

INSIDE WORSHIP!

8:30AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:15AM WORSHIP SERVICE IN SANCTUARY

ATTENDEES MUST BRING AND WEAR YOUR OWN MASKS



**St. Paul's United Methodist Church
205 Maryland Ave.
Cambridge, Maryland**

Invite a friend – Let's come together!

St. Paul's Newsletter

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Guided by God's love, our purpose is to make disciples of Jesus Christ through the Nurture, Outreach and Witness ministries, and to obey the commands of God.

If you have an e-mail address and would like to receive our newsletter electronically, please let us know at info@stpaulscambridge.com

2020 COMMITTEE & CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor: Rev. Chris Pettit (pastor@stpaulscambridge.com)

Administrative Council Chairperson: Anne Murphy (awmurphy78@yahoo.com)

Board of Trustees Chairperson: Michelle Gregori (trustee@stpaulscambridge.com)

Finance Committee Chairperson: Fred Redmer (treasurer@stpaulscambridge.com)

Communications Team: communications@stpaulscambridge.com

Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee Chairperson: Betsy Malkus
(betsy_malkus@yahoo.com)

Outreach Ministries: info@stpaulscambridge.com

Memorial Fund Chairperson - Scott Daniels (443-521-4577)

Membership Chairpersons: Toni Insley (info@stpaulscambridge.com)

Health Ministries Chairperson: Dot Bradshaw (443-225-5394)

United Methodist Men President: Don Kinnamon (410-463-1193)

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 10 am – 2 pm

Pastor's Office Hours: Monday & Thursday – Other times by appointment

****There is no house phone at the parsonage. To contact Pastor Chris, call 410-739-4364****



Prayer List

Aubree Burton

Frank Brooks

David Hughes

Family of Charlie
Harp

Family of James
Harvey

Nancy Hebdon

David Pope

Tom Anschutz

Denny Wagner

Robert Hodge

Darlene Jones

Peggy Bramble

Anne Murphy

Linda Andrews

Becky Tall

Cliff Pritchett

Bob & Betty Lloyd

Lucy Willey

Rita & Joe Harkins

Billy Wright

Charlotte Willey

Pat Aaron

Jesse Hurley

Phillip Rogers

Ron Potter

David Thomas, Sr.

Verla Bowser

Nancy Kreek

Families

Unsaved loved ones

Our Service Workers

Our Schools

Those needy

Our pastors

Our church

If anyone would like a visit from clergy, please contact the church office.

Christmas Like No Other (...well maybe not)

Christmas is quickly approaching and here we are watching Covid-19 cases steadily climbing. As I write this, the U.S. has just set a new single day record of 3000 virus deaths. There is hope on the horizon with vaccines, but it will take time for them to be FDA approved and distributed widely enough to begin to reverse trends. When this all began, I had a hard time remembering to put on my mask – now I find myself forgetting to take it off when I climb in my truck. The parking lots of local shopping centers are not nearly as full as one would expect during the Christmas season and the restaurants are struggling to stay afloat. In our own church, Christmas Eve service has been moved online. My first thought is that this will be a Christmas like no other, but then history reminds me otherwise.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel published an article last week titled: “The coronavirus pandemic may make for a blue Christmas in Milwaukee. Our ancestors would understand.” where writer John Gurda looked back at the Spanish Flu of 1918 and it’s effect on the Christmas season. Here are a few excerpts: “Our ancestors experienced comparable darkness 102 years ago. The Spanish flu pandemic of 1918 peaked late in the year, killing millions globally and compromising Christmas throughout the Western world. World War I was still careening toward its bloody conclusion, and the influenza scourge added one more worry to an already overburdened populace.” He goes on to describe how the initial lockdowns, social distancing, wearing of masks early in the fall had the desired effect of slowing down the spread. “... infection rates dropped fast enough for authorities to lift the lockdown order on Nov. 4. More good news followed one week later, when the armistice ending World War I was signed. Revelers thronged Milwaukee’s downtown, creating what we’d call a “super-spreader” event today. With a boost from Armistice Day crowds, influenza made a second appearance in the weeks that followed, prompting another lockdown on Dec. 11.” This second surge resulted in cancelled Christmas plans, worship services, but also slowed the spread of the virus. John concludes: “Having no choice, our ancestors survived a pandemic to resume their old lives or start new ones. Having no choice, we will do precisely the same.”

