ST·PAUL
United Methodist Church

IMPACT REPORT 2026

Every year St. Paul ministries enable us to Glorify God, Grow in Faith and Give in Love.

CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

Many of our ministries reach out to our neighbors to share God's love with those in need of love, encouragement and comfort.

DORCAS SEWING CIRCLE

Dorcas Circle is making **100** wheelchair quilts, as well as fleece blankets, pillows and more for local assisted living facilities. These handmade gifts will be given out at Christmas.

LAUNDROMAT MINISTRY

The Inspirations Bible Study shows Christ's love for our neighbors and serves our community by paying for washer and dryer loads on 2nd Fridays. So far this year they've served **191** people! Next year they're hoping to have enough volunteers to reach even more people with additional days or extended hours.

MARTHA'S LOVING HEARTS

Martha's Loving Hearts Ministry shows the love of Christ through food and hospitality. Martha members provide food and hosts for memorial receptions, sweets for the Connection Center on first Sundays, and host events like movie nights, staff appreciation, and this year's Spring Fling.

PRAYER SHAWL

Prayer Shawl Ministry has been busy this year. In addition to making and sharing prayer shawls, they've started a new area of ministry. This year they've made **54** cot blanks for Ponce De Leon's VPK kids. They've also been making baby caps and blankets for Morton Plant Hospital. And they will be giving **100** hats and scarves to kindergarteners at Ponce and are making even more items to give away at Christmas FOR Pinellas!

SMILE MAKERS

Smile Makers sends cards to those who need encouragement and connection. So far this year they've sent **1,490** cards to residents of 4 local health facilities! They will also be sending an additional **1,500** Christmas cards to active duty military!



19 BAPTISMS IN 2026

We had 19 people who were baptized for the first time this year! As well as several more who reaffirmed their baptism on the beach.

OPEN ARMS MINISTRY

This has been a transitional year for Open Arms Ministry as we had to unexpectedly close for several months to address issues with the facility at our Clearwater campus. The ministry is now in the process of moving back to our main campus at Largo. Even though we have had some interruptions and changes to deal with, Open Arms continues to make a powerful impact in our community.

The September numbers below are typical of how much food we've been distributing each month since we reopened.

EACH MONTH

57,022 lbs of food
that helped to feed
642 households
1,828 individuals

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Thanks to your donations, this year we supplied **300** uniform pieces to Ponce De Leon Elementary and **280** bags of supplies for students at Frontier Elementary. Every week we also supply take home meals for kids at Largo Middle through our Pack-a-Sack Ministry.

300 UNIFORMS PIECES FOR PONCE

HANDICAPABLE MINISTRY

Handicapable Ministry provides a place for adults with special needs to worship, find community, share their talents and have fun. We make sure our Handicapable members feel uplifted and valued with lots of opportunities to highlight their accomplishments. Our average in person attendance this year on Wednesdays has been **149**, with our highest week being **195.** We also continue to post weekly videos on the Handi YouTube channel. We recently posted our 500th video!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

This year Children's Ministry has welcomed new families as we continue to partner with parents and equip them with tools to continue faith conversations at home. We're focusing on helping kids grow closer to Jesus, build deeper relationships and develop a healthy, sustainable ministry.

> **I grew up at St. Paul, and attended children's ministry myself when I was younger. It truly has shaped me into the person that I am today. It is such a wonderful community that welcomes you with open arms. In my teen and adult years, I got to volunteer and work with the kids of children's ministry. Not only was it so rewarding to be able to pour into the next generation, I know how big of an impact my role had on them. Now, my son Wren gets to experience the joys of children's ministry and all that it holds. He gets to go on Sunday mornings to play with friends and learn all about Jesus' love, all while surrounded by devoted caregivers. I love that Wren will be able to introduce his little brother to children's ministry when he arrives." -** Merina

CAMP XP

This year at camp we leaned into spending time with God, spending time with others, and using our gifts to share our stories. Eleven of this year's campers are now active in Student Ministry as well!

OVER 100 KIDS JOINED US AT CAMP

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church has grown as we enter year four with over 60 people joining us for our fall relaunch. This community is a place where families grow together in faith, build meaningful relationships, and support each other through every season of life.

> **"You know I look forward to Messy Church every month. Every craft I make I get to hang it up as a reminder. I even put them on my mailbox to share with my neighbors. I just love it"** - Lynn

STUDENT MINISTRY

50 students have joined us in Student Ministry this year. Guests are always welcome, and often include students with no church connections of their own.

During Sunday student worship our students lead music and we have **7** active volunteers who pour into students each week. We also held two midweek Bible studies this year, offered three opportunities to serve out of town, went on a summer retreat and did weekly activities all summer long.



26 STUDENTS JOINED US ON MISSON TRIPS THIS YEAR

Our students had an impact on our Florida community during this year's mission trips. High Schoolers served a church in Wimauma that was still damaged from the hurricanes that hit a few years ago. They helped clear debris and worked to make renovations and address water damage to the sanctuary. Middle schoolers served in Orlando by prepping plant beds at Salvation Army, sorting toiletries at Clean the World, packing food for food banks, and serving meals to the homeless.

ONLINE IMPACT

Our Student Ministry social media accounts continue to make an impact online. Our Student Ministry TikTok has had 2.9 million post views so far this year!

CONNECTING OUTSIDE THE WALLS

Unite NOW is one way we connect with other Student Ministry groups in our area. We had combined events with Anona UMC and they joined us on our summer retreat. We also have student leaders who are helping offer Christian gatherings during lunch at Osceola Fundamental.

SOCCER MINISTRY

We had two seasons of soccer for kids in grades 1-4 this year. 20 to 25 kids joined us for each season. We also had about 40 people join us for Family Soccer, which was a chance for kids, parents, and grandparents to come together and have fun as a family.