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OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68104

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## PRAYERS for God's

### People

#### Christian Sympathy

- To the family and friends of Bettie Curtis.
- To the family and friends of Ramona Repair.
- To the family and friends of Sue Sherman.
- To the family of Lanelle Davis.

#### Recent Hospitalizations

Rolando Avila

#### Memorial Gifts

- In memory of Ed Kilma: Susan Griffiths, Clara Ohr, Dennis & Marta Wheeler
- In memory of Christine Rich Naylor: Judy Buono
- In memory of Patsy Woodside: Pamela Fogle

## In Concert at Saint Paul Benson

Special music from the piano studio of Omaha Music Teacher's Association president, Lisa Batten, will fill the Sanctuary on Saturday, December 09 at 7:00 p.m. One of the prime opportunities in showcasing the Yamaha C6 concert grand is the occasion to hear students representing a wide variety of skill levels. Such will be the opportunity provided by these young players ranging in age from 8 to 18. Each student will be featured in one classical song and one holiday favorite of their choosing. There will be a meet and greet reception following the recital in the Gathering Area.

We are pleased to host a concert of the MasterSingers of Omaha, under the direction of Dr. Laureen Pickle, on Sunday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This a cappella ensemble has been rehearsing faithfully each Monday evening since September. Their program includes songs from around the world and from many faith traditions, as well. Ten free tickets are available to the Church, but all Saint Paul concert goers will be given the "family and friends" discount price of \$10 per ticket. Our collaboration with the MasterSingers continues to prove fruitful, and we look forward to many years of partnership.

Stay Connected



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We're easy to find by searching for "SaintPaulBenson" on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or YouTube.



## PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

"As we embrace the joyous season of Advent, I want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for participating in our recent Stewardship Campaign. Your commitment, generosity, and willingness to embrace the principles highlighted in the "Enough" series by Adam Hamilton have truly made a lasting impact on our church community.

Throughout the campaign, we witnessed the spirit of giving and sacrificial generosity that defines the essence of stewardship. Your dedication to supporting our church's mission and ministries is a testament to the love and faith that bind us together as a community. Whether through your time, talents, or financial contributions, your commitment will play a crucial role in furthering God's work in and through our church. If you did not get your commitment card, we still have one left for you. Please call the office or come on Sunday and we will have it ready for you.

We are now so excited to announce the successful conclusion of the Stewardship Campaign, and we are incredibly grateful for the positive energy and enthusiasm that you brought to this important initiative. Your commitment to living a life of abundance, gratitude, and generosity has set the foundation for the continued growth and flourishing of our church community.

As we transition from the "Enough" series, we eagerly look forward to embarking on a new journey together during this Advent season. The upcoming season promises to be a time of reflection, anticipation, and spiritual growth as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of the birth of our Savior.

We invite you to join us in welcoming the Advent season with an open heart ready to embrace the blessing of Christmas. Let us come together in worship, prayer, and fellowship as we focus on the true meaning of Christmas and the hope that it brings to our lives.

May this Advent season be a time of renewed faith, deepened relationships, and boundless joy for each and every one of you. Thank you once again for your unwavering support, and we look forward to celebrating the blessings of the season together as a loving and united church family."

In Christ's love,

*Faith*

Rev. Faith Kubai  
Lead Pastor



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Rev. Marta Wheeler  
Associate Pastor  
Spiritual Director & Faith Formation  
Children's & Youth Ministries

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The Inspiration is published  
monthly. Submit info by the 19<sup>th</sup> of  
the month to be included in the  
next month's issue.

*Stay Connected*  
@SaintPaulBenson  
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With God's love as our  
foundation, we celebrate  
friendship with all of God's  
people, affirming all sexual  
orientations and gender  
identities. Together, we will  
seek justice for all and do good  
in our community, nation and  
around the world in the name  
of Jesus Christ.



Rev. Jerry Brabec

inWorship

The coming of the Messiah according to the Apostle Mark...that is what will guide our worship during this Advent 2023. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated December 02/03, the first weekend of Advent. The second weekend of Advent, December 09/10, will be graced by music of our faithful Joy Bells ensemble. December 16/17, the third Advent weekend, will be graced by the Children's Ministries re-enactment of the Luke passage telling of Christ's birth, as part of 10:00 worship. Any who find themselves suffering in body, mind or spirit are invited to join as we observe a service of Blue Christmas worship Wednesday evening, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Roth Chapel. Christmas Eve weekend will begin with the traditional setting of Advent Lessons and Carols celebrated as we observe the 4th weekend of Advent with December 23 Chapel worship at 5:00 p.m. and the Sunday service at 10:00 a.m. with the Solid Brass and David Schack, organist. Later that same day we gather to celebrate Christmas Eve, with a single service of candles, carols, and communion all in the beauty of the St. Paul Sanctuary. The 7:30 worship will include the singing of Malotte's "The Lord's Prayer" as led by The Choir. This rich tradition was established as collaboration between the Rev. Dr. Alva Clark and the Honorable Judge Walter Cropper in 1953. It will be the 70th consecutive year the beautiful melody has graced our worship. Finally, in bidding "auld lang syne" to 2023, we will keep Wesley's "Watch Night" observance in Roth Chapel Saturday evening, December 30 at 5:00 p.m. 2024 will be welcomed with the first Sunday service of the year, December 31, where we celebrate the Wesleyan covenant with the Sacrament of Holy Communion. At this year's end, we give thanks for the dedication and vibrant leadership offered by the many volunteers who grace the Music Ministry of St. Paul Church. Your perseverance and commitment make worship a true blessing from God!

