

# THE DOME

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



## December 2025



### A Moment with Mike

In last month's newsletter, I shared some of the ways we have seen God at work in our congregation. This month, I want to share with you the goals the administrative council has set to focus on in 2026. I shared these goals in my November 16<sup>th</sup> sermon, but I think this will be beneficial for those who did not hear that and a reminder for those who did.

The first goal we have set is to have more outreach events that connect our congregation to the community. For the last several years, our Outreach and Connections Team has done a great job creating these events for us, and we see the value in them. We recognize that the most effective way to get someone to go to church is a simple invitation, but sometimes worship can be intimidating for a new person who hasn't been well versed in the church world to start with. However, inviting someone to a cookout, bingo, or a pool party may not be as intimidating. Therefore, we will focus on creating more of these outreach events.

The second goal is to develop connections and ministries for young adult members of our congregation. A young adult is generally defined as someone in their twenties or thirties. We have several young adults involved in our church but few ministries that cater specifically to their stage in life. At our administrative council meeting, we acknowledged that we don't know exactly how to start this, but we do know that the most effective young adult ministry will be one that is led by a young adult. Therefore, if you are a young adult or know someone in our congregation who is a young adult who may be interested in helping get this started, let us know. The administrative council will continue to have discussions about this in the new year.

Our third goal is to include more people, particularly youth, in our worship services. We acknowledge that a number of high school students have committed to being more active in the life of the church, and we want them to know we value them. Including more people of any age in our worship services will enrich the service and help people grow formationally in their Christian walk through these leadership experiences.

These three goals we have set are not to the exclusion of all the other wonderful things we do as a congregation, but these will be our particular focus for 2026. Of course, the trustees are also focusing on a major goal for 2026, which is to work on restoring the stained glass windows on the inner dome of the church and the narthex (back of the sanctuary) ceiling glass. The dome will cost roughly \$62,000, and the narthex will cost roughly \$23,000. We do have a stained glass window fund set up, and you may contribute at any time. The dome is the first priority, so what the trustees ultimately do this year will depend on how much is received between now and May 2026. Thank you for your generous support of this and all the ministries of the church, and God bless you this Christmas season and into the new year.

God Bless,  
Pastor Mike Agnew

#### St. Paul's UMC

**Worship:**  
10:10 a.m.

**Sunday School:** 9:00 a.m.

**Adult Class:** 9:00 a.m.


**Address:**  
531 W. Main Street  
Cherokee, IA 51012

**Office Telephone:**  
(712) 225-3955

**Office Texting Number:**  
(712) 227-3291

**Pastor Mike's Cell:**  
(563) 506-7412

**Website:**  
[www.cherokeemethodist.com](http://www.cherokeemethodist.com)

 Find us on Facebook  
and your podcast app.

**Pastor Mike's Email:**  
[michael.agnew@iaumc.net](mailto:michael.agnew@iaumc.net)

**Nicci's Email:**  
[cherokeespumc@gmail.com](mailto:cherokeespumc@gmail.com)

**Nicci's Office Hours:**  
Monday - Thursday  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Pastor Mike's Day Off:**  
Friday

**Pastor:**  
Mike Agnew

**Financial Secretary:**  
Sarah Cook

**Administrative Assistant:**  
Nicci Lundquist

**Custodian:**  
Betty Harman

**Organists/Pianists:**  
Betty Point  
Meribeth Adams  
Chris Andersen

**Chancel Choir Director:**  
**NOW HIRING!**

**Bell Choir Director:**  
Dusty Basten

*"A child is born to us, a son is given to us,  
and authority will be on his shoulders.  
He will be named Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."*

Isaiah 9:6 (Common English Bible)





# November Happenings

## All Saints Sunday



November 2nd was All Saints Sunday. Pastor Mike read the names of the 12 members of our congregation who passed away since November 2024, and Ervina Scott rang a bell after each name was read. There was also an extra candle for others we hold in our

hearts. If you would like to see the service, it is available on our YouTube page and Facebook page. If you were gone that Sunday and would like a color copy of the photo insert, please stop by the church office. Thanks to Ervina for helping with the ceremony.

