

# The Window



"Send out Thy truth and Thy light; let them lead us." --Psalm 43:4a

December 1, 2017

## Advent

December is here and so are the beautiful Christmas lights in our neighborhoods, joyous celebrations, daily shopping and heartfelt family gatherings. In December on Sundays, we celebrate the season of Advent in the church.

Advent is the time of the year that we prepare our hearts and minds to receive (again) the perfect gift of Jesus Christ. During advent, we are asked to focus our attention not so much on the materialness of Christmas, but on the spiritual significance. We are asked to set aside time to read scripture, meditate and to reflect on the fact that "God loved us so much that he sent his son Jesus" in human form to be with us. Jesus, during advent, becomes Immanuel.

Listed below you will find four scriptures (one for each week) to memorize and to hopefully draw your attention back to Jesus; back to the spiritual gifts of hope, love, joy, and peace as the holiday become more and more commercial and stressful. Remember over the course of the next 27 days that Jesus IS the reason for the season.

### Readings for Advent:

**Week 1 HOPE** "For nothing will be impossible with God." Luke 1:37

**Week 2 LOVE** "I will speak of God's love forever." Psalm 89:1

**Week 3 JOY** "O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things... make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth, break forth into joyous song and sing praises." Psalm 98:1a, 4

**Week 4 PEACE** "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid." John 14:27

**Christmas Day** "For unto us a child is born and a son is given, authority rests upon his shoulders and he shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

May you and those you love have a very safe Merry Christmas  
and a Blessed New Year!

Peace, *Felicia*

P.S.... Merry Christmas!!!!

Love, *Samuel and Adam*

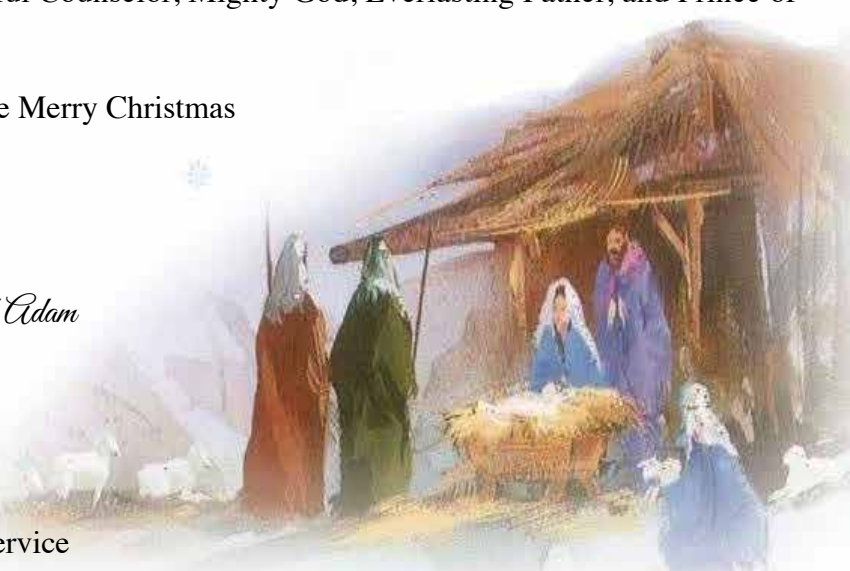
P.S.S..... See you at Church

### Christmas Eve Services:

8:30 A.M. Communion Service

11:00 A.M. Family/Children's Service

7:00 P.M. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service



## Season's Greetings!

Advent is upon us already and I couldn't be any more excited if I tried! I love seeing the lights and reminders of Jesus' birth all over Abilene, even if they did show up around Halloween...

What an incredible November we've had. Leading up to Thanksgiving, I have seen so much to be thankful for and so many thankful people.

Last month we collected 101 coats for Johnston Elementary students on St. Paul's birthday! I am so proud of how generous our congregation is, and Johnston is beyond blessed by our support. Continue praying for those who took a warm coat and those who continue to need at that school.

Our youth blessed Meals on Wheels last month with 626 POUNDS of food we collected for Trick or Feed. We teamed up with the youth from Wylie United Methodist Church two Sunday evenings and had a great time getting to know them. No doubt, we will be collaborating with them again!

Johnston Jungle is going strong with about 55 kids attending each week! They were just blessed with a new Bible and will be getting an awesome Johnston Jungle Tshirt for Christmas. Thanks to all our volunteers, this program is impacting children in a way that can change their lives.

This month our Sunday School classes will be enjoying Faithweaver Advent Lessons and our middle schoolers will be using a Bible Study called "The Redemption of Scrooge." Don't miss a Sunday during this season!

