



Our St. Paul

September 2023

YOUR St. Paul Team

Rev. Michelle Torigian, Senior Pastor

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

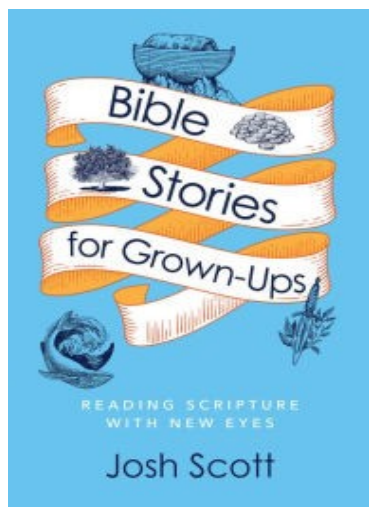
9am-12pm

Church Office Contact

Information:

618-233-3303

stpaulucc.org



The Seekers will begin studying Bible Stories for Grown-Ups by Josh Scott 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, September 26 in Genesis Rm. Michelle will be the facilitator. It is a book (purchase optional) and DVD. A discussion will follow.

The book can be found online at Barnes and Noble, Amazon and Thrift Books. All members and nonmembers are welcome. No prior Biblical knowledge necessary.

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

October

DEADLINE

September 25

MAIL DATE

October 1

Pastor's Message - Embarking on a New Season

This time of year, I say to myself (and maybe some of you), “HOW is it September again?” Advent and Christmas are right around the corner, and planning for those seasons has commenced.

I'm also celebrating all of the activities we have going on here at St. Paul! From our Rummage Sale later this month to Coffee and Conversations that we have some Wednesday mornings (thanks to Hot Mess Express and Lizziebob's Bakery food trucks), St. Paul UCC is full of life!

But while I'm looking ahead with excitement, I'm also taking time to appreciate the season we are entering this month. I'm grateful that cooler days are right around the corner, and the colors of our landscape will be shifting from green to oranges, reds, and yellows. The majestic hues painted across our communities and the fresh breezes of autumn mornings are things for which I give thanks to God.

For me, personally, one event that has brought many happy memories is the Great Forest Park Balloon Race. I remember seeing it for the first time from the top of my dorm building at Fontbonne back in September 1992. Aaron and I are hoping to return to the event this month and, hopefully, enjoy the weather over at Forest Park.

May each of our events this next month be filled with much autumn bliss and many smiles with loved ones! Blessings, Pastor Michelle

P.S. Below is a prayer I wrote for my blog to welcome the new season of fall!

A Prayer on the Birth of Autumn

Holy God, Divine Crisp Breeze of Love,
As the sun breaks the horizon on this new season, birthing the reds, and oranges, and browns of foliage, we bask in your Holy Glow.

Fill us with the joy of coziness that comes with throws and cocoas, with warm mugs and vanilla-scented candles, and with cheerful friendships and invigorating conversations.

May the crunchiness of leaves below our feet fill us with your peace that accompanies endings, the hope of new life beyond the equinox, and the illumination that will burst again beyond shadows.

May we know that even in the shortened days, your light extends beyond each premature sunset.

Amen.

St. Paul United Church of Christ, Belleville

Visioning Process Update and Transition to the Four Initiatives

Throughout 2022 and into 2023, St. Paul United Church of Christ in Belleville engaged in a visioning process. During this time of listening and reflecting, the Core Visioning Team noted some of the needs, concerns, and dreams of the members of the congregation as well as visited with some of the members of the community in an effort to see how the mission of the church may connect with the greater Belleville area.

Through conversations of the Visioning Team with the pastor and church consultant, four initiatives below were discovered to be at the crossroads of (1) the needs of our church and community, (2) where the church's gifts flourish, and (3) what we believe is the call given to us by God.

Through this calling, we are directed to smaller projects and focuses. Additionally, through these four initiatives and through our faithful service to God and neighbor, we believe the Holy Spirit can move us to begin a larger project in the future.

At this time, we are ready to transition from the Core Team leading the visioning process to actively pursuing the four initiatives and involving more congregants in implementing these goals.

1) Keeping and attracting younger age members to St. Paul.

In the winter, the visioning team met with 17 individuals between Junior high school and Senior high school students to the age of 58. We had an extremely productive discussion regarding their relationship to St. Paul and ways that we might be able to better accommodate some of them and be more attractive to others their age. Further discussions will be held with individuals and families who could not participate in that initial discussion.

Additional Notes:

- We held VBS in June in partnership with Trinity UCC.
- We continue to plan middle and high school youth activities.
- Youth are involved in the life of St. Paul UCC – especially with worship (acolytes, tech team, musicians, etc.)

Future:

- We are looking to hire a Ministry Assistant for Congregational Care and Christian Education. One of the primary responsibilities will be to develop a faith formation program and fellowship activities for the church.
- The Christian Education Team has been brainstorming ideas for faith formation activities outside of Sunday mornings. Possibilities include a Sunday afternoon activity using the Godly Play model or an evening activity.
- We can ask ourselves “What activities can we plan for young adults connected to St. Paul UCC?”

2) Expanding services to our members going through transitional times in their lives.

This would include those dealing with a member of the family with mental or physical disabilities, those with a recent death in the family, and anyone with recent or ongoing medical issues requiring assistance.

We are reaching out to organizations within the greater community to partner with St. Paul in helping to set up programs at St. Paul or facilitate with us to minister to our members and the greater community.

Additional Notes:

- This would be called the **Wellness Ministries of St. Paul UCC**. In the past year, pickleball, yoga, and badminton have begun at St. Paul UCC.
- We continue to have our With You care team follow up with our members who are struggling with health issues and grief, and who are caregivers and are not mobile.

Future:

- We are building a relationship with the St. Clair County Office on Aging and PSOP. We ask ourselves “What programs can we hold here that will serve our congregants as well as members of the greater Belleville community?”
- We are looking at holding speaker series and/or support groups on issues such as mental health, specific health issues, etc.

3) Promoting St. Paul

Being a church which has much to offer and welcomes all people “no matter who they are or where they are on life’s journey,” St. Paul UCC has much to offer the people in our area. A PR group was formed in the second quarter of 2023. This included Mimi Llamas, Sandy Wagner, Laura Strohm Armstrong, Mary Blaies, Sherry Wilhelm, and Pastor Michelle.

The monitor has been mounted in the alcove (Cove) of the Welcome Center, and our members and staff will determine what should be presented on the monitor on a rotating slide show. St. Paul and Pastor Michelle hosted the Belleville Chamber of Commerce on March 14 in Heritage Hall.

Additional Notes:

- We promote our events on social media, including adding additional funds to Facebook ads. Some of our attendees for VBS found us on Facebook.
- The PR group has talked about ways to promote the usage of the building.
- Through the PR group and staff, a new brochure was produced to promote the building spaces.
- Pastor Michelle continues to attend community events such as Chamber events, grand openings, etc.
- The Cove in the Welcome Center continues to be updated to include information about our congregation.

Future:

- With the PR team and staff, we will continue to find creative means of promoting our spaces and events. One way is through a vendor fair/bridal fair/craft fair in which people will then come into our building to see it.
- We will continue to brainstorm the best ways to promote St. Paul on social media, our website and through traditional channels.

4) The St. Paul Kindness Project

This is a year-long project connected to Pastor Michelle’s sermon series “Share Kindness.”

“You have been Kind-ed” cards have been handed out for our congregants to pass out anytime they perform a random act of kindness as a simple way to engage the wider community.

This also ties into Initiative 3 – Public Relations. On the back of the card is a list of community projects that St. Paul was instrumental in starting, nurturing and continuing to be involved in during our history. It never hurts to remind or newly inform people about who we are and what we have done.

Additional Notes:

- The Share Kindness sermon series started on July 30 and will go through October 15.
- Our congregants are sharing stories/testimonies on Sunday mornings on how they have seen God through giving or receiving acts of kindness.
- Our members have made banners and signs along the hallway that focus on kindness.
- We have been designing activities to go with this year and highlighting some of our missions.





