

December 28, 2023



MISSION STATEMENT

Called into community by the Spirit, we worship our Creator in the reformed tradition. We proclaim God's love by welcoming all seeking to know and serve Christ and to join us as we share His love in the community.

VISION STATEMENT

Continuously creating a vital congregation of faith, open to all, as we worship God, and boldly answer Christ's call to service.

Sunday, December 31, 2023

Worship: 10:15 am

Sunday, January 7, 2024

Sunday School All Ages 9:00 am

Worship: 10:15 am

Staying Connected

Streamed and Recorded Services: <https://stppc.org/virtual-worship/>

Ask for a Prayer Request: Email prayer-network@stppc.org or pastor@stppc.org

Join Prayer Network Email List: Send email w/subject "Join List" to prayer-network@stppc.org

Food Pantry volunteer signup: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084faaa629a1ff2-fpvolunteer>

View Church Calendar: <https://stppc.org/whats-happening/church-calendar/>

Add to Church Calendar Send request to office@stppc.org

Submit to the Newsletter Send request to newsletter@stppc.org

Offerings/Donations

You may mail a check to: St. Paul Presbyterian Church
18901 E. Hampden Ave.
Aurora, CO 80013

Online Donation options: <https://stppc.org/donations/>

In person donations: Sunday during Worship or office during office hours

St. Paul Presbyterian's YouTube Channel

Scan this code with your smartphone to go to our YouTube channel or

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8VC2Q0iii62pJyIIntYmOQ>



Hours

Sunday School – All Ages 9:00 am

Sunday Worship 10:15 am

Office Volunteer Hours 10:00 am – 2 pm Mon-Thurs; closed Friday and holidays

Please note: Our church office is run by volunteers. We appreciate your patience when we step away from the desk. If you reach voice mail, please leave your name/number, and who you are trying to reach so we can return your call. Thank you!

We recommend calling before you come!

We are not going to cover bad weather days and risk our volunteers driving and walking on ice.

Please send submissions to newsletter@stppc.org

Submission Deadline	Publishes
Tuesday Jan 9: noon	Thursday Jan 11
Tuesday Jan 23: noon	Thursday Jan 25

Refrigerator Reminder Page

Submit all calendar dates to office@stppc.org

Full Calendar (all churches and activities) at: <https://stppc.org/whats-happening/church-calendar/>

THURS	12/28		
FRI	12/29		Office Closed
SAT	12/30		
SUN	12/31	10:15 am	Worship [Sanctuary & Live Stream]
MON	1/1/24		New Year's Day – Office Closed
TUE	01/02	10:00 am	Food Pantry [Fellowship Hall]
		3:00 pm	Ministry of Christian Education
WED	01/03	7:00 pm	Vocal Choir [Sanctuary]
THURS	01/04	6:30 pm	Deacons
FRI	01/05		Office Closed
SAT	01/06		
SUN	01/07	9:00 am	Sunday School All Ages
		10:15 am	Worship [Sanctuary & Live Stream]
		after worship	Ministry of Building and Grounds
		after worship	Ministry of Membership and Fellowship
		after worship	Food Pantry Box Packing
MON	01/08	9:30 am	Food Pantry Setup
		4:00 pm	Ministry of Finance and Stewardship
TUE	01/09	10:00 am	Food Pantry [Fellowship Hall]
		10:00 am	Prayer Shawl Ministry
		Noon	St Paul News submission deadline [newsletter@stppc.org]
		1:00 pm	AGAPE [Fellowship Hall]
WED	01/10	7:00 pm	Vocal Choir Rehearsal [Sanctuary]
THURS	01/11		St. Paul News publishes today
		6:00 pm	Session [Fellowship Hall]

New Year Prayer for Peace

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.

—*St. Francis of Assisi*

January Celebrations

Happy Birthday

Dave Goss	1-Jan
Mia Gordon	7-Jan
Gavin Carlson	8-Jan
Emily Reh	8-Jan
Cassie Parra	9-Jan
Ginger Norman	14-Jan
Christopher Smith	19-Jan
Mark Hopkins	25-Jan
Zane Capobianco	31-Jan
Freddy Ticoalu	31-Jan

Happy Anniversary

Kay & Mike Cary	29-Jan
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If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, we apologize.

