

Church Calendar

Monday, December 5, 2022

8:00 p.m. - to 9:00 p.m. AL-Anon

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – El Nido Family Centers
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. – Pacific Discussions (AA)

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

3:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – El Nido Family Centers
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – AA Group

Thursday, December 8, 2022

7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – AA Group

Friday, December 9, 2022

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – Al-Anon Women (Farsi)
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – AA Group

Saturday, December 10, 2022

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. - Zumba Class-CH
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – El Nido Family Centers
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 11, 2022

10:00 a.m. – In-Sanctuary Service & Live Stream
1:00 p.m. – El Nido Family Centers

Church Leadership

Rev. Grant J. Hagiya
Bishop in Residence

Rev. Melissa Roux MacKinnon
North District, Superintendent

Rev. Vernon Kemp
Pastor

Jacqueline Tringov
Music Director

Evelyn Arnold
Administrative Assistant

St. Paul's - Leadership Team

Diana Bruno - Administrative Chair/ Lay
leader to Conference
Deborah Davies – Staff Parish Relations Chair
Linda Graul – Finance Chair
Donald Metzger – Board Member
Cathy Green – Board Member
Jackie Adams – Board Member
Vacant - Trustee Chair

Saint Paul's United Methodist Church

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Church Email: st_paulschurch@icloud.com

Church Website: stpaulstarzana.org



@stpaulstarzana



@saintpaulunited



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For online giving and support, please go to: stpaulstarzana.org/Donate

If you would like to donate via text, please text GIVE to 855-956-1319.

Pastor Vernon's Email: V_kemp2000@yahoo.com

Pastor Vernon's cell phone: 323-864-5967

St. Paul's United Methodist Church of Tarzana



Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2022 10:00 a.m.



Our Mission is to be: The Beacon of the Valley

Lighting 'The Way' of Jesus

Growing Disciples and Community in God's Love and

Sending the Hope and Joy of Jesus into the World

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors!

Vernon Kemp, Pastor



St. Paul's UMC - Tarzana
Announcements

December Birthdays

12/5 – Tammy Lacock
12/11 – Deborah Ruiz
12/13 – Jackie Adams
12/21 – Kim Gatewood
12/22 – Catherine (Cat) Russell

Altar Flowers

This week's altar flowers are in loving memory of Joyce Harmon's late husband, Al Harmon

Blue Christmas Concert

*You are cordially invited to join us on **December 18, 2022, at 3 p.m.** for our Blue Christmas Concert in the Sanctuary.*

Christmas Brunch

We will be having our Annual Christmas Brunch on Sunday, December 18th, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. in Cappleman Hall. All are welcome! Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Music Ministries

*If you are interested in participating in our Christmas worship service on **December 25, 2022, at 10 a.m.**, please contact our music director, Jacqueline Tringov.*

Are there any other announcements?

**Praise Song

“You Are My Strength”

You are my strength, strength like no other
Strength like no other reaches to me (repeat)

In the fullness of your grace
In the power of your name
You lift me up. You lift me up

You are my hope, hope like no other
Hope like no other reaches to me (repeat)

In the fullness of your grace
In the power of your name
You lift me up. You lift me up

You are my peace, peace like no other
Peace like no other reaches to me (repeat)

In the fullness of your grace
In the power of your name
You lift me up. You lift me up

You are my joy, joy like no other
Joy like no other reaches to me (repeat)

Opening Prayer

Liturgist, Tammy Lacock

Patient and loving God, we so easily launch ourselves in preparation for the secular festival of giving and parties and the swirl of social events; but we forget that the true preparation is the readiness of our hearts to receive you. Help us look again at our lives and turn them around so that they may be in tune with your will. We ask this in Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Music Selection

“Open Our Eyes, Lord”

Open our eyes, Lord we want to see Jesus
To reach out and touch Him and say that we love Him
Open our ears Lord and help us to listen
Open our eyes Lord we want to see Jesus.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle: The Candle of Readiness: Prepare!

Reader 1: Daniel Cox
From the foundation of Jesse, from the stump, there shall come a new shoot!

Reader 2: Mason Lacock
God's spirit shall rest upon him.

Reader 3: Celine Ella
He shall find delight in all of God's creation!

Reader 4: Eli Cox
Peace shall reign—old enmities shall cease! For on that day, we will celebrate God's love with one another.

Today we light two candles. The first is the candle of Patience, reminding us to watch and wait for what God is about to do. [*Light the first candle*]

The second candle is the candle of Readiness, enabling us to look at our lives, to get rid of all those things that keep us from God, to change our ways and live as God would have us live. [*The second candle is lighted*]

Reader 1: Daniel Cox
Come, see the lights. Let their brightness fill you.

Reader 2: Mason Lacock
Come, feel the warmth of the lights. Let them give you comfort.

Reader 3: Celine Ella
Come, draw near to the lights, for God is breaking through to you.

