

### VISITATION TEAM MEETING

The St. Paul's visitation team will be meeting on Wednesday, December 5th, at 9:30 a.m. in the office.

### CHRISTMAS COOKIE TIME APPROACHES

Our Christmas cookie plate project will be Sunday, December 9th. As you begin your holiday baking, the cookie batch you set aside for St. Paul's will help to maintain the numbers and varieties of this holiday treat that we have enjoyed for years. Your donated cookies will be sorted to trays starting at 9 a.m. on December 9th, so dropping your contribution by the church kitchen on Saturday the 8th or first thing on the 9th will be important. Call the church office if you need someone to pick up your cookies. Proceeds of this project support the many ministries here at St. Paul's.

### ADVENT TRYST ON DECEMBER 12TH

This year's Advent Tryst will be held on Wednesday, December 12th at 9:30 a.m. at Memorial Presbyterian Church (127 East Willow Street, Cherokee). They welcome everyone to this time of worship, music, and fellowship. Cookies, cider, and coffee will be served in the Fellowship Hall after the program. A collection of mittens, gloves, and hats will be taken for children in the Cherokee Schools. A free will offering will also be taken, with that money being used to purchase additional winter apparel for the children.

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

We are looking forward to our children's Christmas program on Sunday, December 16th, during our morning worship. Following the service, our traditional soup luncheon will be served in the Schuldt Dining Hall. No reservations needed. Please join us!

### WAYNE WITCOMBE'S BIRTHDAY

Wayne Witcombe will be celebrating his 90th birthday on Thursday, December 20th. We're sure he'd really enjoy receiving birthday greetings. Wayne's address is 207 East Bluff Street, Cherokee, IA 51012.

### CHRISTMAS IN A BARN: A LIVE NATIVITY

Meriden Evangelical Free Church invites you to "Christmas in a Barn: A Live Nativity" on Sunday, December 23rd at 3:00 p.m. It will be held at Daryl and Lisa Dummer's farm which is located at 4265 R Avenue in Larabee.

### CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

In our family tradition here at St. Paul's, we will have our Christmas Eve service on December 24th at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Come warm your hearts as we gather together to officially welcome Christmas Day and the Christ Child into our hearts. Since our service is very well attended, please extend hospitality to our numerous older generation and guests that night by parking as far away from the church as you can comfortably walk. Thank you.

### 2019 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all who have returned your estimates of giving for 2019. These estimates are an important planning tool as we proceed into the new year. If you have not yet returned your pledge card, please drop it in the mail or bring it to the church office.

### OUR SHARED MINISTRY

#### LITURGISTS FOR DECEMBER

December 2	Don Blackstone
December 9	John Cook
December 16	Children's Christmas Program
December 23	Bruce Dage
December 30	Chuck Tolzin

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE FOR DECEMBER

December 2	Jeanne Blackstone
December 9	Ervina Scott
December 16	Children's Christmas Program
December 23	Bruce Dage
December 30	Chuck Tolzin

#### GREETERS FOR DECEMBER

December 2	Darrel and Sue Paulsen Lowell and Sharon Bennink
December 9	Joan Lucas Kevin and Karla Wilkie
December 16	Dana and Pandora Phipps Larry and Joyce Goodrich
December 23	Rod and Priscilla Bainbridge Lowell and Sharon Bennink
December 30	Virgil Pyle Roni Timmerman

#### USHERS FOR DECEMBER

December 2	Donna Lucas Scott Osborn and Marla Conley Doug and Sandi Stowater
December 9	Peg Rasch Scott Osborn and Marla Conley Doug and Sandi Stowater
December 16	Emma Good, Madi Stief, Trinity Coombs, Becca Cowan, and Brooklyn Schlenger
December 23	Amy Stief Austin and Megan Lucas Dave and Donna Lucas
December 24	Lucas Team
December 30	Austin Lucas Dave and Donna Lucas Wes and Sue Parker

#### OUR STEWARDSHIP

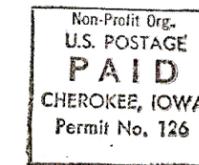
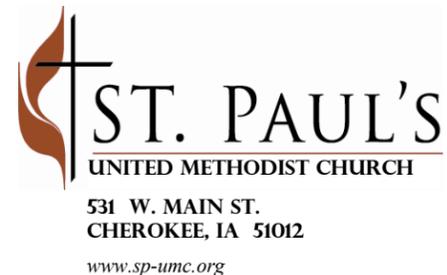
<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship Attendance</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Next Generation</u>
October 28	214	7,829.00	1,193.00
November 4	173	9,887.00	414.00
November 11	132	2,870.00	559.00
November 18	159	2,331.00	278.00
November 25	147	4,427.00	1,134.00

#### OUR MINISTRY SUPPORTED

Budget expense 46 weeks into the year: \$243,386  
Received to support budgeted expenses: \$185,090