Please leave a note in the church office, email office@stppc.org, or call the church office at 303-693-3434 so we can make sure your birthday, anniversary, and other important information is recorded.

MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Happy Christmastide to you all! The Ministry of Worship hopes you were able to join in the Christmas Eve services, either in person or online. The sanctuary lit with all the candles was a highlight of the season! This is all possible because of the hard work of all who came earlier in December for the Hanging of the Greens to adorn the church for the season.

The flip side of that adornment is the need to take it down after the Christmas season comes to a close. We will take down the decorations on **Saturday morning January 13, 2024, beginning at 8:00 sharp**. This process is generally quicker, but plenty of volunteers make it easier, too.

Please come help us!



Starting with the January 11th St. Paul News we have a new editor!

**Expect changes as they make it their own.
Please be patient and flexible as the transition occurs.**

Policies set forth by MAP will be maintained as communication policies for St. Paul.

Purpose:

The purpose of the St. Paul News is to effectively share information with the members and friends of St. Paul, as well as make it available on our website for those looking for a church.

Policies:

- St. Paul News will be published to the church website every other week. An email is sent when it is available, and some copies are printed and available in the narthex.
- This should be the only electronic form of all church communication. We don't want to inundate the congregation; this could lead to people not paying attention to the official publication.
- In very rare circumstances, special e-mail may be sent out to the congregation ***with the approval of the pastor and/or Clerk of Session.***

Schedule:

- The publication date is Thursday, though may post Wednesday if it is complete, reviewed, and meets the office/editor schedule.
- Plan ahead based on the publication schedule, which is on the church calendar included in the St Paul News for the next 3 to 4 weeks.

Submissions:

- All submissions are to be sent to newsletter@stppc.org no later than the deadline of noon the Tuesday the week of publication.
- If for an unforeseen reason you are not be able to make the deadline, please contact newsletter@stppc.org to ask the editor if a late submission is possible.
- Any article submitted late without approval will need to be resubmitted. This will account for any changes in editors that occur between publications.

- Photos will be included as appropriate and by the editor's decision. Suggested photos may be sent in JPG format to newsletter@stppc.org by any member of the staff or congregation

Editing:

- Spacing, font, and image sizes will be adjusted as needed to keep the file size appropriate for web publication.
- If you want your submission included as submitted, indicate that with the submission to newsletter@stppc.org. In that case the editor will communicate any issues for changes/adjustments.
- E-mail addresses and phone numbers **will** be removed from submissions for security purposes, whether the submission is marked 'as is' or not. [Contact information is in the church directory which is sent to those listed in the directory. Contacts can also be reached most Sundays at church.]

Content:

- Fresh and timely information is critical to keep people interested/reading.
- If a submission is unnecessarily long, repetitive, or already submitted by another person it will be adjusted or returned for editing.
- Please help us out:
 - Keep submissions a reasonable length and to the point.
 - Do not send identical submissions for multiple newsletters.
 - If a topic is to run for a series of publications, we ask that each submission be different.
 - a. Put it in for 'save the date' or 'watch for details'
 - b. Plan to put forms or flyers in the narthex.
 - c. Provide details as needed – what is the purpose and schedule for an event, what is the audience and expected outcome, follow-up with results and thanks after the event.
- Don't forget that we have a website and Facebook page, and you can e-mail your specific volunteers, ministry units, groups with specific (non-public) details.

MINISTRY OF MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP (MMF)

JANUARY 2024 MMF FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

Sunday, January 14th, REGULAR FELLOWSHIP: Meeting in our Fellowship Hall immediately following worship. Everyone is invited to bring light (sweet or savory) snacks to share. Beverages will be provided. We always look forward to visiting with each other!

Saturday, January 20th, 6pm, BINGO FAMILY FUN NIGHT! Meeting in our Fellowship Hall.

Michelle Girard will lead us, as our Mistress of Ceremonies, in a fun filled evening! (Helpers are appreciated). There is no charge to attend. Unwrapped “white elephant” type prizes are appreciated, however. These will be used as our Bingo Prizes. Everyone will leave as a winner!

