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# What's happening at St. Paul Presbyterian Church

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## November 2018

For a color PDF version of *The Epistle*

go to <http://stppc.org/whats-happening/the-st-paul-epistle-newsletter/>

### IN THE EPISTLE

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*Have I mentioned that fall is my favorite time of year? Maybe once or twice. I love the colors. I love the cooler weather. I love everything pumpkin spice.*

*Fall is also the time of year in which the snowball we call the church year starts rolling downhill, picking up speed, and growing bigger and bigger. This happens, not only in the church, but in our personal lives as well. It is a season we have come to know as, Hallowthanksmas. The snowball begins on Halloween and continues to pick up speed and size through Thanksgiving, then Christmas.*

*In the church we have All Saints Sunday, Commitment Sunday, Christ the King Sunday, the four Sundays of Advent, and Christmas Eve. What might you expect from worship during these last two months of the year?*

*Nov. 4 – All Saints Sunday. We invite you, if you wish, to bring a flower to place in a vase, creating a bouquet of remembrance. And/or, another other option is to bring a small item that honors, or is a remembrance of your loved one.*

*Nov. 11 – Commitment Sunday, Giving in Gratitude. The sermon will follow the theme of stewardship this year about how Jesus is feeding St. Paul and how we might respond in gratitude.*

*Nov. 21 – Thanksgiving Eve vespers and chili and pie social.*

*Nov. 25 – Christ the King Sunday. Jesus is asked by Pilate, "Are you the King of the Jews?" but he never actually answers the question. What does this mean?*

*Dec. 2 through Dec. 23 – The four Sundays of Advent. Our Advent and Christmas theme this year will be, The Symbols and Traditions of Christmas. This will include: The Plants and Trees of Christmas, The Sounds of Christmas, and The Lights of Christmas, as well as a children's program on the 16th – details to follow.*

*Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve. We will look at the figures of the nativity. Our children and family oriented service will be at 6:00 and our traditional lessons and carols will be at 9:00. We invite you to bring one of your favorite nativity sets to display for either of these services (smaller is better).*

*Dec. 30 – The first Sunday of Christmas. This will complete our series on The Symbols and Traditions of Christmas. Our sermon will focus on The Gifts of Christmas.*

*Always, I encourage you to jump off the rolling snowball, just for a while, and spend some quiet time with God. As my gift to you this year, I have compiled a book of devotions, which I have pulled from my many years of sermons and devotions through the seasons of Advent and Christmas. This will be available on Sunday, Dec. 2 – the first Sunday of Advent.*

*May these last two months of the year be filled with hope, peace, joy, and love, and may your days be filled with the hope and promise of the Messiah – God with us.*

*Pastor Kim*

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## **Meeting of the Congregation**

Meeting of the Congregation – December 2, 2018. A special meeting of the congregation is called for Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the 2019 Terms of Call for Pastor Kim and to receive the report of Nominating Committee and to elect officers for the year 2019. The meeting is expected to take about fifteen minutes. Members are urged to attend to act upon these two important proposals.

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## **King Soopers Rewards Program**

Our King Soopers Neighborhood Rewards Program is continuing to thrive, and in part provides funding to our food pantry which allows us to serve our community in such an amazing capacity. Our last 2 months of reloads equaled \$5,050.00 which means we were sent a check for \$252.50. We tend to reload \$5,000 + every two months and the checks average about \$275 each time. In 2017, our reloads totaled \$42,841.10, and our rebate checks equaled \$2,061.65. For our grand total since the inception of the Neighborhood Rewards program through Kroger/King Soopers in October 2014 we have loaded \$171,959.72, and received back rebate checks equaling \$8,490.59. That is an amazing number. It is easy to participate - all you need is a King Soopers card from Michelle Girard, and it's free - a \$5 gift card for \$5, but the benefits are obvious. You load your money on the card, pay for your groceries (and gas at some King Soopers locations) and they send us a check every couple of months. Thanks to everyone who has been participating. Please see me if you have any questions or need a card. ~Michelle Girard

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### **Save the Date! SPY Pancake Fundraiser**

Sunday, November 18

More Information to follow.



### **Chili and Pie Social**

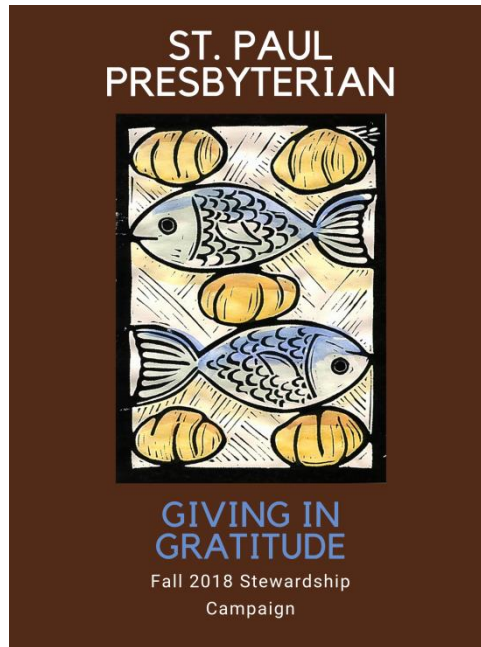
Thanksgiving Eve, November 21

Our vesper service will begin at 6:00 P.M. in the sanctuary.

At 6:45 (or when the service is complete)

there will be a chili and pie social in the Celebration Center.

For those who are able, please bring a pie to share.



"Giving in Gratitude". It is what happens when we give generously out of what God has given to us. Through the eyes of gratitude what formerly appeared to be scarcity looks like abundance from which there is plenty to give. How true that is for us, especially in the prosperity to which we cling. If generous gratitude is expected of those who have little, how much more so it is expected of us.

The faithful response at the heart of Christian stewardship is gratitude. When we see ourselves as graced by God we cannot stop ourselves from returning the grace, from giving back the joy, from making our offering of thanksgiving.

Each member of our church family has picked up or been mailed a pledge card as part of our stewardship campaign, "Giving in Gratitude".

We propose that when you see the pledge card in the mail, you all rejoice. For that card is an invitation to gratitude. Its purpose is not merely to raise money, but more importantly, to move us to thanksgiving, to lead us toward generous gratitude for all God has done for us and for our church and for the whole creation.

If we did not have a stewardship campaign each year, we would need to invent some other way for us to express concretely our gratitude to God. This campaign is not entirely about meeting the budget. It is not entirely about the money. Although budget and money is still a financial need to help fulfill St Paul's mission. It is about the gratitude, and nothing demonstrates that more clearly than our willingness to give in joy.

No matter how little or how much we have, we know that God gives in abundance. Our response begins when we see ourselves as dwellers not in a

land of scarcity but in a world of abundance. And then we give thanks, in concrete ways -- as in a stewardship campaign.

"Giving in Gratitude". God invites us to let our thankfulness change the way we live and the way we give, moving us to generosity that leads to life.

In the words of the old hymn: "For the Fruit of all Creation", Verse 3

**Scripture:** Deuteronomy 26:2-3

For the harvests of the Spirit,  
thanks be to God.  
For the good news we all inherit,  
thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
Most of all that love has found us,  
thanks be to God.  
Amen.

Please remember on Commitment Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> to bring your pledge card along with a can of tuna and/or a loaf of bread for St Paul's Food Bank. Because the Gospel of John reports that five bread loaves and two small fish supplied by a boy were used by Jesus to feed a multitude. Your cans of tuna and/or loaves of bread will support St Paul's mission of feeding the hungry.

A celebratory soup luncheon will be held in the Celebration Center after worship.

Blessings from Ministry of Finance and Stewardship

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### ***You are invited to an Advent Study***

Our Wednesday evening's Mid-Week Gathering group invites you to join us during the Advent season for a special study based on the book, *Mary Had a Baby: An Advent Bible Study Based on African American Spirituals*. This four-week Bible-based study will use four African American spirituals as a springboard for learning and growth. Immerse yourself in the scriptures, listen to the music, and study the lyrics of: *Mary Had a Baby*, *Rise Up Shepherd*, and *Follow, Children, Go Where I Send Thee*, and *Go, Tell It On the Mountain*.

The study will begin in the Celebration Center on Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> and go through Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Dinner is at 6:00 – please bring a dish of your choice to share. The study will begin at 6:45 and go until 7:30.

