



Our St. Paul

January 2024

## **YOUR St. Paul Team**

Rev. Michelle Torigian, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Tim Powers-Reed, Ministry Assistant  
Patrick Kinney, Facility Manager  
Dr. Tristan Frampton, Director of Music  
Sherry Wilhelm, Office Coordinator  
Kathy Buehler, Bookkeeper  
Ian Hipkins, Technology Coordinator  
Evan Wilhelm, Support Staff  
Mary Blaies, Support Staff  
Kevin Chunko, Organist/Pianist

## **OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday - Thursday**

8:30am-4pm

**Friday**

9am-12pm

**Church Office Contact**

**Information:**

**618-233-3303**

**stpaulucc.org**

# ***2024 Adult Mission Trip Opportunities***



The adult mission team would like to do a mission trip outside of our local area in 2024. A destination has not yet been selected, but travel time will be limited to about 6 hours. We also have an opportunity to work on some projects at Camp DuBois.

Both trips will involve rehab efforts. No specific skills are needed, just a willingness to serve others. Timeframes for the trips are late spring, early summer, or early fall. If you are interested in being added to the list of potential volunteers or would like some additional information, contact

**Roger Harris 618-631-4502 or**  
**[rharris2325@gmail.com](mailto:rharris2325@gmail.com).**

**OUR ST. PAUL** is published monthly. It is edited by our pastor and produced by the office staff.

Material for inclusion may be sent to the church noted for **Our St. Paul**.

**NEXT ISSUE**

February

**DEADLINE**

January 24

**MAIL DATE**

February 1

## **Pastor's Message - "Glad Tidings of Comfort and Joy"**

A few years ago, I wrote an OSP article on the concept of Hygge. It's a Danish word pronounced Hoo-gah, and the concept means comfort and coziness. While it's a feeling many try to achieve in the long nights of Scandinavian winter, Hygge is something greater than one season. Many attain it by gathering with friends new and old finding the coziness in conversations no matter the time of year. Similar concepts are in nearby countries: Koselig (pronounced *koos-lee*) in Norway, Gezellig (*heh-SELL-ick*) in the Netherlands, and Gemutlichkeit (*guh-myoot-lish-KYT*) in Germany.

We here in the north and west quadrant of the world do not have a word that embraces the concept, and sometimes we overlook the need for such times together. I've often wondered what we in the Church (any and all churches) can continue to do to bring together the coziness and comfort seen in Hygge to our communities.

Sometime in the not-too-distant future, I plan on visiting Denmark to talk with folks about their commitment to coziness, comfort, well-being and joy. Even in the long nights of winter, they are able to embody happiness because of community and practices of warmth and light. How is it that the Church can create spaces both inside our own buildings and in the community to connect people when the holiday lights are finished but the days are still incredibly short?

In the meantime, it's my hope to bring it here this month. Join me for some Hygge Hours in the next month. First of all, we will be having a Game Night at St. Paul UCC on January 26 at 6:30pm. Second, we will be meeting for tea or coffee at LongStory Coffee on January 31 from 4-6pm. And then, on February 6 at 4:30pm, we will be joining together at Gruv on East Main Street for conversation.

I believe it's God's desire for us to find well-being and joy. "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice" notes Paul in Philippians 4:4. Jeremiah 29:11 states "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." That well being is God's Shalom or well-being and peace. God hopes for us and with us, wanting us to be at peace in our souls, healthy in our bodies, and joyful in our hearts.

I look forward to 2024 knowing that sharing God's love and kindness with the world will result in the blossoming of joy in the hearts of others. May you each know the peace, healing, and joy throughout this year as well!

Blessings, Pastor Michelle



**Friday, February 9th**

**7:30 pm** 

**St. Paul UCC-Sanctuary**

**Come celebrate Valentine's Day with the Greenleaf Singers! Enjoy an evening of Renaissance music on themes of love, presented by a vocal ensemble in full period costume. There will be a champagne and dessert reception following the concert. You won't want to miss this event!**

**To learn more about the ensemble, visit their website at [greenleafsingers.org](http://greenleafsingers.org). You can also follow them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/greenleafsingers](http://www.facebook.com/greenleafsingers).**



***PART OF THE ST. PAUL FINE ARTS CONCERT SERIES  
A FREE WILL OFFERING IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.***



## Note

As respiratory illnesses numbers rise, we ask you to do the following for the health of the community:

If you are sick with an upper respiratory infection or other virus, please consider staying home or wearing a mask. With Covid, please follow the CDC guidelines of 5 days of isolation and 5 days minimum of masking. If you have been exposed to Covid, please be aware of social distancing and consider wearing a mask. Thank you for helping to keep our community healthy!