As Felicia announced a couple of weeks ago, I have accepted a full time marriage and premarital ministry position at Beltway Park Church. God has been preparing my heart to use my gifts to help couples grow healthy, Godly relationships with each other. I am both excited and sad to transition to this new adventure. St. Paul will continue being my family's worship place and home church, as always! I can't tell you how much the experience of serving as a staff member of St. Paul has shaped my faith and filled my heart with joy. I can tell you that this has been the most fulfilling job I've ever had because of the people I was blessed to work with. My prayer is that the new Director of Children and Family Ministries will be a valuable asset to helping St. Paul grow and thrive. Thank you for loving me and supporting me for the last two and a half years!

I'll see you at church,

*Robin Swartz*



Johnston Elementary children happy to receive coats from our Birthday Celebration.



Betty Bradley thankful for 626 pounds of food from St. Paul middle school children.



Johnston "Jungle" children receiving their Bible from Rev. Felicia Hopkins.

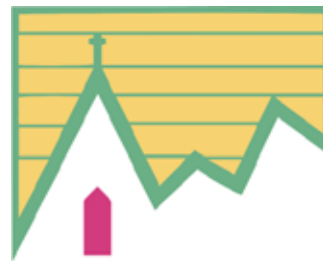
## Wednesday Nights

Our Wednesday night meal and programming will continue December 6 & 13. Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. and the program begins at 6:00 p.m.

December 6, we will decorate Christmas cookies prepared by Cheryl Holmes. The meal will be Chicken Pot Pie and salad provided by Hayley Jo on the Go. Cost \$7.00 per person and \$24.00 for a family of 4 or more.

December 13, we will gather in the Activity Building and then go Christmas Caroling around the neighborhood. We will provide a small sandwich/snack meal. Cost by donation.

On Wednesday, December 20, we will have a Blue Christmas Service at 6:00 p.m. No meal.



**Church  
FINANCES**

### St. Paul Financial Update

As of November 22, 2017

*(almost 11 months)*

Year to Date Budget	\$947,221.00
Year to Date Actual Donations	\$895,873.00
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>\$ 51,348.00</b>

*Thank You for  
Your Generosity*

**95 THANKSGIVING BAGS  
WERE DELIVERED TO THE  
METHODIST FOOD PANTRY!**

Thank you to everyone who went above and beyond our goal to help make Thanksgiving a little better for those in need.

We also thank the Pathfinders Sunday School Class for donating the turkeys that went with each bag.





# Celebrate Christmas at St. Paul

Christmas is a very special time - the perfect time for us to celebrate the abundant, unconditional and extravagant love of God for all of us. It is a time of gathering with family and friends.

Join us at St. Paul United Methodist Church this Christmas season as we celebrate the perfect gift of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. There are many opportunities to attend from Sunday morning to Wednesday night and even during the day at Wesley Court and Lyndale.



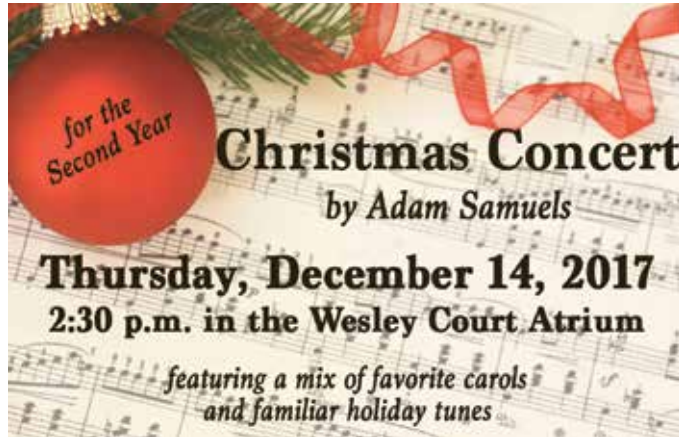
St. Paul Music Ministry presents  
**"Light from the Darkness"**  
Sunday, December 10, 2017  
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.  
*Featuring the Chancel Choir & Chancel Ringers  
and Carols of the Season.*

The poster features a blue background with a silhouette of a church building and palm trees at the bottom.



**Chancel Ringers  
Christmas Tour**  
Monday, December 11, 2017  
6:00 p.m. at Lyndale Assisted Living  
7:00 p.m. at Wesley Court Retirement  
*an Annual Tradition since 2006*

The poster features a red and yellow background with a large gold bell and a red ribbon.