#### CONTACT US

Church Phone	712-225-3955
The Rev. Cris Decious	cdecious@sp-umc.org
Meribeth Adams	meribethadams@outlook.com



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## December 2018 UMW Buzz



**December Unit Meeting - Thursday, Dec. 6th - Christmas Brunch**  
**9:30 a.m. in the Schuldt Dining Hall**  
**Hostess - Executive Board Program - Christmas Is by Sherry Held**  
**Reading Program Awards Installation of Officers**

**Executive Board Meeting - Monday, December 10th**  
**9:30 a.m. in the Schuldt Dining Hall**

**Advent Tryst at Memorial Presbyterian Church**  
**Wednesday, December 12th at 9:30 a.m.**

**No December Circle Meetings**

*"For Unto Us a Child is Born." Isaiah 9:6*

## PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to Sue Ritts and all of her family. Sue's husband, Alyn Thomas Ritts, passed away suddenly Thursday evening, November 15th, at his home in Washta. Funeral services for Al Ritts were held on Monday, November 19th, at the Washta United Methodist Church, with Pastor Barb Dinelli officiating.

## PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to Mary Jo Carmine and all of her family. Mary Jo's sister-in-law, Betty Barry, passed away on Monday, November 19th, in West Des Moines.

## WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS

We warmly congratulate Brett and Korriane James on the birth of their son. Jasper Lee James was born at CRMC on Thursday, November 15th. He was welcomed home by his brother Lennon and his sister Viola. Jasper's proud grandparents are Glenn and Tammy Curtis, the late Matthew Aguirre, and Bob and Beth James.

## WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS

We warmly congratulate Carter David Appleby and Kaiden James Appleby who were baptized during our worship service on November 25th.

## THANK YOU FROM THE SCHMIDTS

We have some BIG thank yous to send out to faithful volunteers who helped us out with the senior high "Teen Time" when we needed to lean on them. Thank you to Bruce and Leah Dagle, Trent and Korrie Coombs, and Linda Burkhart, who were all so willing to help out while we were gone. Thank you to Peggy Rasch for the ice cream. We appreciate every one of you and the love and compassion you have for our youth. May God bless you!

## THANKS FROM THE UMW

We'd like to give a very big thank you to all those who helped with the Election Day luncheon and bake sale. Thanks to everyone's efforts, we had another very successful fundraiser for our church!

## THANK YOU FOR ALL THE BAKE SALE ITEMS

Thanks to everyone who brought goodies for the Election Day bake sale. We took in \$731, so we were very pleased!

-Jeanne Blackstone

## THE 500 ITEM DRIVE TOTAL

The Missions Committee is happy to report that a total of 605 items were collected during our recent church challenge! We met our goal of collecting 500 items, including both food and personal hygiene products. The items were distributed to Mid Sioux, the Christian Action Program, and Trinity Lutheran Pantry. Thank you to all who donated to this food drive. It's another great example of the good St. Paul's "can" do in our community.

-Sue Parker, Missions Chairperson

## THANKSGIVING DINNER

Thank you to everyone who helped prepare and serve the delicious Thanksgiving dinner that followed our worship service on November 18th!



# THE DOME

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
December 2018

## MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Have you ever stopped and wondered about your life purpose? Mary, Jesus's mother, was approached by the angel Gabriel with a special message that she would be with-child. She was going to carry the Messiah! What an overwhelming announcement. I cannot even imagine how she sorted out her response and feelings to the whole situation. Right then and there her purpose in life is laid out for her clearly. She would conceive and give birth to the Savior of the world. It would be her responsibility to raise, nurture, protect, love, and educate Jesus. While her initial response was, "How can that be since I am a virgin and have not been with a man?" Yet, we find that she accepted the response, "With God nothing shall be impossible." (Luke 1:37)

I have spent a considerable amount of time wondering about how God was going to help us through all the things that we are called to do in our lives. Yet, even though the road seems bumpy at times, there is one thing that I know... "With God, nothing is impossible!" God is able to do and help us to do whatever he has called us to do in our lives.

Every Christmas, as we approach the different ministries that we tackle as a church, I wonder how we are going to get it all done. Yet, I find every year the Lord makes all things come together! In fact, we are reassured in Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work **together for good** to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose."

This year we are working as people who love God to put God's love into action through our 2018 Alternative Christmas Gift Guide. As a family of God in Cherokee, we have stood and supported four programs at Christmas time. Together we have made a difference in our town, our state, our country, and in Africa. Last year you may have given the gift of a llama, sheep, goats, or geese through the Heifer Project. This means that you made a difference for an impoverished family. Now they have had help that has been a hand-up, not just a hand-out.

