



ST. PAUL'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
HOUSTON



**FOLLOW
JESUS
CHRIST**
JAMES

Winter

Pastor's Message
Art Tent
Ministry Updates
Community Updates

January - February 2023

Welcome



When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' —Matthew 15:5-6

Jesus tells these parables about rejoicing when something that was lost is now found. It makes

me wonder- did Jesus smile or laugh?

The gospels don't mention him doing either. They do report that he wept twice: once over Jerusalem, his city, and once over Lazarus, his friend. If Jesus wept out of sorrow, I have to believe he laughed for joy. How could he not smile when a child cuddled in his arms, when he saw Zacchaeus out on a limb, or Peter put his foot in his mouth one more time?

I cannot believe that Jesus did not laugh when he saw something funny or smile when he thought about the love of God. He must have smiled; after all, we call it the Good News of God's love and grace. You might notice one of the pictures on the cover of this newsletter has a smiling friend reminding us to have a wonderful day. I hope that as you are making your resolutions for the new year, that you will resolve to smile more, to laugh more, to enjoy every day that God has given you.

Be sure to mark your calendar for Sunday, January 29, as we celebrate St. Paul's United Methodist Church. There will be wonderful music at both morning and afternoon worship services; then amazing food and fellowship that evening. We will be reminded of our great past but also of our calling for the future.

Peace,

Jeff McDonald, Sr. Pastor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff".

Table of Contents

- 3 Worship & Music
- 4 Care & Hospitality
- 5 Missions
- 6 Kids & Youth
- 7 Adults & Celebrating Connection
- 8 Upcoming in January & February
Lenten Preview

Weekly Schedule

Church Offices

Monday - Thursday: 8 am - 5 pm

Friday: 8 am - Noon

Sunday

Worship at 8:30 & 11 am

Sunday School at 9:45 am

Phone: (713) 528-0527

Cover Art - The Art Tent

Creating a space for people experiencing homelessness to express themselves through visual art.

The Art Tent is in critical need of volunteers for the 2023 year on Wednesdays from 10 am - 1 pm in the EAC Parking Lot. Contact Helen Spaw at hspaw@stpaulshouston.org for more information.

Worship & Music

Epiphany

The Season of Epiphany is from the Feast of the Epiphany through the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, which is anywhere from four to nine weeks depending on the date of Easter.

The Epiphany of the Lord, from the Greek *epiphaneia*, meaning manifestation or appearance, officially takes place on January 6, the culmination of the Twelve Days of Christmas. This season predates the Christian celebration of Christmas, originally focusing on the nativity, incarnation, and baptism of Christ. We will recognize Epiphany as a congregation on Sunday, January 1, celebrating the coming of the three wise men (magi) who brought gifts to the Christ child. The arrival of these visitors was a sign that the incarnation of God was here and recognized by the heavens— an observance of great majesty, solemnity, and awe.



The Baptism of our Lord is observed on the Sunday after the Feast of the Epiphany. The gospels for the other Sundays of the Epiphany season describe the wedding at Cana, the calling of the disciples, and various miracles and teachings of Jesus. The Last Sunday of the Epiphany season is always devoted to the Transfiguration of Christ, revealing Christ's glory prior to the crucifixion, and his anticipated resurrection and ascension. Jesus' identity as the Son of God is dramatically revealed in the Transfiguration gospel, as well as the gospel of the baptism of Christ.

We are called to respond to Christ in faith through the showings of his divinity recorded in the gospels of the Epiphany season. We hope you join us on this beautiful journey.

A stained glass window with a central circular design and the text "St. Paul's Day" overlaid in a large, white, serif font.

St. Paul's Day

Sunday, Jan. 29
4 pm Concert | Sanctuary
& 5 pm Dinner | Fondren Hall



St. Paul's Day Concert

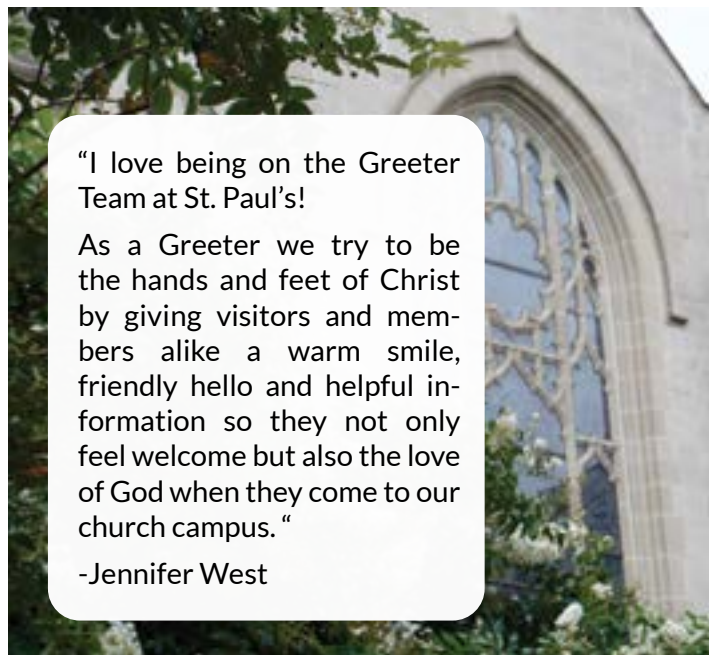
Andrew Carter: *Benedicite*
George Frideric Handel: *Zadok the Priest*
The Choirs of
St. Paul's United Methodist Church
Mercury Chamber Orchestra