## Veterans Day Sunday

On Sunday, November 9th, we honored the veterans in our congregation. Thank you to all those who continue to serve or have served our country, and all veterans who have sacrificed for our country.

*We thank you for your service!*



## Election Day Luncheon Prep

Thank you to everyone who helped set the tables and prepared casseroles on November 3rd.



## Election Day Luncheon baked goods and pies!





# November Happenings

## Election Day Luncheon & Bake Sale



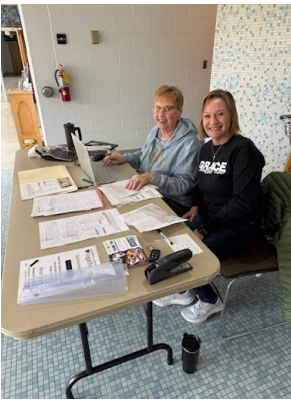
Thank you to Dan & Barb Kratz for their leadership with this year's very successful Election Day Luncheon. A huge thank you, from United Women in Faith, to all the volunteers who helped with salads, pies, baked goods, serving, carry-out, delivery, clean-up, tickets, and more.



# November Happenings



Thank you, Roni Timmerman, for helping to organize a wonderful Ingathering event again this year. Thank you to all of the volunteers from St. Paul's United Methodist Church and volunteers from other United Methodist churches in the Northwest District. Over 35 churches brought boxes of kits to be sent to those in need in the United States and around the world. The mat weaving loom was on display, and many hands made light work for all in attendance.



**Submitted by: Alaire Willits, Iowa Ingathering coordinator**



What a wonderful weekend we had gathering in all the kits, monetary gifts, wheelchairs, sewing machines, sleeping mats, and more from across the Iowa Conference. The monetary value of our cash and in-kind gifts totaled over \$506,000! That's a \$40,000 increase over last year. THANK YOU!!

More importantly, hundreds of you came, carried, and fellowshipped, knowing our tangible gifts make intangible differences in thousands of lives around the world. Blessing Meal packing at Greenfield and Cedar Rapids will provide almost 12,000 meals. Among the 16,000 kits, nearly 10,000 were student kits and 5,200 were personal dignity kits. There are 172 Bed Packs—the newest kit, consisting of a new set of twin sheets, a pillow case, and a new pillow. Can you imagine the comfort someone in Jamaica will find as they struggle to recover after the hurricane?

You also gave significant monetary gifts to our Ingathering partners - Heifer International, Mobility Worldwide, Church World Service, Self-Help International, and Midwest Mission. Iowa Hunger Grant applications will open in January and are a way IAUMC congregations utilize Iowa giving through the Iowa Ingathering.

Thank you all! May our mission giving continue throughout the year. Share your joy in being God's hands and feet with your friends and neighbors as you work together. Invite them to join in.



# November Happenings

## Stewardship Information

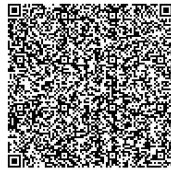
Our 2026 stewardship mailing, including a pledge card, was mailed out on November 6th. The mailing list included those in our database who had a recorded giving or pledge from November 6th, 2024, through November 6th, 2025. If you have not received the mailing and would like a copy, please pick up a copy in the narthex. Please return pledge cards in the offering plate or to the office as soon as possible. Thank you for supporting the ministry of St. Paul's United Methodist Church!

## Automatic Giving Available

Automatic monthly giving is an option here at St. Paul's. If you are interested, please contact Sarah Cook, our Financial Secretary, or call the office and leave a message for her.

## Online Giving Available

Online giving by debit/credit card or bank transfer is available at <https://stpaulsunitedmethodistchurch4833.breezechms.com/give/online>, or text the amount you wish to give to 712-882-7149. You may also scan this QR code.



## Boxed Offering Envelopes Available

Beginning November 30th, we will have a limited amount of boxed offering envelope sets available on the table in the narthex for those who prefer to have a specific envelope for each week's giving.