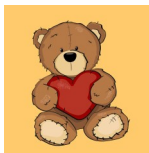



Future:

- We continue to find ways to promote this as part of our “brand,” including more PR opportunities and activities for our church.



September


Sun	Mon	Tue
<p>Our <i>Sharing Kindness</i> sermon series each Sunday this month through October 15</p> <p><i>CHOOSE kindness</i></p>	<p>Hispanic Heritage Month <i>September 15–October 15</i></p> <p>National Blood Cancer Awareness Month</p>	<p>National Piano Month</p> 
<p>3 9am Worship 10am Coffee & Doughnuts</p> <p><i>National Pastor's Spouses Day</i></p>	<p>4 LABOR DAY! Office Closed</p> 	<p>5 9am-Quilters 5pm-Community Dinner</p> <p><i>National Cheese Pizza Day</i></p>
<p>10 9am Worship 10am Coffee & Doughnuts 10am Mission Meeting</p> <p><i>National Grandparents Day</i></p>	<p>11 9am-Pickle Ball</p> <p><i>Patriot Day (9/11) and National Day of Service & Remembrance</i></p>	<p>12 9am-Quilters 10am-Seekers Bible Study 1pm-Shufflers-Library 5pm-Community Dinner 5pm-Finance Meeting <i>National Day of Encouragement</i></p>
<p>17 9am Worship 10am-Culinaire's Breakfast</p> <p><i>Wife Appreciation Day</i></p>	<p>18 BUILDING CLOSED DUE TO ELECTRICAL PANEL BEING INSTALLED All activities Cancelled</p> <p>7pm-Executive Council</p>	<p>19 BUILDING CLOSED DUE TO ELECTRICAL PANEL BEING INSTALLED All activities Cancelled</p>
<p>24 9am Worship 10am Coffee & Doughnuts</p> <p><i>National Singles Day</i></p>	<p>25 9am-Pickle Ball</p> <p><i>National Daughter's Day National Family Day</i></p>	<p>26 9am-Quilters 10am-Seekers Bible Study 5pm-Community Dinner</p> <p><i>National Pancake Day</i></p>

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
National Suicide Awareness Month National Pain Awareness Month 	National Self-Care Awareness Month 	1 9:15 am-Pickle Ball <i>National Food Bank Day</i>	2  <i>National Hummingbird Day</i>
6 9am-Pickle Ball 12pm-Beginner Pickleball 1pm-With You meeting 6pm-Bells Rehearsal 7:15pm-Choir Rehearsal	7 10am-Worship Meeting	8 9:15 am-Pickle Ball  <i>Star Trek Day</i>	9  <i>National Teddy Bear Day</i>
13 9am-Pickle Ball 12pm-Beginner Pickleball 1pm-Women's Guild-at Fletchers 1pm-Website Meeting 6pm-Bells Rehearsal 7:15pm-Choir Rehearsal	14 10am-PEO (Sue H) 7pm-Personnel Meeting <i>National Live Creatively Day</i>	15 9:15 am-Pickle Ball Hoyleton Golf Tournament <i>Double Cheeseburger Day</i>	16 <i>National Guacamole Day</i>
20 9am-Pickle Ball 12pm-Beginner Pickleball 6pm-Bells Rehearsal 7:15pm-Choir Rehearsal	21 6pm-Council Meeting <i>National New York Day</i>	22 9:15 am-Pickle Ball <i>National Girls' Night</i> <i>National Ice Cream Cone</i>	23 First Day of Fall! 
27 9am-Pickle Ball 12pm-Beginner Pickleball 12pm-Rummage Sale Set Up 6pm-Bells Rehearsal 7:15pm-Choir Rehearsal <i>National Day of Forgiveness</i>	28 9am-Rummage Sale Set Up 1pm-Senior Session Series 6pm-Food Pantry Meeting <i>National Good Neighbor Day</i>	29 Rummage Sale 4pm-8pm  <i>National Coffee Day</i>	30 Rummage Sale 9am-12pm Metro East Pride (Belleville)  <i>National Love People Day</i>

WOMEN'S GUILD


Please join us on September 20th @ 1:00 p.m.
for a luncheon at
Fletcher's Kitchen & Tap
1524 Clinton Hills Pkwy Swansea, IL 62226





