



St. Paul Ministries

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



Embracing a Year of Believing in 2024 at St. Paul United Methodist Church



Dear St. Paul Family,

As we step into the promising journey that is 2024, we are filled with hope and anticipation for the abundant blessings that God has in store for each of us and for our beloved community at St. Paul United Methodist Church. This year, we are excited to announce our theme for 2024 – Believing. So often, we carry on doing without asking where those motivations and movements come from. Over the last few weeks we have been examining grace, that favor God has for us that allows us to experience rest, redemption and peace, make changes and develop healthier habits. We invite you to join together in embracing the spirit of believing that God’s grace is sufficient.

On one Saturday morning breakfast recently, I was surprised by some of my unconscious beliefs. Late in the morning, one of our Hispanic families came in and several of us jumped up to hand them meals, coffee, and point them in the direction of the fellowship hall. Cobbling together bad and broken Spanish, their faces told me something was wrong before I could find the words. After some time with Google translate, I finally heard them; they were here to set up for a wedding and were looking for a broom, not breakfast. We laughed, and I realized that I believed they needed what I was offering before I even said hello. “My grace is sufficient, my power is made perfect in weakness,” the scripture says. My belief about my role, God and grace, was revealed in that moment. We often do not know what we need, let alone the needs of others, and yet we make assumptions and decisions for others. But grace tells us that God is drawing us before we know what we need. This year, I invite you and me to examine our beliefs and ask who we are as the church, as followers of Christ.

If we are conduits of God’s grace, maybe we don’t need to prescribe or presume what people need, but just listen long enough to hear each other out. In a world that is constantly changing, we believe that God will provide us with opportunities to carry on our cherished traditions and fulfill His mission for our church. This year, let us examine where God is calling us to practice what we preach and be what we believe. I hope you join us:

****Invitation to Bible Study****

To deepen our understanding of God’s word and strengthen our connection with Him, we invite you to join our Bible study sessions. These gatherings are not only opportunities for spiritual growth but also moments of fellowship and shared learning. Let’s come together to explore the scriptures and apply their teachings to our daily lives. Starting Thursday, February 8th at 12:30pm, join our study of prayer as we are guided by the Methodist Book of Daily Prayer. I encourage you to join our text group by texting @village24 to 81010.

****Worship with Us****

Join us in worship as we lift our hearts in praise and thanksgiving. Our worship services are a time for communal prayer, reflection, and celebration of the love and grace that God showers upon us. Your presence adds to the richness of our worship experience, and we look forward to sharing these sacred moments with you Sundays at 10:30am.

****Serve with Purpose****

Believing in God’s plan also means actively participating in God’s mission. Thank you to those who live this out each week; we could not be salt and light on Huffman without you! We encourage everyone in our St. Paul family to consider volunteering in our various service initiatives. Whether it’s supporting Tuesday lunch, Saturday breakfast, Food Pantry or Stuff Shoppe, your time and talents make a meaningful impact.

Together, let’s make 2024 a year of believing, trusting, and embracing the abundant blessings that God has in store for us. May our faith guide us, our worship unite us, and our service reflect the love of Christ.

#bettertogether

Ashton Dupler

Associate Pastor, St. Paul United Methodist Church

Advent 2023

December held special blessings with the Kid's Santa Shop which served 60 children; the Gift Wrapping project with volunteers from 4 congregations; and Normandy's Annual Breakfast with Santa attendance over 100 children and parents.



Terry Ronald created a lovely 5 minute video depicting all the December events. It is perfect for a Mission Moment at your church. Go to our website: <https://www.stpauldayton.org/> and find the video on the home page.

**We ended the year at St. Paul with a great big "Thank you God!"
The blessings flowed with volunteers and donors.**

****Served 15,588 hot Meals in 2023****

****Served 3,867 people in our Choice Food Pantry****

ASH WEDNESDAY BILINGUAL SERVICE 2024

Spanish/English

February 14, 6:30 p.m.

Food Pantry Needs List

Jelly (most needed item)

Canned Meats	Saltine Crackers	Canned Pasta
Canned Vegetables	Graham Crackers	Dry Pasta
Canned Fruit	Hot Chocolate	Pasta Sauce
Canned Soup/Ramen Noodles	Boxed Potatoes	Canned Beans

Volunteer Opportunities

- People to complete intake forms for folks coming for Tax Preparation Assistance. Monday or Wednesday or Friday 9:30am – 1:30pm
- People to work in the Stuff Shoppe [Thrift Store] Mondays or Wednesdays or Thursdays, 10:00am – 1:00pm. Tasks include cashiering, sorting, hanging, etc.
- Groups needed to provide, prepare and serve Tuesday Lunches on the following dates: June 11, July 30, or October 8.
- Individuals willing to be called as substitute volunteer food pantry escorts for our Choice Pantry.
- People with a willingness to offer homework assistance and fun activities for children with safety in mind. Background check required.

Please contact Joan Johnson at 937 252-4467 or administrator@stpauldayton.org if you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities.