



**St. Paul's**  
United Methodist Church

# **The Messenger**

## **November/December 2020**

### **St. Paul's United Methodist Church**

3334 Breton Road, S.E.

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Phone: (616) 949-0880

Pastor: Rev. Virginia Heller

269-274-9416

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Email: [grstpaulsumc@gmail.com](mailto:grstpaulsumc@gmail.com)

Website: [www.grstpaulsumc.org](http://www.grstpaulsumc.org)

### **HAPI**

Our Mission focus for November is HAPI—Haitian Artisans for Peace International. HAPI was founded in 2007 by Valerie Mossman-Celestin (of Grand Rapids) and Paul Prevost (former mayor of Mizak, Haiti). HAPI has recently changed its name to Haitian Assets for Peace International—to recognize the evolvement and growth as an organization.

Their focus is to transform Haiti through the empowerment and advocacy of women (50% of their staff are female), and to equip local leaders to promote the health, economic and social well-being of Mizakians.

HAPI has been selected and is being financially supported by the United Methodist Church Global Board of Ministries. To break the cycle of charity and dependency, HAPI works in primarily rural areas to assist the families in meeting their basic needs by organizing their artistic skill into a money-making enterprise.

Significant activities include:

- Artisan fairs
- Micro-business loans
- Clean water projects
- Solar energy program
- Basic health/dental/maternal care
- Children's art (and 4H) activities
- Education and English classes (children and adults)
- Raise goats which are given to families

They also provide distance learning at the "Computer Café", and have opened the area's 1<sup>st</sup> Vocational Center to provide skills training to youth to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.

You may check out their Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/HAPInMizak](https://www.facebook.com/HAPInMizak)

To shop for Christmas (or anytime) presents: <https://www.haitianassets.org/shop/>

For more questions, you may also contact Valerie Mossman-Celestin @ [valeriemcelestin@gmail.com](mailto:valeriemcelestin@gmail.com)

We have invited HAPI to our Christmas Gift Fairs at the church in the past, so you may be familiar with some of the products.

Thank you for your faithfulness to the Missions of St Paul's.

Your Missions Committee



## All Saints Day

All Saints Day was celebrated on Sunday, November 1, 2020. The following were recognized:

Drew Riebel—Mac & Carol Ward's Step-Grandson  
Mark Hendricks—Terry Hendrick's Son  
Rev. Ted Bailey—Former St. Paul's Pastor  
Charlotte Stein—Friend of Pat Meyers  
Hayes Cargill—Husband of Peg Cargill  
Thomas Prather—Brother of Jane Deal  
Tom Daniels—Brother of Maggie Skiver  
William Lawrence—Judy Werner's Nephew  
Sue Rock—Pearl Scott's Sister-In-Law  
Carolyn—Shirley Goodspeed's Sister  
Fonda Kirchmyer—Kathy O'Neill's Sister  
Nancy Lee—Al Pall's Sister  
Ginny Mills—Lydia Mair's Mother  
Mary Smither—Member of St. Paul's  
Pat Branewski—Georgene Greene's Friend  
Tom Reust—Cousin of Pat Meyers  
Brad Gobright—Friend of Pam White  
Kathy Hurst—Georgeene Greene's Sister-In-Law  
Dr. Robert Spiegler—Pastor Gini's Uncle  
Dr. Waldo "Doc" Frankenstein—Friend of the Hellers  
Gary Burgess—Brenda Palmitier's Brother  
Cora Iwanicki—Jessi Gould's Sister's Grandmother-In-Law  
Gus Sekeet—Lisa Sekeet's Father-In-Law  
Joyce Hull—Travis Hull's Grandmother  
Joyce Clay—Member of St. Paul's

Dear Friends in Christ,

It was with a heavy heart that I prayerfully made the decision to cancel in-church worship. We will still have in-church worship on Sunday, December 6 with Communion, and Thursday, December 24 at 7pm. Just to be clear, we will close the service with the lighting of candles and singing one verse of Silent Night at the very end of the service.

Worship will continue online. We will be able to have singing this way, and worship will be a bit longer in length. I long for the day when we are back to normal. After the recent rallies in Michigan and due to increased gatherings over the holidays, numbers are expected to spike. Immediate family members have tested positive, some asymptomatic, some hospitalized, and at least one has died. My mother's hospice caregiver has been exposed to COVID. We are awaiting news on whether she is positive or not, so it's possible Mother and I have been exposed.

Please stay safe. Please know we are in prayer for you. Please know you can contact me at anytime, and I will return your call as soon as possible. (269-274-9416.)