SHUFFLER'S CLUB

Please join us on the
2nd Tuesday of every
month @ 1pm
in the Library at
St. Paul UCC
115 W. B St., Belleville





Women's Guild Rummage Sale & Bake Sale

Friday, September 29 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 30 9:00 a.m. – noon

Clean out the closets! Share your past treasures! It's Time!
Proceeds from this traditional event go to our church missions.
Can you help us set up on the previous Wednesday & Thursday?
We would also welcome items for our Bake Sale. **HELP Please!**



2023 Walk To End Alzheimer's

Saturday, October 7th

9:00 – 11:00 a.m. SWIC

Join Our Team: "St. Paul UCC Belleville"

And/Or Donate

Go To: 2023 Alzheimer's Walk Belleville

Crafty Mania

Proceeds to benefit: Youth group & missions of the church

Are you a Scrapbooker, Card Maker, Jewelry maker or like to Sew/Knit?

Whatever your craft, join us!

Spend the day doing what YOU like!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!

Saturday October 14, 2023



9:00am-4:00pm

Cost: \$35.00

**Includes: Lunch, snacks, crafting space, attendance prizes,
and vendors in the afternoon. Tickets for raffle items will also be available for purchase!**

What: ALL DAY CRAFTING

Where: St. Paul UCC

115 West B Street (Enter on C Street), Belleville, IL 62220

Register by sending a check with your information below to St. Paul UCC

Call with questions: 618-233-3303

For your convenience, pay online at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/st-paul-ucc-56807225373>

A service fee of \$4.19 will be charged when you register online.

Reservation and Payment is due by October 5th. Reservation will only be held with payment.



Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



My craft is _____ I require electricity Y N



MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

Thank you from St. Paul Church. We appreciate your generosity!

TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

IMO Mark Eckert

Janice Friedrich
Betty Eckert

IMO Bob Harms

Janice Friedrich
Darwin & Mary Lu Bretsch

IMO Shirley Martin

Paul & Sue Sutherland
Janice Friedrich

IMO Marilee Black

Kent Black

IMO Jessica Krauss

Donna Davis

IMO David Klingel 63rd Wedding Anniversary

Ruth Klingel

IHO Elgee & Jeanette Phillips 70th Anniversary

Diane Drake
Darwin & Mary Lu Bretsch

IHO Wm & Lou James 58th Wedding Anniversary

William James

IHO Lynn Bradley 80th Birthday

Debbie Lippert

IHO Helen Whicher 94th Birthday

Lynn & Luci Bradley

MATS FOR COMMUNITY COMFORT NO MEETING IN SEPTEMBER



THANK YOU FOR SHARING AND CARING, SANDY RITTER

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.

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

July 2023 Attendance: 9am 393 + Online July 2022 9am: 378 + Online

July 2023 All Gifts: \$45,128.58

July 2022 All Gifts: \$41,906.98

Revenues	<u>2023 Final Budget</u>	<u>2023 July Actuals</u>	<u>YTD Actuals</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Congregational Offerings	373,479	23,914	234,946	62.91%
Special Stewardship Events	4,000	0	615	15.36%
Rental Income - 205 W B Street	10,200	915	6,080	59.61%
Building Fund	22,000	1,737	12,658	57.54%
Outreach / Various Missions	0	1,905	28,573	N/A
Memorials	12,000	850	4,513	37.61%
Bequests	0	0	40,000	N/A
Building Income	5,000	767	2,217	44.34%
Pastoral Honorarium	1,200	0	0	0.00%
Pastoral Expense Revenue	0	0	0	N/A
Investment Income / Michelson Income	26,505	0	14,200	53.58%
Endowment Distribution (per guidelines)	110,500	0	0	N/A
Endowment Distribution (Cap. Exp.)	63,000	17,392	50,392	79.99%
Other Income	1,500	0	33	2.21%
Total Operating Revenues	629,383	47,480	394,226	62.64%
Team Revenues	9,000	824	5,959	66.22%
Grand Total	638,383	48,304	400,186	62.69%
Expenses				
Personnel	(328,793)	(25,017)	(180,050)	54.76%
Administrative Support	(38,628)	(3,749)	(23,515)	60.88%
(formerly Operating Expenses)				
Outreach (formerly Mission Board)	(13,885)	(14,600)	(23,247)	167.42%
Education	(2,925)	0	(923)	31.55%
Stewardship	(1,675)	(160)	(1,039)	62.01%
Property	(237,000)	(16,646)	(141,487)	59.70%
Congregational Care (formerly Worship Bd)	(15,477)	(120)	(44,093)	284.90%
General Fund	0	0	0	N/A
Total Operating Expense	(638,383)	(60,292)	(414,354)	64.91%
Difference between Revenue & Expenses	0	(11,988)	(14,168)	



