



St. Paul Ministries

101 Huffman Avenue • Dayton, OH 45403

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Visit our website: stpauldayton.org

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St. Paul, a United Methodist Church, and so much more...



Merry Christmas to all you members of the St. Paul family!

It takes a very long time to become young again! I remember the anticipation and the joy of the Christmas season as a young boy growing up and going to bed every night counting the minutes until Christmas Eve. I had four brothers and one sister and we lived in a drafty, two-bedroom shanty in the middle of a small town with our parents. I don't know where the money came from, but we did not lack at Christmas time; it was as if it was our parent's attempt to declare that our family was as normal as the best of our neighbors' as they allowed us to overindulge in toys and sweets. Maybe it was an attempt for my father to compensate for his awkwardness in his relationship with us and for my mother to compensate for her frequent absences due to mental illness. But Christmas was a time for healing and family unity. I remember my mother giving us all a toy catalog and the usual instructions: circle three toys and we will see what Santa can do! Yea, like we didn't know who Santa was! The part I remember most is that the closeness at Christmas wore off way too fast, and whatever we got was broken or spent by the time the hard snows of January hit, and worse, we resumed our stoic family roles in making it through each day.

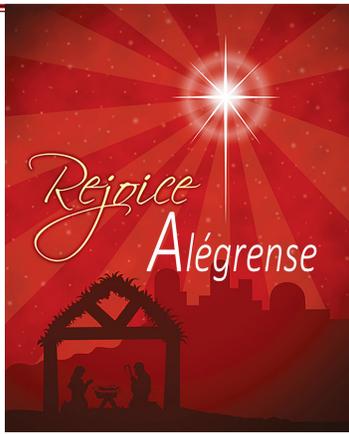


But now in the evening of my life I laud every Christmas and approach it with wonder and awe. Now I understand what I missed as a boy, and I can scarcely believe that it happened, but I have faith that it did – it really did! I believe with all my heart that Jesus was God's Plan A all along. I mean as inferior as mankind is, how could we relate to a pillar of fire, a cloud or a burning bush? Oh, maybe, God showed Himself to Moses or maybe He visited Abraham in his tent, but what about us? Come on, God,

give us someone we can relate to; someone we can really love. And God gave us the infant Jesus. Jesus shows up naked and vulnerable – a defenseless baby. Jesus, the God-man, announces that he will let us influence him; he will allow us to change him. No more can Job lament, "You don't know what it is like to be me!" Because God has stepped into his creation and forevermore knows that experience! And we forevermore know what the face of God looks like. Being a loving human being is hard work, but God came down to show us how to live in the person of Jesus Christ and that is our real salvation: the readiness, the capacity, the willingness to stay in relationship with Jesus Christ. Christmas is a time to celebrate that relationship! Celebrate with your family, your friends, everyone you meet, and the whole world including your enemies. And like me, celebrate it with your friends and family who are no longer in this physical world, but are celebrating with you in heaven! We thank you all for your efforts throughout the year in making St. Paul a loving community that tries to model Jesus Christ's behavior in this world that so desperately needs it. If we are a blessing to others, it is because you have blessed us. We celebrate our relationship with you as you celebrate your relationship with Christ!

God bless you all,

Dan Vanoli



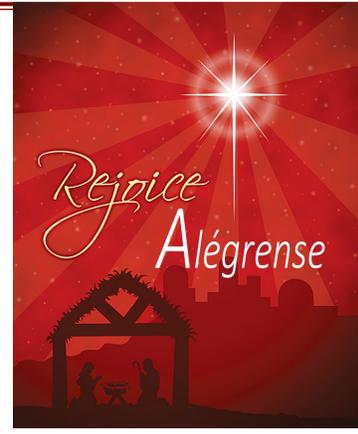
Estimadas familias:
Les pedimos que nos acompañen a celebrar

Las Posadas Navideñas

Sábado el 17 de diciembre de 2016
a las 6 p.m.

en el santuario de
La Iglesia Metodista Unida de San Pablo
ubicada en 101 Huffman Avenue, Dayton, Ohio
Después del programa, pasaremos todos al salón
para la cena tradicional y piñatas.

Favor de traer un platillo para compartir, si posible.



Dear Friends:
You are cordially invited to our annual

Las Posadas Christmas Celebration

Saturday, December 17, 2016
at 6 p.m.

The program will be held in the Sanctuary
of St. Paul UMC
located at 101 Huffman Avenue, Dayton, Ohio

After the program, stay to enjoy
a Mexican carry-in dinner and piñatas.

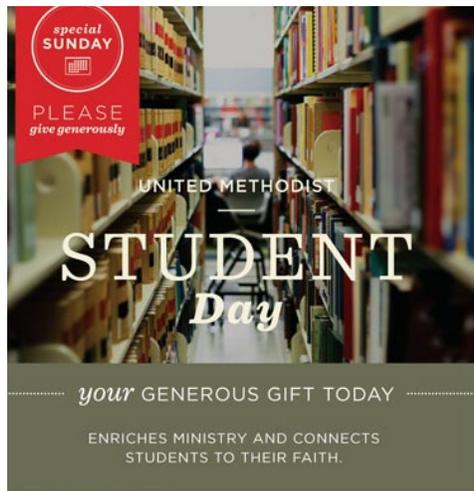
Please bring a covered dish to share, if possible.



