

THE TOWER

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Our Campfire Carol Sing-along
celebrated the joy of the season!



St. Paul Church
A UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY

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DEATHS SINCE LAST ALL SAINTS DAY

Terry Byers - December 15, 2022

MEMORIALS

In memory of Bette Beck
from Genie Yockey

In memory of Pat French
from Genie Yockey

In memory of Bob Couch
from Thomas Couch, Jr.

In memory of Bill Dickinson
from Ray & Betty Jo Fore

In memory of Margaret Shepherd
from Ray & Betty Jo Fore

In memory of Velma Cox
from Tom & Nancy Smith

NEXT TOWER DEADLINE!

January 19, 2022 at 5:00pm

Submit articles and/or pictures to
Sara Ferebee at sara@stpaulchurchky.org.

STAY CONNECTED!



WEBSITE: The St. Paul website is our communications hub! To keep up with all the St. Paul news and activities, visit StPaulChurchKY.org. Bookmark it!



Connect with St. Paul Church on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

Prayer Requests: Send prayer requests or sign up to receive the Prayer Chain by emailing prayer@stpaulchurchky.org or by filling out the form at the **St. Paul website**. *The Prayer Chain is emailed throughout the week as prayer requests are received.*



St. Paul Weekly Email - Stay informed!

Stay informed about the news and happenings at St. Paul. Subscribe at our website or email info@stpaulchurchky.org.



Pastor Darren's Weekly Phone Message

Each Wednesday, Pastor Darren sends an uplifting phone message. To receive these calls, email info@stpaulchurchky.org or leave a message at 502-459-1595.

Worship Recordings: Our Sunday morning worship service is video-recorded. Find the recordings at StPaulChurchKY.org/sermons, or follow the link under **Recorded Worship Services!**

New Year Possibilities

Rev. Darren Brandon, Senior Pastor



Each year, I get a new calendar. Its pages are blank and I slowly write down my commitments. There are personal and family plans, and ministry meetings. What if we write in our calendar those moments we will keep company with God? What new possibilities might emerge as we tune our hearts to God's presence?

Two traditions here at St. Paul help us orient our lives toward God at the start of a new year. On Epiphany Sunday, January 1, we have one service in Koinonia at 10 am. During communion, you'll be offered a Star Word. Many congregations have the tradition of providing a word as a gift from God. I've included more information on how to use your star word below.

On Sunday, January 8, we'll have our regular worship schedule of two services: 9 am Koinonia and 11 am Traditional. Each service includes the opportunity to renew our baptism. The reading for the day is Matthew 3:13-17 (Jesus' baptism by John). After sharing the liturgy, we are invited to come forward, touch the water, remember our baptism, and be thankful.

The closer we are to God, the closer we will be to one another. We will need each other's support to fulfill the ancient question, "What does the Lord require?" "To seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God." I hope you'll join us for these essential worship moments.

Much grace to you,
Darren

STAR WORDS

God gave the Wise Men a star for guidance.
How might God use a word to guide you?

Keep the Star Word in a place where you will see it often: refrigerator, on your nightstand, wallet, etc.... Pray and ask God to show you how this word speaks to your life right now. You can keep the word private, just between you and God. Or you could share your word with others and see what insights they offer.

Your Star Word could be something:

- You need more (or less!) of in your life.
- A quality in your life or a relationship that needs your attention.
- That will bring you closer to God and bless you and others.
- You need to wrestle with in order to gain understanding.



Breathing Space

with Pastor Darren Brandon

Pastor Darren's weekly phone message has evolved into a brief radio spot, which airs on WHAS. Tune in to NewsRadio 840 WHAS on Fridays between 8:00-8:30am to start your day with a "Breathing Space." Listen on the radio or at their Live Radio site:

<https://www.iheart.com/live/news-radio-840-whas-969/>

Congregational Care Committee Organizational Meeting

Wednesday, January 11 at Noon
Room 113

The Congregational Care Committee invites all interested to come to an organizational meeting Wednesday, January 11 at noon in Room 113. This Committee supports care for those in the Congregation in a variety of ways as people feel led: writing cards, calling or visiting people, taking food, or praying with them. If you feel led to provide care for people in any way, please join us. Please call Gail Henson with questions at 648-2201.