This to shall pass my friends! We will get through this together and by the grace of God. We can still bring light and life into the darkness of this world. Our Shadow of the Steeple ministry, the giving of gift cards to families in need, has encountered a greater need than ever before. Consider making a monetary donation. And share with your friends and family our virtual worship services that we will be offering online during Christmas week. And keep praying for the healing of our land!

Pastor Chris



2020 Christmas Services

After much thought and consideration, especially with the anticipated rise of Covid cases due to holiday gatherings, we will not be holding in-person Christmas Eve services. Instead, we are going to offer two virtual worship services, one to be released on **Wednesday, December 23rd at 6pm** and one to be released on **Thursday, December 24th at 6pm**. Both services will include music, scripture reading, prayer and a brief message.

A **Wednesday, December 23rd will be a virtual Blue Christmas service**. This is a service developed for those who are mourning or struggling with loss during this time of year and who struggle to find the joy of the season. Krista Pettit will be providing a message of hope.

A **Thursday, December 24th will be a virtual Christmas Candlelight service**. This service will include Christmas carols, the reading of the Nativity story, and a Christmas message by Pastor Chris.

A Both services will be linked to our Facebook accounts and Youtube, and we will send out links ahead of time.

A We hope to be able to not only reach our church family, but many others who are seeking hope this Christmas season!



BASEMENT NEWS



The “Basement Ladies” at St. Paul’s UMC are very pleased to announce the opening of ‘Tis The Season at 200 Hayward Street, Cambridge. The Christmas shop and the basement shops, are currently open by appointment only. If you would like to shop, or if you have items you would like to donate, please contact the church office for an appointment.



Cold Weather Shelter Meals

It’s that time of year again!! Our local Cold Weather Shelter is now open, and in need of volunteers to bring dinners to the people needing a warm place to sleep. St. Paul’s UMC has once again signed-up to provide these meals on the first Thursday of the month, December 2020 through March 2021. If you could help with preparing and/or delivering these meals, or if you’d like more information, please contact Kathy Morris (443-521-5647) or the church office (410-228-1424 or info@stpaulscambridge.com)

Health Ministry News



HEALTH TIPS

Keep goals and expectations realistic. As life situations change we need to adjust. What we've done in the past may no longer apply. Everything does not need to be "perfect." Pray about it. Make a budget and stick to it. Cut back if you've overindulged in the past. Hand-crafted or baked goods make lovely gifts. Or a note to an elderly or disabled person promising a gift of time or effort; e.g., to run errands, get groceries, clean the house, do yard work, take the person somewhere. Pray about it.

Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.
Each word is only used once.

JOY
LORD
MARY
JESUS
KINGS
GLORY
PEACE
JOSEPH
ANGELS
CHRIST
MANGER
SAVIOUR
SHEPHERDS
BETHLEHEM

Upcoming Calendar

13 8:30am Adult Sunday School 8:45am Fellowship 9:15am Worship Service w/Holy Communion in Sanctuary	14	15	16	17 4:30pm SPRC Meeting - CANCELLED 6:45pm Prayer Tsunami	18	19
20 8:30am Adult Sunday School 8:45am Fellowship 9:15am Worship Service w/Holy Communion in Sanctuary	21 First Day of Winter 6:15pm Finance Team Meeting in Fellowship Hall	22	23	24 7:30pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day 	26
27 8:30am Adult Sunday School 8:45am Fellowship 9:15am Worship Service w/Holy Communion in Sanctuary	28	29	30	31	January 1 New Year's Day 	2
3 8:30am Adult Sunday School 8:45am Fellowship 9:15am Worship Service w/Holy Communion in Sanctuary	4 6pm Trustees Meeting in Fellowship Hall	5	6	7 6:45pm Prayer Tsunami	8	9 9-11am Drive-Thru Food Pantry

Have a safe and blessed week!



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