*for the  
Second Year*  
**Christmas Concert**  
by Adam Samuels  
Thursday, December 14, 2017  
2:30 p.m. in the Wesley Court Atrium  
*featuring a mix of favorite carols  
and familiar holiday tunes*

The poster features a background of musical notes and a red ribbon.



**Blue Christmas  
Service**  
Wednesday, December 20, 2017  
6:00 p.m. in the St. Paul Chapel  
led by Rev. Felicia Hopkins  
*For those that are grieving,  
lonely and sad.  
Come and feel loved.*

The poster features a blue background with a white star and a white outline of a person.



**Christmas  
Eve Services**  
8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service with Communion.  
11:00 a.m. Special Christmas Story especially for children.  
Kids bring your parents and grandparents.  
7:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service featuring  
the Chancel Choir.  
**The 11:00 a.m. service will be broadcast on KTXS at 10:30 p.m.**  
No 11:00 p.m. Service at the church.

The poster features a background of two angels and a star.



Sunday  
December 31, 2017  
**New Year's Eve  
Worship Service**  
ONE WORSHIP SERVICE  
10:00 a.m.  
Sanctuary

The poster features a background of a Christmas tree with a blue star ornament.

# Activities at a Glance...

## Sunday, December 3

8:30 am Worship Service  
9:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship Service  
12:30 pm Contemporary Worship Service  
1:30 pm Wesley Court Communion  
5:30 pm Youth  
5:30 pm Pathfinders SS Christmas Party  
6:00 pm Inquirer's SS Christmas Party

## Monday, December 4

5:15 pm Chancel Ringers  
6:30 pm Propheteers SS Christmas Party  
7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 3

## Tuesday, December 5

8:30 am Staff @Food Pantry  
1:00 pm Staff Meeting  
4:00 pm St. Paul @Food Pantry

## Wednesday, December 6

10:00 am Prayer Team  
3:15 pm Johnston Jungle  
5:30 pm Fellowship Meal  
6:00 pm Christmas Cookie Decorating  
6:00 pm Middle School Games  
6:00 pm High School Chick-Fil-A  
Fundraiser Night  
6:15 pm Children's Music  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## Thursday, December 7

11:45 am Staff Book Study

## Sunday, December 10

### Music Ministry Sunday

8:30 am Worship Service  
9:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship Service  
12:30 pm Contemporary Worship Service  
5:30 pm Youth

## Monday, December 11

No United Methodist Women this month  
6:00 pm Chancel Ringers @Lyndale  
7:00 pm Chancel Ringers @Wesley Court  
7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 3

## Tuesday, December 12

9:00 am Caring Hearts Visitation  
1:00 pm Staff Meeting

## Wednesday, December 13

7:00 am UMM Breakfast  
10:00 am Prayer Team  
5:15 pm Finance Committee Meeting  
5:30 pm Fellowship Meal  
6:00 pm Christmas Caroling  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## Thursday, December 14

11:45 am Staff Book Study  
2:30 pm Christmas Concert  
by Adam Samuels  
@Wesley Court

## Sunday, December 17

8:30 am Worship Service  
9:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship Service  
12:30 pm Contemporary Worship Service  
5:30 pm Youth Christmas Party

## Monday, December 18

5:15 pm Chancel Ringers  
7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 3

## Tuesday, December 19

1:00 pm Staff Meeting

## Wednesday, December 20

10:00 am Prayer Team  
6:00 pm Blue Christmas Service  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

## Thursday, December 21

11:45 am Staff Book Study  
5:00 pm Board of Trustees

## Sunday, December 24

### Christmas Eve

8:30 am Worship Service with  
Communion  
9:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship Service with a Special  
Christmas Story for Children  
7:00 pm Traditional Candlelight  
Christmas Eve Service  
with the Chancel Choir

## Monday, December 25

OFFICE CLOSED



## Tuesday, December 26

OFFICE CLOSED

## Wednesday, December 27

9:00 am Office Open Regular Hours  
10:00 am Prayer Team  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## Thursday, December 28

9:00 am Office Open Regular Hours

## Friday, December 29

9:00 am Office Open till Noon

## Sunday, December 31

### New Year's Eve

10:00 am One Worship Service



## St. Paul Spirit Night

Wednesday, December 6, 2017  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Benefits St. Paul  
High School Youth

@ CHICK FIL A  
3130 SOUTH CLACK

Both Dine-In and Drive-Thru Orders  
count towards our Sales Goal.

## United Methodist Men Breakfast

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

7:00 a.m. @ The Flipping Egg  
(4150 So. Danville)

Each person will order from the menu.