Dinner will not be provided this year. We ask everyone to bring a hot or cold APPETIZER TO SHARE. Beverages will be provided.

Invite your family and friends to join in on the fun. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

NOTE: This special event replaces our Game & Craft Night, regularly scheduled on the fourth Friday of the month.

Sunday, January 28: POTLUCK LUNCHEON, meeting in our Fellowship Hall immediately following our worship and Congregational Meeting. Please bring a food dish to share. Beverages will be provided. Please join us as we share time together, getting to know each other better!

FRIENDS & FAMILY PHOTO BOARD:

Just a reminder: Our church family is growing, and we would like to learn each other’s names. The photo board, located in our Fellowship Hall, helps us do just that! If you see that your picture is not included, or if you have an updated photo, we would love to include it! 4” x 6” horizontal photos are ideal, but we will work with vertical photos as well.

Please place your photo in an envelope. Include the names, in the order that they appear. Label the envelope: Cathy Walter. She is our MMF representative who will ensure your photo is included. Leave your photo envelope in our church office. Please let us know if you would like to have someone take your photo.

STPPC Food Pantry part of MMO

STPPC Food Pantry December 28



for all your Reverse Advent items from Joelle's Advent message. It was wonderful to receive all the special items and pantry staples. The special items are put in the small shopping cart. Clients get out of their car to choose which items they want/need. Diapers and wipes are always needed and very much appreciated. Thank you for supporting the pantry.

The 19th was a great pickup—3,000 pounds and fresh food of potatoes, bananas, bread, grapes, avocados, and salad. 55 bags of produce were packed. Because there was extra money in the food pantry account—flour, vegetable oil and canned fruit were provided for our clients. Also, Jeanne Sheridan provided lots (70+) knit dish rags she made and added a “Merry Christmas” tag from STPPC Food Pantry. Thank you, Jeanne.

At the end of November, there was approximately \$7,000 in our account. There was a deposit of \$1,000 this month. Two orders were picked up in December at approximately \$3,000. The Food Pantry balance will be shared on the first of January.

Tuesday, December 19, distribution 65 boxes

Tuesday, December 26, distribution 3 boxes--Closed early at 11!

No pickup on Monday, January 1. Distribution on Tuesday, January 2. Pickup on Monday, January 8.

STPPC-Food-Pantry-wants-to-wish-you-a-Merry-Christmas..¶



Because-of-the-pickup-from-Food-Bank-of-the-Rockies-yesterday,our-produce-bags-are-overflowing!-There-are-potatoes,bananas,grapes,avocados,and-salad—along-with-bread-for-most-of-our-clients.¶

For-Christmas,STPPC-Food-Pantry-purchased-flour,vegetable-oil,and-canned-fruit-for-most-of-the-boxes.-Our-congregation-has-been-donating-food-and-diapers-in-a-Reverse-Advent-which-has-allowed-us-to-provide-additional-items-in-the-cart-for-you-to-choose.-¶

One-of-our-congregation-members-knit-the-hats-you-received-last-week.-Another-member-put-together-the-candy-canes-you-received-last-week.-This-week-a-congregation-member-knit-dishrags-to-be-distributed-at-Christmas.-¶

Cantata Sunday Service



Sunday December 24th







The 2023 Christmas Flowers
gracing our Sanctuary are given by:



Michelle Hodder	<i>IN MEMORY OF:</i> my brother David <i>IN HONOR OF:</i> my Mom Jo
The Fidler's	<i>IN MEMORY OF:</i> Matthew Fidler <i>IN HONOR OF:</i> Elva Holder
Wetzel Family	<i>IN MEMORY OF:</i> Ginger Wilkinson and Jerry and Liz Wetzel
Deanna Gordon	<i>IN MEMORY OF:</i> The Mayfield/Smith Family and the Gordon Family <i>IN HONOR OF:</i> The Gordon and Nance Family and the McCormack Family
Shirley Younger	<i>IN MEMORY OF:</i> Robert and Eunice Miller (parents) <i>IN HONOR OF:</i> The Thomsen Family, Ami, Reese Brody
Ora Brown	<i>IN MEMORY OF:</i> Christopher Brown and my sister Phyllis Armstrong
Christopher Smith	<i>IN MEMORY OF:</i> Andrea Vivier-Smith
Colleen Green	<i>IN MEMORY OF:</i> Those we lost this year including Diane Snively, Sue Warner and Irene Hartung
Karl and Kim Graber	<i>IN MEMORY OF:</i> Barbara Brown; Pete & Peggy Graber
Richard Hartung	<i>IN MEMORY OF:</i> Irene Hartung, my wife
Emily and Don Reh	<i>IN MEMORY OF:</i> our parents <i>IN HONOR OF:</i> our family



