



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

**Christ the King Sunday**  
**Thanksgiving Sunday**  
**United Methodist Student Sunday**

November 24, 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

GATHERING MUSIC: O Sing to the Lord Handbell Choir

\*GATHERING WORDS: (\* Indicates please stand in body or in spirit) Liturgist – Carole Harmon

One: Beloved, on this United Methodist Student Day, give thanks for the students among us and their faith in the Lord Jesus and love for all God's people.

**Many: God, open the eyes of our heart with gratitude for these young leaders.**

One: As we worship today, God, give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation.

**Many: God, open the eyes of our heart to experience your presence.**

One: Thank you, God, for putting everything under Christ's feet as the head of the church.

**Many: God, open the eyes of our heart to know the fullness of Christ who fills everything in every way.**

\*OPENING HYMN: *Crown Him With Many Crowns* Red Hymnal 327

\*OPENING PRAYER: (all praying): **Wisdom bearer, Awaken us today with the brightness of your love. Holy Spirit move through us as we encourage one another by putting aside differences, setting aside ego, and placing your son, Jesus, at the center of our worship. Thank you for the students among us. Help us to equip them with saving grace that pours from you into them, and spills into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen**

WORDS FOR YOUNG BELIEVERS: *Blessed Be The Name* Red Hymnal 63

*Blessed be the name, blessed be the name, blessed be the name of the Lord. Blessed be the name, blessed be the name, blessed be the name of the Lord.*

Susan Menei shares a blessing with our children.

FIRST LESSON: *2 Samuel 23:1-7* (CEB)

These are David's last words:

This is the declaration of Jesse's son David,  
the declaration of a man raised high,  
a man anointed by the God of Jacob,  
a man favored by the strong one of Israel.

<sup>2</sup>The Lord's spirit speaks through me;  
his word is on my tongue.

<sup>3</sup>Israel's God has spoken,  
Israel's rock said to me:

"Whoever rules rightly over people,  
whoever rules in the fear of God,

<sup>4</sup> is like the light of sunrise

on a morning with no clouds,  
like the bright gleam after the rain  
that brings grass from the ground.”

<sup>5</sup> Yes, my house is this way with God!  
He has made an eternal covenant with me,  
laid out and secure in every detail.

Yes, he provides every one of my victories  
and brings my every desire to pass.

<sup>6</sup> But despicable people are like thorns,  
all of them good for nothing,  
because they can't be carried by hand.

<sup>7</sup> No one can touch them,  
except with iron bar or the shaft of a spear.

They must be burned up with fire right on the spot!

HYMN OF PREPARATION: *King of Kings and Lord of Lords* Black Hymnal 2075

\*GOSPEL LESSON: *John 18:33-37* (CEB)

Pilate went back into the palace. He summoned Jesus and asked, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, “Do you say this on your own or have others spoken to you about me?”

<sup>35</sup> Pilate responded, “I’m not a Jew, am I? Your nation and its chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?”

<sup>36</sup> Jesus replied, “My kingdom doesn’t originate from this world. If it did, my guards would fight so that I wouldn’t have been arrested by the Jewish leaders. My kingdom isn’t from here.”

<sup>37</sup> “So you are a king?” Pilate said.

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. I was born and came into the world for this reason: to testify to the truth. Whoever accepts the truth listens to my voice.”

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

THE MESSAGE: “Redeeming Kingship” Pastor Linda Ray

### WE GIVE THANKS

OFFERTORY PRAYER: Strong One of Israel, you bless our lives with splendor; sunlight sparkling on the water, dew on the grass, trees etched against the night sky. May our gifts and offerings reflect our gratitude for the wonder you bring to our lives. And may those who receive these gifts come to know your bounty and the glory of your kingdom. Amen

THE OFFERTORY: Today’s **Yellow Hat** mission offering supports **11/24/24 United Methodist Student Day.**

PRESENTATION OF STUDENT SUNDAY PACKETS TO HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

CHORAL ANTHEM: *In Thanks and Praise* by Ruth Elaine Schram Chancel Choir

\*THE DOXOLOGY: Red Hymnal 95

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (all praying): **Hide your truth in our hearts, dear God, for we are a people who are attracted to the error of our ways. We make bad choices, O Lord. We find ourselves in predicaments that make us sigh and groan. We have brought upon ourselves many of the disasters that have come our way. We were not honest and truthful in all situations. We even try to hide from ourselves when we realize that we are responsible for our own mistakes. O Lord do not remove yourself from us. Forgive us, we pray for the many sins, wrongdoings, shortcomings, and lies. Fill us with your grace and blot out our transgressions. Give us genuine love for each other, we pray. We thank you for the assurance of your forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ. Hear us, we pray, in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

Pastor Linda Ray  
Communion Server – Barbara Lynn Manlove

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: 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. 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. 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.**

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:

*Come Ye Thankful People Come*

Red Hymnal 694

**WORSHIP TODAY**

Liturgist: Carole Harmon

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

Communion Server: Barbara Lynn Manlove

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**

Rev. Linda Driver Ray, Pastor

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(914) 450-0095

Jin Kyung Seo, Organist/Accompanist

[jinksblue@gmail.com](mailto:jinksblue@gmail.com)

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

**Sunday 11/24** Worship Services 8:30AM Livestreaming and ASL and 11AM Traditional, Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:45AM

**Monday 11/25** Adult Bible Study 9AM

**Tuesday 11/26** Cub Scouts 6PM, MOT Thanksgiving Service 7PM Immanuel UMC

**Wednesday 11/27** 4:30 ASL, TOPS Mtg 5:45 PM, Bells Rehearsal 6PM, Choir Rehearsal 7PM.

**Thursday 11/28** Thanksgiving Day

**Friday 11/29**

**Saturday 11/30** AA Mtg 7PM

**MOT COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE:** Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**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 24<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 24 – Margie Apps; November 26 – Diane Shoun; November 29 – Heidi Allen; November 30 – Dawn Feldman, Sibyl Pompeo

**ANNIVERSARIES:** November 25 – Ron & Heather Sutton; November 28 – Rev. Cynthia & David Koski

**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 & 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, 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, 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’s mother, Kathy Golden, Sue Austin, the passing of 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, Blain Shoun, Sue Holden.

## **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. 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.







**“Come to the Table”**

- \_\_\_ 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

**“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

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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