



FEBRUARY/MARCH 2026

The Epistle

A newsletter for the community of
St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Welcome to New Staff!

In the fall, our facilities manager, Joey, resigned, and Megan and Rev. Ron stepped up to handle the facilities while we looked for a new staff member. After a relatively short search, we were lucky enough to find and hire Whitney! Here is her introduction:

Hello, my name is Whitney Molina, and I'm so grateful to join the St. Paul's Methodist Church community as the Facility Services Manager. I'm a mother of ten wonderful children, ranging in age from sixteen to four, and my family is at the heart of everything I do. I was born in Worcester, a small town in Massachusetts, and have lived a majority of my life in Arizona.

As a single mom navigating the loss of the father of my children last year, I've come to truly value the strength that comes from community, service, and supporting one another through life's seasons. I try to bring a positive spirit, a strong work ethic, and a caring heart to everything I do.

When I'm not at work, I love spending time with my children, being outdoors, reading, cooking, and working with ranch animals. I'm so thankful for the opportunity to serve alongside this congregation and be part of the ministry at St. Paul's.

Whitney started at the beginning of January and we are so grateful for her insight! She can be reached via email at facilities@stpaulsumctucson.net.

A Note from the Church Office

Over winter break, I received a phone call on the emergency pastoral care line from a hospice center, looking to find a pastor for one of her patients. All she knew was the patient's name and that she attended a Methodist church.

We were able to figure out which church in town this person was a part of and got her pastor to the hospice center.

As a reminder, if you find yourself in a situation where you would appreciate having your pastor come, please be sure to let your family or provider know.

The same applies to your end-of-life wishes. Make sure your family is aware of your desires for your end of life arrangements.

If you would like more information about our memorial garden, please contact the church office.



REGISTER TODAY
for VBS 2026:
March 16th - March 20th
9:00 am to 12 noon

Cost is \$25/child
and \$60max/family.
Children 3 years old (and potty
trained through 5th grade

**Why Volunteer
with Family Ministry?**
The Bible implores us to *Let
each generation tell its
children of your mighty acts;
let them proclaim your
power.* Psalm 145:4

Save the Dates!



Easter Family Worship
April 5th at 9:30 am

**Travesty at the Tea Party
Women's Tea**
May 2nd 2-4 pm

Creative Prayer
Saturdays, June 6th - July 25th
at 10 am in the A-Frame

SPLASH!
Summer Sunday School
Sunday, June 7th - July 12th
During the second service

Grill & Chill
(a talent show & pot luck)
July 11th 11 - 2 pm
in the Life Center

**Children's Sunday School
Rally Day Kick Off**
August 3rd

Sock Hop
September 19th 2-4 pm
in the Life Center



Contact Heather Stein for information on Children and Family
Ministries or any events on this page. 520-296-6149 or
FamilyMinistries@StPaulsUMCTucson.net



Shared Youth Ministry: Belong - Believe - Serve

The last two months:

Our youth stayed busy growing in friendship, faith, and service through many different gatherings. A big highlight was our **Advent caroling outreach at Fellowship Square**, after singing with Jene, our adopted grandparent, our youth joined kids, choir members, and volunteers to sing outside so residents could listen from their porches, sharing a full hour of joy.

After caroling, we enjoyed a Youth Christmas Party with cooking, laughter, “snow” games, s’mores by the fire pit, a Christmas-tree outfit contest, and a Kahoot about Advent and Christmas. Leading up to that, the youth practiced carols and helped decorate the youth space for Christmas, building excitement and teamwork. We also had a pie-baking night with a generosity focus, an ice-skating outing with another Hispanic youth group, a calm “new year reset” night with vision boards, and Echo the Story Bible learning with hands-on activities and friendly team challenges.



Upcoming Youth Group Events/Gatherings

- February 1: South District Event “Wesley Cup” at St. Mark’s UMC
- February 8: Flandrau Science Center for the “Tucson Sky & Beyond” show + exhibits.
- February 15: Monthly Echo the Story discussion at Christ Church (Sunday School study).
- February 22: Outdoor volleyball and pickleball at Desert Skies UMC.
- March 1: Picacho Peak State Park hike, with Drew’s support. RSVP will be required.
- March 7–8: Reforestation project (TBD).
- March 15: Annual Bowling outing.
- March 22: Youth-led fundraising event.
- March 29: Echo the Story Sunday School gathering.

SUMMER 2026 TRIPS:

- **Middle School:** 4-day expedition to the Grand Canyon. Date: June 10-13
- **High schoolers:** An international **Service-Learning Trip to Honduras**. Date: June 28th - July 5th. Thank you for supporting our youth and upcoming fundraising events. Stay tuned!

Would you like to lead a one-time workshop? Your expertise, insight, time, and gifts would be greatly appreciated. For more information or to share suggestions, please email Luis at youthdirector@tucsonumcyouth.com