Please see Pastor Kim prior to the first class for your book. We will discuss chapter 1 on November 28<sup>th</sup>. The cost of the book is \$7.00. If the cost is a burden, please see Pastor Kim. There are some available at no cost.

We encourage you to give yourself this gift for the season!

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## **Session Highlights**

Special Guest, Hali Wimbush, St. Paul Office Administrator. Hali presented a suggestion to Session about adding the duties of Social Media management to her title. This would not require any additional hours. She also included her ideas to update the St. Paul website. By adding these duties to her Job, Hali feels she will be able to help increase the online presence of the church and increase attendance among millennials, young families and various ethnicities from our surrounding community. MAP will oversee this website revision, working with Colleen and Hali. MAP will also update the current Office Administrator job description to include Social Media Manager and present it for session approval.

Treasurer Cheryl presented the financial information. She discussed the checking account balance was over \$10,000.00 as of September 30, 2018.

Deacon Ellen Ingram gave a verbal report. At the last Deacon's meeting, they discussed creating a "Special Care List" which includes transportation needs, phone calls or any kind of support that may be needed.

Session has created a listing of annual activities which are completed each year. This listing will be updated as needed but will help ministry units and individuals plan ahead for recurring tasks that sometime are overlooked due to their routine nature.

December 2, 2018 has been set as the date for a special congregational meeting this year to approve Rev. Graber's terms of call for 2019 and to elect new Elders and Deacons.

Session will review the membership roles at the November Session meeting to determine active, inactive or removals.

The annual joint Deacon-Elder dinner will be Thursday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Session approved allowing Rev. Graber to take Sunday, October 21 as a day of continuing education at Highlands Camp and Retreat Center.

Rev. Graber presented her report and discussed the accounting of money used in Zimbabwe by she and Joann Goss. She noted that a total of \$2750.00 was collected and \$1510.00 was used. She will discuss with MMO how the remaining money will be used to continue helping in Zimbabwe.

She also reported that she will be the keynote speaker at Highlands Camp Sisters Retreat next April 26, 27 & 28, 2019.

Rev. Graber believes that we need to readdress a security policy for the church. Hali Wimbush offered to call other churches in the community to enquire about policies/plans regarding personal safety.

Ministry of Administration and Personnel brought four motions to Session including entering into janitorial contract with Jan Pro Cleaning Systems for two years beginning November 1, 2018; and three motions concerning modest pay increases for our paid staff beginning January 1, 2019. All passed unanimously.

Gayle Downen and Mary Apodaca will be commissioners to the October 23 Presbytery Assembly to be held at Shepherd of the Hills.

Cleve Dixon is working on the Nominating Committee Report. He reported it has not been an easy process finding new Elders/Deacons.

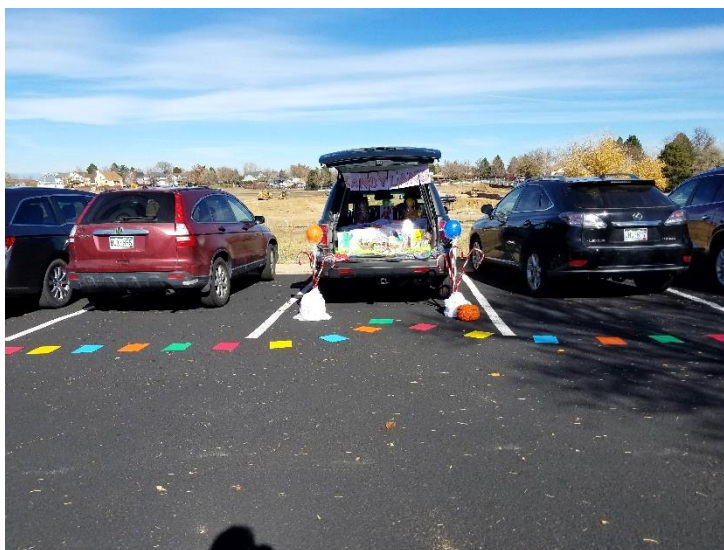
Gayle Downen asked for an update on Sunrise Elementary School's online request for food during Fall Break, needed by Oct. 11. She feels there needs to be better communication between St. Paul and Sunrise so the church is made aware of calls for assistance from the school. MCE will address this at their next meeting. Cleve Dixon reported that the Food Pantry did not participate in this food drive.