Helping Senior Adults

by Jon Fleshman

As part of a Vision Team goal, I'm compiling a list of volunteers who want to support the senior adult ministry. Being on the list would not obligate you to a particular day, time, or task. It would merely indicate your interest in occasionally helping if you are available. Many of you already help our congregation stay connected by calling, texting, emailing, writing, visiting, and driving. If you already do this, want to do this, or know someone who does, please respond. Let me know if there is specific help you provide or wish to provide, such as writing

a letter, visiting, or driving a member to a doctor's appointment. I will give this list to the staff and the Congregational Care Team to augment their resources. If you know of St. Paul members who want help or to be contacted, please give their names to Bob Helvey (bob@stpaulchurchky.org) or Gail Henson (grhenson@gmail.com).

If you would like to help out, please call or text me (Jon Fleshman) at 502-797-8358; email: dettofranoi@yahoo.com.

Living with the End in Mind

January 28, 9:00am-12:00pm
McAdams Hall

Thinking about the end of life and all the details that surround one's passing can be very overwhelming. This Workshop will help you get your affairs in order.

We will discuss and provide forms to plan for advanced directives, Healthcare surrogate, durable power of attorney, financial details, cremation and burial information, and so much more.

There is no cost for this Workshop. However, donations to cover the cost of printing will be received.

Please sign up by contacting the church or signing up at the Information Center on the 2nd floor. For more information, please contact Gail Henson at grhenson@gmail.com

Church Leader Orientation

Saturday, January 21, 10:00am-12:00pm

Church Leader Orientation will take place Saturday, January 21, 10am-Noon. All those serving on a ministry or administrative team are invited to gather in McAdams Hall. Our annual leadership orientation includes discipleship formation and planning for the new year. We are grateful for all of those who have agreed to serve.

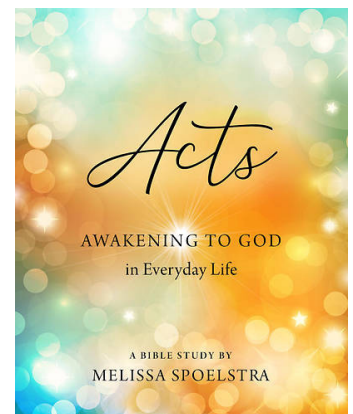
In preparation for the orientation, we will read the story of Jesus' baptism, renew our baptism vows, and pray for our church leaders in the 9am and 11am worship services on Sunday, January 8.

Women of the Word Bible Study

Acts: Awakening to God in Everyday Life

Beginning January 11, Wednesdays from 10:00-11:30am

Whether it's because of distractions, busyness, or a case of the blahs, we can experience a drift toward indifference in our spiritual lives. We have a need for an ongoing spiritual awakening if we want to become more aware of God's presence and activity in our everyday lives. If this fits you, please join the Wednesday Women's Bible Study, a.k.a. Women of the Word, on Wednesdays from 10:00-11:30 in room 113. This caring and nurturing group studies God's Word and prays for each other and the church every Wednesday. We also eat well.



In **Acts: Awakening to God in Everyday Life**, a six-week study of the Book of Acts by Melissa Spoelstra, you will journey with the first followers of Jesus and witness the birth and growth of the early church through spiritual awakening to the power of God's Spirit, message, freedom, grace, mission, and direction.

From their experiences you will learn ways that will help you attune your own spiritual heart to experience God's presence, hear God's voice, and see God at work all around.

This study offers a fresh encounter with God to prepare you to:

- Face daily battles
- Be able to discern the messages of our culture
- Be ready to share God's love with others always

Components for this six-week Bible study include a Participant Workbook and video sessions with six 20- to 25-minute segments featuring Melissa Spoelstra (with closed captioning).