Directed by
Christopher Betts & Antoine Plante

*This concert is generously underwritten
by St. Paul's Chamber Music Society.
Followed by dinner in Fondren Hall.*

We're Glad You're Here

Sunday mornings connect us as a community – over anything and everything like our love of worship, appreciation of St. Paul's architecture, curiosity about Sunday School classes and small groups, interest in United Methodism, or even confusion about which doors to enter the Sanctuary! Our Greeter team gracefully extends welcome to all folks – friends and strangers alike. Showing incredible hospitality to guests and our church family is such a vital part to life at St. Paul's. We want all who come through our doors to know we're glad they're here. If you are interested in becoming a Greeter, contact Sarah Patlan at spatlan@stpaulshouston.org or stop by the welcome tent on Sunday mornings.



"I love being on the Greeter Team at St. Paul's!

As a Greeter we try to be the hands and feet of Christ by giving visitors and members alike a warm smile, friendly hello and helpful information so they not only feel welcome but also the love of God when they come to our church campus. "

-Jennifer West

Welcoming New Pastors

Two new clergy have been appointed to St. Paul's United Methodist Church effective January 2, 2023. Rev. Melinda Owens will be our Pastor of Congregational Care, and Rev. Brandi Horton will serve as Executive Pastor of Operations.

Melinda is a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and married to Wesley Owens, Jr. She graduated from Southern



University with a degree in computer science and a master's in systems engineering from University of Houston at Clear Lake. She spent several years as an engineer in the aerospace industry, and then, began to hear a call into ministry. She has a Masters of Divinity degree from Southern Methodist

University (SMU). Melinda enjoys spending time with her husband, Wesley, watching movies, and traveling.

Brandi is a lifelong Methodist from Hallsville, Texas. She is a graduate of Texas A&M University and Duke Divinity School. Brandi has been under appointment in the Texas Annual Conference since 2014, serving Deer



Park UMC, First Methodist Houston, and Spring Community Church prior to coming to St. Paul's. Brandi is married to David, who is currently a pastor at St. Luke's United Methodist Church. They have 2 daughters – Caroline, age 5, and Amelia, age 3 months. She enjoys reading and spending time with family and friends.

On Sunday, January 8, welcome Rev. Melinda and Rev. Brandi at a reception in the Parlor during the 9:45 am Sunday School hour.

Bolivia 2023 MISSION TRIP

Why did you go on a mission trip?

Broaden my horizons to see another country and another culture; make a heartfelt personal connection with people from that culture; return home with a heart full of gratitude and love for the people who shared their love with you. Then, share that love with the people at home.

—Dottie Burge

Bolivian Mission Trip 2023

July 19 - July 30

An intergenerational mission trip.

Join God's mission to inspire one another with hope as we share faithful

discipleship in words and actions on behalf of vulnerable children.

The trip will include:

- *Two Day Retreat to prepare our hearts and minds.*
- *Vacation Bible School leadership opportunities.*
- *Assisting with well child checkups and dentistry appointments.*
- *Aiding in the reconstruction to the front wall of Emmanuel Church.*

Working alongside one other in mission with our Bolivian sisters and brothers in Christ, we will be moved by God's amazing love for us all.

Email Pastor Nataly
for more information
& to register,
nataly@stpaulshouston.org.

What surprised you on a past mission trip?

On my Mission trip in 2011, I felt like I was part of Holy work in the life of a church that began there long ago and will continue growing into the future.

I learned while laying bricks alongside church members that they truly are my neighbors, but more importantly, I am their neighbor.

—Vic Driscoll

St. Paul's Kids has wrapped up a very busy and festive season of celebrating *Emmanuel, God With Us*. One of the best things has been the growth of our participation in each of our events and weekly classes. We're seeing a lot of new faces, and welcoming back so many of our families who have been virtual for a long time. In 2023, we are looking forward to our favorite traditions like Walk Through Holy Week, Easter Egg Hunt, and VBS. In addition, a team has been planning the renovation process of the Jones Building basement in the coming year.

We have a new educational event for our 5th graders (and 6th/7th this year) that gives factual information on human sexuality that's grounded in our faith.



Wonderfully Made
Loved by God

Contact Pastor Kate for more details or to register at kflint@stpaulshouston.org.

Friday, Jan 20 | 6 pm - Parent Meeting
Saturday, Jan 21 | 9 am - Retreat for 5th, 6th, 7th
Sunday, Jan 22 | 12:30 pm - Lunch & Closing Program

Wonderfully Made provides kids ages 10-12 the opportunity to not only ask questions about growing up, but to get faith-based answers as well. The curriculum covers physical development and spiritual connection while helping preteens establish a foundation for their life in Christ by introducing pertinent topics through age-appropriate information, anatomical illustrations, reflection questions, and spiritual practices.

Youth



Photos from Youth Led Worship 2022

Youth Led Worship

Join us on **Sunday, February 19** for an annual tradition where youth take on all leadership roles of the service including readings, prayers, singing, and witness addresses. Middle School students will lead the 8:30 am service, and Senior High students will be leading the 11 am service with a combination of all grades that will be leading the choirs.

Adults

The Art Tent

Creating a space for people experiencing homelessness to express themselves through visual art. The Art Tent is in critical need of volunteers for the 2023 year on Wednesdays from 10 am - 1 pm in the EAC Parking Lot. Contact Helen Spaw at hspaw@stpaulshouston.org for more information.

Circle of Light

January 15 | Noon | 4th Floor (Sanctuary Bldg.)

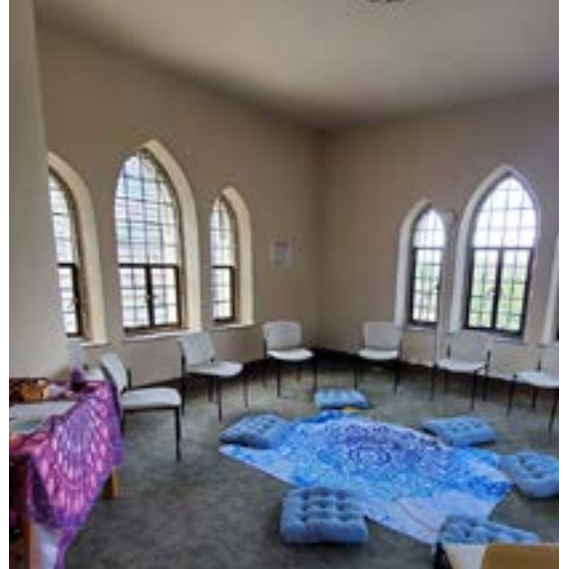
Women are invited to this time of inspiration, transformation, and reinvention. We share spiritual, awareness, mindfulness, and intentionality practices.

Contact Helen Spaw, MPS at hspaw@stpaulshouston.org to RSVP or for more information.

Healing of Racism Circle

February 9 | 10 am | Zoom

Explore emotions and responses to current events and racial suffering in a safe environment using the form of the Healing Circle. We use an art exercise to process awareness in this circle. This Circle is facilitated in conjunction with the Center for the Healing of Racism. RSVP to Helen Spaw, MPS at hspaw@stpaulshouston.org.



Celebrating Connection

New Members - December 2022



Ann-Marie Bobst



Elizabeth Ann Kirschling



Larry Bell



Mitzi and Harry Hiers

In our Community - From November 2022 to Present

Baptisms

Sophia Anne Richardson, daughter on Lauren and Taylor Richardson was baptized on October 30. Katherine Anne Killary, daughter of Elizabeth and Matthew Killary was baptized on December 11. Darby Rose Killary, daughter of Lauren and Daniel Killary was baptized on December 11. Vivian Grace Wadley, daughter of Katherine and Chris Wadley was baptized on December 18.

Weddings

Clay Nickens and Ashley Anderson were married at St. Paul's on November 5.

Deaths

Marvin Robert "Bob" Williams passed away on November 12.

Upcoming



ST. PAUL'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
HOUSTON

STILL ON FIRE

A TALK WITH JAN PHILLIPS

Saturday, Jan. 7 | 9 am - 4 pm
Fondren Hall | \$25 (lunch included)

Jan Phillips is a visionary thought leader, award-winning author and dynamic speaker who provokes thought and inspires action.

Register online at
www.stpaulshouston.org/events/jan-phillips.

Made possible by the Kerley Endowment.

Field Notes from a Queer Mystic

UM ARMY

June 11-17

JUMMP

June 26-30

VBS

July 10-14

Holy Land Trip
with Rev. Jeff

October 17-29

Lent & Holy Week

Lent

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner | Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 5:30 pm

Ash Wednesday Services | Wednesday, Feb. 22 at Noon & 7 pm

Lenten Recitals | Thursdays, Feb. 23 - Mar. 30

Holy Week & Easter

Palm Sunday Worship | Sunday, Apr. 22 at 8:30 & 11 am

Guided Labyrinth Walks available throughout Holy Week

Maundy Thursday Worship | Thursday, Apr. 6 at Noon & 7 pm

Children's Tenebrae | Friday, Apr. 7 at 11 am

Good Friday Worship | Friday, Apr. 7 at Noon & 7 pm

Easter Vigil | Saturday, Apr. 8 at 7 pm

Easter Sunday Worship | Sunday, Apr. 9 at 8, 9:30 & 11 am