



St. Paul United Methodist Church

*Empowered by the love of Jesus Christ,
St. Paul United Methodist Church opens doors
of service, justice and peace to the world,
and windows to a life in Christ for all people.*

101 Huffman Avenue • Dayton, OH 45403 • 937-252-4467 • FAX: 937-254-5227



MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

—Rev. Beth Holten

A new church year has begun again; a time when we turn our attention to the pregnancy, birth and infancy narratives of our Lord, Jesus. As a woman and a mother, I connect strongly with these passages. As a pastor appointed beyond the local church to be in ministry with mothers involved with the criminal justice system, the hope contained in these passages carries me through what is often ministry filled with despair and longing of women separated from their children.

On Thursday afternoons at St. Paul UMC-Dayton, we gather together in a Women's Recovery Bible Study to share God's promise of forgiveness and new life. I met these women while they were incarcerated at the Montgomery County Jail. They desire a stronger connection with God and with their communities and after they are released from jail, we continue to build healthy relationships.

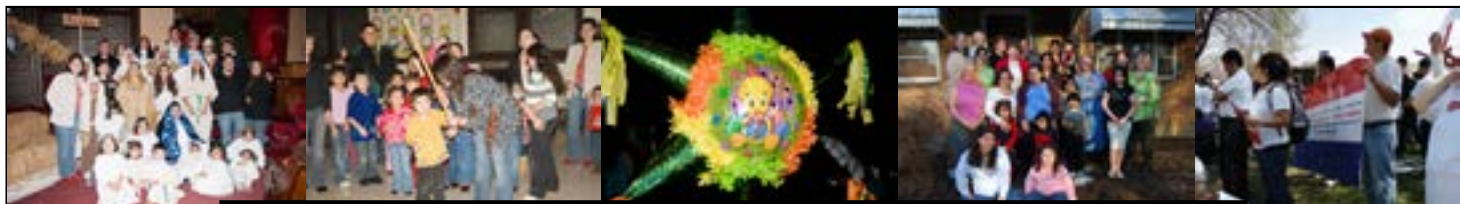
Each day, our Montgomery County Jail houses approximately 200 women. A significant majority of these women have children who are in the care of others due to the alcohol or other drug addiction of these women.

Elizabeth welcomed Mary into her home, to mother her, to mentor her during her pregnancy (Luke 1:39-45; 56). In the same way, the church opens its door to these women and they find a place to be re-parented and/or mentored. Many of these women were reared in homes where there was domestic violence, physical/sexual abuse or neglect, alcohol or other drug addictions and criminal justice involvement. And, when they give birth to their children, all too often this cycle continues and affects the next generation. We are called by God to offer to these women, and to their children, God's love and connect them with all of the resources necessary to build healthy lives and to be able to participate fully in healthy families and communities.

Just as Jesus was born into a dangerous world, so too, these women and their children have been born into a dangerous world where individuals and systems who should have protected innocent children have failed. Matthew 2:13-23 recounts for us Herod's murderous intentions. Herod, as a ruler of his people, should have protected his people from harm. Instead, Herod was interested in his own well-being at the expense of innocent children. As we mentor mothers who are involved with the criminal justice system, we are ever mindful that those systems which are meant to protect can also harm. Discernment of God's will for the church's advocacy and action is needed to protect children and reunite families.

If you are interested in learning more about how you and/or your congregation can become involved with mentoring criminal justice-involved mothers, in sharing with them God's love and hope for a restored future, please contact the Rev. Beth Holten at 937-830-5501. May Christ be born in your hearts again today and every day. Peace and Joy!