The book is \$11.00, payable to St. Paul United Methodist Church. Please sign up at the Information Center on the second floor. For more information, contact Gail Henson at grhenson@gmail.com. You don't have to commit to the entire study; this is one you can attend when you can. We hope you'll join us!

Wesley Night returns on Wednesday, January 11!

Dinner: 6:00-7:00pm | McAdams Hall
Register online (see link below) or call the church office at 459-1595.

Children's Music Groups

Music Milestones (Ages 3-Kindergarten)

6:00-6:30pm | Room 306

Joyful Song Choir (1st-3rd Grade)

7:00-7:45pm | Room 306

Wesleyan Choir (4th-6th Grade)

7:00-8:00pm | Room 302

Children & Youth Activities

Open Gym - Free time for kids in grades 1-6, accompanied by a responsible adult
6:00-7:00pm | Gym

Youth Jam & Hangout for grades 7-12

6:30-8:00pm | Youth Center

Adults & Youth *

"Christianity at Work," a scripture-based study guide for "Small Business, Big Heart"
Led by Paul Wesslund, author

Wesley Night resumes January 11th! We are excited to begin another semester of spiritual, musical, and discipleship formation. This season promises to continue the great experiences we had in the Fall of 2022.

The adult study for the first part of Wesley Night will be led by Paul Wesslund and will cover **Christianity at Work**, a scripture-based study guide to go along with his book **Small Business, Big Heart**, which tells the story of St. Paul members, Cindy and Sal Rubino, and how they built their business on Christian principles.

A full description can be found here: <https://heartallybooks.com/christianity-at-work/>

**This study will begin January 18th. January 11th will be a special kick off session focusing on entering the new year with a sense of wonder and purpose.*

Children and Youth choirs will continue as regularly scheduled. In place of a 1/2 hour Kids Club, the gymnasium will now be open from 6:00-7:00pm on Wednesdays for children to use accompanied by a responsible adult. Meals will continue the delicious rotation of Chick-fil-a, Pizza Night, Eat-a-Pita, and Homemade Dinner Night.

We hope you can come and join the fellowship, music, and spirit of discipleship that make Wesley Night special!

January Dinner Menu:

1/11: Chick-fil-A
1/18: Pizza Night
1/25: Eat-a-Pita

Learn more about these programs and studies and RSVP for the meal at this page:

<https://www.stpaulchurchky.org/ministries/wesley-night/>

Or scan the Flowcode to the right for quick access -->>>



A few scenes from our Experiencing Advent series during Wesley Night.



Church-wide Potluck

**January 29 after
11:00am service**

Let's break bread together!

Join your church family for Sunday dinner on January 29 after the 11:00a service. Enjoy a time of fellowship with friends, or make some new acquaintances while sharing a meal together!

We'll provide a meat and vegetarian main dish. You provide a dish for 12-20 people, based on your last name, as follows:

A-F - Salad
G-M - Vegetables
N-Q - Fruit
R-T - Dessert
U-Z - Rolls

Please make a reservation by signing up at the Information Center on the 2nd floor or [online here](#).

REAL Good News

Local Action for Climate Care

A Virtual Conversation

Wednesday, January 11 • 7:00-8:30pm

A Solar Farm for Louisville?

Join the members of REAL, the Renewable Energy Alliance of Louisville, to consider a Real-World Solar Farm Installation.

Speakers:

Rob Kalbouss,

Leeward Energy Company representative &
Project Manager for the utility-scale Thoroughbred
Solar Installation in Hart County, KY

Julie Donna,

formerly of Louisville Office of Advanced Planning
and Sustainability, now Energy and Climate Justice
Organizer, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth

Moderator:

Elisa Owen,

Executive Director,
Kentucky Interfaith Power & Light

Music by John Gage

Register for this free Zoom event:

<https://tinyurl.com/3tuzpzm5>

Sponsored by St. Paul United Methodist Church and Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light



Mobile Resource Center

Saturday, January 14

11:00am-1:00pm

at Fourth Ave UMC's Open Door Community Ministry

Our next Mobile Resource Center is Saturday, January 14.

We have a great group of committed volunteers, but we'd love to have some more! No long-term commitment needed; join us any month that works for you! You can sign up to volunteer here:

<https://www.stpaulchurchky.org/mobile-resource-center/>

Many of the items we need are on our Amazon and Dollar Days wish lists here: <https://www.stpaulchurchky.org/mobile-resource-center/>

Enjoy these images from our festive December Mobile Resource Center! Our thanks to members of the youth and adult choirs for their musical contribution. They were a hit!

Current Resource Center Needs!

We almost always run out of men's items, especially underwear, socks, and t-shirts. Donations of NEW socks and underwear as well as new or gently-used t-shirts (especially long-sleeved currently) are needed!

Other needs include:

Sturdy men's shoes are always needed (*all sizes*)

Blue jeans and long-sleeved shirts for men and women

Winter jackets and coats, scarves, hats, and gloves (especially for men)

Large department store-type shopping bags or reusable totes

New toiletries are always needed

Financial donations are always welcome and help us provide essential resources to those in need.



Thank you from the students and staff at the Waller-Williams School for making their Christmas extra special!



SPAMS Diaper Drive

January 1-31

Most needed sizes: 3 , 4, 5, 6, and Pull-ups

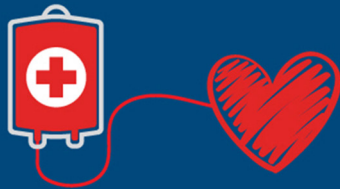
During the month of January, the St. Paul Senior Adult Ministries Team (SPAMS), will be collecting diapers for the MIHOW (Maternal Infant Health Outreach Workers) program at Henderson Settlement.

Diapers can be dropped off in the blue bins in the lobbies of either building.

Please call BJ or Ray Fore (502-458-2702) or Glenda Young (742-1022) with questions.



Kindness
is in your blood.



Highlands Community Blood Drive

**Hosted by St. Paul
United Methodist Church**

Youth Center
2000 Douglass Blvd
Louisville, KY 40205

**Friday, January 13, 2023
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**



Blood Drive!

No! It's not unlucky for you to donate at our next Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, January 13! It will be from 1:00-5:00p in the youth center. Please come, tell others, make an appointment and use Rapid Pass if you can. And as always, thanks for giving of yourselves (literally!).

Ruth Ann Whitehouse

2023 Blood Drives:

Friday, January 13
Monday, April 17
Wednesday, July 19
Tuesday, October 31

All drives are scheduled from 1:00-5:00pm in the Youth Center.

To schedule appointment, please contact the church office at 502-459-1595 or go to RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code: stpaulumclouky.

Come give Jan. 1-31 and automatically be entered for a chance to win an exciting trip for you and a guest to Super Bowl LVII in Phoenix! Includes travel, hotel, \$500 gift card, pre-game activities and more! Terms apply; visit RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl.



4th Grade Bible Presentation
 Do you have a fourth grader in your household? A niece or nephew? A grandchild? A neighbor? Whatever the case may be, St. Paul wants to present them with a student Bible during Worship on January 22nd. Please contact Lorie Williamson at Loriew@stpaulchurchky.org and let her know what service they will attend.

January Schedule

January 1	New Years Day Worship 10:00am (Childcare not provided)
January 8	Children's Church 9:00am & 11:00am Sunday School 10:00am
January 11	Wesley night 6:00-8:00pm
January 15	Children's Church 9:00am & 11:00am Sunday School 10:00am
January 18	Wesley night 6:00-8:00pm
January 22	4th Grade Bible Presentation Children's Church 9:00am & 11:00am Sunday School 10:00am
January 25	Wesley night 6:00-8:00pm
January 29	Children's Church 9:00am & 11:00am Sunday School 10:00am

SAVE THE DATE!

Summer is quickly approaching! Make sure to block these dates on your calendar!

