

News For The Weeks Of January 17, 24, & 31, and February 7, & 14, 2022

Pastor's Pen

Dare I say, "Here we go again?" This morning I received word that six of our preschool classes are closed and the remainder will only be open in the mornings. Why? COVID exposures and lack of adequate staffing as a result have necessitated this action. As of today (Monday), new case numbers have not yet been released, but we know from last week's numbers and personal experience, many people are sick. The good news is that most are not seriously ill. Let's pray for them all, and for the preschool board and families, as we navigate these troubled waters.

I have consulted with church leaders on whether or not to have in-person worship. The consensus seems to be that it is better to err on the side of caution. By the time you receive this newsletter, I should have a better idea about Sunday. If we do not have in-person worship, I will come to the church and prepare a video devotional message. I have already begun working on a message, should it be needed. Keep your eyes peeled for emails with additional information.

On a happy note, we have closed out the books on 2021 in fine fashion. Once again, our budget ended with a surplus. The Board of Stewards approved the 2022 budget, which is once again balanced with a slight surplus expected. Thank you so much for your faithful stewardship during this challenging time. We have been very careful in managing the budget and will keep doing so. We are continuing to support our denominational ministries through payment of our apportionments and our local ministries more directly.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is already hard at work preparing for the transition to new pastoral leadership which will occur with my retirement on July 1. I continue to be quite impressed with our great leadership on this and other boards and committees. The future continues to be bright for the people and ministry of Saint Paul.

Please keep in your prayers our church and the greater church as we seek to navigate the uncertainties of the day. Keep the faith! See you when I do.

Children & Youth Birthdays

January 30 JR Parrish
February 12 Ansley Vereen

Birthdays

January 22 Inolah Chaplin, Ray Parker,
 Natalie Koller
January 23 Kadi Traxler
January 25 David Whisnant
January 26 Danny Scales
January 29 Caroline Greer
January 31 Laurie Wilson
February 4 Donna Harward
February 9 Barbara Barnes
February 10 Johnsie Page
February 15 Ervin Shook
February 17 Gladys Westbrook
February 20 Nancy Curry, Kathy Bush
February 21 Julia Paciulan
February 22 Gerri Williams, Evelyn Williams,
 Kenneth Cook, Daniel Newman
February 23 Eva Jane Tracy
February 24 Kay McBee, Mary Ann Myers
February 25 Candy Nettles
February 26 Pat Schaide
February 27 Bobbi Duncan

Altar Flowers are given on January 16th for the Glory of God by Roland and Julie Smith in honor of their son, Steven, and daughter-in-law, Jenny, on the occasion of Steven's birthday.

Altar Flowers are given on January 30th for the Glory of God by Michele Bishop in loving memory of parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur C. Pendleton.

Altar Flowers are given on February 6th for the Glory of God by Guy and Nell Davis in honor of their children and grandchildren.

Altar Flowers are given on February 13th for the Glory of God by Peter and Linda Hamel in memory of their parents.

Narthex Flowers are given on February 13th for the Glory of God Diane Remeta in memory of her father, Dr. Leroy Dennis.

Human Relations Day - January 16th

The Human Relations Day offering supports neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, community advocacy in the United States and Puerto Rico through United Methodist Voluntary Services, and work with at-risk youth through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation Program. Please give generously. Thank you!

Staff Love Offering - Thank You!

Once again, the members of Saint Paul UMC have been very generous to the staff. We're so fortunate to work for such a loving and caring church family. Thank you for your generosity and we hope everyone had a very happy and blessed holiday season!

The Church Office will be CLOSED on Monday, January 17th, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. We will re-open on Tuesday, the 18th. Please have a blessed and safe holiday.

Financials & Attendance

	<u>Dec. 19</u>	<u>Dec. 26</u>	<u>Dec. 27</u>
Received	\$13,248	\$6,363	\$3,211
Non-Contributed	\$2,597	\$413	\$0
Restricted	\$407	\$4,982.97	\$13,220
Total	\$16,252	\$11,758.97	\$16,431
Sunday School	24	17	N/A
Worship Service	137	62	N/A
	<u>January 2</u>	<u>January 9</u>	
Received	\$3,860	\$1,566	
Non-Contributed	\$0	\$20	
Restricted	\$42	\$85	
Total	\$3,902	\$1,671	
Sunday School	NO SERVICE due to COVID	NO SERVICE due to COVID	
Worship Service			

Volunteers for January 16, 23, & 30, and February 6, & 13, 2022

Communion Assistants 02/06	Bill Duncan Bobbi Duncan
01/16	Lillian Hudson
01/23	Linda Hamel
01/30	Jim Hampton
02/06	Marian Hampton
02/13	Ed Lamb
	Judy Lamb
	Dan Cooke
	Linda Cooke
	Connie Muzzy
	Bob McFarland
	Zach Davis
	Wanda Steele
	Bob McFarland
	Paula Fernandez
	Lee Owens
	Don Wasness
	Phil Womble
	Jim Hampton
	Guy Davis
	A.D. Page, Jr.
	Chris Boyett
	Bill Duncan
	Delton Vereen
	Peter Hamel
	Rebecca Parrish

Altar Guild - January: Suzanne Seager-Chair; Mary Parker, Abby Graham, Laurie Wilson; February: Connie Muzzy, Kay McBee, Caroline Greer, Susan Owens, Pat Campbell