## 2025 Finance Update



It is not too late to give to our 2025 budget! For the giving to count

for 2025, please have it submitted or postmarked by December 31st. Thank you for your help in being a part of "God's Love in Action."



**God's Love in Action!**



## Sharing God's Love



On October 29th, Shelley Lenz and Jean Anderson prepared chicken noodle soup, spiced apples, and pumpkin bars in the kitchen at St. Paul's, then delivered the individual meals to many of our St. Paul's members and friends. This was received with gratitude from all of the recipients. Thank you for putting "God's Love in Action!"

## Being a Good Leader with God's Help

On Sunday, November 2nd, the Sunday School kids learned about King Saul and being a good leader. Each child got anointed and told Miss Heidi how they were going to be a good leader with God's help.





# November Happenings



## Teen Time Helps Local Food Pantries

On Wednesdays, November 12th and 19th, the Teen Time youth gathered together at the local grocery stores with a list of needed items for the local food pantries. They purchased and delivered the items to CAP (food pantry at the Catholic Church), and to Trinity Lutheran Church to be used for their food pantry as well. Thank you to all of the youth for putting "God's Love in Action!"



# November Happenings

## Thankful for You!

Thank you to Linda Burkhardt for leading the worship service on Sunday, November 23rd, as Pastor Mike Agnew was attending Ava Agnew's All State Band performance. She shared a special message reminding us all, "Thanksgiving is more than a Holiday." We also wish to thank Linda Christensen, Natalie Bottorff, and Jerri Hunt for leading music and serving as liturgist during this service.



## Community Thanksgiving Service

The Cherokee County Ministerial Association held a community Thanksgiving service on Sunday, November 23rd, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. A volunteer community choir sang, and Rev. Tyler Stauffer, Senior Pastor at Oakdale E. Free Church, gave the message. A special offering was taken during the service to help fund the Cherokee County Ministerial Association's emergency fund. This fund helps people in need with gasoline, food, and lodging. If you would like to see this service, it is available on our YouTube page and Facebook page.



# 2025 Advent Studies

### Option 1

Sundays

6:30 p.m.

Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, & 21

Feller Lounge

### Option 2

Tuesdays

10 a.m.

December 2, 9, 16, & 23

Feller Lounge

The Advent studies will be reading the book, *Voices of Advent: The Bible's Insights For a Season of Hope*, by Matthew Skinner. In *Voices of Advent*, Matthew L. Skinner leads readers through biblical texts and explores how they shape our lives and Christmas celebrations. We listen as Jesus promises to return to us in the future, to John the Baptist as he prepares the way for the Messiah, to the faithful people and poets who anticipate the magnificence of Jesus's birth, and to the angels and visionaries who praise God when Christmas dawns. Listen carefully to the Bible's various perspectives that shape our preparations for Christmas; you will hear hope in all of them.

The cost of the study is \$15.50, but financial assistance is available, if needed. Sign up in the narthex on Sunday, or call the church office during the week.

St. Paul's United Methodist Church  
531 W. Main Street, Cherokee  
cherokeemethodist.com  
(712) 225-3955



# Announcements & Updates

## What is Advent?



"The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word adventus, meaning 'coming' or 'visit,' begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. During Advent, we prepare for and anticipate the coming of Christ." To learn more, visit <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/to-be-united-methodist-what-is-advent>.

## Christmas Undecorating

Stay tuned to our weekly bulletins and Facebook page for a date to help undecorate the sanctuary after Christmas. This will likely be Monday, January 5th.



## The Salvation Army Bell Ringing



At the time of newsletter printing, plans are taking place for The Salvation Army bell ringing this year. You may sign up by contacting Cherokee County's Salvation Army representative, Glenda Parrish, at 712-221-9801.

## Men's Breakfast



Men from our congregation and community met on Saturday, November 8th, in Schuldt Dining Hall, for breakfast. This is always a great way for men to come together to share God's love and discuss ways to put their faith into action. Our next

Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, December 13th, at 8:30 a.m. You are welcome to invite a friend or neighbor to join us for a light breakfast and short devotional.