We are thankful for all the blessings that have been bestowed on St. Paul recently:

- The Steak Dinner was a huge success! In addition to all the fellowship and fun, we made over \$2600 for God's ministry here.
- The roof repair is complete and paid for! Our insurance will not cover the inside work as we had hoped but we received a miracle instead. St. Paul received \$30,000 from the Fred Luther Trust Fund for building improvements! Matt Shade has volunteered to do the inside ceiling repair. We will also be able to update all of our outdated lighting.

United Methodist Student Day is November 27, 2016



"Receiving the scholarship allowed me to see the support and love I have from the entire United Methodist Church."

—MORGAN SNIPES,
Gift of Hope Scholar,
University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa

"For the sake of the Lord our God's house
I will pray for your good."
— PSALM 122:9, CEB

DONATE NOW

THE BENEFIT BANK®

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES TO RESOURCES

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE is available to most low and moderate income Ohio households through The Ohio Benefit Bank [OBB]. Free tax services through the OBB include free e-filing and ability to receive your refund in as little as 7–10 days, with no fees or other charges. Since the program's inception in 2006, the OBB has helped hundreds of thousands of Ohioans claim tax credits and benefits that are worth millions of dollars.

St. Paul has several year's experience running one of the largest preparation sites in the Dayton area. Again this tax season, St. Paul has been awarded a small grant to hire Vicki Morris to coordinate the program. We are looking for people interested in being tax preparers with a schedule of your choice. Our aim is to have appointments available 6 days a week. **Please call Joan Johnson at 937-252-4467 if you are willing to volunteer.**



Dates to Remember — Advent 2016

Regularly-scheduled activities:

The following activities will continue throughout the month of December:

- Sunday Morning Group Study: 9 a.m.; Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
- YPC - Sr. Peacemakers, M & W/Jr. Peacemakers T & Th: 4-6 p.m.
- Tuesday Worship: 11:40 a.m. followed by lunch at Noon
- Saturday Breakfast: 9 a.m.
- Las Amigas (Hispanic-Latino Womens Support Group): Wednesdays 6:45 p.m. (Closed Dec. 18-Jan. 4)
- Spanish Bible Study and Worship: Sundays 5 p.m. (Closed Dec. 18-Jan. 4)
- ESOL: Wednesdays 10 a.m.
- Ladies' Day Out: Thursdays 11 a.m.
- Yoga: Fridays 9 a.m.

Special Notes:

- **December 3:** *Parents' Christmas Shop* (by appt.) and *Breakfast* served by Belmont UMC
- **December 5-7:** *Children's Santa Shop*
- **December 6:** *Lunch* served by St. Paul Community
- **December 8:** *Christmas on Campus (YPC)*
- **December 10:** *Breakfast with Santa - 9 a.m. (by invitation) & Breakfast* served by Aley UMC
- **December 13:** *Lunch* served by Germantown UMC
- **December 15:** *Last day for YPC* before Christmas break
- **December 17:** *Breakfast - 9 a.m. served by Normandy UMC, and Las Posadas- 6 p.m.*
- **December 20:** *Lunch* served by Concord UMC
- **December 24:** *Breakfast - 9 a.m. served by Belmont UMC Youth, and Christmas Eve Service - 7 p.m.*
- **December 25:** *Informal Christmas Worship/Songfest and Brunch*
- **December 26-30:** *Church Closed*
- **December 31:** *Breakfast* served by St. Charles Catholic Church

Office Hours:

M-F: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Food Pantry:

M, W, TH: 10 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

Stuff Shoppe:

M, W TH: 10 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

T: 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

Worship Attendance:

9/4/2016	25
9/11/2016	44
9/18/2016	75
9/25/2016	36

St. Paul has beautiful Christmas greeting cards available for purchase at \$2.00 each. Each card has a picture of the model of the church which was designed by Jerry Murphy. The inside of each card is blank so it can be used for any purpose. If you would like to purchase some cards, stop by the church office or call Joan at 937-252-4467.



The following 2017 Tuesday lunch dates are available for any group that would enjoy a fulfilling project aimed at building community and serving the hungry:

- January 17
- January 24
- January 31
- February 7
- November 7
- November 28
- December 5

If your group is able to take one of the dates, please call the church office at 937-252-4467 or Don Beebe at 614-286-3984.



... and don't forget to order some of our delicious buckeye Christmas candy!

Our buckeyes are great for holiday gatherings, gifts or stocking stuffers. Proceeds benefit the missions of UMW.

Only \$6 per dozen!

Call 937-252-4467 to place your order by December 4.

Orders will be ready for pick-up on December 11.



At a glimpse

During October 2016, with your support, St. Paul UMC

- served 1,225 delicious hot meals at Tuesday lunch and Saturday breakfast;
- provided groceries for 8,160 meals; 743 lbs. of donated food; 1,453 lbs. of donated bread and pastries through the Emergency Food Pantry;
- placed over 700 pieces of clothing in the hands of many grateful people and made \$345.00 for the Outreach Ministry.

Servant Leader Opportunities

- People to **teach English** in ESOL classes at St. Paul — Thursdays evenings. Please call Derek Petrey at 937-671-4210
- People to provide **childcare** for Las Amigas on Wednesdays 6:45–8:45 p.m., and Spanish Worship on Sundays 5–7 p.m.
- A **team to organize** and improve the Stuff Shoppe
- People to **work on bikes** at LEC



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Church of Dayton

