

Celebration of Worship

✠ Stand as you are able.

We Gather as God's People

We welcome you on this second Sunday of Advent, December 9th, 2018.

Prelude

Greetings, Welcome Visitors, and Announcements

(Please sign and pass the red folder in your row.)

✠ Advent Call to Worship

Hymn

Light the Advent Candle

v. 2, no. 2090

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Fay Alston & Ric White



We Give Ourselves to God

✠ Praise Hymn

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

no. 213

We Pray Together (Unison):

*We have prepared our homes, and our gifts, Lord,
but we need help in preparing our spirits to receive Your message of Peace.*

*Free us from the stresses and strains of this time, and place
Your peace which passes all our understanding in our hearts.*

For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

Activities — Week of December 9, 2018

Sunday, December 9

- 9 A.M. Sunday School Youth - Lower Level Classroom
- 9⁴⁵ A.M. Worship Service Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 11

- 10 A.M. Advent Study Parlor
- Baldwin Christmas Store collection ends

Thursday, December 13

- 7 P.M. Choir Rehearsal Choir Room

Saturday, December 15

- 1 P.M. Men's Holiday Lunch Alfocchino's
- Contact Brian Johns to RSVP

Sunday, December 16

- 11 A.M. Cookies & Carols Parlor
- Deadline for Poinsettia orders
(Forms located at the back of the sanctuary)



Meeting Our 2018 Ministry Goals and Obligations, as of December 2nd:

General Budget	
Needed Weekly:	\$2,579
Received Last Sunday	\$2,269
Needed Year-to-Date:	\$123,792
Received Year-to-Date:	\$100,321
Attendance December 2 nd :	44
2018 Coins for Mission:	\$106

Assisting Next Week (December 16th)

Counters:	Sue Sweeder, Virginia Tuttle
Liturgist:	Scott Sweeder
Hospitality:	Nurture Team
Trustee on Duty:	Marcus Kelley
Ushers:	Brian Johns, Jeff Leitch

Sermon Notes and Reflections

“Believe and Receive”

Luke 1: 5-25, 57-64 (NT pp. 53, 54)

1. Don't question but inquire about your doubt.

Sermon Notes and Reflections

2. Don't let your pain remain when your mess gets blessed.

3. Don't deny but comply with God's plan and commands.

Activities and Announcements



Advent Study — *Prepare The Way*

In this four-week study and prayer book, Pamela Hawkins invites us to prepare our hearts through guided prayer, readings from Isaiah and Matthew, as well as brief reflections on four scriptural themes: Peace, Justice, Fearlessness, and Faithfulness. The class runs Tuesday, November 27th through Tuesday, December 18th, 10 A.M.



Baldwin Christmas Store Donations — December 11th Collection Ends



Men's Holiday Luncheon — Saturday, December 15th, 1 P.M.
Alfocino's / 2225 N. Opdyke Rd. / Auburn Hills,
contact Brian Johns to RSVP.



Cookies 'n Carols — Sunday, December 16th, 11 A.M.

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to this informal gathering of singing, sharing, and enjoying Christmas treats!



2019 Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your envelopes from the table in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you! Please let the office know if you do not find your envelopes.
Monday, December 31st is the last day for 2018 offerings to be recorded for this year.



Blue Christmas Service at St. Paul — Wednesday, December 19th, 7 P.M.

The holidays can be a sad time for those who have experienced loss. Also called The Longest Night, Blue Christmas is a pre-Christmas service for those needing a light in the darkness. Join us for comfort and inspiration.



Christmas Eve Service — Monday, December 24th, 7 P.M.

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us as we joyously celebrate our Savior's birth!

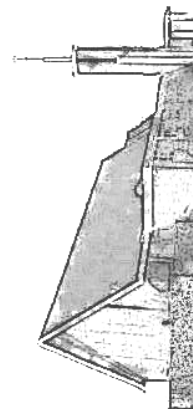


UM Women's Breakfast — Saturday, December 29th, 8³⁰ A.M.

Please join the ladies at Leo's Coney Island, for our monthly fellowship and a delightful first meal of the day. Bon Appétit!

St. Paul United Methodist Church
165 E. Square Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
Phone: (248) 338-8233 Pastor: (248) 320-9678
Web Site: <http://spumc.net>
E-Mail Address: stpaulumcbh@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Frederick G. Sampson, III



"Celebrating the love of God through worship and service"

St. Paul United Methodist Church

Welcome!! If you came this morning seeking, we pray you will leave having found faith, hope, love, friendship — **Christ!** If you are without a church home, we invite you to join our faith community. Childcare for infants through first grade is located off the hall on the north side of the sanctuary, if you prefer this option.

We are a congregation that welcomes all, regardless of any human difference or religious affiliation. In worship, we blend the old and the new, the familiar and unfamiliar, in ways that are in keeping with the spirit and history of the early church and the best of church traditions, always with the goal of meeting today's needs. Each Sunday, we are part of a welcoming community where we learn and have our faith stretched, as well.

Please remember to wear your nametag in worship! Nametags are an important sign of hospitality to guests and newcomers and say, "We want you to get to know us and feel welcome here." **Newer attendees are welcome to request a printed nametag at any time;** either ask on the attendance registry or stop by the office.

Church Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.
Office Closed Week of December 23rd - January 2nd.
Phone Messages will be checked regularly!

Pastor's Office Hours:

Tuesdays: 9³⁰ A.M. - 12 P.M. (Feel Free to visit)

Staff:

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Frederick G. Sampson, III
Administrative Assistant:	Laura Ferguson
Director of Music:	Judy White
Choir Director	Doug Sweeder
Ministers:	All Members
Custodians:	Laura & Randy Ferguson

Assisting This Week (December 9th)

Counters:	Sherry Pickett, Lisa Sweeder
Liturgist:	Bill Lee
Hospitality:	Nurture Team
Trustee on Duty:	Marcus Kelley
Ushers:	Barb Casper, Dick Casper, Marcus Kelley

Celebration of Worship

Witness: We share our joys, connections, and concerns with Christ.

Pastoral Prayer

The Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Loose change offerings go toward mission projects SPUMC supports.

Offertory

Like a Child

no. 2092

✠ Doxology

✠ Offertory Prayer



We Hear God's Word

Anthem

How Will We Know

Althouse

Message

"Believe and Receive"

Sermon Text:

Luke 1: 5-25; 57-64 (NT pp. 53, 54)

We Respond with Our Lives

✠ Hymn of Invitation

The Snow Lay on the Ground

no. 2093

✠ Benediction