From the Desk of . . .

*Rev. Marta Wheeler*

Dear friends, as the days get shorter these next weeks it seems especially meaningful to stay connected. Whether you're feeling that "merry magic of Christmas" or feeling more blue than usual, we are here for you.

There are no words to express how grateful I am for the lunch provided by SPRC and the positive affirmations written on cards for Pastor Appreciation Day. Thank you all so much!

**Dyno Kids**

We'd love to have your children and grandchildren join us for Sunday School each week from 11:15-noon. We have finished up the Parables of Jesus and on Nov. 26th, will have begun "Getting Ready for Jesus' Birth!"

We appreciate the lessons that Mimi Kubai will share and the Christmas songs that Rev. Jerry Brabec will be leading with the kids. You won't want to miss the Children's Christmas Pageant during worship on Dec. 17th! You know never know exactly how the little ones will portray their part from Luke 2!

**Youth Group**

The Saint Paul Youth and sponsors were greatly appreciated as they volunteered at Pearl Spicka's 90th birthday party, a faithful member known by many as "Grandma Pearl."

During the month of December, the youth will be especially active. We thank them for their participation!

Sunday, Dec. 3rd-2-6 pm-Advent Fair assistants.

Saturday, Dec. 9th-3:30-Country Club Luminary Night--set up and lighting of the candles.

Saturday, Dec. 16th--10 am - 6pm-Omaha Girls Rock Event-the youth have been asked to provide a concession stand. This will be a fund raiser for future fun times together!

May your hearts be warmed, and filled with hope as we prepare for and celebrate the birth of Jesus!



United Women in Faith

*All Women Welcome!*  
**WEDNESDAY,  
DECEMBER 6**  
9:30 AM ROOM 111  
COFFEE & PROGRAM



*My hope and prayer is that this Advent Devotional will be a way for you to make the very act of waiting, holy. And as we anticipate Christ's birth together, may we experience the stubborn hope of Christmas, joy in the midst of so much sorrow, a love that knows no bounds, and a transcendent peace amid a world on fire and let's bless the Advent we actually have-together.*

*Check the link on our Facebook site for Bless the Advent We Actually Have and join the experience!*

*-Rev. Marta Wheeler*

**WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB**

All are welcome either in-person at Immanuel Village or join the fun via Zoom.

**"A Tuscan Memory"**  
**By Angela Petch**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 | 9 AM**  
Meet on the 2nd floor "Hub" through the main entrance. Call Connie for info 402-660-8211.



ALL ARE WELCOME!  
**JOIN US EACH WEDNESDAY**  
4 PM | ROOM 111

*Our December Calendar*

**COMMUNAL OFFERING: UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY**  
Originally established in 1872 as the Children's Fund, today the UM Student Day offering has the same purpose, calling upon the denomination to support their students as they prepare for life by adding knowledge to their faith.

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday through Thursday 9:00 - 4:00; Friday 9:00 - 1:00

**SUNDAYS**

8:45 AM	Soul Journeys for Women	Library
10:00 AM	Worship	In-Person in the Sanctuary and YouTube Livestream
11:00 AM	Nepali Worship	Fellowship Hall
11:15 AM	Sunday School	Third Floor
3:00 PM	Prayer Service	Roth Chapel

**MONDAYS**

9:00 AM	Quilters	Offsite
10:15 AM	Lectio Divina	Library
10:30 AM	Morning Musings	Library

**TUESDAYS**

10:00 AM	Staff Meeting	Library
1:30 PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry	Library
7:00 PM	Rev. Kubai Book Study	Zoom

**WEDNESDAYS**

4:00 PM	Tai Chi	Room 111
7:00 PM	Rev. Wheeler's Advent Devotional Class	Zoom

**THURSDAYS**

5:45 PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal (Dec 7, 14, 21, 28)	Balcony
7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal (Dec 7, 14, 21, 28)	Choir Room

**SATURDAYS**

5:00 PM	Worship	Roth Chapel
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**WEEKDAYS**

4:00 - 8:00 PM	Omaha Girls Rock	WH 254-62
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**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3**

3:00 PM	Advent Fair	Lower Level
2:00 PM	Kenya Freedom Celebration	Fellowship Hall
3:00 PM	Youth Group Luminaries	Room 105
4:00 PM	United Methodist Men's Fellowship	Room 111
5:00 PM	United Women In Faith: Mini Mart	CGA

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10**

9:00 AM	United Women in Faith: Mini Mart	Sanctuary Gathering Area
11:15 AM	Children's Pageant Costume Pickup	Room 302
6:00 PM	MasterSingers Concert	Sanctuary

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 11**

7:00 PM	Church Council	Parlor
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**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13**

7:00 PM	Blue Christmas	Roth Chapel
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**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16**

8:00 AM	Omaha Girls Rock: Flea Market	Lower Level
3:00 PM	Band Setup/Rehearsal	Sanctuary

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17**

9:00 AM	Band Rehearsal	Sanctuary
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**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20**

3:00 PM	Holy Listening	Immanuel Village
10:00 AM	Children's Christmas Pageant	Sanctuary

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23**

4:00 PM	United Methodist Men's Fellowship	Room 111
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**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24**

10:00 AM	Lessons and Carols Christmas Service	Sanctuary
7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Room 250
7:30 PM	Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary