



Our St. Paul

March 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**



St. Paul UCC Holy Week Services



Palm Sunday Service - March 24, 2024 - 9 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service - March 28, 2024 - 7 p.m.
(Will be held at Trinity UCC - potluck dinner at 5:45pm)

Good Friday Service - March 29, 2024 - 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday Service - March 31, 2024 - 9 a.m.



St. Paul UCC
115 W. B St., Belleville, IL 62220
618-233-3303
www.stpaulucc.org



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 - Lilly Renewal Grant for 2025

I (Pastor Michelle) am due for a sabbatical at six years of service to St. Paul United Church of Christ. In conversation with my pastoral relations team and the church council, I am proposing taking 3 1/2 months in the summer of 2025— as July 2, 2025 will be 7 years after I started at St. Paul UCC. Part of this was deciding to submit an application to the Lilly Foundation for a competitive renewal grant. The grant would include funds for the pastor's trip and some moneys for church renewal activities during this time. This is a proposal based on receiving the moneys, and a restructured agenda would be presented if the funds would not be received by the foundation. We want to keep you up-to-date on the status of the grant as we will find out more in the late summer.

The Lilly Foundation Grant asks what activities will make “the pastor's heart sing.”

The process of creation is part of our work with God to build God's Realm in this world. When we came together nearly six years ago, we both brought our creative roots with us - for St. Paul UCC, it was through the music ministry. For me, the arts continue to refill my soul. One of my self-care activities is working on my art. To me, I connect with God when I'm creating a picture on a piece of wood, painting a picture, or even writing prayers, liturgy, and poetry.

If I could name this sabbatical, I would name this “Creative Roots.” Taking a sabbatical with the activities planned will be a way for me to refill my spiritual bag of creative tools. It will give me new ideas for sermon illustrations and innovative ways I can weave the elements of a worship service together. Being able to stir the bowl of creation in my life allows my heart to sing and spirit to soar.

I continue to seek ways to incorporate more creative programs into the life of the church, into my ministry, and into my life. I feel that God has called me to use my first degree - as an English major with a writing concentration - for the healing and joy of God's realm. I believe that dedicated time to create and be inspired by new scenes will be a catalyst to design more innovative ways of ministry. Even now, sitting in cafes writing, in a park drawing, or connecting with people through community events nourishes my soul. Like most pastors, I do not have much dedicated time to create as it takes much intentionality to carve time for art and writing. Freeing myself from the everyday tasks and taking dedicated time for those activities - whether in North America or Western Europe- will help me see creation from a new angle.

Additionally I marvel at the historical connection that St. Paul members have with their German ancestry. As this has warmed my heart in the years I've been with the church, it has reminded me that I, too, must spend time connecting with my ancestral roots.

Just as I await a time of creation, St. Paul UCC is also ready. They have been pondering ways that can invite more art, music, and writing into our building. St. Paul is a congregation extremely connected to its history and invested in discovering God's call for the church's tomorrow. A church that asks itself, “How can we connect our spirit of creation with our historical roots?” takes the various beautiful threads of the past 185 years and begins to knit something new for the future.

This season of renewal for both the church and me is one where we can recall our stories and our gifts. Our souls have opportunities to find joy and rest in this time of sabbath.

