



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

## Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025, 11:00AM Traditional Service, ASL & Livestreaming  
WE ENTER GOD'S GATES WITH PRAISE

### WELCOME WITH MUSIC AND IMAGES

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

#### PRELUDE & GREETING

*\*(indicates to stand in body or spirit)*

**\*LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH** – Nancy & Richard Gerenger

One: In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to make the world right again, we cling to the truth that God has saved, God is saving, and God will save.

**Many: We choose to believe that the day is coming when “the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Isaiah 35:10).**

One: We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as we wait and work for the day when all creation will flourish together.

**Many: So today, we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah, who calls us to live in the joy of the truth of God's salvation.**

**All Singing: Walk in the light, beautiful light; come where his love and his mercy are bright. Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the World. Green Hymnal, 2056**

GATHERING: Liturgist – Nadine Johnson

**\*OPENING HYMN:** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* Red Hymnal 224

**\*OPENING PRAYER: Holy God of Joy, we rejoice in the reality of who you are. We live within the joy of your love for us. Our contentment comes and goes. Our happiness ebbs and flows. Our feelings depend upon our circumstances, our physical health, our brain chemistry. But our joy is deeply rooted in our identity as your beloved children. And we give you thanks. Amen.**

WORDS FOR YOUNG BELIEVERS: *He Is Born* (Chorus) Red Hymnal 228

*He is born the holy Child; play the oboe and bagpipe merrily.  
He is born the holy child, sing we all of the Savior mild.  
Courtney Martin shares a blessing with our children!*

FIRST LESSON: *Isaiah 35:1-10* (CEB)

The desert and the dry land will be glad;  
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom like the crocus.

<sup>2</sup> They will burst into bloom,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

They will receive the glory of Lebanon,  
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon.

They will see the Lord's glory,  
the splendor of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands,  
and support the unsteady knees.

<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are panicking:

“Be strong! Don’t fear!

Here’s your God,

coming with vengeance;

with divine retribution

God will come to save you.”

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,

and the ears of the deaf will be cleared.

<sup>6</sup> Then the lame will leap like the deer,

and the tongue of the speechless will sing.

Waters will spring up in the desert,

and streams in the wilderness.

<sup>7</sup> The burning sand will become a pool,

and the thirsty ground, fountains of water.

The jackals’ habitat, a pasture;

grass will become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> A highway will be there.

It will be called The Holy Way.

The unclean won’t travel on it,

but it will be for those walking on that way.

Even fools won’t get lost on it;

<sup>9</sup> no lion will be there,

and no predator will go up on it.

None of these will be there;

only the redeemed will walk on it.

<sup>10</sup> The Lord’s ransomed ones will return and enter Zion with singing,

with everlasting joy upon their heads.

Happiness and joy will overwhelm them;

grief and groaning will flee away.

\*HYMN OF PREPARATION:

*His Name Is Wonderful*

Red Hymnal 174

\*GOSPEL LESSON: *Matthew 11:2-11* (CEB)

Now when John heard in prison about the things the Christ was doing, he sent word by his disciples to Jesus, asking, <sup>3</sup> “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?”

<sup>4</sup> Jesus responded, “Go, report to John what you hear and see. <sup>5</sup> *Those who were blind are able to see. Those who were crippled are walking. People with skin diseases are cleansed. Those who were deaf now hear. Those who were dead are raised up. The poor have good news proclaimed to them.* <sup>6</sup> Happy are those who don’t stumble and fall because of me.”

<sup>7</sup> When John’s disciples had gone, Jesus spoke to the crowds about John: “What did you go out to the wilderness to see? A stalk blowing in the wind? <sup>8</sup> What did you go out to see? A man dressed up in refined clothes? Look, those who wear refined clothes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> He is the one of whom it is written: *Look, I’m sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you.*

<sup>11</sup> “I assure you that no one who has ever been born is greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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

THE MESSAGE:

“Our Dear Christ Enters In-Baby Names”

Pastor Linda Ray

**WE GIVE THANKS**

OFFERTORY PRAYER: Generous God, who calls us to rejoice, you fill the hungry with good things and you help your people in need. Receive the gifts we offer, we pray, and make them, and us, joyful and patient signs of your coming justice and glory. Amen

THE OFFERTORY: Today's **Yellow Hat** mission offering supports **12/14/25 Neighborhood House**.

