



Our St. Paul

February 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  
Kevin Chunko, Organist/Pianist  
Sherry Wilhelm, Office Coordinator  
Kathy Buehler, Bookkeeper  
Ian Hipkins, Technology Coordinator  
Evan Wilhelm, Support Staff  
Mary Blaies, Support Staff

## Church office hours:

Monday - Thursday  
8:30am-4pm  
Friday  
9am-12pm

Church Office  
Contact  
Information:  
618-233-3303



## Welcome to St. Paul

### Rev. Tim Powers-Reed

Ministry Assistant for Congregational Care  
and Christian Education

The Reverend Timothy Powers-Reed is a Christ follower, activist, pastor, and poet. An ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, he loves faith deeply and is committed to finding ways to continue to bring the gospel into the world, past this generation, and into those to follow. Tim attended the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana for his undergraduate work. Tim also attended Rockford University for graduate work in multiple intelligences, receiving a Master of Arts in Teaching in 2006. Tim was previously named the state winner of Excellence in Teaching in Illinois in 2006.

Tim received his Master of Divinity degree in 2022 from Eden Theological Seminary and is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Ministry from the same institution. He is passionate about justice and Jesus and works as the settled pastor of Trinity UCC Belleville, the Ministry Assistant for St. Paul's UCC in Belleville, and serves as the president of Common Ground, the LGBTQIA+ organization at Eden Theological Seminary. Tim is a published author and is currently the author of [www.pastortalk.net](http://www.pastortalk.net), a blog that shares inclusivity, poetry, and devotions with the world. Tim currently resides alongside his husband, Shea Powers-Reed, and their dog, Ivy, in Florissant, Missouri. In his spare time, Tim can be found crafting, reading, playing board games, and tackling DIY projects!



**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**

March

**DEADLINE**

February 23

**MAIL DATE**

March 1

## **Pastor's Message - "Celebrating Candlemas"**

Recently, I was in St. Augustine for my cousin's wedding. In January, the town is filled with lights - three million of them, so they say.

As we walked around town, we could see not only lights still hanging all over the establishments and outside of buildings, but Christmas decorations as well. The bed and breakfast we stayed in had their Christmas trees still up and poinsettias decorating the porch. Christmas trees were all around town as well. All these lights in the depth of winter brought me much joy.

When I got back home, I saw something familiar around Belleville - Christmas trees still up in various places. In fact, nearing the end of January, I saw trees hanging from the ceiling at Pour 322 as well as through the windows at Down the Hall Homebrew and Copperfire.

I am going to confess something here: our tree is still up at home. Being that Armenian Christmas is on Epiphany (January 6), I emphasize to Aaron the importance of keeping up Christmas decorations until then. Because life begins to get busy again post Epiphany, the tree takes a little while to fully disassemble after that date.

That being said, I found out that it's totally legitimate to have one's Christmas tree up until Candlemas which is on February 2! Candlemas is sometimes considered the very end of Christmas and Epiphany seasons, and the day recognizes the presentation of Jesus in the Temple as well as Mary's purification. *Great*, I think to myself. Some traditions take their candles to church to have them blessed. There's also a neat tradition in Germany that if the sun is shining on Candlemas, then the hedgehog will see its shadow, and we'll have second winter. Obviously, our modern-day American Groundhog Day was adapted from this practice.


This is all to say that there is a piece of our souls celebrating any extra light we have this time of year. The one week we had when the sun didn't shine in January weighted on my soul. When the sun appeared the next week, I had to take a few moments to step outside and give thanks to God for the extra light.

Since days are still so short, we will put the Christmas tree lights on - even in late January. I believe all of these extra lights are a gift from God to hold us through the winter months. Honestly, there are no rules for what works for all of you regarding Christmas decorations and lights around your house. As for Candlemas: I'm blessing your candles from afar. May they bring you joy, warmth, and peace. And may your Candlemas be merry and bright - except for the part with the Groundhog; may he not see his shadow so we can have a mild February and March.