Pastor's Message - Lilly Renewal Grant for 2025

About the trip proposed for the Lilly Foundation Grant

5/12/25-5/18/25	At home in Belleville, Illinois
5/19/25-6/4/25	Travel to London, UK by flight with mom and Aaron (who arrives 6/3) Days exploring art museums, churches, various sites including museums, churches, gardens, etc. Travel to Leicester, UK for three of the days to visit the area from which my great-grandparents emigrated.
6/5/25-6/11/25	Travel to Paris by train with mom and Aaron. Exploring the arts of Paris as well as Giverny and Versailles.
6/12/25-6/14/25	Travel back to the UK. Mom returns home.
6/14/25-6/28/25	Cruise to Norway with Aaron. Traveling around the coast of Norway and the above the Arctic Circle during the summer solstice. Will also be in ports in Scotland and the Netherlands as part of the cruise.
6/28/25-7/15/25	Return to the UK with Aaron. Spend time in the southern area of England as well as London to explore areas noted in literature and the arts. Will be taking day trips from London to areas such as Bath, Stonehenge, etc. Additional sites in London also explored.
7/16/25-7/26/25	Home in Belleville, Illinois for a period of rest and reflection.
7/26/25-8/11/25	Travel to Southern Ontario This trip is to visit family and places where my mom grew up (with mom and Aaron). Stopping along the way to see my in-laws in Columbus. Mom and I will be traveling home by flight from Buffalo.
8/11/25-8/25/25	Home in Belleville, Illinois—time of reflection, artwork, and writing
8/26/25	Return to St. Paul UCC

*** Spending time throughout these months writing a prayers and poetry.**

The following two sections were written by members of the congregation in support of the grant as the congregation will also receive renewal funds for activities with this grant.

Congregation's views as to the benefit of the program:

In Leviticus 25, the Israelites are advised to take a break every 7 years. And so it is with Pastor Michelle. She is on call 24/7, and a break from her job will invigorate her physical body and her mind and will help her to reconnect to God as her spirit rests, also. We expect our pastor to come back refreshed and revived with new energy for her job, and we believe she will have new ideas to inspire the activities of our congregation. She can use her experiences, her exposure to other cultures, and her family connections to enhance her sermons, develop new activities centered around her experiences, and strengthen her own personal relationship to God, all of which will help us in her role as our leader. This rest will prepare her to continue her ministry at St. Paul's without fear of burnout.

Continued, See Next Page

Pastor's Message - Lilly Renewal Grant for 2025

Congregation's plan during the sabbatical:

Prior to the beginning of the sabbatical, we will invite our conference minister to our service on May 11. We will have a litany of blessing for both the congregation and the pastor. Following worship, we will have a lunch and social time to bless one another before Pastor Michelle departs. St. Paul has a 30+ year tradition of fine arts series. To recognize her leave-taking, sabbatical return, and congregational renewal, we will create a series of fine arts concerts that celebrates the theme and focus of Creative Roots. Considered will be: Masterpiece works by classical composers to be presented by local musicians with appropriate artwork backgrounds; a concert presented by the Music Departments of Belleville High Schools; a handbell concert; and a concert by The United States Air Force Band of Mid-America. We are planning a guided tour of The St. Louis Art Museum to study works of German and French artists. We will offer a variety of creative arts classes (ex: woodburning, ceramics, flower arranging, and painting) taught by our members and local artists, utilizing the artistic gifts of the congregation. We will invite members to share their artistic gifts on Sundays during worship. Presentations might include liturgical dance, musical performance, voice, dramatic arts, and poetry readings as well as an art gallery in our Welcome Center displaying members' own creations. After the sabbatical, we will have a "welcome home" reception with cake and punch and joint sessions to reflect together on our renewal activities.

MAUNDY THURSDAY **MARCH 28**

AT TRINITY UCC

47 N DOUGLAS AVE, BELLEVILLE, IL 62220

Potluck will start at 5:45 pm and service starts at 7 pm! The menu is Catered sandwiches with attendees encouraged to bring soup, salad or a side dish!

Concordia, Trinity, the ECC, and St. Paul are participating! The service will have Rev. Joan from Concordia bring the message and also have a hand washing ceremony and communion!



Join Pastor Michelle & Pastor Tim for this community worship event!

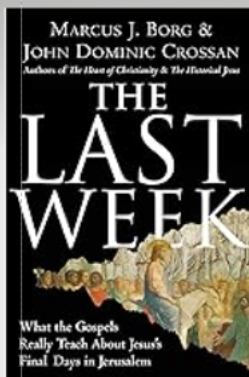
ATTENTION SEEKERS:

We will be reading and discussing this book:

The Last Week by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan.

It's a day-by-day account of Jesus's final week in Jerusalem. We have a couple of facilitators lined up.

Tuesdays @ 10am - Genesis Room



Schedule of topics:

Feb 27 Palm Sunday

Mar 5 Monday

Mar 12 Tuesday

Mar 19 Wednesday

Mar 26 Thursday

Apr 2 Friday (we are omitting Saturday)

Apr 9 Easter Sunday

Apr 16 Marcus Borg

video from Marcus Borg Foundation

St. Paul UCC, 115 W. B. St., Belleville, IL 62220 ~ 618-233-3303

ST. PAUL UCC RUMMAGE SALE

115 W. B Street
Belleville, IL
Activity Center (Gym)
(Across from Franklin School)
INSIDE RAIN OR SHINE!

Donations are accepted
starting April 2nd on
Tuesdays & Thursdays
from 9am-2pm only.

**Please call to schedule your
drop off time!**



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.**

St. Paul United Church of Christ

185th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, March 17, 2024

Worship Service at 9am

Celebration Brunch immediately following service
compliments of our St. Paul UCC Culinaires!

Menu:

Pork Loins, Potatoes, Red Cabbage, Eggs and Apple & Cherry Strudel

Reservations are required for brunch!

Deadline to rsvp is March 6th!

**email: swilhelme@stpaulucc.org
or call the office @ 618-233-3303.**

St. Paul UCC

115 W. B. St., Belleville, IL 62220

StPaulUCC.org

StPaulUCC.org

*Celebrate 185 years of
St. Paul United Church of Christ*

On March 17, St. Paul UCC will be celebrating its 185th anniversary.

Throughout the decades, we've rejoiced during many weddings, baptisms, anniversaries, confirmations and more. We continue to remember the loved ones who made a difference in the life of our congregation from our parents and grandparents to our Sunday School teachers, pastors, and music leaders.

Through a financial gift to St. Paul UCC, you can honor the beautiful times we've shared together and the saints who have made us the church what it is today: a congregation promoting joy, kindness, and love to the greater Belleville community through a gift to St. Paul UCC today.

All gifts will be mentioned in the March 17 bulletin and in the St. Paul UCC E-News.

We would like to give a gift in (circle one) Honor OR Memory
of EVENT _____
and/or PERSON _____
Amount Given \$ _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

HELLO SPRING



M

A


















R

C

H



Sun	Mon	Tue
<p>WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH</p>		<p><i>St. Paul United Celebrates 185 years</i></p>
<p>3 9am Worship 10am Coffee & Doughnuts</p> <p><i>National I Want You to be Happy Day</i></p>	<p>4 9am-Pickle Ball 10:30am-Yoga Gold</p> <p><i>National Sons Day</i></p>	<p>5 9am-Quilters 10am-Seekers Bible Study 12pm-Shufflers 1pm-Website Meeting 5pm-Community Dinner</p>
<p>10 9am Worship 10am Coffee & Doughnuts 10 am Mission Meeting-Library</p> <p>Daylight Saving Time starts!</p>	<p>11 9am-Pickle Ball 10:30am-Yoga Gold</p> <p><i>National Napping Day</i></p>	<p>12 9am-Quilters 10am-Seekers Bible Study 12pm-Shufflers 5pm-Community Dinner 5pm-Finance Meeting</p> <p><i>National Plant a Flower Day</i></p>
<p>17 St. Patrick's Day </p> <p>9am Worship 10am-Culinaire's Brunch</p> <p><i>185th Celebration</i></p>	<p>18 9am-Pickle Ball 10:30am-Yoga Gold</p> <p><i>National Sloppy Joe Day</i></p>	<p>19 </p> <p>9am-Quilters 10am-Seekers Bible Study 1pm-Mats for Community 5pm-Community Dinner</p> <p>SPRING BEGINS</p>
<p>24 Palm Sunday 9am Worship 10am Coffee & Doughnuts</p> <hr/> <p>31 EASTER SUNDAY 9am Easter Service 10am Coffee & Doughnuts</p>	<p>25 9am-Pickle Ball 10:30am-Yoga Gold</p>	<p>26 9am-Quilters 10am-Seekers Bible Study 5pm-Community Dinner</p> <p><i>Epilepsy Awareness Day</i></p>

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Church of Christ on March 17th!</i></p>		<p>1 9:15 am-Pickle Ball</p>  <p><i>National Employee Appreciation Day!</i></p>	<p>2</p> 
<p>6 9am-Pickle Ball 12pm-Beginner Pickleball 1pm-With You Meeting 6pm-Bells Rehearsal 7:15pm-Choir Rehearsal Pastor Michelle's 13th Ordination Anniversary!</p>	<p>7 10am-Worship Meeting 10:30AM-Yoga</p>  <p><i>National Cereal Day</i></p>	<p>8 9:15 am-Pickle Ball</p> 	<p>9</p>  <p><i>National Barbie Day</i></p>
<p>13 9am-Pickle Ball 11:30 am-Beginner Pickleball</p>  <p><i>National Good Samaritan</i></p>	<p>14 10:30am-Yoga Gold 7pm-Personnel Meeting</p>  <p><i>National Pi Day</i></p>	<p>15 9:15 am-Pickle Ball</p> 	<p>16</p>  <p><i>National Corn Dog Day National Quilting Day</i></p> 
<p>20 9am-Pickle Ball 11:30 am-Beginner Pickleball 1pm-Women's Guild 6pm-Bells Rehearsal 7:15pm-Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>21 6pm-Council Meeting 6pm-Food Pantry Meeting</p>  <p><i>National French Bread Day</i></p>	<p>22 9:15 am-Pickle Ball</p>  <p><i>National Goof Off Day</i></p>	<p>23</p>  <p><i>National Puppy Day</i></p>
<p>27 9am-Pickle Ball 11:30 am-Beginner Pickleball 6pm-Bells Rehearsal 7:15pm-Choir Rehearsal</p> 	<p>28 Maundy Thursday 7pm service at Trinity UCC (potluck at 5:45pm)</p> 	<p>29 Good Friday Service 7pm</p> 	<p>30</p>  <p><i>National Take a Walk in the Park Day</i></p>

Crafty Mania

All day crafting!

Proceeds to benefit: Youth group & missions of the church!

Scrapbooking, card or jewelry making, sewing/knitting . . .
whatever your craft, join us!

ATTENDANCE
PRIZES!

Saturday, April 20, 2024

9:00am-5:00pm

Cost: \$40.00

CRAFT
VENDORS

**Cost includes: Lunch, snacks, attendance prizes,
and vendors in the afternoon.**

Tickets for raffle items will also be available for purchase!

Event Location: St. Paul UCC

115 West B Street (park & enter on C Street), Belleville, IL 62220

**Register by sending in a check with your name,
phone #, and email to:**

St. Paul UCC, 115 W. B St., Belleville, IL, 62220

SEATING IS ON A FIRST COME BASIS!

Please call with questions: 618-222-1123

LUNCH



MATS FOR COMMUNITY COMFORT

NEXT MEETING
Tuesday, March 19
from 1-3pm
in the craft room.
Please join us!



St Paul Shufflers and Gamers



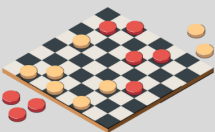
2ND Tuesday of the month @ 12 Noon

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



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 Harold Yung

Robert Yung

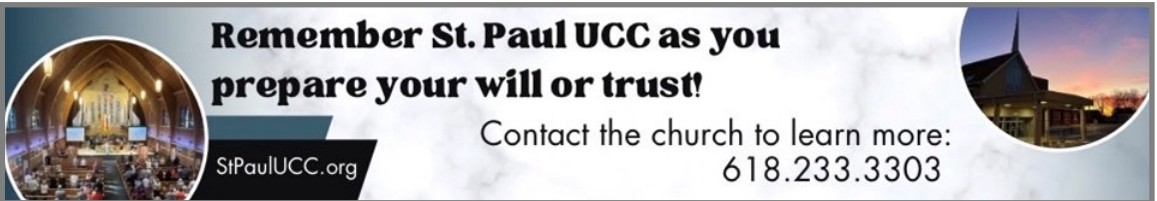
IHO Mimi Llamas Birthday

Debbie Lippert

Judy Koch & Al Stahl—Fine Arts

IMO Barbara Schuchman

Mississippi Valley Duck (Hunters of IL)