CHORAL ANTHEM: *Carol of the Star* by Donald Moore

Chancel Choir

\*THE DOXOLOGY:

Red Hymnal 95

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (all praying): **God, we confess that we have often placed our hope in people and things that can't fulfill our every need. We have searched for peace in shallow places. We have put limits on the ways we love, excluding those who need our loving kindness the most. God, when we have lost our way, show us yours. Guide us to the hope in you that will renew our strength. Lead us to your peace that transcends all understanding. Fill us with a joy we can only experience in your presence, Remind us that you have always loved us with an everlasting love, so that we may share that love with others. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

Pastor Linda Ray  
Communion Server – Nadine Johnson

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. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. 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, whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations. You scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation. You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree. You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send empty away. Your own Son came among us as a servant to be Emmanuel, your presence with us. He humbled himself in obedience to your will and freely accepted death on a cross. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

Lifting the bread) On the night in which Jesus gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

**Reader 1:** (Lifting the cup) When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to the disciples and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

**Reader 2:** Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your 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:

*There's a Song in the Air*

Red Hymnal 249

Liturgist: Nadine Johnson

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

Communion Officiant/Server: Nadine Johnson

Ushers: John & Patti Harmer, June Stemmler, John Harmon, Denis Shaffer, Laura Widger, Ryan & Brett Vitsorek

Greeters: Laura Widger, Brook Ellis

Minister of Music: Duane Dillard

Director of Music: Dr. Kathleen Shannon, Organist/Accompanist: Jin Kyung Seo

**Today's altar arrangement is donated by Carolyn Stanley in memory of her husband, Bruce Stanley, on the tenth anniversary of his passing.**

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Rev. Linda Driver Ray, Pastor

[PastorLinda@stpaulsodessa.org](mailto:PastorLinda@stpaulsodessa.org)

(540) 207-1787

Bonnie Valeski, Admin. Asst.

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

(302) 378-2420

Alice Mullins, Financial/Treasurer

[stpodessa@stpaulsodessa.org](mailto:stpodessa@stpaulsodessa.org)

(302) 293-9956

Duane Dillard, Minister of Music

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

(443) 593-2470

Jin Kyung Seo, Organist/Accompanist

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

Dr. Kathleen Shannon, Director of Music

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

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

**Sunday 12/14** Worship Services 8:30AM and 11AM Traditional with Livestreaming and ASL, Adult & Children's Bible Study 9:45AM, Choir Practice 9:45AM, Dingo and Dessert 3PM

**Monday 12/15** Adult Bible Study 10AM

**Tuesday 12/16** Adult Bible Study 6:30PM

**Wednesday 12/17** TOPS Mtg 5:00PM, Bell Choir Rehearsal 6PM

**Thursday 12/18** 10AM Prayer and Praise Team

**Friday 12/19**

**Saturday 12/20** AA Mtg 7PM

**DINGO & DESSERT:** Today December 14<sup>th</sup>, in FH at 3PM. Bring a dessert to share and enjoy the fun!

**GRIEF SHARE:** Will hold an event December 21<sup>st</sup>, Encountering Grief: Blue Christmas at 3PM.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD: December 21<sup>st</sup>, 5:30PM**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 5&7PM**

**ADOPT-A-FAMILY: From Brenda Shaffer - Adopt-a-family gifts are due at church by Sunday, December 14.** Please be sure each gift is labeled with the Family # and Member #. We are looking for **helpers to organize and bag gifts after church on the 14<sup>th</sup> as well as folks to help deliver the gifts to Neighborhood House on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 am (meet at church).** We do have 3 bikes, so a pickup truck or large SUV would be appreciated! Please let me know if you can assist – [brendashaffer@verizon.net](mailto:brendashaffer@verizon.net) or 302-561-5087.

**FAMILY IN NEED FOR CHRISTMAS: Rick Pulling** has been contacted by a family who is in need for gifts for their 3 children, aged 4 and under. Mother has chronic health issues and no insurance leading to financial strain. Sign up sheet is in Fellowship Hall for the three little ones. Gift cards for the mom to use for groceries (Walmart, Food Lion), etc, are also welcome. **Please wrap, label and deliver the gifts to St. Paul's by December 20<sup>th</sup> and Rick will deliver them to the family.**

**STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES TO DATE: Per Alice Mullins/Treasurer 56 Pledges, Total = \$194,752**

Packets and extra cards are still available in Fellowship Hall. Please **return your financial pledge card in a sealed envelope, addressed to Alice Mullins, Treasurer** and put it in the collection basket or put them in the locked black box on the wall at the side, back door, or put them in the black box on the wall at the top of the steps to the church office marked 'TREASURER/FINANCIAL' or you can give them directly to Alice Mullins (only Alice). This is so we maintain your privacy and the safety of your financial information.