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.**  
**DOORS OPEN AT 7:00PM**



## CULINAIRE'S BREAKFAST

Join us on the 3rd Sunday of the month immediately following Sunday Worship Service.



A free will offering is suggested.



## Souper-Bowl of Caring

Bring in your non-perishable food items on January 28th & February 4th & 11th for the Community Interfaith Food Pantry.

### CANNED ITEMS NEEDED (preferably pull tops):

Tuna, chicken, ravioli, SpaghettiO's, chili with beans, Chunky soups!

Use your canned items to vote for your favorite football team in the big game as part of the fun. There will be three choices. NFC, AFC and Don't Care until the final teams are determined.

Separate boxes will be available in the Welcome Center to place your bet with your food. Feel free to grab one of the bags in the basket in the Welcome Center to help remember to purchase your items as well as carry them. There should be a list of items in these bags too. Thank you for participating in this fun activity to collect food for our neighbors. Remember no matter what team wins, the Food Pantry is the real winner.

## Hoyleton Honors Night

If you are interested in attending the **Hoyleton Honors Night Dinner on February 23** and would like to sit with other St Paul members, please send your check made out to Hoyleton Youth and Family Services to the church by February 5th. The memo line should specify Hoyleton Honors Night. The cost is \$100.00 per person. The night begins with registration and a cocktail reception at 6 pm and the dinner/program begins at 7 pm. The church will submit your check and RSVP to Hoyleton.



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).**

## Ash Wednesday Service

FEBRUARY 14  
7PM  
ST. PAUL UCC



FOR YOU ARE DUST,  
AND TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN.  
GENESIS 3:19



## FRIDAYS WITH THE FRIAR

*Meet with Pastor Tim  
discuss theology &  
current events and  
enjoy a cup of coffee!*

**Every Friday from 10am to Noon!**

*@ Pour 322 in  
Belleville, Illinois!*
















## ST. PAUL UCC ANNUAL MEETING




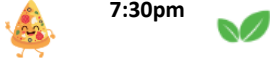








FEB 25  
IMMEDIATELY  
FOLLOWING  
WORSHIP

MATERIALS  
AVAILABLE IN  
CHURCH ON  
FEB 11

ZOOM ACCESS  
AVAILABLE- CALL  
OFFICE FOR MORE  
INFORMATION

**F  
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Sun	Mon	Tue
	<p><b>National Cancer Prevention Month</b></p> 	<p><b>Black History Month</b></p> 
<p><b>4</b>  <b>9am Worship</b>            10am Coffee &amp; Doughnuts  <b>10am-St. Paul Friends Meeting</b></p> 	<p><b>5</b>            9am-Pickle Ball            10:30am-Yoga Gold</p>  <p><i>National Weatherperson's Day</i></p>	<p><b>6</b>            9am-Quilters            10am-Seekers Bible Study            12pm-Shufflers  <b>1pm-Website Meeting</b>            4:30pm-Hygge Hour @ Gruv            5pm-Community Dinner</p>
<p><b>11 Super Bowl Sunday</b>  <b>9am Worship</b>            10am Coffee &amp; Doughnuts  <b>10 am Mission Meeting-Library</b></p> <p><i>National Shut-In Visitation Day</i></p> 	<p><b>12</b>            9am-Pickle Ball            10:30am-Yoga Gold            4:30pm-Investment Meeting</p> 	<p><b>13</b>            9am-Quilters            10am-Seekers Bible Study            12pm-Shufflers            5pm-Community Dinner</p> <p><i>Fat Tuesday</i></p> 
<p><b>18</b>  <b>9am Worship— Music Sunday</b>            10am-Culinaire's Breakfast</p> <p><i>National Drink Wine Day</i></p> 	<p><b>19</b>  <b>PRESIDENT'S DAY</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></p> 	<p><b>20</b>            9am-Quilters            10am-Seekers Bible Study            1pm-Mats for Community            5pm-Community Dinner</p> <p> <i>National Muffin Day</i></p>
<p><b>25</b>  <b>Annual Congregational Meeting</b>  <b>9am Worship</b>            10am Coffee &amp; Doughnuts</p>  	<p><b>26</b>            9am-Pickle Ball            10:30am-Yoga Gold</p> <p><i>National Letter to an Elder Day</i></p> 	<p><b>27</b>            9am-Quilters            10am-Seekers Bible Study            5pm-Community Dinner</p> <p> <i>National Retro Day</i></p>

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>LENT BEGINS 2/14/24</b></p> 	<p>1 10 am-Worship Meeting 10:30am-Yoga Gold 1:30pm-Christian Ed Meeting</p> <p><i>National Freedom Day National Dark Chocolate Day</i></p>	<p>2 9:15 am-Pickle Ball</p>  <p><i>Ground Hog Day National Wear Red Day</i></p>	<p>3</p>  <p><i>National Missing Persons Day Ice Cream for Breakfast Day</i></p>
<p>7 9am-Pickle Ball 12pm-Beginner Pickleball <b>1pm-With You Meeting</b> 6pm-Bells Rehearsal 7:15pm-Choir Rehearsal</p> <p><i>Send a Card to a Friend Day</i></p>	<p>8 10am-Worship Meeting <b>7pm-Personnel Meeting</b></p>  <p><i>National Kite Flying Day</i></p>	<p>9 9:15 am-Pickle Ball</p> <p><b>Fine Art Concert</b> <b>Greenleaf Singers</b> <b>7:30pm</b></p>  <p><i>National Pizza Day</i></p>	<p>10</p>  <p><i>The Wedding of Bette Rotert and Jerry Bennett</i></p>
<p>14 <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b></p> <p>9am-Pickle Ball 11:30 am-Beginner Pickleball <b>7pm-Ash Wed Service</b></p>  <p><i>Valentine's Day</i></p>	<p>15 10:30am-Yoga Gold <b>6pm-Council Meeting</b></p>  <p><i>Singles Awareness Day</i></p>	<p>16 9:15 am-Pickle Ball</p>  <p><i>National Caregivers Day</i></p>	<p>17</p>  <p><i>National Random Acts of Kindness Day</i></p>
<p>21 9am-Pickle Ball 11:30 am-Beginner Pickleball <b>1pm-Women's Guild</b> 6pm-Bells Rehearsal 7:15pm-Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>22</p>  <p><i>National Chili Day National Margarita Day</i></p>	<p>23 9:15 am-Pickle Ball <b>6pm-Hoyleton Honors Dinner</b></p>  <p><i>Hoyleton Youth &amp; Family Services</i></p>	<p>24</p> 
<p>28 9am-Pickle Ball 11:30 am-Beginner Pickleball 6pm-Bells Rehearsal 7:15pm-Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>29</p>  <p><i>National Toast Day National Leap Day Rare Disease Day</i></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 Walter Beatty**  
Ricky & Julie Morton

