

St. Paul Weekly News

December 14, 2025



48 Church Street, Bellville, Ohio 44813



419.886.3521



stpaulbellville.org



church@stpaulbellville.org



@stpaulbellville

From Pastor Jonathan...

John calls us to repent ahead of being baptized in the Holy Spirit by Jesus. Repenting is not just “I’m sorry” but a turning, a resolve to not only stop a negative behavior, but to turn toward a better behavior. “Better” behavior in the eyes of God is always when we turn toward loving our neighbors. How are you loving your neighbors this holiday season?

The Latest Ministry Opportunities:

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKS are still available to pick up on the **table below the nametags** as you enter the Sanctuary. We appreciate every person who participated!

GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2026 are now available. Envelopes are located at the rear of the Sanctuary on the East side. If you cannot find yours or have not received envelopes in the past and would like them, please contact Larry Fenton. Thanks so much for your faithful giving!

CHRISTMAS CANTATA: Join us in worship on **Sunday, December 21st**, for our annual Christmas Cantata. If you are interested in singing, details on practices are below.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP: Join us at **9:00 p.m.** for our Candlelight Christmas Eve service!

LESSONS & CAROLS: Help us live in the joy of music as we have a special service of Lessons & Carols on **Sunday, December 28th, at 9:00 a.m.**

FELLOWSHIP DAYS begin on **January 7, 2026, and will continue through February 25th**, weather permitting. We will meet in the Social Room about **10:00 a.m. and finish up by 2:00 p.m.** Come for a little bit or the whole time! **Soup is provided for lunch. Kindly bring a dish**

to share. If you love to sew or have been looking for a place to start, please join us! These days are full of fun, food, and fellowship; and lift our spirits through the shorter winter days! Questions, please contact Pam Hartley.

CHRISTMAS CARD MAILBOXES are available for you to send your greetings to church members. Mailboxes are located in the hallway outside of the Community Room!

Ongoing Ministry Opportunities:

WORSHIP every Sunday @ 9:00 a.m. Please remember to wear your nametag (or make one) so we can practice good hospitality!

EDUCATION CLASS – Sundays 10:15-11:00

- **Age 3 – 10:** upstairs education wing (Kingdom room, third on left)
- **Ages 11 – high school:** upstairs education wing (youth room, last on left)
- **Adults:** Community Room
- *Parents of children 2 and under are welcome to play in the nursery (upstairs education wing) with their children during class time.*

BIBLE STUDY is on break! With the schedule of the holidays and pastoral obligations, we are on break until **Tuesday, January 27th**, in the **Church Library at 10:00 a.m.** We will begin a longer

series looking at the book **Acts** and the formation of the early church. All are welcome! Interested in **SERVING ON SUNDAYS?** Contact our Service Coordinator, Tammie Saddler @ 407-319-3591 if you are interested in reading scripture during worship, greeting, ushering, or assisting with communion. We appreciate your service!

HAND CHIME PRACTICE today at **11:00 a.m.** in the **Social Room**. *Additional practices: December 18th @ 6:30 p.m. and December 23rd @ 10:00 a.m.*

PRAISE TEAM practices each **Wednesday** at **6:30 p.m.** in the **Sanctuary**.

ADULT CHOIR practices every Wednesday at **7:30 p.m.** through December 17th, in the **Community Room**. This rehearsal includes music for the **Christmas Cantata** that will take place on Sunday, December 21st, during worship.

FELLOWSHIP BRUNCH: Stay tuned for details on the next brunch in January 2026. Enjoy the holidays with loved ones. Happy New Year!

Our **COLLABORATIVE YOUTH GROUP (K-college)** meets the first Wednesday of every month from **6:00-7:30 p.m.** at **Three Crosses United Methodist Fellowship** (12 Cleveland Street, Butler, Ohio 44822). Our next meeting is **Wednesday, January 7th**.

The **COMMUNITY DINNER** is held the first Thursday of each month from **5:00-6:30 p.m.** Our next dinner is on **Thursday, January 8th**, (the 1st Thursday of January is New Year's Day.)

PRAYER REQUESTS or address/info **UPDATES?** Email church@stpaulbellville.org or call the church office at 419-886-3521.

Our **GIFT OF THE MONTH** for December is milk for Wayfinders and domestic violence shelters. *Monies from the **Noisy Offering** this month will go towards milk in January. Thank you so much!*

Council Corner:

The Finance Team has begun budget work for our January meeting! This is no small task, so please hold the team in prayer as they plan. **If you would like more details on any of our Council meetings, you can request a copy of the meeting minutes from our Administrator, Laura, at church@stpaulbellville.org*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays this week:

- 14 – Debbie Bing and Dick Brenneman
- 15 – Gayle Kanz, Rob Lang, Darlene Lee, Jamie Woodward
- 16 – Judy Snavelly
- 18 – Jackson Jung and Cara Marhenke
- 19 – Marty Banks and Ethan Fry
- 20 – Laurie Shaffer

Anniversaries:

- December 18, 1993 – Joel & Janis Marhenke
- December 19, 2015 – Scott & Karen Wisecarver

This week we are praying for...

Gary Barr, Dave Benick, Lynn Hull, Skylar Marhenke, Tim Teeter

Did you know?

We received an anonymous gift to buy the ENTIRE ELCA Good Gifts Farm (\$715)! Not only that, but we also purchased that farm on a matching gift day, so we have purchased TWO farms. Now, any funds raised will go to a THIRD farm! We are truly living generously!

SCAN to GIVE:



*If you currently give a recurring donation
through Vanco, please reach out to Pastor
Jonathan to switch that gift over to Tithely.
Thank you!*