



THE ST. PAUL SPIRE



St. Paul United Methodist Church • 165 E. Square Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

February

Web

2019

The Soul's Polar Vortex Pastor's Pen

In Psalm 147, the Bible tells us how life and the Lord can challenge us during the winter months. In verses 15-17, the Psalmist writes, "15 He sends his orders to the world—how swiftly his word flies! 16 He sends the snow like white wool; he scatters frost upon the ground like ashes. 17 He hurls the hail like stones. Who can stand against his freezing cold? Psalm 147:15-17, NLT

As a nation, right now we are doing our best to stay warm during a viciously cold winter. And as difficult as it may be, a century ago, it was even more difficult to stay warm during the brutal winter months.

It's been said that if you wanted to stay warm during a Minnesota winter a hundred years ago, you would be faced with quite a challenge. Today, many of us are blessed with natural gas being piped directly into our homes. And we are equipped with automatic, thermostat-regulated heating systems. But most people had only one way to keep their homes warm, and that was by tending a fire.

Life during winter revolved around tending fire, because fire was key to surviving the cold. And tending a winter fire was a lot of work. But this is not something that one would start addressing when one felt a cold wind blow. It began during the warm seasons, because you had to think and plan for the winter fire. You knew unpredictable snowstorms and severe cold were coming. You'd still have to do nearly everything you had to do in the summer, but everything would take longer in the winter, and you would have less daylight in which to do it.

If you ran out of fire fuel in the bitter cold, you would be in trouble. So, one would have to cut down trees long before the first snowflake fell. And if that was not enough

after the wood was cut, you would have to keep the wood both secure and dry.

When winter hit, the fire was always on your mind, no matter what else you were doing. If you didn't fuel the fire, it went out. If the fire went out, the temperature dropped quickly and it took a lot more — more wood, more work, and more time. So, every day, besides the rest of life's demands, you split wood, restocked the fireside, kept the fire fed, and cleaned out ashes."

The fire was the first thing you tended in the morning and the last thing you tended at night. Tending the fire was a lot of work, but it was necessary work because fire was key to survival. This is one of the most important principles that we need to learn if we are to get through the spiritual winter storms we face in life. To get through the difficult times of life, we must tend the flames of our faith if we don't want to experience the dimming of God's light of love; and we must face and fight our way through the dark and winter winds of sin. That's why Paul tells us, "6 This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. 2 Timothy 1:6, NLT

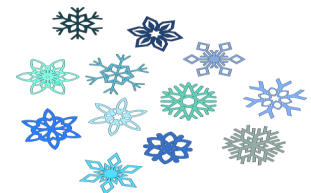
We must stop waiting until we find ourselves surrounded by darkness and feel distant from God's warmth. So, don't wait until the hard times come. Daily read God's Word, fan the flames of love, so that God's love can get you through the winter storms of sin.

God Bless Your Hearts,
Pastor Frederick Sampson

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He Gives Snow Like Wool Psalm 147: 16



Points of Interest

- Small Group meets every other Wednesday, 6³⁰ P.M., in the Pastor's study.
- Pastor's Tuesday Bible study meets at 10 A.M. in the parlor. Join us!





December, 2018

January, 2019

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Offering</u>
December 2	44		\$2,265
9	42		2,176
16	47		1,573
23	56		2,482
30	31		1,153

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Offering</u>
January 6	40		\$3,974
13	31		1,148
20	22		1,964
27	23		2,693

Designated Gifts/Giving

“Second Mile” Giving

Coins for Mission (YTD Total: \$149)
F.I.S.H. Collection (YTD Total: \$158)

Fundraisers

Kroger Community Rewards (YTD Total: \$59)

Mission Opportunities — As of December 31, 2018

	<u>Conf. Request</u>	<u>Paid in 2018</u>
Ministerial Pension	\$2,200	\$2,200
Common Budget**	15,979	1,595
World Service		810
Ministerial Ed.		50
Black College Fund		50
Africa Univ.		49
Meth. Union for		
District Missions	782	782
Detroit Ren. District	328	328
Total:	\$19,289	\$5,864

** (This amount is proportionally applied to Connectional Ministries, World Service & Conference Benevolences, Ministerial Education Fund, the Black College Fund, Africa University, and the Interdenominational Cooperation Fund.)