In their verbal update Mary and Cathy reported that MMF is still working with Tom Frerichs to update the photos on the Board in the Celebration Center.

All were reminded of the November Leadership Retreat at Highlands Camp November 9 and 10.

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## **Photo Retrospective**



St. Paul Annual Trunk or Treat! If you have photos that you would like to see in the Epistle or Weekly Blast, please submit them to [office@stppc.org](mailto:office@stppc.org)

## November Celebrations

### Birthdays

11/01	Greg Hopkins	11/20	Joelle Brouner
11/04	Gayle Fidler	11/21	Lanette Moe
11/06	Jett Capobianco	11/23	Gayle Downen
11/12	Debera Brantley	11/29	Rose Ludchak
11/15	Jeanne Sheridan	11/30	Doug Driver

### Anniversaries

11/20 Ginger Norman & Michael Gobla  
11/20 David & Debera Brantley

## November 2018 Calendar of Events

Thursday, Nov. 1	9:30 AM	SP Holistic Health Group(Celebration Center)
	6:00 PM	Girl Scout Troop #1022(Sink Room)
	6:30 PM	SP Deacons Meeting(Celebration Center)
Friday, Nov. 2		Office Closed
	6:00 PM	Girl Scout Troop #1327
	7:00 PM	Girl Scout Troop #550
Saturday, Nov. 3	7:00 AM	TL Prayer Meeting(Sanctuary)
Sunday, Nov. 4	9:00 AM	SP Sunday School (all ages)
	9:50 AM	TL Worship #1(Celebration Center)
	10:15 AM	SP Worship(Sanctuary)
	11:00 AM	SP(Celebration Center)
	11:30 AM	SP Social Time(Celebration Center)
	11:30 AM	SP Ministry of Membership & Fellowship
	11:30 AM	SP Ministry of Building & Grounds
	11:45 AM	TL Worship #2(Sanctuary)
	12:00 PM	SP SPY(TBD)
	12:15 PM	TL Meal & Meetings(Celebration Center)
	3:30 PM	TL Taekwondo(Celebration Center)
Monday, Nov. 5	4:00 PM	SP Ministry of Christian Education
	6:15 PM	SP Handbell Rehearsal Setup(Sanctuary)
	6:30 PM	SP Ministry of Finance & Stewardship
	6:45 PM	SP Handbell Rehearsal(Sanctuary)
Tuesday, Nov. 6		Election Day United States
	9:00 AM	SP Food Pantry(Celebration Center)
	6:00 PM	Girl Scout Troop #2423(Sink Room)
	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 3(Celebration Center)
	6:30 PM	Girl Scout Troop #2423(Sink Room)
Wednesday, Nov. 7	6:00 PM	SP Midweek Gathering(Celebration Center)
	6:00 PM	TL Bible Study(Classroom 10)
	7:30 PM	SP Choir Rehearsal(Sanctuary)-CANCELLED
Thursday, Nov. 8	6:00 PM	Girl Scout Troop #1022(Sink Room)
	6:30 PM	SP Session(Celebration Center)
Friday, Nov. 9		Office Closed
	6:00 PM	Girl Scout Troop #1327