Reader 4: Eli Cox
Come, rejoice in the lights, God is with us

Unison Prayer of Confession Liturgist, Tammy Lacock

Lord of mercy and peace, open our hearts to receive your words of hope. We live far too much in darkness and fear. We have let the fears invade the very center of our lives and find ourselves changing, moving from your light to the darkness of despair. It seems that this world and its people are more pleased to fight and destroy than they are to have peace and harmony. We become part of that crowd when we wallow in anger, resentment, apathy, and greed. Forgive us, patient and merciful God. Help us be people who will look at the ways in which we have blocked your presence; ways in which we have truly failed to be your people. Give us courage and strength to change our lives, that your peace may become a reality in this world, right now, this day. For we offer this prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

*When the time is
right, I, the Lord,
will make it happen.*

Isaiah 60:22

This is a time of renewal, reflection, and rejuvenation. If you are seeking prayer and would like your name to appear on the prayer list, please contact the pastor no later than Wednesday noon via telephone or email.

Let us keep the following in prayer:

**John Fornadley, Vijay Ethial, Yolanda Baines,
Gus & Debora Ruiz & Family, Ellie Harrison,
Teddi Davis, Bonnie Jay, Patty Allen, Victoria Metzger,
Joyce & Allen Davis, Becky Abernathy,
The Evangelista Family, Cathy Green, Minnie Fong,
Sarah Sohai & Family, Simi Tabari, Kathy Campbell,
Lois Jackson & Family, Carol Jones, Donna & Sam Wells,
Fredericka Meek & Family, John & Shirley Hawkins,
Diane & Bill Jacobs, Ellen Gross, Dottie Schmelzel**

“Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

Hebrews 4:16



Isaiah 11:1-10 (NRSV)

¹ *A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.*

² *The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.*

³ *His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear,
⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.*

⁵ *Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.*

⁶ *The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.*

⁷ *The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.*

⁸ *The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.*

⁹ *They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.*

¹⁰ *On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall
inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.*

This Week's Lectionary Bible Readings:
Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

Words of Assurance

Liturgist, Tammy Lacock

Though the darkness seems so deep, do not fear. God is with us. Repent! Turn your lives to God. God's love is being poured out for you, always. **Amen.**

Music Selection

"His Name is Wonderful"

UMH #174

Reading/Hymn

UMH #211

Reader 1:

Florence Ella

The shoot from the stump of Jesse? What in the world is that? What are they talking about? Message of hope and possibility? I doubt that. This world is hopeless. People want to live in anger, hostility, misery. Just look at it all. Do you see much good news on TV. The newspapers are very quick to pick up all the troubles and violence, but the good news of someone helping someone else is relegated to the back page in a one-inch paragraph. Good News from God? No one cares. No one listens.

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

UMH #211

Verse 4

*O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem, unto your own and rescue them
From depths of hell your people save, and give them victory o'er the grave.*

Reader 2:

Ginny Thomas

What is it with us people? All throughout biblical history, God has spoken through the prophets, through creation, to the hearts of God's people. But we insist on turning to our own ways. We think we possess all knowledge. We want instant answers and solutions to our problems. We don't know how to wait and be patient. And then we shout to the rafters that God doesn't care, doesn't exist. So, we sink into the abyss of our own greed and folly. O that God would pour God's wisdom into our wayward hearts!

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

UMH #211

Verse 2

*O come, O Wisdom from on high; who ordered all things mightily
To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in its ways to go*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Reader 3: Tammy Lacock
Darkness floods our hearts. Not the darkness of longer and colder nights, but the darkness of doubt and despair. Inside we cry for peace and hope. But our outer actions proclaim fear and faithlessness. It is as though we are bound in grief, waiting for the inevitable death of our spirits. The gloom is far too real, even during this time of preparation. Lord, send your light to us. Disperse and destroy this gloom that has invaded our hearts. Bring us to hope. Help us again prepare our hearts for love and peace.

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” UMH #211

Verse 6

*O come, O Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar
Dispel the shadows of the night, and turn our darkness into light.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

****Scripture Reading** Romans 15:4-13 Liturgist, Tammy Lacock

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God
People: Thanks be to God

Song of Preparation **“Total Praise”**

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon **“The God of Hope”**

****Altar Call/Invitation to Discipleship**
(You are welcome to kneel at the altar for prayer)

The Great Thanksgiving UMH #13-15

The Lord’s Prayer

Breaking the Bread

Music Selection **“Come to the River”**

Invitation to the Offering Liturgist, Tammy Lacock
(You are now invited to submit your gifts to Christ if you haven’t already done so.)

****Doxology** **“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”** UMH #94

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

****Offertory Prayer** Liturgist, Tammy Lacock

Lord of our life, the path to you is straight, yet we waiver in our behavior like the Pharisees and Sadducees. Our hopes and dreams often are self-serving and materialistic. We rush through this season buying gifts that we hope will convey just the right message. However, you invite us to ask ourselves if we are equally as busy preparing messages that proclaim the Good News to a hurting world. Through giving, remind us again, O God, of the baptismal covenant. This Advent, may we proclaim a message that is exemplified by our generosity, our kindness, and our prayers. In Jesus’ name, we pray. **Amen.**

Announcements Liturgist, Tammy Lacock
(Please turn to the Announcements Page and review our busy calendar.)

****Benediction** Pastor Vernon Kemp
Prepare for the coming of the Lord! Make way in your hearts for love! Get rid of all anger and fear, for God is about to bring incredible light to the world! Go in peace and confidence as witnesses to God’s love. **Amen.**

****Closing Song** **“The Blessing”**

*The Lord bless you and keep you
Make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you
The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.*