Healthy members of the community are NOT required to wear a mask, but anyone is welcome to wear one inside the building.

## Culinaires' Breakfast

**January 21st**

**FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE!**

**\$10.00 SUGGESTED OFFERING**



*Hygge Hour  
with St. Paul UCC*

Hygge is the Danish concept of coziness, comfort, and community. Here at St. Paul UCC, we are going to have three events to recognize the need for this during these short days.

*\*Game Night at St. Paul UCC\**

*January 26 at 6:30pm*

*\*Wintering Book Discussion at Long Story Coffee\**

*January 31 at 4-6pm*


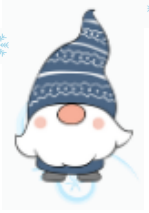





*\*Hygge Hour at Gräv Bistro & Wine Bar\**










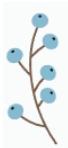



*February 6 at 4:30pm*

If you plan on attending,  
please contact the church  
office at 618.233.3303



# JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue
 	1 <b>ST. PAUL UCC CLOSED</b> <i>Happy New Year</i> 	2 9am-Quilters 5pm-Community Dinner 
7 <b>The Baptism of Christ</b> <b>9am Worship &amp; Installation of New Council Members</b> 10am Coffee & Doughnuts	8 9am-Pickle Ball 10:30am-Yoga Gold  <i>National JoyGerm Day (celebrating kindness and joy)</i> <i>National Clean Off Your Desk Day</i>	9 9am-Quilters 10am-Seekers Bible Study 12pm-Shufflers 5pm-Community Dinner  <i>Law Enforcement Day</i>
14 <b>9am Worship</b> 10am Coffee & Doughnuts <b>10 am Mission Meeting-Library</b>	15 <b>ST. PAUL UCC CLOSED</b>  <b>Martin Luther King, Jr Day</b> 	16 9am-Quilters 10am-Seekers Bible Study 5pm-Community Dinner  <i>National Religious Freedom Day</i>
21 <b>9am Worship— Music Sunday</b> 10am-Culinaire’s Breakfast <b>10am Fine Arts Meeting-Library</b>  <i>National Hugging Day</i>	22 9am-Pickle Ball 10:30am-Yoga Gold <b>7pm-Executive Council</b>  <i>National Celebration of Life Day</i>	23 9am-Quilters 10am-Seekers Bible Study 1pm-Mats for Community 5pm-Community Dinner
28 <b>9am Worship</b> 10am Coffee & Doughnuts   <i>National Data Privacy Day</i>	29 9am-Pickle Ball 10:30am-Yoga Gold   <i>National Puzzle Day</i>	30 9am-Quilters 10am-Seekers Bible Study 5pm-Community Dinner  <i>National Croissant Day</i>

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3</p> <p>9am-Pickle Ball 12pm-Beginner Pickleball 6pm-Bells Rehearsal 7:15pm-Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10 am-Worship Meeting 10:30am-Yoga Gold 1:30pm-Christian Ed Meeting</p> <p> <i>National Trivia Day</i></p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:15 am-Pickle Ball</p> <p> <i>National Bird Day</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p><b>EPIPHANY</b></p> <p></p>
<p>10</p> <p>9am-Pickle Ball 12pm-Beginner Pickleball 6pm-Bells Rehearsal 7:15pm-Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10am-Worship Meeting 10:30am-Yoga Gold <b>7pm-Personnel Meeting</b></p> <p><i>National Human Trafficking Awareness Day</i></p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:15 am-Pickle Ball</p> <p> <i>National Pharmacist Day</i></p>	<p>13</p> <p> <i>National Rubber Ducky Day</i></p>
<p>17</p> <p>9am-Pickle Ball 11:30 am-Beginner Pickleball <b>1pm-Women’s Guild</b> 6pm-Bells Rehearsal 7:15pm-Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:30am-Yoga Gold <b>1pm-Website Meeting</b> <b>6pm-Council Meeting (Tavern on Main)</b></p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:15 am-Pickle Ball</p> <p> <i>National Popcorn Day</i></p>	<p>20</p> <p> <i>National Cheese Lovers Day</i></p>
<p>24</p> <p>9am-Pickle Ball 11:30 am-Beginner Pickleball 6pm-Bells Rehearsal 7:15pm-Choir Rehearsal</p> <p><i>National Compliment Day</i></p>	<p>25</p> <p> <i>National Opposite Day</i></p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:15 am-Pickle Ball 6:30 pm—Game Night</p> <p> <i>National Spouses Day</i></p>	<p>27</p> <p> <i>Holocaust Remembrance Day</i></p>
<p>31 9am-Pickle Ball 11:30 am-Beginner Pickleball 4-6 pm - Wintering at LongStory Coffee 6pm-Bells Rehearsal 7:15pm-Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><i>let it snow</i></p> <p></p>	<p></p>	<p>January is National Hobby Month!</p> <p></p>

## MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

Thank you from St. Paul Church. We appreciate your generosity!  
TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

### IMO Marilee Black

Kent Black

### IMO Rose Hoy (Music)

Pamela Nicholson

### IMO Theresa Yung

Robert Yung

### IMO Linda Mentzer

Lana & Adam Duncan  
Thomas & Gwendolyn Borsch  
Rusty & Sandy Wagner  
Allen & Nancy Scharf  
Jeffrey & Christine Rhodes  
Judith Koch & Al Stahl  
Paul & Stacy Mentzer  
Tracy & Michael Donnelly  
Alan & Mary Karban  
Dirk & Lynn Garrett  
Dolores & John Mackin  
Doug & Ruth Bush  
Glenn & Gina Eberhart  
Mark & Kalynn Larsen  
Patricia Lauth  
Kenneth & Phyllis Haas  
Charlotte & Michael Romano  
Dan & Janet Metzger Trust  
Deborah Lippert  
Janice Friedrich  
Tom & Diane Boschert

Curt & Sherri Gericke

Don & Kathy Keck

Frank & Judy Wojcik

Gay Eckert

Janice Martin

The Hoffeditz Family

Beverly Brightwell & Dana Rosenzweig

M & M Staff (Past & President)

Donna Davis

Terry Kalinowski

Jane Bonaldi

Dave & Sue Hoffmann (Music)

Tim & Sandy Ritter

James Spargur

David Leming

Mike & Fran West

Gary & Cheryl Buckrod

Lynn Koehler

Mona Scheibel

Linda Mentzer Trust

Glaenzer Electric Inc

Betty Eckert

The Belleville West Admin Team

Brittney Brinkmeier

Buffwood Homeowners Assoc.

Pete Kobernus & Sherry Davinroy



## ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

November 2023 Attendance: 9am 415 + Online November 2022 9am: 376 + Online

November 2023 All Gifts: \$27,179.97

November 2022 All Gifts: \$38,555.83



Revenues	<u>2023 Final Budget</u>	<u>2023 November Actuals</u>	<u>YTD Actuals</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Congregational Offerings	373,479	30,824	335,786	89.91%
Special Stewardship Events	4,000	0	7,029	175.71%
Rental Income - 205 W B Street	10,200	915	9,740	95.49%
Building Fund	22,000	785	16,557	75.26%
Outreach / Various Missions	0	3,110	37,128	N/A
Memorials	12,000	1,110	7,619	63.49%
Bequests	0	0	40,000	N/A
Building Income	5,000	858	5,883	117.66%
Pastoral Honorarium	1,200	0	1,045	87.08%
Pastoral Expense Revenue	0	375	0	N/A
Investment Income / Michelson Income	26,505	0	28,400	107.15%
Endowment Distribution (per guidelines)	110,500	0	60,000	N/A
Endowment Distribution (Cap. Exp.)	63,000	0	50,392	79.99%
Other Income	1,500	300	11,457	763.79%
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>629,383</b>	<b>38,277</b>	<b>611,036</b>	<b>97.08%</b>
Team Revenues	9,000	1,805	11,448	127.20%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>638,383</b>	<b>40,082</b>	<b>622,484</b>	<b>97.51%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Personnel	(328,793)	(28,160)	(289,003)	87.90%
Administrative Support (formerly Operating Expenses)	(38,628)	(5,334)	(38,083)	98.59%
Outreach (formerly Mission Board)	(13,885)	(184)	(25,591)	184.30%
Education	(2,925)	(113)	(1,035)	35.40%
Stewardship	(1,675)	(346)	(4,239)	253.09%
Property	(237,000)	(13,837)	(223,229)	94.19%
Congregational Care (formerly Worship Bd)	(15,477)	(1,077)	(58,324)	376.84%
General Fund	0	0	(240)	N/A
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<b>(638,383)</b>	<b>(49,051)</b>	<b>(639,744)</b>	<b>100.21%</b>
<b>Difference between Revenue &amp; Expenses</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(8,969)</b>	<b>(17,260)</b>	