*"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose trust is the Lord." Jeremiah 17:7*

## Weather Cancellations

As winter weather approaches, please stay tuned to our Facebook page, KCHE radio, KTIV TV, and KCAU TV for worship cancellations.



## December Office Closures



The church office will be closed on Thursday, December 25th, Monday, December 29th, and Thursday, January 1st. Pastor Mike Agnew will be out of the office the week of Sunday, December 28th, through

Saturday, January 3rd. Stay tuned to upcoming bulletins for more information about who will be covering pastoral emergencies during this time.



## Chocolate Advent Calendars

Mark your calendar for Sunday, November 30th, as Jeanne Blackstone will be giving the children's message, which includes the beloved chocolate advent calendars!

## Mitten Tree



Beginning November 25th, there will be a Christmas tree at the north entrance and another one in the narthex to collect hats, mittens, scarves, gloves, earmuffs, and socks for those in need in our community.

## Scholarship Opportunities

Scholarships for college students and high school seniors are available through the United Methodist Church. It really is worth applying. Several St. Paul's students have received significant funds for college through these scholarships in the past. Follow the links to learn more.

### Iowa UM Foundation

<https://iumf.org/scholarships/>

### United Methodist Higher Education Foundation

<https://umhef.org/scholarships/>

### GRASP Scholarship

<https://www.gbhem.org/international/global-education-programs/>

## Poinsettia Pick-up Plans

Thank you to everyone who donated the 25 lovely poinsettias that will be gracing the sanctuary at the Christmas Eve service. Please take your poinsettia (s) home with you following the service. If you will not be at the Christmas Eve service, please make plans to have a friend collect your plant for you. The office will be closed Thursday, December 25th and Monday, December 29th. The plants will not look healthy on Tuesday, if they are left in the sanctuary.

## Alternative Christmas Gift Guide



The Missions Committee will be offering their Alternative Christmas Gift Guide again this year. This is an opportunity to support missions projects during the Christmas season. This year's

missions projects include Heifer International, Church World Service, Young Life, and St. Paul's Sunday School Wishlist. The gift guides will be available in the narthex on Sunday, November 30th, December 7th, 14th, and 21st.

## The Upper Room Devotionals

December *The Upper Room* devotionals are available in the narthex and on the table outside the office. Help yourself to this FREE devotional.



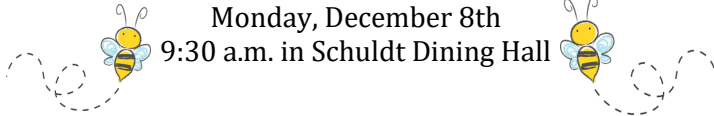
# Announcements & Updates

## United Women in Faith Buzz

### United Women in Faith Executive Board

Monday, December 8th

9:30 a.m. in Schuldt Dining Hall



**No Circle Meetings Until February**

## Election Day Luncheon Update



United  
Women  
in Faith

A huge thank you from the Women in Faith for all the help received before, during, and after the Election Day Luncheon. Each of you had a big impact on the success of this. Although we did not fare as well as last year, it was still a successful event that will allow us to continue providing meals for Vacation Bible School and other projects that support women, children, and youth. The Bake Sale netted \$530.25, and the Luncheon netted \$2,569.00. Expenses incurred for this were \$602.63. Thank you to all!

## Other Upcoming Meetings and Events

Mon. & Wed.	7:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous (NE door)
Tuesdays	1:30 p.m.	Sleeping mat weaving (Feller Lounge)
Tues., 12/2	9:30 a.m.	Visitation Team (library)
	6:00 p.m.	Staff/Parish Relations Committee meeting (Feller Lounge)
Wed., 12/3	10:00 a.m.	Communion at Heartland
Tues., 12/9	6:30 p.m.	Finance Committee (Schuldt Dining Hall)
Tues., 12/16	5:30 p.m.	Outreach and Connections Team (Feller Lounge)
Thurs., 12/18		Newsletter info due
Mon., 12/22	11:00 a.m.	Communion at Accura
Wed., 12/24	10:30 a.m.	Bible study at The Gardens

## Follow us on Facebook!

### St. Paul's United Methodist Church

598 followers • 56 following



Additional photos and videos of events here at St. Paul's can be found on our Facebook page. Follow us to stay up-to-date on the most recent news here at St. Paul's. As of November 24th, we have 598 followers!

## Children's Sunday School



Sunday School for PK-8th grade meets from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Please note that there will not be Sunday School on December 28th, due to the Christmas holiday.

## Children's Christmas Program, Soup lunch, & Santa



The Children's Christmas program will be during worship, Sunday, Dec. 21st, at 10:10 a.m. Following worship, everyone is invited to stay for a soup lunch and visit with Santa. The Adult class will be hosting lunch, with a menu of chili, hot dogs, turkey noodle soup, and desserts. A freewill offering will be taken.



## Rehearsal for Children's Program

A rehearsal for the children's Christmas program will be held on Wednesday, December 17th, from 5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m., with pizza provided for supper. All Sunday School students are encouraged to attend, and parents are welcome to stay to help supervise.

## Food or Funds Drive Update

The Food or Funds drive has concluded, and non-perishable food items and toiletries have been delivered to Mid-Sioux Opportunity, the Trinity Lutheran Church's food pantry, and CAP food pantry. \$560.00 was also donated and will be divided and delivered to the food pantries. Thank you to the Missions Committee and helpers for packing up and delivering the donations and to all of you for helping your neighbors!





# Announcements & Updates



## 2025 Advent Sermon Series: A Very Special Christmas

*Journey through Advent with us as we explore some of the iconic Christmas shows and what they have to teach us about our faith.*

- 11/30 "Frosty, the Snowman"  
Psalm 30; Luke 1:26-38
- 12/7 "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer"  
Galatians 3:25-29; Luke 2:1-6
- 12/14 "Polar Express"  
Matthew 1:18-21; Hebrews 11:1
- 12/21 "It's a Wonderful Life"  
Matthew 5:14-16
- 12/24 "A Charlie Brown Christmas"  
Luke 2:1-20

**St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 531 W. Main Street, Cherokee**

## December Teen Time Schedule

Teen Time is a time for all high school students to gather together supporting one another as they grow in their faith. A free supper is provided beginning at 6:30 p.m., at 409 Centennial Drive, Cherokee, IA. Bible fellowship follows from 7-8:00 p.m. All high school students are welcome at Teen Time! You do not need to be a member of St. Paul's to attend. If you have any questions, please call Monica Cowan-Schmidt at (712) 229-9936.

*Invite a friend, and join us!*

- Wed., 12/3 No Teen Time (Young Life event)
- Wed., 12/10 Teen Time (409 Centennial Drive)
- Wed., 12/17 Teen Time (To Be Determined)
- Wed., 12/24 No Teen Time; Merry Christmas!  
5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
- Wed., 12/31 No Teen Time; Happy New Year!

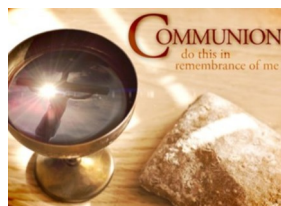
## Iowa UM Foundation Scholarship Applications Open!

Visit <https://iumf.org/scholarships/> to learn more!

## Special Offering for Hurricane Melissa

On Sunday, November 2nd, our congregation held a special UMCOR offering to help with the recovery efforts of Hurricane Melissa. Our congregation collected \$220.00. Thank you for your generous giving to help those in need.

## Communion Sunday



Holy Communion is served to all the first Sunday of each month. You do not need to be a member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, or any church, to receive communion. Please join us for Holy Communion during worship Sunday, December 7th, at 10:10 a.m.

*All are welcome!*

## Want to Get Involved?



If you are feeling called to help put God's love in action by serving any of our ministries, such as being a greeter, liturgist, usher, or leading a children's time message, please contact the office.