Posada Navideña

Dear Friends:

*Saint Paul United Methodist Church
cordially invites you to join us for our annual
Las Posadas Christmas Program
followed by a traditional Mexican Christmas feast
and piñata for the children.*

*Please bring a Mexican dish or dessert
to share, if you are able.*

**Saturday, December 19, 2015
5 p.m. - Program**

**101 Huffman Avenue
Dayton, OH 45403
937-252-4467**





December 2015

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
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.		1 WORSHIP 11:20 a.m. LUNCH - 12 noon Served by St. Paul UMC Jr. Peacemakers 4-6:30 p.m. Zumba 7-8 p.m.	2 ESOL Classes 10 a.m.-12 Noon Sr. Peacemakers 4-6:30 p.m. Las Amigas 6:45-8:15 p.m.	3 KOFFEE HOUR 11 a.m. Jr. Peacemakers 4-6:30 p.m.	4	5 COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 9 a.m. Served by Belmont UM Parents' Christmas Shop (by invitation)
6 WORSHIP CELEBRATION 11 a.m. Choir Practice United Methodist Women	7 Sr. Peacemakers 4-6:30 p.m. Santa Shop Huffman Historic Neighborhood Meeting 7 p.m.	8 WORSHIP 11:20 a.m. LUNCH - 12 noon Served by Normandy UMC Jr. Peacemakers 4-6:30 p.m. Zumba 7-8 p.m.	9 ESOL Classes 10 a.m.-12 Noon Sr. Peacemakers 4-6:30 p.m. Las Amigas 6:45-8:15 p.m.	10 KOFFEE HOUR 11 a.m. Jr. Peacemakers 4-6:30 p.m.	11	12 COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 9 a.m. Served by Aley UMC Breakfast with Santa (by invitation)
13 WORSHIP CELEBRATION 11 a.m. New members will be received Holy Currencies Luncheon	14 Sr. Peacemakers 4-6:30 p.m.	15 WORSHIP 11:20 a.m. LUNCH 12 noon Served by Lewisburg UMC Jr. Peacemakers 4-6:30 p.m. Zumba 7-8 p.m.	16 ESOL Classes 10 a.m.-12 Noon Sr. Peacemakers 4-6:30 p.m. Las Amigas 6:45-8:15 p.m.	17 KOFFEE HOUR 11 a.m. Jr. Peacemakers 4-6:30 p.m.	18	19 COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 9 a.m. Served by Normandy UMC Las Posadas 5:00 p.m.
20 WORSHIP CELEBRATION 11 a.m.	21 No YPC	22 WORSHIP 11:20 a.m. LUNCH 12 noon Served by Concord UMC No YPC No Zumba.	23 CHURCH CLOSED	24 CHURCH CLOSED Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7 p.m. Refreshments Following	25 CHURCH CLOSED Christmas Blessings	26 COMMUNITY BREAKFAST 9 a.m. Served by Belmont UMC Youth
27 WORSHIP CELEBRATION 11 a.m.	28 Sr. Peacemakers 4-6:30 p.m.	29 CHURCH CLOSED No Lunch	30 CHURCH CLOSED	31 CHURCH CLOSED	Sunday Worship Attendance: 11/1/2015 39 11/8/2015 55 11/15/2015 31 11/22/2015 22 11/29/2015 41	



We pray this prayer for each of you during the season of Advent:

O Come, O come, Emanuel!

The world cries for peace, for truth, for freedom from fear.

We wait in solemn Advent for peace to come.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high!

We ask, O God, for hearts ready for peace

And for strength to create a world that reflects your love.

YOUR SAINT PAUL STAFF:

STEVE GILL
ROBIN GANN
SUE WHIGHAM
MATT SHADE

JOAN JOHNSON
BETH WILEY
ALYSON CANTERA

CHUCK SHIELDS
CORA CRAIN
MARK BLAKELY

St. Paul serves a delicious hot meal every Tuesday because of the generosity of many individuals and groups. There are several dates in 2016 for you to experience this servant opportunity.

January 12
May 24
September 6

February 2
July 26
October 25

March 1
August 9
November 29

Please call **Don Beebe at 614-286-3948** or **the church at 252-4467** to reserve a lunch date for 2016!

A sincere thank you goes out to all the volunteers and supporters of our October Steak Dinner! A special heartfelt thank you goes to Debbie Shoulties and her son for the fantastic entertainment! St. Paul made \$2600 for its mission and ministry in East Dayton.

Servant Opportunities

- Food Pantry Escorts
- Host/Hostess for the Pantry waiting room
- Thrift Store Cashier



Visit our website at
<http://www.stpauldayton.org>

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St. Paul
A United Methodist Community

