁵ But he would give only one part of it to Hannah, though he loved her, because the Lord had kept her from conceiving. ⁶ And because the Lord had kept Hannah from conceiving, her rival would make fun of her mercilessly, just to bother her. ⁷ So that is what took place year after year. Whenever Hannah went to the Lord's house, Peninnah would make fun of her. Then she would cry and wouldn't eat anything. ⁸ "Hannah, why are you crying?" her husband Elkanah would say to her. "Why won't you eat? Why are you so sad? Aren't I worth more to you than ten sons?"

⁹ One time, after eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah got up and presented herself before the Lord. (Now Eli the priest was sitting in the chair by the doorpost of the Lord's temple.) ¹⁰ Hannah was very upset and couldn't stop crying as she prayed to the Lord. ¹¹ Then she made this promise: "Lord of heavenly forces, just look at your servant's pain and remember me! Don't forget your servant! Give her a boy! Then I'll give him to the Lord for his entire life. No razor will ever touch his head."

¹² As she kept praying before the Lord, Eli watched her mouth. ¹³ Now Hannah was praying in her heart; her lips were moving, but her voice was silent, so Eli thought she was drunk. ¹⁴ "How long will you act like a drunk?"

Sober up!” Eli told her. ¹⁵“No sir!” Hannah replied. “I’m just a very sad woman. I haven’t had any wine or beer but have been pouring out my heart to the Lord. ¹⁶Don’t think your servant is some good-for-nothing woman. This whole time I’ve been praying out of my great worry and trouble!” ¹⁷Eli responded, “Then go in peace. And may the God of Israel give you what you’ve asked from him.” ¹⁸“Please think well of me, your servant,” Hannah said. Then the woman went on her way, ate some food, and wasn’t sad any longer. ¹⁹They got up early the next morning and worshipped the Lord. Then they went back home to Ramah. Elkanah had sex with his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. ²⁰So in the course of time, Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, which means “I asked the Lord for him.”

*GOSPEL LESSON: *Mark 13:1-8* (CEB)

As Jesus left the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Teacher, look! What awesome stones and buildings!” ²Jesus responded, “Do you see these enormous buildings? Not even one stone will be left upon another. All will be demolished.”

³Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives across from the temple. Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴“Tell us, when will these things happen? What sign will show that all these things are about to come to an end?” ⁵Jesus said, “Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁶Many people will come in my name, saying, ‘I’m the one!’ They will deceive many people. ⁷When you hear of wars and reports of wars, don’t be alarmed. These things must happen, but this isn’t the end yet. ⁸Nations and kingdoms will fight against each other, and there will be earthquakes and famines in all sorts of places. These things are just the beginning of the sufferings associated with the end.

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

HYMN OF PREPARATION:

Stand By Me

Red Hymnal 512

THE MESSAGE:

“Come To The Table”

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (all praying): **O God who loves us, hear our prayer. So often we come to you at a loss – at a loss for the right words, the right deeds, the right feelings. We know all is not right, but we cannot say with certainty what is wrong. There are deep divisions between us and others. There are too many who live in poverty and fear. There are too many horrific stories, and not enough hopeful ones. So we pray to you, our Creator and Redeemer, to make things right, and to make us right with you and each other. Turn us around from that which destroys toward that which heals and brings joy. Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

Pastor Linda Ray

Communion Server – Dave Corby

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. 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 Have Decided to Follow Jesus* Black Hymnal 2129

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Liturgist: Dave Corby

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

Communion Server: Dave Corby

Musicians: Duane Dillard – Minister of Music

Flowers today are donated by Linda Botsford in memory of her husband, Doug's, birthday on November 18th.

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
bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org
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(540) 207-1787
 (302) 378-2420
 (302) 293-9956
 (443) 593-2470
 (914) 450-0095

ANNOUNCEMENTS - THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday 11/17	Worship Services 8:30AM Livestreaming and ASL and 11AM Traditional, Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:45AM
Monday 11/18	Adult Bible Study 9AM, Compassionate Card Ministry 10-12 Noon, Nurture Team, 1 PM
Tuesday 11/19	Cub Scouts 6PM, Leadership Team Mtg 6:30PM
Wednesday 11/20	4:30 ASL, TOPS Mtg 5:45 PM, Bells Rehearsal 6PM, Choir Rehearsal 7PM.
Thursday 11/21	10AM Prayer and Praise Group, 6:30 PM SPRC
Friday 11/22	7:30 PM Early Thanksgiving Dinner, George Wilson Community Center, Newark
Saturday 11/23	AA Mtg 7PM

MOT COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE: Tuesday, November 26th, at 7 PM at Immanuel UMC, 209 Main St., Townsend DE. Please attend and join in with other area churches and choirs in Thanksgiving prayer and song. A canned good donation is very much appreciated and there will be a special offering. These will all go to Neighborhood House. Fellowship will follow; if you plan to attend, please bring a treat to share. All are welcome!

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 October 2024, from Melissa Brooks, Finance Chair

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

UPDATE!!! UMCOR RELIEF SUPPLY BUCKETS: Supplies are being collected through November 24th; 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 18 – Camela Merkel, Alexa Rodriguez; November 19 – John Harmer, Al Schrum; November 20 – Susan Haberstroh; November 22 – Jorge Rodriguez; November 23 –Natalie Reitzes

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, 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, 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, friend of Karen Ellis, Georgiana Fennemore, Michael Stanley, Phil Elliott, Phil’s parents, Faye Taylor’s nephew Matthew Smith, Dick Leuliette, Bob, Ken, Wells, nephew of Steve Johnson - Matthew, Vickie Bush’s mother – Pat McCall, Henry Spencer, June Stemmler

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: _____