*"...for God loves a cheerful giver."  
2 Corinthians 9:7*

## Children's Choir and Noisy Offering



The children's choir (all Sunday School kids PK-5th) will sing Sunday, November 30th, during worship at 10:10 a.m.

Sunday, November 30th, we will also have a special noisy offering (spare change) to benefit our children's ministries.

Parents, guardians, grandparents, teachers, neighbors, and friends-join us in worship to witness the kids singing for the glory of God!

## Advent Devotionals Available

Free Advent devotionals are available on the table in the narthex and on the table outside the office. These were provided by the Society of St. Andrew, a ministry that works to harvest and share healthy food for the hungry. Learn more at <https://endhunger.org/>.





# Announcements & Updates

## United Methodist Student Day

November 30th is United Methodist Student Day. On this Sunday, United Methodists focus on the value of education by collecting a special offering "to support and advance the education of our children. This helps to fund over 70 scholarships for undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs for United Methodist students. Every dollar received supports and educates a new generation of leaders for the United Methodist Church. One-hundred percent of the funds collected on United Methodist Student Day are used to fund over 70 scholarships. The scholarship program awards members of the church who are pursuing higher education, from incoming college freshmen through doctoral level students. With the general online application, a student may be considered for any of the scholarship programs." Learn more at <https://www.umc.org/en/content/united-methodist-student-day-sunday-ministry-article>.

## Thank You Notes

Thank you to Glenda Parrish for the stickers used with the *HomeTouch* mailings each week.

Thank you to Lois Eggerth for providing the stamps for our weekly *HomeTouch* mailings.

The missions camp fund dinner was a success! 100% of the proceeds are going into the camp fund, as the food and supplies for the dinner were all donated. We raised \$905.00 for the campers. Your generous donations of money, time, and talent do not go unnoticed.

Thank you.

The Missions Committee

Thank you, Pastor Mike and St. Paul's family, for encouraging and supporting us as Teen Time leaders. We appreciate your kind note and gift cards expressing just that. We thank God for this ministry.

Sincerely,

Craig & Monica Schmidt

We had a couple of "church angels," Jean Anderson and Shelley Lenz, not only make a wonderful chicken noodle soup dinner, but they also delivered it to recipients from our church. We were blessed receivers of those meals this week. It was a delightful meal and we so appreciated your kindness. Warm thanks and God's blessings to you, Jean and Shelley.

Sincerely,

Craig & Monica Schmidt

Shout out to our Missions Committee. Thank you for the pulled pork and buns we will use for a Teen Time meal. We appreciate your kindness.

Teen Time Youth and Craig & Monica Schmidt

Thank you to Vanessa Rohwer for donating multiple coloring books for the children's activity bags to be used during worship.

Thank you to Jean Anderson and Shelley Lenz for the hot soup on a cool night. It was very much appreciated.

Joan Lucas

Thank you to Shelley Lenz and Jean Anderson for the food brought to me. It was so good.

Alyce Hirschman

Thank you to Stan DeRoo and Dean Parrish for cleaning up the leaves on the front lawn.

Thank you to Cook Law Firm for your willingness to make 150 copies of the Sunday worship bulletin when the printer/copier needed repairs.

Dear members of St. Paul's,

Thank you so much for the wonderful assortment of food items you donated to our food pantry. With your help we are able to be a blessing to many needy families in the Cherokee community.

God's Blessings,

Trinity Lutheran Food Pantry Committee

Thank you to Roni Timmerman for the roll of stamps and extra Post-It notes to be used in the church office. We appreciate your generosity.

## HomeTouch Ministry

Twenty-three members and friends of St. Paul's currently receive our weekly *HomeTouch* mailing, which includes a devotional, a few activities (word puzzles, etc.), a bulletin, and occasionally photos of recent church events. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, or you know of someone that would like to receive this ministry each week, please contact the church office.



## Have News?



If you have news you would like to share with your church family (engagement, birth of a baby, wedding, anniversary, retirement, words of gratitude/thank you, graduation, death, etc.), please contact the office. It will be included in the monthly newsletter. The deadline for our January issue of *The Dome* will be Thursday, December 18th.