2018 St. Paul Budget Report through end of the year

Ministry, Programs & Outreach

Budget Each Week	\$2,579
Budget Year-to-Date	\$134,108
Offering Year-to-Date	\$107,987
Year-to-Date Difference	-\$26,121

2019 St. Paul Budget Report through Jan, 2019

Ministry, Programs & Outreach

Budget Each Week	\$2,579
Budget Year-to-Date	\$10,316
Offering Year-to-Date	\$9,779
Year-to-Date Difference	-\$537



St. Paul Worship Assistants, February 2019

Counters

- 3 Joyce McClelland, **
- 10 Fay Alston, Lisa Sweeder
- 17 Sherry Pickett, Virginia Tuttle
- 24 Joyce McClelland, Bill Lee

Lay Readers

- 3 Marcus Kelley
- 10 Bill Lee
- 17 Scott Sweeder
- 24 Carol Kelley

Ushers

- 3 B. Johns, B. Robinson
- 10 B. & D. Casper, M. Kelley
- 17 B. Johns, J. Leitch
- 24 B. Johns, H. Vaillencourt

Trustee on Duty

Marcus Kelley

Web Site: <http://spumc.net>

E-Mail Address: stpaulumcbh@gmail.com

Ads/Announcements

- **FISH Collection Reminder — First Sunday of each month**
The FISH pantry is in need of Hamburger Helper, tuna, crackers, spaghetti pasta and sauce, large peanut butter, jelly, boxed potatoes, baked beans, cereal, canned corn, and green beans. Your donations do make a difference. Thank you for supporting this cause.
- **Ash Wednesday Service — March 6th** here at St. Paul, 7 P.M.
The rest of the schedule for Lent and the Lenten Study TBA.

- Is there anything you'd like in the Spire? Call the office - (248) 338-8233 by the **15th** of the Month.



February Anniversaries




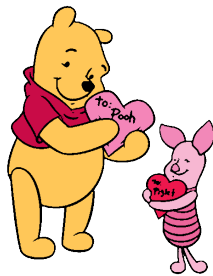




February Birthdays

- 5 Jane Lowell
- 12 Brenda Nichols
- 16 Peg Lowell
- 23 Doris Henry
- 28 William Nichols
- 28 William Nichols



February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	<p>UMM — 8³⁰ a.m. (Dixie Diner)</p> <p>GTAC — Funeral & Luncheon</p>
<p>3 Sunday School — 9 A.M. Worship — 9⁴⁵ A.M. GTAC — 12 P.M.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Tai Chi — 7 P.M.</p>	<p>5 Bible Study — 10 A.M. UMW — 11³⁰ A.M.</p> <p>PKSA — 4 to 7 (FH) Shotokan — 6 P.M. (Upstairs)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Small Group — 6³⁰ P.M. (Pastor's Study) GTAC — 6³⁰ P.M. (Parlor) Tai Chi — 7 P.M.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>PKSA — 4 to 7 (FH) Delta — (Parlor) Choir — 7 P.M.</p>	<p>8 Outreach — 10 A.M. (Parlor)</p>	<p>9 AOL — 8³⁰ A.M. (FH) Shotokan — 10³⁰ A.M.</p> <p>Private 1 P.M. (FH)</p>
<p>10 Sunday School — 9 A.M. Worship — 9⁴⁵ A.M. GTAC — 12 P.M.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Tai Chi 7 P.M.</p>	<p>12 Bible Study — 10 A.M.</p> <p>PKSA — 4 to 7 (FH) Shotokan — 6 P.M. (Upstairs)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>GTAC — 6³⁰ P.M. (Parlor) Tai Chi — 7 P.M.</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>PKSA — 4 to 7 (FH) Choir — 7 P.M.</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 AOL — 8³⁰ A.M. (FH) EIP — 8³⁰ A.M.</p> <p>Shotokan — 10³⁰ A.M.</p>
<p>17 Sunday School — 9 A.M. Worship — 9⁴⁵ A.M. GTAC — 12 P.M.</p>	<p>18</p>  <p>Tai Chi 7 P.M.</p>	<p>19 Bible Study — 10 A.M.</p> <p>PKSA — 4 to 7 (FH) Shotokan — 6 P.M. (Upstairs) EIP — 7 to 9 P.M.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Small Group — 6³⁰ P.M. (Pastor's Study) GTAC — 6³⁰ P.M. (Parlor) Tai Chi — 7 P.M.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>PKSA — 4 to 7 (FH) Choir — 7 P.M.</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 UMW — 8³⁰ P.M. Leo's Coney AOL — 8³⁰ A.M. (FH) Shotokan — 10³⁰ A.M.</p> <p>Ferguson 12³⁰ (FH)</p>
<p>24 Sunday School — 9 A.M. Worship — 9⁴⁵ A.M. GTAC — 12 P.M.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Tai Chi 7 P.M.</p>	<p>26 Bible Study — 10 A.M.</p> <p>PKSA — 4 to 7 (FH) Shotokan — 6 P.M. (Upstairs) EIP — 7 to 9 P.M.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>GTAC — 6³⁰ P.M. (Parlor) Tai Chi — 7 P.M.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>PKSA — 4 to 7 (FH) Choir — 7 P.M.</p>	