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

Contact the church to learn more:
618.233.3303

StPaulUCC.org



**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!*



CPR & AED TRAINING

The Business & Property Safety Team is in the process of offering a CPR & AED 3 hour training course. It is highly recommended that ushers, greeters, service and activity participants be certified in the use of the AEDs and know how to do CPR. If you are interested in the training please contact Dave Hoffmann. Dates have not yet been set.

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

December 2023 Attendance: 9am 699 + Online December 2022 9am: 536 + Online

December 2023 All Gifts: \$84,676.21

December 2022 All Gifts: \$41,795.50

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%
Total Operating Revenues	629,383	89,117	700,152	111.24%
Team Revenues	9,000	1,105	12,553	139.48%
Grand Total	638,383	90,222	712,706	111.64%
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	(638,383)	(66,275)	(706,018)	110.59%
Difference between Revenue & Expenses	0	23,947	6,687	

EASTER GIFTS

There are two ways in which you can share in the Easter celebration. We will be decorating the altar area with assorted spring flowers. You may purchase a spring flower for \$10 each and/or make a memorial gift donation. All Easter gifts will be listed in the Easter bulletin on March 31st.

Please mail your information by March 15th.

The flowers will include Lilies, Daffodils, Hyacinth & Tulips. You may take a flower home on Easter.

Flower choices are on a first come basis.

**PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING
INFORMATION WITH YOUR CHECK:
IN MEMORY OR HONOR OF AND GIVEN BY.**



In Memory or Honor of: _____

Given by: _____





ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS



March Anniversaries

3/1-Jeanine & Cal Guthrie
 3/5-Mike & Fran West
 3/18-David & Marsha Steen

March Birthdays

3/1-Carly Dahm
 3/1-Eric Gentry
 3/3-Jennifer Mentzer
 3/4-Jane Bonaldi
 3/4-Sherri Gericke
 3/5-Carol Ford
 3/5-Claudette Graetz
 3/5-Gaye Bettis
 3/8-Bob Vokes
 3/9-Marsha Steen
 3/12-Darwin Bretsch
 3/13-Sherry Davinroy
 3/13-Donna Wooden
 3/13-Janet Kniepkamp
 3/15-Carolyn Ryseff
 3/15-Fred Hotz
 3/16-Ruth Ann Erdmann
 3/19-Jan Friedrich
 3/22-Ruth Bush
 3/22-Bobby Lee Frerking
 3/22-Georgia Wright
 3/27-Connor Dziaba
 3/27-Larry Walton
 3/28-Donna Davis
 3/28-Gordon Maiworm
 3/29-Elgee Phillips
 3/31-Betty Rieso
 3/31-Susan Sivewright

For Your Prayers

Lori Coleman	Scott Martin, son of
Carol Hotz	Shirley Martin
Marilyn Dinkelmann	Betty Rieso
Debbie McIntyre,	Linda Minton
daughter of Arline	Wayne Caughman
Worms	Tim Ritter Jr., son of
Tim Ritter	Sandy & Tim Ritter
Laura Howie, daughter	Jerry Hough
of Elgee Phillips	Denise Caughman
Alec Zaber	Lou Ann Niemann
Hector Rivera	
Dawson Anderson	

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please send prayer requests to:
pastormichelle@stpaulucc.org or call 618-233-3303.



115 WEST "B" STREET, BELLEVILLE, IL 62220

PHONE: 618-233-3303

MAIL DATE: February 28, 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**

-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