The Time and Talent and the Prayer and Worship cards can be put in the collection plate or given to Pastor Linda.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MONTHLY & YTD BUDGET TOTALS/MELISSA BROOKS CHAIR:**

November Income \$ 23,473

November Expense (\$25,211)

YTD Income \$ 295,323

YTD Expense (\$282,944)

November Yellow Hat:

Congo Partnership \$ 2978

Pay It Forward Foundation \$221

Adopt-A-Family \$823.86

United Methodist Student Day \$381.86

Mosaic of Delaware \$ 351.14

Total: \$2,075.68

**ATTENTION BOOKIES OF ST. PAUL'S!!** After the chat meeting of women and discussing with the Nurture Committee, we've decided to start a Book Club. We will meet every other month starting in January. Our first meeting will include author FAYE GREEN who is a past member of our church. Her latest book is called THE FINEST COTTON. This 2025 fiction novel is about a grandmother named Lucille Cotton and her opinionated talking cat, which causes her grandchildren to react to her travels and escapades.

Faye will be joining us in January to discuss her book and how she started writing. I am taking orders for the book and picking them up from Faye the last week in November. The books are \$15 and I will have them at church the weekend after Thanksgiving. This should give everyone plenty of time to read it before we meet with her. As soon as I have the date in January I will send out the information. Please feel free to ask friends to join us. Contact Nadine Johnson at [Nadine.faye.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:Nadine.faye.johnson@gmail.com) or call 973-600-7976 if you would like to order a book.

**UMM DATES TO REMEMBER: Family Outing Saturday January 17, 2026 2:00PM** at the University of Delaware Basketball game. Please contact Mark Holden, at 802-279-8100 or [mark@maholden.com](mailto:mark@maholden.com).

**Next UMM Breakfast is February 28, 2026.**

**JOY GROUP SAVE THE DATE!**

We have booked yet another JOY event at Sight & Sound in Lancaster!! We will be going to see “JOSHUA” on **Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.** At this point, 50 seats have been reserved. There is no payment due until after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year, but if you are contemplating attending the show, and if you might consider purchasing ticket(s) as a Christmas gift, please let us know so we can put your name on the list. Contact Karen Ellis at [iluvbrmuda@gmail.com](mailto:iluvbrmuda@gmail.com) or Nadine Johnson at [nadine.faye.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:nadine.faye.johnson@gmail.com) with questions or to sign up for what promises to be another amazing show!!

**BIRTHDAYS:** December 14 – Wendy Wallace; December 15 – June Anderson, Kim Halladay, Keith Sydnor; December 16 – Ryan Vitsorek; December 17 – Vickie Spence; December 19 – Frank Fitzwater; December 20 – Zachary Blum

**FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP:** If you are interested in honoring a loved one with flowers at the altar on a particular Sunday, please use the **Flowers Sign-up Chart** and **complete the card with instructions on the Narthex bulletin board.** You can email Bonnie at anytime to see if slots are taken on the chart, [bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org](mailto:bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org).

You can also still call Bonnie or email the church office at [bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org](mailto:bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org) so we make sure the information is added in the bulletin and reserved for you. You can have a florist create a bouquet or you can create your own, (or a plant), and then bring it to the church on Saturday or before the 8:30 am (9am in summer) service on Sunday morning.

**Our designated florist is Elana's in Middletown, 302-285-0800, please call them early in the week to set up your flower delivery for Saturday to St. Paul's. There will be NO delivery charge.**

**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 Valeski in the Church Office with your request at [bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org](mailto:bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org).

