



St. Paul Ministries

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



The Rebirth, St. Paul 2019

*Through many dangers, toils and snares, we have already come,
'tis grace hath brought us safe thus far and Grace brings us Home.*

Our way forward has been through very intentional Contemplation and Action that has been Grace inspired and executed by you our expanding and engaging coworkers in Christ. Who might have thought that so many of you in the midst of our boiler crisis, leaving us with **no** heat, would show up consistently and help? With the exception of the week of Christmas break we have been open and in physical discomfort 7 days a week through all of these 8 ½ months!

The **first Phase** of comfort and return to being hospitable was the final Sunday of December 2018 when we had two new Sanctuary furnaces operating. **Phase two** in our journey to our total upgrade in temperature control for the whole building will be to have two more furnaces in the Fellowship Hall operating by the end of the January. **Phase three** will be to finish installing 4 air-conditioning unites for the entire main floor by June of this year (the first time the sanctuary and fellowship hall will have A/C in 136 years). And **Phase four** will have installation of a new furnace and air-conditioning on the lower level that will greatly enhance our children and youth rooms, choice pantry and Stuff (resale) Shop.

We are greatly blessed and are aware that St. Paul has been called for decades to the margins of society to offer physical, emotional, and spiritual comfort. We are even more equipped now to see individuals, a whole neighborhood and even an arm of the United Methodist Church reborn to a dynamic future where Faith and Works are practiced together. Functionally we encourage all who show up to experience open hearts, open minds, and clearly open doors.

Therefore: You are invited to help us begin our Season of Contemplation and Action in our newly heated Fellowship Hall on Saturday, January 26 from 10 am to 1 pm where lunch will be provided.

This strategic season will have us taking time to recognize the Holy Currencies that have been operating in our makeover. Then we will take time to break out in conversations that will include:

1. Children and Youth Ministry
2. Facility and physical upgrades
3. Community and neighborhood development
4. Social Justice
5. Programing expansion of worship, music, theater
6. Formalizing our role as a teaching parish

And of course we will share a meal. Table fellowship is at the core of our DNA.

Who is invited? Partnering Churches and individuals, St. Paul Council on Ministries, Neighborhood associations and residents, members of the UMW, Staff, Administrative Council and Trustees are all invited.

RSVP or Questions: St. Paul UMC 937-252-4467 **OR** administrator@stpauldayton.org **Steve**



Thanksgiving and Advent with Hispanic-Latino Ministry at St. Paul - Dayton

On Thanksgiving Sunday more than 70 people from 7 nations gathered around a sumptuous table to thank the Lord for his goodness in the diversity and spirit of the original Thanksgiving celebration.

While much of the original intention of the holiday has been lost to contemporary American culture, to the point where it has become a day of mourning for many native Americans or reduced to an occasion for overeating and football for others, the original spirit of the day remains alive and well in this community. For us it is a day to honor what we know is God's desire -- that the world would unite itself in Christ so that true peace might reign and the kingdom of God dwell among us.

One of the highlights of the Advent season is our annual Las Posadas Celebration. On December 16, 102 people gathered to celebrate the incarnation of our Lord Mexican-style!



The term "Las Posadas" in Spanish means "The Inns," and the Mexican tradition has taken the biblical account of the holy family's search for a safe place to rest and transformed it into a Nativity pageant celebrated throughout Mexico and many other countries in Latin America.

This year's celebration began with a contemporary version of Las Posadas -- a skit written and presented by Bernarda T., one of the original members of our community of faith -- with the help of several of the children. They portrayed the struggle of migrants searching for a safe place to live, the hatred flung at them by some, and the frustration of dealing with our broken immigration system. The skit ended on a high note, however, with expressions of gratitude for this country, a

commitment to follow our laws, and a reminder that Christ came to save us and to unite the world in peace.

We were also blessed by the children's chorus as they sang one of the few Christmas carols that originated, not in Europe, but in their own Latin America. "Los Pastores a Belén" is a lively song sung to the beat of tambourines and castanettes that tells the story of the Shepherds on their way to Bethlehem. To see a video of the children singing and more, visit www.stpauldayton.org



The Parents' Christmas Shop was Saturday, December 8, 2018. More than 30 parents were able to provide Christmas for their families because of the generosity of people like you! Generous donations of money, toys, and clothing helped make the shop a huge success for all. Parents were thrilled with the selection and dignity the shop gave them.



Breakfast with Santa was Saturday, December 15, 2018. Every year Normandy United Methodist Church turns the St. Paul social room into a festive Christmas wonderland! About 150 family members enjoyed a delicious breakfast plus a visit from Santa. Each child received a wrapped present and each family of children had their photo taken with Santa. This is a wonderful tradition touching two generations of families.

Beginning on Monday, December 17, 2018 each child in Kids Connection, Hispanic Ministries, and Church was given the opportunity to shop [free of charge] for a Christmas present for each member of their immediate family. This project is a good lesson in the importance of giving to others. The gifts were all donated by Faith Community



UMC, Xenia, Corinth Presbyterian Church and many other groups and individuals. The children were told that the St. Paul elves would wrap their presents so they could be put under the Christmas trees. The St. Paul elves came from Centerville UMC, Eastmont UMC, Normandy UMC, and Crossroads Church in Bellbrook. The chief elf was Pam Eyer who did an expert job of organizing this great project!

UNITED METHODIST SPECIAL SUNDAY PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

Through your generous gift today, you strengthen community outreach and empower at-risk youth.

"Being a community developer gives me the opportunity to live my faith and help my church connect with the community."
 — CHERYL REAGAN, COMMUNITY DEVELOPER, WESLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER, SAN DIEGO

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®

Please make check payable to your local church or give online at www.umcsgiving.org/giveHRD.

JANUARY

Saturday Breakfast Providers

- 5 Belmont UMC
- 12 Englewood UMC
- 19 Normandy UMC
- 26 Community UMC

FEBRUARY

Saturday Breakfast Providers

- 2 Belmont UMC
- 9 Aley UMC
- 16 Normandy UMC
- 23 Belmont Youth

JANUARY

Tuesday Lunch Providers

- 1 No lunch
- 8 St. Paul Community
- 15 Christ UMC, Kettering
- 22 North Riverdale Lutheran
- 29 Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist

FEBRUARY

Tuesday Lunch Providers

- 5 St. Paul Community
- 12 Centerville UMC
- 19 Normandy UMC
- 26 Christ Kettering UMC

JANUARY CALENDAR

Worship: Sunday 10:00 a.m.; Spanish Service: Sunday 6:45 p.m.;
Tuesday 11:30 a.m.; Saturday 8:45 a.m.

- 2 Church reopens
- 7 Kids Connection resumes
- 10 Las Amigas resumes
- 21 Martin Luther King Day -- church closed
- 26 Season of Contemplation & Action gathering

*** Mark your calendars! Steak Dinner Sat., March 30, 2019 ***

*** WANTED! ***

A few good volunteers!

Three teams of two volunteers each are needed for our thrift store "The Stuff Shoppe" for Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. The duties will be sorting, cashiering, hanging, etc. If interested, please call Joan at 937-252-4467.