Blessings, Pastor Gini

### **Upcoming Worship Themes**

- Nov. 8      Gratitude to Our Veterans (John 11:25-26, James 4:1-7a)  
If you are a vet, please contact the office with your name and service branch
- Nov. 15      Bible Sunday (Matt. 18:21-25, Eph. 1:15-23)
- Nov. 22      Thanksgiving Celebration (Deut. 26:1-11, John 6:25-35)
- Nov. 29      First Sunday of Advent (Yes, you are reading that correctly!) (Luke 1:26-38)
- Dec. 6      Second Sunday of Advent with Communion, in church (Luke 1:39-45)
- Dec. 13      Third Sunday of Advent (Matthew 1:18-25)
- Dec. 20      Fourth Sunday of Advent (Luke 2:8-14)
- Dec. 24      Christmas Eve Service at 7 pm (Luke 2:1-20)
- Dec. 27      First Sunday after Christmas (Luke 2:21-40)



## Thank you from Thrive

Thrive: A Refugee Support Program thanks you and your Board of Trustees for the continued in-kind support of our work with refugees. While we had hoped to open our offices again in September, our Board of Directors decided that we should wait until the first of the new year. Initially, the Trustees had waived the rental fee for our office space and now that will continue for the remainder of 2020! These saved funds are a big benefit to our non-profit! Thank you for your generosity!

## Brunch Bunch

Brunch Bunch will meet via Zoom on Friday, November 6 at 9:00am. In December we will meet via Zoom on December 11 at 9:00am. All women are invited to join us. Email Peg Edverson for the Zoom link.  
[pedverson@gmail.com](mailto:pedverson@gmail.com)



## Coffee & Crafts

Due to the rising cases of Covid, Coffee & Crafts will be suspended until further notice. Please stay safe, and God Bless.

## Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible study continues Thursday nights at 6:30 via Zoom. Please contact Pam Gombert if you are interested in attending.  
[gombertpj@gmail.com](mailto:gombertpj@gmail.com)

# **CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT 2020**

Christmas by Candlelight will be Friday, Dec. 4 at 7:00pm. Our plan was to gather together, but based on the current situation in Michigan, we are planning to move to an online event. This is not as simple as it sounds, as we have to check each piece of music to be sure it is covered under our church licensing agreement before we can commit to a full program that evening. Our entertainment is a sax quartet who will share music of the season, as well as other classic pieces. We will enjoy listening to them in our own homes and still be blessed with the joy of the Advent season.

Will it be different? Yes. Will it be special? Also, yes. Could this change again? Again, yes. Further information will be shared as needed.

We will be together to reflect on our coming Lord and the beauty of the season.

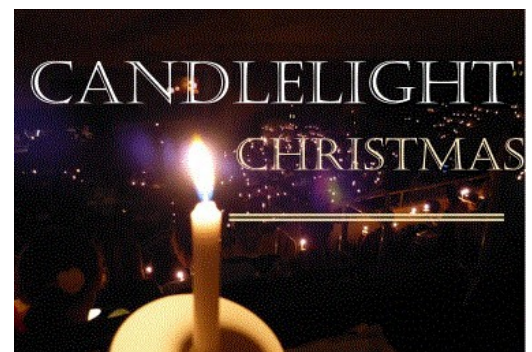
Plan to join us for entertainment and a carol sing as you relax in your homes. As a treat, dessert will be delivered to you that afternoon or early evening, along with a favor to remember this unusual evening.

You MUST RSVP by Dec. 1 to join us. The link will be sent out via email ONLY to those who RSVP. RSVP to Pam Gombert—616-698-1864 or [gombertpj@gmail.com](mailto:gombertpj@gmail.com)

We are still looking for pictures of past tables.  
Send them to Peg Edverson—[pedverson@gmail.com](mailto:pedverson@gmail.com).

Thank you

Questions? Contact Pam Gombert



## Charge Conference Minutes

### Sunday, October 18, 2020

Rev. Margie Crawford, our District Superintendent, called the charge conference meeting to order at 5:15 pm on Sunday, October 18, 2020. Members of Church Council were present at church and via zoom.

Peg Edverson presented a motion, which Lee VanHorn seconded, to approve Marilyn Griffin as secretary to take minutes of the charge conference. Approved.

#### **Pastor's Salary**

Janet Coykendall, Chair of SPRC, presented the pastor's compensation for 2021 as follows:

Total compensation: \$50,385

Professional Expenses: \$3,000

Household Furnishings Allowance: \$20,000

Medical Reimbursement: \$2,000

Peg Edverson motioned to approve this package. Sharon Gould seconded. There were no questions. Rev. Crawford reminded those present that this package will only be for approx. 6 months since Pastor Gini is retiring. A new package will be approved with a new pastor. Approved.

#### **Lay Leadership Report**

Rev. Gini Heller presented the Lay Leadership Report. Corrections noted are:

1. On page 4, the Missions team says Jeff Williams is a member. This should be Jeff Edwards.
2. On page 4, the Endowment Committee section states that the Trustee Chair does not have a vote. This is incorrect, as that person does have a vote. The only people without votes are the Finance Committee designee and the pastor.
3. On page 1, remove Tom Orsborn from the 2022 class of Members at Large of the Church Council.

Lee Van Horn motioned to accept the Lay Leadership Report with these 3 corrections. Peg Edverson seconded. Approved.

Lee Van Horn motioned to fill any vacancies in the Lay Leadership Report via the Church Council. Linda VanHartesveldt seconded. Approved.

#### **Membership Report**

Brenda Haney presented the membership report. Due to Coronavirus, no names will be put on the "2<sup>nd</sup> year list" for 2020 and voted on to be removed from membership. We began the year with 162 members, added 3 by profession of faith, added 1 reinstated member, and removed 3 members who passed away this year; leaving a total of 163 members. Three baptisms were done.

### **Certified Lay Servants**

Gini Heller lifted up the names of our Certified Lay Servants – Dave Gombert, Pam Gombert, Sharon Gould, Georgene Greene, and Tom Orsborn. Rev. Crawford thanked them all and acknowledged their important ministry. Brenda Haney motioned to accept all 5 people as Certified Lay Servants. Lee VanHorn seconded. Approved.

### **Ministry Shares**

It was reported that 100% of the congregation's ministry shares have been paid to date. Rev. Crawford thanked the congregation for their faithfulness.

### **Pastor's Report**

Pastor Gini thanked everyone at St. Paul's for their faithfulness and support of each other and her during the Coronavirus pandemic. She appreciates how we emotionally, spiritually and financially support each other and the church.

With no other new business to be presented, Peg Edvenson motioned to adjourn the charge conference. Linda VanHartefeldt seconded. Approved.

Pastor Gini led the group in prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Submitted by,

Marilyn Griffin, Recording Secretary

# Advent

“Happy New Year! Advent, the four weeks prior to Christmas , marks the beginning of the Christian calendar. How appropriate that the first season of the year commemorates the arrival of Jesus Christ as Emmanuel, God with us.

The earliest information about Advent tells us that marking the season began in the fourth century A.D. as a time of preparation for baptism. By the Middle Ages, the focus had moved to anticipating the Second Coming of Christ and the ultimate realization of the Kingdom of God. It has only been within the last 50 years that the emphasis has shifted more to commemorating the Nativity, Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem.

Consequently, we see there are three perspectives associated with Advent. First, we remember arrival/birth of Jesus to be our Savior. Second, we personally recall the arrival of Jesus Christ into our hearts and lives. Third, we hope for a Second Coming of Jesus when peace will reign forever.

May your Advent celebration be a blessing to your heart and soul and the beginning of another year of living in God’s presence.”

Sharon Gould





# REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.  
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A  
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

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# Thank you Veterans

Veterans Day is Nov 11, 2020. We would like to thank the following members for their service. God Bless you all, and again, THANK YOU!

Tom Drake	Army
Don Fitz	Army
Bernard Garlid	Army
Terry Hendricks	Army
Gene Smith	Army
Ernie Sikor	Navy
Dave Stafford	Air Force
Dick Witvoet	Air Force
Mike Griffin	Currently serving in the Army





On behalf of the staff and my family, I want to wish all of you a very wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas. How do we do that in this present time? We do it with a great deal of reflection and giving of thanks and praise to God for the blessings we have, and that includes you. Thank you for the support you give to all of us.

And from myself, thank you for the many notes that I received for pastoral appreciation. It is my honor and blessing to serve you.

God Bless,

Pastor Gini, Georgene, Fran, Scott, Heather, Coby and Robin



As with everything else this year...The Christmas Card mailbox at church will be different BUT, we will have it. Watch for details to be emailed later this month.



# Happy Birthday

## November

Lynn Pall— 3rd  
Peter Murphy—5th  
Doris Singer—5th  
Madelyn Stieg—6th  
Rita Jackson-Lubenow—13th  
Pam Gombert—15th  
Kris Wood—18th  
Tom Drake—20th  
Kathy O'Neill—22nd  
Brenda (Marean) Palmitier—23rd  
Jennifer Starzyk—23rd  
Barb Welton—23rd  
Beverly Gassdorf—26th  
Lisa Sekeet—26th  
Bill Steckelberg—30th

## December

Dave Coykendall—1st  
Kitty Spadoni—1st  
Lydia Mairs—2nd  
Deanna Fleet—3rd  
David Spadoni—3rd  
Maima Logan—7th  
Grace Garlid—8th  
Glenn Gould—10th  
Carrie Clinger—11th  
Pam White—17th  
Dick Sellect—21st  
Terry Hendricks—24th  
Aliya Logan—27th  
Cameron Walter—27th  
Claudette Wandt—27th  
Ernie Sikor—30th  
Deirdre Mairs—31st