**Please be sure to let Bonnie know you want to remove your request. Thank you**

**PRAYERS FOR:** David Dudgeon, Carolyn Akin, Jonathan Brooks, John Guy, Levi Schrum and family, Nancy- sister of Alice Rizzo, Ethan Porter, George, Dylan Green, Kevin Quiveors – Al Calbazana's brother-in-law, Scott, Mindie, and Bo Pleasanton, 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, Angela Christian's mother, Kathy Golden, Georgiana Fennemore, Blain Shoun, Skip Bason, Cindra Holland's mother, who is currently hospitalized and seriously ill, for Jessica Schrum and family, as her father, John Carmichael, begins his cancer treatment journey and her mom, Sandra, his caretaker, Chris Foote, Danny Skeans, Dave Koski, Deena Greenwood, Leah Elliott & Phil Elliott in their health struggles, Alice Mullins' sister Sue Austin who has been ill, Jeanne Buckworth, Lauren – granddaughter to a friend of Sue Haberstroh recovering from surgery after a bad car accident, Giancarlo and family - the great-grandson baby of Carole & John Harmon who needs prayers with his continuing critical health struggles, Dave Sydnor, Bruce Vanmeter – cousin to Beth O'Grady, on his recovery after heart transplant surgery, Elayne Guy, all those Church members families and friends currently fighting illnesses, Jordan Ingram, son of Allen & Mary Ingram, as he suffers through breakthrough seizures and medication adjustments, for Sue Menei on the passing of a family member, for Dave Corby as he recovers from his surgery.

#### **Upcoming Yellow Hat Schedule for December 2025**

**12/07/25 World Vision (John Littell)**

**12/14/25 Neighborhood House**

**12/21/25 Youth Group (Janet Miller and Charlotte Miller)**

**12/28/25 Premier Charities Charity Waters (Carlotta Cline)**

**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

- TOPS Meeting – Wednesdays 5:00 PM. Beginning in December
- St. Paul's Prayer and Praise Group Ministry – Thursdays 10 AM @Carole Harmon's Home
- St. Paul's Handbell Rehearsal – Wednesdays 6PM
- St. Paul's Choir Rehearsal –Sundays @9:45AM
- 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 6:30PM
- Friends of Zoar Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 6PM

**Sunday Adult Bible Study** will resume 9/14/2025, 9:45AM

**Children's Sunday School** will resume 9/14/2025, 9:45AM

**Adult Bible Study** - Monday's 10AM

### **Flowers for Worship**

If you are interested in honoring a loved one with flowers at the altar on a particular Sunday, please use the **Flowers sign-up chart and form with instructions on the Narthex bulletin board.**

You can also still call Bonnie or email the church office at [bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org](mailto:bonnie@stpaulsodessa.org) so we make sure the information is added in the bulletin and reserved for you. You can have a florist create a bouquet or you can create your own , (or a plant) and then bring it to the church on Saturday or before the 8:30 am service on Sunday morning.

**Our designated florist is Elana's in Middletown, 302-285-0800, please call them early in the week to set up your flower delivery for Saturday to St. Paul's. There will be NO delivery charge.**

### **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 at 484-432-4673.

### **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 the

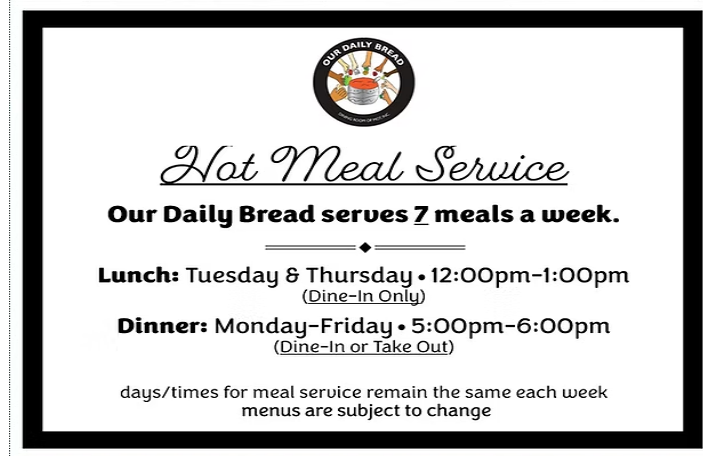


second Wednesday of every month, feeding approximately 50+ individuals. Here's hoping you will be able to help us with this very important and necessary mission. Thanks so much! Contact Karen Ellis at [iluvbr-muda@gmail.com](mailto:iluvbr-muda@gmail.com) and Nadine Johnson at [nadine.faye.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:nadine.faye.johnson@gmail.com)

### **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.ourdailybreadmot.com/volunteer>. Contact Sue Holden, Missions Co-Chair, at 802-324-6167, [susieq2951@aol.com](mailto:susieq2951@aol.com).



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 our pantry is bare and needs these items:**

- **pasta/pasta sauce**
- **canned items like Chef Boyardee, beef stew, Spam, chicken, tuna**
- **canned fruit**
- **peanut butter and jelly**
- **any boxed items like mac'n cheese, stuffing, mashed potatoes**

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

Chef Boyardee, beef stew, Spam ,pancake mix/syrup, snacks - cookies, crackers etc. Toiletries are stocked for now.

**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.