**IMO Jodie Lippert**  
Jeff & Diane Lutz

**IMO Linda Mentzer**  
Linda Altmansberger



**Remember St. Paul UCC as you  
prepare your will or trust!**

StPaulUCC.org

Contact the church to learn more:  
618.233.3303



**MATS FOR COMMUNITY COMFORT**  
Next meeting - Wednesday, February 20th

### 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.



**THANK YOU to  
all of our  
volunteers!**

**WE COULDN'T  
DO ALL OF THIS  
WITHOUT YOU!**

### 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	2023 Final Budget	2023 December Actuals	YTD Actuals	% of Budget
Congregational Offerings	373,479	38,399	374,185	100.19%
Special Stewardship Events	4,000	0	7,029	175.71%
Rental Income - 205 W B Street	10,200	915	10,655	104.46%
Building Fund	22,000	922	17,479	79.45%
Outreach / Various Missions	0	3,875	41,003	N/A
Memorials	12,000	3,690	11,309	94.24%
Bequests	0	0	40,000	N/A
Building Income	5,000	1,116	6,999	139.98%
Pastoral Honorarium	1,200	0	1,245	103.75%
Pastoral Expense Revenue	0	200	0	N/A
Investment Income / Michelson Income	26,505	0	28,400	107.15%
Endowment Distribution (per guidelines)	110,500	40,000	100,000	N/A
Endowment Distribution (Cap. Exp.)	63,000	0	50,392	79.99%
Other Income	1,500	0	11,457	763.79%
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>629,383</b>	<b>89,117</b>	<b>700,152</b>	<b>111.24%</b>
Team Revenues	9,000	1,105	12,553	139.48%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>638,383</b>	<b>90,222</b>	<b>712,706</b>	<b>111.64%</b>
Expenses				
Personnel	(328,793)	(27,683)	(316,686)	96.32%
Administrative Support (formerly Operating Expenses)	(38,628)	(2,783)	(40,866)	105.79%
Outreach (formerly Mission Board)	(13,885)	(20,276)	(45,867)	330.33%
Education	(2,925)	(255)	(1,290)	44.11%
Stewardship	(1,675)	0	(4,239)	253.09%
Property	(237,000)	(11,837)	(235,066)	99.18%
Congregational Care (formerly Worship Bd)	(15,477)	(3,441)	(61,765)	399.08%
General Fund	0	0	(240)	N/A
Total Operating Expense	<b>(638,383)</b>	<b>(66,275)</b>	<b>(706,018)</b>	<b>110.59%</b>
Difference between Revenue & Expenses	<b>0</b>	<b>23,947</b>	<b>6,687</b>	



## *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 events to recognize the need for this during these short days. Join us for the last of three events.

*\*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



## St Paul Shufflers and Gamers



2ND Tuesday of the month @ 12 Noon

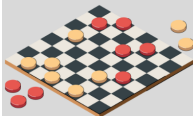
It's time to eat and have some fun. Bring your favorite game or join in with others.

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.

February soup: chicken & vegetable noodle





# ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



## **February Wedding Anniversaries**



2/4-Raymond & Jean Chamberlin



## **February Birthdays**



2/1-Jamie Wilson

2/3-Donna Kelly

2/3-Donna Nettleton

2/3-Robert Trentman

2/4-Cindy Kettler

2/4-Deborah Meyer

2/6-Gene Crites

2/6-Duane Hausmann

2/8-Marlene Lindauer

2/10-Gary Friedrich

2/12-Kay Ortmann

2/14-Patricia Pierce

2/16-William James

2/17-Janet Spencer

2/18-Brian Mentzer

2/18-Clarence Wolf

2/20-Sandra Krummrich

2/21-Mimi Llamas

2/23-James Bevirt

2/23-Jean Sporleder

2/24-John Hoehn

2/27-Roger Relfe

### 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

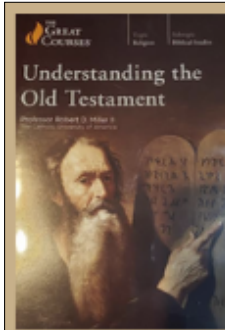
Denise Caughman

Lou Ann Niemann

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Please send prayer requests to:

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



### Please join us!

The Seekers are studying  
**Understanding the Old Testament**  
at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesdays in the Genesis Room.  
All members and non-members  
are welcome; no prior Biblical  
knowledge is necessary!

115 WEST "B" STREET, BELLEVILLE, IL 62220

PHONE: 618-233-3303

MAIL DATE: February 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  
Culinaire's' Breakfast 3rd Sunday of the month



Like us on Facebook  
*St Paul UCC, Belleville, Il*



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

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)!**

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

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



### 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