PRAYERS

- ♥ Emily Reh - Don had knee replacement surgery Wednesday and it went well. He was so excited to get this done! Now prayers for a quick recovery for him and patience for both of us in the process.
- ♥ Sarah Hall - I would like to extend my prayer request for Ora. She is dealing with a bacterial infection that is taking a lot out of her.
- ♥ Dave Goss - Please keep Joann Goss in your prayers as she undergoes chemotherapy treatments for the next four months starting December 12.
- ♥ Michelle Girard - Emma met her new doctor at National Jewish yesterday and it was great and useful.... She has been cleared to restart fencing in January once she learns the techniques better and hopefully has no episodes. A wonderful joy, but what a long year we've had pursuing this.
 - The TN tornadoes were very close to my sister's place and my parents' retirement facility in Hendersonville. The 3 people killed by the tornado in Madison were .4 miles from my sister, so prayers for those families, but I am grateful that she is fine along her home - lots and lots of damage around her neighborhood.
 - Traveling mercies - my brother is more than halfway back to the US for his 3rd trip in 3 months. At 28 hours door to door, we really shouldn't complain about our little flights. (I still do).
 - Lastly, Mike will drive to Trinidad, TX to spend all this week with his dad who lost his Lucy last week to cancer. At this difficult time he is alone and sad and so Mike will spend this time with him and have an early Christmas. Please keep him safe on his drive (13 hours each way),
- ♥ Judi Garvey - Please pray for Linda Holder as her surgery is at 4 P.M. tomorrow (Tuesday 12-19). Also pray for her surgeons and for Reed.
- ♥ Deanna Gordon – Prayers for Marie Self and family. Marie recently lost her sister. Prayer for peace and courage as they walk this sad path.
- ♥ Jennifer Gaudreau – Please pray for Madeleine Jonathan and baby Clyde. The Grandmother, Kim, is a dear friend. Clyde was born with a host of issues; no reflexes, clubbed feet, cataracts, unable to open his eyes, and skull seems to be fused. He has an appointment to check brain function. This is possibly a rare genetic syndrome, although nothing runs in either family.
- ♥ Joelle Brouner – Prayers of thanks that our amazing, fabulous cat Mittens who was lost is found and home.
- ♥ Sue Robertson - Prayers for the wife and family of Don Hunt who died of cancer this past week.
- ♥ Prayers for Larry Schmitt and his wife Carol. Larry has been diagnosed with cancer and was told he had six months to live. Also, Merry Christmas to all. They watched the puppet show and the cantata and enjoyed both.
- ♥ Colleen Green – Please pray for Mike McCarthy, his medical team, and Beth McCarthy as she is on this journey with her husband. Mike starts his cancer infusion, t-cell therapy, today [Monday, 12-26]. They have been in isolation while preparing for the infusion and will continue to be in insulation for at least another 2 weeks. From Beth: 'I enjoyed watching you all on YouTube - at least I got to go to church that way. Tomorrow (Monday) is the big day when he gets the infusion. Come on, T-cells!!'



**Why aren't Koalas
actual bears?
They do not meet the
KOALifications.**

JokesQuotesFactory.com

**What's the best thing
about Switzerland?
I don't know, but the
flag is a big plus.**

JokesQuotesFactory.com

What is fast, loud and crunchy? *A rocket chip!*

What is a witch's favorite subject in school? *Spelling!*

What did the mayonnaise say when the refrigerator door was opened? *Close the door, I'm dressing.*

What kind of water cannot freeze? *Hot water.*

What do you call a cold dog? *A Chilli Dog.*

What did one hat say to the other? *You wait here. I'll go on a head.*