Fusion Trip	June 10-15
Vacation Bible School	June 19-23
Project Serve	June 19-23
Sr. High Summit, Loucon	June 25-30
Music Camp	July 10-14, 16
St. Paul Week at Loucon (St. Paul will assist with transportation.)	July 16th-21st

A few changes....

The Children's ministry will experience some slight changes as we begin the new year. Please see below to learn how these changes may affect your family.

- Childcare for birth - 3 years will now be available in the children's area on the 3rd floor of the main building. Please take the elevator or stairs to room 312.
- Sunday School will continue to take place at the 10:00 hour. However, we will divide into more age appropriate groups to facilitate deeper learning. Three years - Kindergarten will take place in room 312, 1st - 3rd grades in room 305, 4th - 6th grades in room 310. I strongly encourage you to make attendance at Sunday School for your child/grandchild one of your New Year's resolutions. Decisions for Sunday School in the Fall of 2023 will be made based on participation in the Spring.
- Children's Church will now take place every Sunday except the 1st Sunday of the month for children 3 years - 3rd grade. Children are encouraged to participate in worship by partaking in Communion on this first Sunday of the month. Worship bags will be available. Children's Church will take place in room 309.
- Wesley night will now have open gym time for an hour before Children's Choirs. The gym will be available from 6:00-7:00 for children and a trusted adult. Staff supervised gym time will no longer be provided.

Questions about Kids and Tweens?
 Contact Lorie Williamson,
 Director of Family and Children's Ministries, at
loriew@stpaulchurchky.org.

Holiday Happenings

Enjoy these images of our children and youth from the Advent Campfire Carol Sing-along, the Advent Service, Breakfast with Santa, and PJs Night!





Youth News!

CONFIRMATION 2023

Confirmation will take place during the Sunday School hour for spring semester 2023. We will kickoff Confirmation on Sunday January 22nd with a meeting for parents, students, and friends in faith. Confirmation Sunday will be May 7th. The class is open to any student who is 7th grade or older who has not previously been Confirmed. If your student is interested in confirmation please email youth@stpaulchurchky.org. We will reach out directly to 7th grade parents.

To stay up to date on Youth events:

- Sign up for the Youth email list [here](#)
- Check the Youth Instagram account @stp.youth

General Youth info can be found on the St. Paul [Youth Webpage](#).



Winter-Spring Schedule:

January

1/2 (Monday) - GRONK! Night
1/8 Youth Group Returns / Youth Lite
1/15 Regular Youth
1/22 Regular Youth
1/29 Regular Youth

February

2/5 Regular Youth
2/12 Youth Super Bowl Party (pick up at halftime)
2/19 Regular Youth
2/26 Regular Youth

March

3/3 - 3/4 Lock In!
3/5 No Youth (Recover from Lock In)
3/12 Regular Youth
3/29 Regular Youth
3/25 (Saturday) Easter Egg Hunt
3/26 Regular Youth

April

4/2 No Youth / Palm Sunday (JCPS Spring Break)
4/9 No Youth / Happy Easter! (JCPS Spring Break)
4/16 Regular Youth
4/23 Regular Youth
4/30 Regular Youth

May

5/7 Regular Youth
5/14 No Youth / Mother's Day
5/21 Senior Banquet

Schedule subject to change.

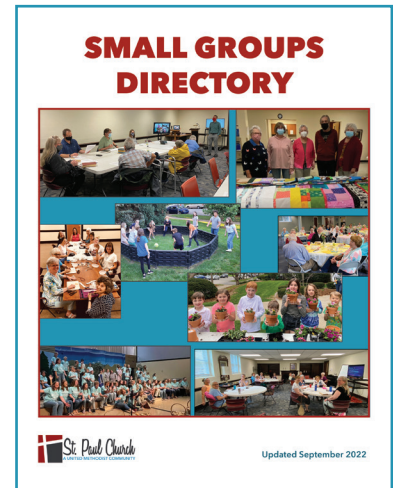


Youth volunteers helping out with Breakfast with Santa!