**YOGA GOLD**  
**@ ST. PAUL**  
 With Jessica

Every Monday @ 10:30 am  
 and  
 the 1st & 3rd Thursdays @ 10:30 am



**Flowers, music and  
 bulletin sponsorships  
 are a lovely way to  
 honor the memory,  
 birthday or  
 achievement of your  
 loved one. To sign up,  
 you can call the  
 church office.  
 Cost is \$35.00.**



**St Paul Shufflers and Gamers**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> Tuesday of the month**  
**@ 12 Noon**

It's time to eat and have some fun. Bring your favorite game or join in with others. It can be a card game or board game. Or you can just be a kibbitzer and become a part of the party.

**Who:** Members and friends are welcome to break bread and have fun and conversation.  
**Where:** Heritage Hall  
**When:** 12:00 noon – until you're tired of having fun and conversation  
**What:** A light lunch of soup or salad will be provided. Bring your own beverage and anything else you want with your soup or salad; i.e. crackers, bread, butter. Coffee can be provided.  
 January 9th we are having  
 Chicken vegetable noodle soup.



**Senior Pickle  
 Ball**

Mondays & Wednesdays  
 @ 9-11am,  
 Fridays 9:15-11:15

**Beginners Wednesdays**  
**@ 11:30**

**St Paul UCC ACTIVITY CENTER**  
 For information call  
 St. Clair County Office on Aging:  
 618-234-4410 ext. 7034





# Anniversaries & Birthdays



## **January Wedding Anniversaries**

1/3-Roger & Susan Relfe

1/30-Cecil & Judy Crites

## **January Birthdays**

1/1-Rick Haar

1/7-Paul Sutherland

1/8-Janet Hentze

1/12-Kathy Birkner

1/13-Judy Crites

1/14-Carrie Naylor

1/14-Robert O'Hara

1/16-Gloria Strohm

1/16-EJ Sporleder

1/17-Roger Henke

1/18-Oceola Mueller

1/18-Sarah Hafford

1/19-JoAnn Elmore

1/21-Bernadine Limper

1/21-Cal Guthrie

1/24-Lou Ann Niemann

1/24-David Steen

1/27-Shirley Boeschen

1/28-Betty Eckert

1/29-Roger Harris

1/29-Raymond Keplar

1/31-Andrew Elser

## For Your Prayers

Lori Coleman

Carol Hotz

Marilyn Dinkelman

Debbie McIntyre,  
daughter of Arline  
Worms

Tim Ritter

Laura Howie, daughter  
of Elgee Phillips

Alec Zaber

Hector Rivera

Dawson Anderson

Scott Martin, son of  
Shirley Martin

Betty Rieso

Linda Minton

Wayne Caughman

Tim Ritter Jr., son of  
Sandy & Tim Ritter

Jerry Hough

Peggy Mejas -friend of  
Mimi Llamas

Lou Ann Niemann

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please send prayer requests to:

[pastormichelle@stpaulucc.org](mailto:pastormichelle@stpaulucc.org) or call 618-233-3303.



115 WEST "B" STREET, BELLEVILLE, IL 62220

PHONE: 618-233-3303

MAIL DATE: January 2, 2024

Non Profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BELLEVILLE, IL  
PERMIT #17

Return Service Requested

Labels Here

### Weekly events

Sundays 9am Worship  
10am Coffee & Doughnuts  
Culinaires' Breakfast  
3rd Sunday of the month



Watch videos on YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/>



Like us on Facebook  
*St Paul United Church of Christ,  
Belleville, Illinois*

Here is how to stay in touch with St. Paul

1) **Watch the services and check for event updates on FACBOOK -**

Like us at *St. Paul United Church of Christ Belleville, IL*

2) **Go to [stpaulucc.org](http://stpaulucc.org)**

-and you will find: videos of services, sermons, archives, and much more!!

3) **Listen to the radio! 690am**

9am Live Sundays & repeat at 9pm

4) **Sign up for the eNews (Newsletter)!**

Please Let Us Know! Due to a change in Memorial Hospital's record system, we currently are not able to find out who is in their Belleville or Shiloh locations when we call the Belleville-area hospitals each day. Please have someone (you, your family member, or a chaplain at the hospital) let us know when you are at any of the hospitals on either side of the river.