Join us for a  
great program,  
good food and fellowship.



# Christmas Opportunities to Give



## High School News



We had a great fall with the St. Paul Youth! We had the opportunity to participate in St. Paul's first multi-church youth worship night, served Kairos prison ministries, began small groups, participated in Hanging of The Greens, shared a fabulous Thanksgiving Dinner, and so much more!

This December we will continue to have High School youth through December 20, the highlights being our Chick Fil A Fundraiser Night December 6 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and our Christmas Party on

December 17 at 5:30 p.m. For more info, please contact Katie French at [kfrench@stpaulabilene.org](mailto:kfrench@stpaulabilene.org) or (325) 372-7814. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## College News



Our Program has continued to go strong this fall! We have an excellent community of young adults seeking to love God and love people at school and at home within our college group community.

In November we continued to meet weekly for small group to share a meal, fellowship time, and time with the Lord. We also just returned from a Road Trip to Dallas where we visited Medieval Times, Preston Farms, the Dallas Zoo and several other great locations.

If you are or know a college aged student looking for a fun, friendly and God centered community, please contact Katie French at [kfrench@stpaulabilene.org](mailto:kfrench@stpaulabilene.org) or (325) 672-7814. College Group will end for the semester December 2, but resume after the holidays!

*Katie French*

Director of High School & College Ministries

# Birthdays!

## December 1

Maedene Armer  
Abigail Simpson  
Kim Turnbull

## December 3

Lela Russell  
Bryan Tolliver

## December 7

Tommy McAdams  
Doyle Hufstедler

## December 8

Bynum Miers

## December 9

Caleb Bullock  
Marilyn Jordan

## December 10

Teresa Bridwell  
Matthew Brothers  
Shotti Burton  
Kelly Modisett

## December 11

Rachel Ritchie

## December 12

Kellye Cole  
Nan McAdams

## December 14

Matthew McRoy  
Michael McRoy

## December 15

Happy Collins  
Matt Ritchie

## December 16

Bill Armer

## December 17

Christy Hamaty  
Donna McMinn  
Davida Swint

## December 18

Carter Logan

## December 19

Shirley Hunt

## December 20

Ruby Jo Day  
Joshua Martin  
Haili Rowton

## December 22

Aiden Jace Burnett  
Don Fite  
Greg Perry

## December 23

Wanda Hamblin  
Bobbi Jay

## December 24

Phil Guitar

## December 25

Doris Dillard  
Mary Hartmann  
Jana Kappel  
Paris Tutt

## December 26

Jim Hays  
Asa Santos

## Decemer 27

Mindy Bannister  
Mark Bullock  
Carol Chism  
Arlean Dameron

## December 28

Jan Lineweaver

## December 29

Robert (Bob) Bailey  
John Slaughter  
John David Slaughter  
Wanda Spence

# Sympathy

**Kanequa (KC) Chancellor**, *Felicia Hopkins' God-daughter*; died Saturday, November 4, 2017. Services were Saturday, November 11, 2017 in El Paso and Monday, November 13, 2017 in Dallas.

**John Stash** died Wednesday, November 15, 2017. Services were Saturday, November 18, 2017 at Hamil Family Funeral Home.

# Memorials and Gifts...

In Memory Of:  
**Madeleine Brown**  
To Memorial Fund  
*K.O. & Marilyn Long*

In Memory Of:  
**Martha Kim**  
To Memorial Fund  
*K.O. & Marilyn Long*

In Memory Of:  
**Bobbie Gee**  
To Memorial Fund  
*Bill & Toni Burger*

In Memory Of:  
**Col. Harl Morris**  
To UMCOR Fund  
*Jim & Glenda Alexander*

In Memory Of:  
**Art Hoyt**  
To Food Pantry Fund  
*Harry & Susan Hoyt*

In Memory Of:  
**LaVerne Rollins**  
*for her birthday*  
To Memorial Fund  
*Mike & Sheila Warren*





**ST. PAUL**  
United Methodist Church

525 Beech  
Abilene, TX 79601  
stpaulabilene.org

St. Paul United Methodist Family Thanks God For:

## Poinsettia Order Form



Members and friends of St. Paul UMC are invited to order a Poinsettia in Memory or in Honor of your loved one(s).

Attach this form to your check and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.  
**Deadline for ordering is Thursday, December 14, 2017.** The cost of each Poinsettia is \$13.00.

**PLEASE PRINT**

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

InMemoryof: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of Poinsettias: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to St. Paul UMC and note **“Poinsettia”** on the check.

*You may take home your Poinsettia after the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, December 17, 2017.*