St. Paul Small Groups or Sunday School Classes

Looking to get more plugged in at St. Paul in the new year? Whether you love learning in a class setting, spiritual formation and fellowship in a small group, or outreach in the community, St. Paul has a wide variety of small groups and Sunday school classes to fit your needs. You can learn more about the small group opportunities at St. Paul in the Small Groups Directory, which you will find around the church or at our website under Connect:

<https://www.stpaulchurchky.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Small-Groups-Directory-Fall-2022.pdf>



Guided Meditation

**First and third Wednesday mornings
10:30-11:45am via Zoom**

At St. Paul, Guided Meditation is a powerful, prayerful small group experience. You will be guided in gratefulness, healing of the body, and a compassionate practice for yourself, your neighbor, and the whole earth. You will become more aware of how God is always present, healing you in mind, body, and spirit. You do not have to have any experience with either guided imagery

or meditation to attend a group. You can drop in when it fits your schedule. New guests are always welcome!

Group facilitator, Marilyn Stoner, is a spiritual formation guide with 25 years of experience in Guided Imagery with groups, individuals, workshops, and retreats.

Contact Marilyn Stoner at marilynstoner@fastmail.fm or 502-456-1502 for the Zoom link.

Guitar Club Third Sundays 6:30pm in room 113

Guitar Club is a newly-formed group that offers musicians an opportunity to gather for fun and fellowship while playing music together. Open to all - those who can play, those who think they can play, and those who wish they could play. Not limited to guitars; bring what you have - violin, mandolin, harmonica, banjo, dulcimer, etc. Contact Bob Helvey with questions at bob@stpaulchurchky.org or 502-396-3705.



Prayer Beading Third Sundays at 1:00pm January 15, February 19, March 19

Join the Prayer Beading group to make Protestant prayer beads for yourself and others. This group gathers monthly to make prayer beads, which are provided to Pastors Darren and Dustin to offer to those in the hospital or those who are grieving or experiencing trials. They are also given to all new St. Paul members. No experience necessary. We also need donations of beads and cross pendants. If you have questions or would like to donate supplies, please contact Kim Smith at bogglekms@gmail.com.



"I Have a Dream!" "Faith Communities in the Midst of the Dream: The Time is Now"

*Join us Saturday, January 14, 2023 at 8:15 AM
Eastern Standard Time for our annual
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Day Celebration!*

*The day will include workshops and worship.
Rev. Vance Ross, will be our guest preacher!*

*Crescent Hill United Methodist Church,
201 South Peterson Avenue, Louisville, KY 40206*

FEATURED SPEAKER **Rev. Dr. Vance P. Ross**



Pastor Vance P. Ross is the senior pastor of Central United Methodist Church, Atlanta, Georgia. Some of the most progressive and aggressive movements for racial equality were engendered by and through Central. Central prides themselves as, "the church at the heart of the city with the city at heart."

WORKSHOPS



*Workshop I "Shattering the Stained Glass Windows" -
Presenter
- Rev. Bessie Hamilton,
Oklahoma Conference Associate
Director of Connectional
Ministries for Multi-Ethnic
Initiatives*

The stained-glass windows in many churches are designed to inspire faith in the God who loves all of humanity. Sometimes, though, the church does not embrace everyone or show the same love for ALL people. Even within the church setting, that connection to God might not be stirred in the hearts and minds of those who are excluded. Because our faith calls all of us to be better, this presentation aims to identify some of the ways that our churches can begin to break down, repair, and redesign a window that reflects Christ's vision -- our true identity as a diverse, brilliant and creative Body of Christ.



*Workshop II "Reimagining Diversity: Building Capacity for Acceptance"
- Presenter - Jennifer Davis,
Human Resource Professional
and Generalist, Chairman, SEJ
Monitoring Team, Motivational
Speaker and Author, Gastonia,
NC*



*- Presenter - R. Dwayne Burks
- Chaplain/Director of Social
Responsibility, Gaston County
Family YMCA, Gastonia, NC -
Executive Director, Gaston Faith,
Network Gastonia, NC*

What is diversity? The word has been used misused, abused, confused, and often divisive. How could something that was intended to bridge our differences create such difficulties? Join us as, together, we reimagine diversity and discover our capacity for becoming culturally competent.