Anniversaries & Birthdays



September Wedding Anniversaries

9/8-Wayne & Janet Kniepkamp
9/13-Rob & Carrie Naylor
9/14-Richard & Vickie Dziaba
9/17-Lisa & Matthew Smith

September Birthdays

9/1-Susan Relfe
9/2-Karen Boeschen
9/2-Sharen Guthrie
9/2-Henry Keck Jr.
9/2-Wayne Kniepkamp
9/3-Steven Flach
9/3-Debbie Price
9/4-James Hughes
9/4-Avery White
9/7-Ashley Hoeft
9/7-Linda Mentzer
9/9-Beverly Brightwell
9/10-Carol Simon
9/10-Aaron Coleman
9/15-Elise White
9/16-Luci Bradley
9/17-Edie Elliott
9/18-Kathy Liddy
9/18-Janice Smith-Walta
9/18-Roxy Collins
9/22-Bill Enyart
9/24-Erlene Seelman
9/24-Jerry Pierce-Heisler
9/25-Jeffrey Dinklemann
9/26-Colette Smith
9/29-Mike Pierce
9/29-Jan Bolding
9/30-Sue Sutherland



BL-53009

ST PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BELLEVILLE

HALLOWEEN THEME-COSTUMES ENCOURAGED

Belle Vegas Bingo Hall

Friday, Oct 27, 2023

517 S. Illinois St, Belleville, IL

Doors @ 6pm Bingo @ 7pm

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT :
GLO-BINGO.COM/EVENTS
(\$2/TICKET NON-REFUNDABLE FEE)
ST. PAUL UCC 618-233-3303



\$25 in Advance-\$30 at the Door
MUST BE 18 OR OLDER TO ATTEND

Includes 6 bingo cards for 10 games
Also includes Glow Hat & Dauber
(\$5 per additional 6 cards)

CASH BAR - BYO SNACKS - BOOZE COOLER & LOTTERY RAFFLES - 50/50

Round Sponsorships are available for \$100.00

Bee Kind 

For Your Prayers

Lori Coleman
 Carol Hotz
 Marilyn Dinkelmann
 Debbie McIntyre, daughter of Arline Worms
 Rev. Gus Kuether
 Tim Ritter
 Laura Howie, daughter of Jeanette & Elgee Phillips
 Alec Zaber
 Jo Ann Purdy-Elmore
 Hector Rivera

Scott Martin, son of Shirley Martin
 Jeanette Phillips
 Betty Rieso
 Rose Hoy
 Clarence Wolf
 Linda Mentzer
 Susan Reynolds, Sister of Janet Kniepkamp
 Sherry Stepp



PRAYER REQUESTS

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

CULINAIRE'S BREAKFAST September 17th after worship service!



Suggested donation is
 \$10 per person.

Senior Pickle Ball

Mondays & Wednesdays

@ 9-11am,

Fridays 9:15-11:15

St Paul UCC ACTIVITY CENTER

115 W B Street, Belleville, IL 62220

For more information call
 St. Clair County Office on Aging:
 618-234-4410 ext. 7034



YOGA GOLD @ ST. PAUL With Jessica

Every Monday @ 10:30 am
 and the 1st & 3rd Thursdays @ 10:30 am
Starts Thursday, September 7th



115 WEST "B" STREET, BELLEVILLE, IL 62220

PHONE: 618-233-3303

MAIL DATE: August 31, 2023

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**

-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.