## The Power of Prayer



How can we pray for you? If you have a prayer request that you would like included on the prayer chain, please call Ervina Scott or the church office.



Merry Christmas!



# Announcements & Updates

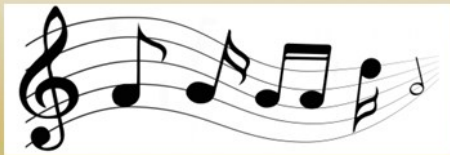
## Chancel Choir Director Needed

Chancel Choir, St. Paul's United Methodist Church's vocal choir for those in high school through adults, is looking for a director! If you would like to be the director of this wonderful music ministry, please call the church office.

The Chancel Choir typically meets September through May. Weekly practices are held on Wednesdays, at 6:30 p.m. in the choir room, with performances taking place on select Sundays during our worship service at 10:10 a.m.

New members are always welcome to join this musical ministry!

St. Paul's United Methodist Church  
531 W. Main Street, Cherokee, Iowa  
cherokeemethodist.com  
cherokeespumc@gmail.com  
(712) 225-3955



### Chancel Choir News



Chancel Choir, our choir for high school through adult singers, will practice Wednesday, December 3rd, and

perform during worship on Sunday, December 7th. New members are always welcome! If you would like to join Chancel Choir or if you have any questions, please contact Linda Christensen or the church office.



### A Night of Caroling

Immaculate Conception Church in Cherokee will be hosting "A Night of Caroling"

on Sunday, December 21st, at 5:45 p.m. Musicians from ICC will be leading this special evening of singing beloved Christmas carols. A light reception will follow with a freewill offering to be taken to support music ministry projects.

### Christmas Tea

The United Women in Faith of the Peterson United Methodist Church (103 E. 3rd St.) invite all women to attend their annual Christmas Tea on Saturday, December 6th. A program will begin at 2:00 p.m. Arrive early to view the beautifully decorated tables.



### Bell Choir News

Bell Choir will practice at 5:45 p.m. in the sanctuary on Wednesday, December 3rd and 10th, and will perform during worship on Sunday, December 14th. New members are always welcome to join the group. If you would like to join the bell choir, or if you have any questions, please contact Dusty Basten, Bell Choir director, or call the church office.

### Adult Class Welcomes New Attendees

The Adult class meets on Sundays from 9-10:00 a.m. in Feller Lounge. Join us, and invite a friend, on Sunday, November 30th, as we start our focus on *An Unlikely Advent: Extraordinary People of the Christmas story*. This is a four week series that focuses on the experiences of four sets of often overlooked characters in the nativity story. Sunday, December 7th, we will gather together during this time to prepare cookie plates for purchase during worship at 10:10 a.m. There will be no Adult class on Sunday, December 28th. All adults are welcome to join this four week study!

*Faith is a journey where all are welcome!*

### Adult Class Serves Thanksgiving Dinner



On Sunday, November 23rd, the Adult class, and some very special helpers, served a delicious Thanksgiving Dinner. Turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, stuffing, and ice cream was enjoyed by everyone in attendance. A freewill offering was taken, and

\$927.00 was collected. Your generosity during this time of Thanksgiving was appreciated.

### Sleeping Mat Weaving Mission

Volunteers meet on Tuesdays, at 1:30 p.m., to make sleeping mats from repurposed plastic shopping bags. People of a variety of ages and skills can contribute to this process: flattening and cutting bags as well as weaving the mats. **We do not need plastic bags at this time.** If you would like to help, or learn more about this mission, please join us on Tuesday afternoons.





# Worship Notes

## North Door Greeters

12/7 Jeff Blum  
12/14 Micki Conley  
12/21 Chuck & Sally Knoben  
12/28 Darlene Woltman

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## Advent Readers

11/30 Lola Christensen and Sophie Scherbring  
12/7 Linda Appleby, Linda Burkhardt,  
Linda Christensen, Linda Rutter,  
and Linda Struck  
12/14 Rod Raveling and Ervina Scott  
12/21 Heidi Gerstandt and Miranda Cook  
12/24 Unconfirmed at time of printing the newsletter.