Register online at <https://kyumc-reg.brtapp.com/2023MLKDayCelebration>

For more information, contact Jan Brown-Thompson, Chair at msjanbt@aol.com.

This event is sponsored by the Conference Commission on Religion and Race with Co-Sponsors: SBC21 & ELCC

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Help Needed!

Technology Team

Can you give 2.5 hours a month? Are you technically inclined? Can you run a PowerPoint presentation? Are you itching to learn a new skill?

Each week as we gather for worship, whether in the Koinonia service or the traditional, there are important things going on behind the scenes that allow us to hear and see the cues we need to worship together. We need volunteers to help us with those behind the scenes things. Some of these tasks are as simple as running a PowerPoint presentation. Some are more difficult and complex but all of them can be taught to those willing to learn. Most of these commitments are once a month. We need:

2-3 volunteers to run the computer for the Koinonia service (basically a PowerPoint presentation)

1-4 people to learn to run the soundboard for the Koinonia service (requires an ear for musical balance and a willingness to learn)

1-3 people to learn to run the cameras and computer for the Facebook Live service at the traditional service

1-3 people to learn to run the soundboard in the Sanctuary

These areas are being carried by 3 volunteers when we really need 16. Please prayerfully consider whether you can serve in these areas. Contact Lori Elbert at lori@stpaulchurchky.org for more information or to volunteer.

Koinonia Formation Group

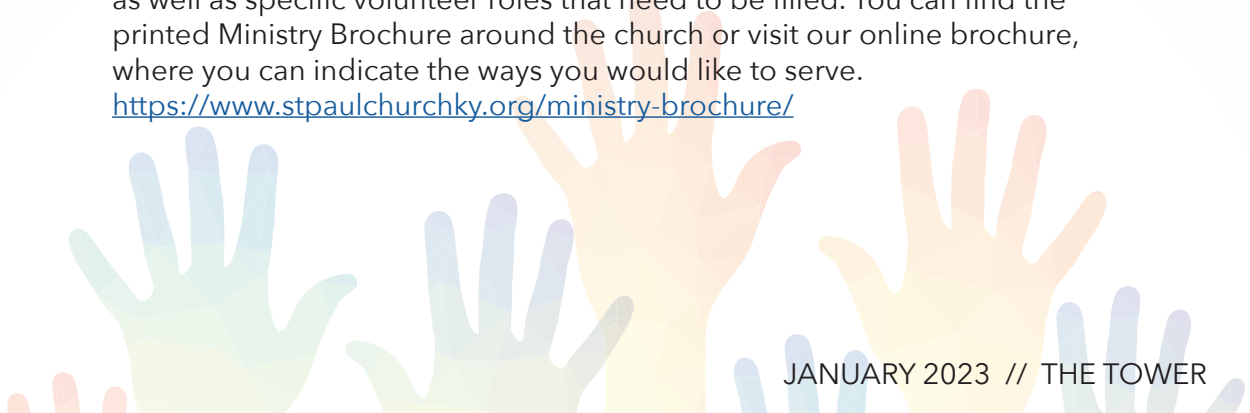
Would you be interested in learning more about why we do what we do in worship? Would you like to have input on the shape and format of the Koinonia service? Lori Elbert is gauging interest in forming a group that would spend 2023 studying, praying, and dreaming about worship theology and practice as it relates to St. Paul and the Koinonia service in particular. Please contact Lori at lori@stpaulchurchky.org for more information.



Would you like to find ways you can serve at St. Paul?

Our Ministry Brochure outlines our ministry and administrative teams, as well as specific volunteer roles that need to be filled. You can find the printed Ministry Brochure around the church or visit our online brochure, where you can indicate the ways you would like to serve.

<https://www.stpaulchurchky.org/ministry-brochure/>



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THE TOWER

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



St. Paul children lead the
Advent service.

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