Perhaps you gave to Larry and Jane Kies from Zimbabwe last Christmas. Their instruction to farmers has created hope for the future of their country. Skills and knowledge come at a cost. You may have given to the Church World Service Blankets Program. One ten dollar blanket made a difference to warm a child during this year. Stan Sitzmann has used your donations for the Needy Children's Program. Your donation last year made a difference to a family in need.

As the body of Christ, we realize that this problem in our town, in our state, and in our world is bigger than all of us. But put the body of Christ together and ask God for answers, and we become powerful. Together we can make a difference. God is bigger than these problems! When we join together in unity this Christmas to monetarily give beyond our immediate family to St. Paul's "Four Gifts of Love," we are pleasing God. God is pleased when we decide to make Christmas about giving to help those around us living in need.

This Christmas, join me and others to remember the poor and needy. Say a prayer for those in need and drop some change in the Salvation Army kettles. Change brings change. Give the gift of warmth, health, living, and hope this Christmas. Let's create a truly Merry Christmas not just in our house, but in homes everywhere.

See you Sunday!

-Pastor Cris



These students were presented their Bibles during the worship service on Children's Sabbath Sunday, October 28th. (Left to right): Madi Daum, Reesa Phelps, Kennedy Steward, Brittany Kannegieter, Ally Timmerman, Levi Klingborg, Parker Wych, and Leighton Rubendall. The children also received crosses that were lovingly tatted by the late Ellen Henderson. Ellen's daughter, Bonnie Huiras, presented the crosses to the students.

## THANK YOU FROM THE CAP FOOD PANTRY

Dear Friends: Thank you for your generous donation of \$400 to the Christian Action Program (CAP) Food Pantry. It is because of generous supporters like you that CAP was able to help serve 1,000 families in the Cherokee community last year. Your contribution makes a difference in the lives of others and in the community. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness and caring!

-Denise Mendt, Parish Secretary

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thank you again, St. Paul's members and friends, for giving so generously to our Midwest Christian Services (MCS) mission. We greatly appreciated your support of our cinnamon roll sale. A special thanks goes out to Shelley Lenz and Jean Anderson for overseeing the kitchen as we baked our rolls and prepared to sell them. We will be taking gifts and sharing fellowship on December 5th with approximately 24 young boys who rehabilitate at MCS. The staff at Midwest Christian Services has invited our senior high youth to join them that evening for a soup supper. It is heartwarming for our youth to join in activities with these less fortunate boys. May God bless you always!

-Craig, Monica, and the senior high youth

## ST. PAUL'S CARE AND SHARE SHOP

St. Paul's Care and Share Shop is open on Thursdays and Fridays from 1:00-5:00 p.m. For more information, you may contact Jennifer Decious at 229-7628.

## THANKS FROM BRUCE DAGEL AND FCA

St. Paul's UMC Missions Committee: Thank you for allowing me to share with you the ministry of FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) in NW Iowa. I thank you for the generous gift that will support me in my fundraising efforts to end 2018 and start 2019 off on the right foot. It means a lot to have my home church supporting my family and me. God bless!

-Bruce

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome Sarah Ann Reeves and Alexander Schriber into our St. Paul's Church family. We are very glad to have you join us, and we look forward to getting to know you better. Sarah's contact information: 110 6th Avenue NE, Le Mars, IA 51031. Her phone number is (712) 539-9909. Alex's contact information: 104 Colony Drive, Cherokee, IA 51012. His phone number is (712) 291-1291.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

We hope to have many children in church on Sunday, December 2nd, which is the first Sunday of Advent. Jeanne Blackstone will be handing out her awesome Advent calendars during the Children's Message that morning. There will be no Sunday School on December 23rd or December 30th. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 6, 2019.

## ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE

The Missions Committee will again be offering the Alternative Christmas Gift Guide as one way to give a Christmas gift to a loved one, as well as making a difference in the life of someone else in need. In this gift guide, you will find various agencies and missions that are really making a difference in the world. Why not consider making a donation to these agencies in honor of that special person in your life? We encourage you to look through the gift guide and give this idea some consideration. An order form is included and the Missions Committee will be present in the narthex before church from December 2nd through December 23rd to assist you with any order and offer you an acknowledgement card that you can use with all gifts. This year we will be offering gifts from the Heifer Project, Church World Services, and missionary support for the Kies, as well as a collection on December 2nd for Cherokee's own Needy Children's Auction.

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Orders are now being taken for poinsettias from Blooming House. The cost for each poinsettia is \$15.00, and they may be taken home on Christmas Eve by those who purchased them. The last day to order poinsettias this year will be Monday, December 10th.

## SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING

Sign-up sheets are on the display board in the narthex to ring bells with the Salvation Army. Ringers are needed at Fareway, Hy-Vee, Kmart, and Shopko from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the first four Saturdays in December. Please consider volunteering an hour or so of your time, as 90% of the donations collected in Cherokee County help local people in need.