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## Liturgists

12/7 Gary Jordan  
12/14 Jason Cook  
12/21 Amy Stief  
12/28 Madi Stief

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## Children's Time

12/7 Pastor Mike Agnew  
12/14 Miranda Cook  
12/21 Children's Program  
12/28 Roni Timmerman

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## Ushers

12/7 Jim & Peg Corrington, Gene & Jean Anderson,  
and Sue Parker  
12/14 Dr. Wes & Sue Parker, Scott Osborn,  
Marla Conley, and Bonni Conley  
12/21 Curt & Kristal Phillips, Dave & Donna Lucas,  
and Aubrey Lucas  
12/24 Mike & Deb Samuelson, Tim & Jen Gaydo,  
and Dave & Donna Lucas  
12/28 Dave & Donna Lucas, Austin & Megan Lucas,  
and Aubrey Lucas

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## Altar Flowers

12/7 Mike & Deb Samuelson  
12/14 The Wilkie family  
12/21 The Jones family  
12/28 The Gerstandt family

The 2026 altar flower sign-up sheet is available in the narthex on Sundays, or you can call the office during the week. To provide altar flowers, you sign up and then call the florist of your choice. The florists in Cherokee have a key to our building and can deliver the arrangements.

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## Nursery Attendants

12/7 Macy Gravenish  
12/14 Sign-up available online.  
12/21 Sign-up available online.  
12/28 Sign-up available online.

## Advent Sermon Series: A Very Special Christmas

*Journey through Advent with us as we explore some of the iconic Christmas shows and what they have to teach us about our faith.*



11/30 "Frosty, the Snowman"  
Psalm 30; Luke 1:26-38  
12/7 "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer"  
Galatians 3:25-29; Luke 2:1-6  
12/14 "Polar Express"  
Matthew 1:18-21; Hebrews 11:1  
12/21 "It's a Wonderful Life"  
Matthew 5:14-16  
12/24 "A Charlie Brown Christmas"  
Luke 2:1-20

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## Sermon Podcast and Online Services Available

Sermons are available on 92.1 FM KCHE on Sunday mornings at 8:45 a.m. and are also available via podcast. You can find a link to a podcast app on our website (green icon in the upper right on the homepage). Our full service is available live on our YouTube channel and as a recording after the fact both on our YouTube page and on our Facebook page. A link for our YouTube page can be found on our website (red and white icon in upper right on the homepage), and a link for our Facebook page can also be found on our website (blue and white icon in upper right on the homepage). If you need assistance, please stop by the office. There are also printed directions on the table outside the office and on the table in the narthex.



## Worship and Sunday School Attendance

	Worship	Sunday School
11/2	108	34*
11/9	97	31*
11/16	115	30*
11/23	83	33*

\*includes adult leaders

## Teen Time Attendance

11/5	12*
11/12	19
11/19	14

\*includes adult leaders



*Thank you to the many volunteers who help the worship services go smoothly throughout the year!*

*We appreciate each of you!*



**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



*Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!*

**Christmas  
Cookie Exchange**

**Sunday, December 7, 2025**

**Suggested \$5/plate donation to receive a baker's dozen (13)**

**To Donate Cookies:**

Please bring donated cookies to Feller Lounge from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Saturday, December 6th.  
If you need pick-up service instead, please contact the office.

**To Purchase Cookies:**

Cookie plates will be assembled during the Sunday School hour on December 7th and will then  
be available for purchase in the narthex before and after our 10:10 a.m. worship service.

Proceeds support the ministries of the Adult Class and St. Paul's UMC.

St. Paul's United Methodist Church  
531 W. Main Street, Cherokee  
Cherokeemethodist.com  
(712) 225-3955

**2025 Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service**

**Wednesday,  
December 24th  
5:30 p.m.**

St. Paul's United Methodist Church  
531 W. Main Street, Cherokee, Iowa  
cherokeemethodist.com  
(712) 225-3955