	7:00 PM	Girl Scout Troop #550
Saturday, Nov. 10	7:00 AM	TL Prayer Meeting(Sanctuary)
Sunday, Nov. 11		Veteran's Day United States
	9:00 AM	SP Sunday School (all ages)
	9:50 AM	TL Worship #1(Celebration Center)
	10:15 AM	SP Worship(Sanctuary)
	11:00 AM	SP(Celebration Center)
	11:30 AM	SP Social Time(Celebration Center)
	11:30 AM	SP Deacon Potluck & Presentation (Celebration Center)
	11:45 AM	TL Worship #2(Sanctuary)
	3:30 PM	TL Taekwondo(Celebration Center)
Monday, Nov. 12	6:15 PM	SP Handbell Rehearsal Setup(Sanctuary)
	6:45 PM	SP Handbell Rehearsal(Sanctuary)
Tuesday, Nov. 13	9:00 AM	SP Food Pantry(Celebration Center)
	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 3(Celebration Center)
	6:30 PM	Girl Scout Troop #2423(Sink Room)
Wednesday, Nov. 14	6:00 PM	SP Midweek Gathering(Celebration Center)
	6:00 PM	TL Bible Study(Classroom 10)
	7:30 PM	SP Choir Rehearsal(Sanctuary)
Thursday, Nov. 15		SP Epistle Articles Due
	9:30 AM	SP Holistic Health Group(Celebration Center)
	11:30 AM	SP Elderberries(Restaurant)
	6:00 PM	Girl Scout Troop #1022(Sink Room)
Friday, Nov. 16		Office Closed
	6:00 PM	Girl Scout Troop #1327
	7:00 PM	Girl Scout Troop #550
Saturday, Nov. 17	7:00 AM	TL Prayer Meeting(Sanctuary)
Sunday, Nov. 18	9:00 AM	SP Sunday School (all ages)
	9:50 AM	TL Worship #1(Celebration Center)
	10:15 AM	SP Worship(Sanctuary)
	11:00 AM	SP(Celebration Center)
	11:15 AM	SPY Pancake Fundraiser
	11:30 AM	SP Social Time(Celebration Center)
	11:30 AM	SP Ministry of Worship
	11:45 AM	TL Worship #2(Sanctuary)
	12:00 PM	SP SPY(TBD)
	3:30 PM	TL Taekwondo(Celebration Center)
Monday, Nov. 19	6:15 PM	SP Handbell Rehearsal Setup(Sanctuary)
	6:45 PM	SP Handbell Rehearsal(Sanctuary)
Tuesday, Nov. 20	9:00 AM	SP Food Pantry(Celebration Center)
	9:30 AM	SP Prayer Shawl Ministry(Narthex)
	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 3(Celebration Center)
	6:30 PM	Girl Scout Troop #2423(Sink Room)
Wednesday, Nov. 21	1:00 PM	SP Agape Bible Study (Canceled)
	6:00 PM	TL Bible Study(Classroom 10)
	6:00 PM	Vespers, Chili, and Pie Social(Celebration Center)
	7:30 PM	SP Choir Rehearsal(Sanctuary)

Thursday, Nov. 22		Thanksgiving Day United States
	6:00 PM	Girl Scout Troop #1022 - CANCELED
Friday, Nov. 23		Office Closed
	6:00 PM	Girl Scout Troop #1327
	7:00 PM	Girl Scout Troop #550
Saturday, Nov. 24	7:00 AM	TL Prayer Meeting(Sanctuary)
Sunday, Nov. 25	9:00 AM	SP Sunday School (all ages)
	9:50 AM	TL Worship #1(Celebration Center)
	10:15 AM	SP Worship(Sanctuary)
	11:00 AM	SP(Celebration Center)
	11:30 AM	SP Social Time(Celebration Center)
	11:30 AM	SP Ministry of Mission & Outreach
	11:45 AM	TL Worship #2(Sanctuary)
	12:15 PM	TL Meal & Meetings(Celebration Center)
	3:30 PM	TL Taekwondo(Celebration Center)
Monday, Nov. 26	6:15 PM	SP Handbell Rehearsal Setup(Sanctuary)
	6:30 PM	SP Ministry of Administration & Personnel
	6:45 PM	SP Handbell Rehearsal(Sanctuary)
Tuesday, Nov. 27	9:00 AM	SP Food Pantry(Celebration Center)
	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts Troop 3(Celebration Center)
	6:30 PM	Girl Scout Troop #2423(Sink Room)
Wednesday, Nov. 28	6:00 PM	SP Midweek Gathering(Celebration Center)
	6:00 PM	TL Bible Study(Classroom 10)
	7:30 PM	SP Choir Rehearsal(Sanctuary)
Thursday, Nov. 29	6:00 PM	Girl Scout Troop #1022(Sink Room)
Friday, Nov. 30		Office Closed
	6:00 PM	Girl Scout Troop #1327
	7:00 PM	Girl Scout Troop #550