

Our St. Paul December 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 stpauluce.org

Save the date!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

to discuss the 2024 budget and nominations to council is December 10th immediately after worship.

Copies of the budget and nominations are available in the Narthex.





We have been handing out copies of the budget and nominees at our worship services and have email copies to our congregants. If you need a copy mailed to you, please contact the church office. For our members who would like to participate in this meeting on Zoom, please use this link https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8676056534?omn=86004719397 or call 309-205-3325 Meeting ID: 867 605 6534

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 ISSUEDEADLINEMAIL DATEJanuaryDecember 17January 2

Pastor's Message - I'm Awake!

I never plan on being awake at nearly 4am, but here I am. I'm mostly at fault because I decided to have a latte at 4pm in the afternoon. Because I can't sleep, I figured I would make the most out of the depths of the night and write from my place of insomnia.

There's nothing as frustrating as feeling wired when your supposed to be tired and overthinking when your mind is supposed to be calm. Which got me thinking...

Advent is a time for us to "be awake." Each year, the Gospel reading on the first Sunday of Advent is one in which we receive an apocalyptic vision as the writers believed the coming of Jesus' return was near. Two-thousand years later, we haven't had Christ return in some ways that some believed we were promised, but we've received a gift just as much of a blessing: the Christ in the person in front of us, the one for whom we are to love (as seen in Matthew 25).

Sleep and Jesus are an interesting link as seen in scriptures. In Luke 8, Jesus takes a nap as he and his followers are traveling across a lake in the midst of a storm. (How he didn't wake up during gale force winds, I have no idea!) And in Mark 14 Jesus chastises his friends because they kept falling asleep while Jesus prayed in the garden on the night before his death. In Matthew 25:1-13, Jesus delivers the parable of the bridesmaids and reminds his friends to "keep awake."

When it's time to sleep, we are to sleep. Rest is incredibly important for our own physical, mental, and spiritual health. Sabbath was created for humans! And then, when it's time to be awake, we are called to be alert and ready to help the Christ in our midst.

Instead of looking into the sky wondering if Jesus is going to surf on a cloud back to our earth, our call is to look ahead - into the face of those surrounding us and be awake to the ways the Christ is alive within them. As we shop in stores, we remember that the retail associate is the Christ in our midst, just trying to make it through the holiday season with long hours and lots of grumpy shoppers. As we get behind someone driving slowly and begin to get frustrated, we remember that the person ahead of us is the Christ in our midst. When we get frustrated with a neighbor nearby or someone who is online, we remember that they are the Christ in our midst. And when we get together with family at Christmas and all conversations turn to political debates and tense religious discussions, we know that the one speaking is the Christ in our midst - no matter if we agree with them or not.

Our job is to be alert to the Christ - the one who was here 2000 years ago, the one present in the face of our neighbors, and the one still yet to come - whether in the manger, in clouds above our heads, or in some other way.

May you experience many restful nights this Advent season. Make sure to find the "calm and bright" in the midst of the hustle and bustle! And may you be alert to the Christ around you during your hours of being awake. Happy Advent, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and enjoy your long winter's nap!

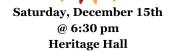
Blessings, Pastor Michelle





St Paul Friends Christmas Party!

Everyone is invited to attend the St. Paul Friends
Annual Christmas Party on Friday, December 15
at 6:30 p.m. in Heritage Hall. Please bring an
appetizer or dessert to share and your adult
beverage of choice. Soft drinks and paper goods
will be provided. Please RSVP to Judy Koch
(judithkoch@att.net) or Sandy Wagner
(skwagner51@gmail.com) RSVP is appreciated
but not required for attendance. Come celebrate
the season with your St. Paul Friends!







Sun Mon 3 First Sunday of Advent 7am-Hot Mess Express 9am Worship 9am-Quilters 9am-Pickle Ball 10am Coffee & Doughnuts 10am-Seekers Bible Study 10:30am-Yoga Gold Community Dinner 3pm Hanging of the Greens International Day of Persons With Disabilities 10 Second Sunday of Advent 12 11 9am-Pickle Ball 9am-Quilters 9am Worship—Youth Sunday 10:30am-Yoga Gold 10am-Seekers Bible Study **Congregational Meeting** 12pm-Shufflers **Immediately Following Worship** 5pm-Community Dinner Coffee & Doughnuts 3pm-Metroeast Chorale Concert 17 Third Sunday of Advent 18 19 Willie. 9am Worship — Music Sunday 9am-Pickle Ball 9am-Quilters 10am-Culinaire's Breakfast 10:30am-Yoga Gold 10am-Seekers Bible Study 4pm-Investment meeting 1pm-Mats for Community 10amFine Arts Meeting-Library 7pm-Executive Council 5pm-Community Dinner **Blue Christmas Service** International Migrants Day 25 26 9am Advent Sunday Service **CHRISTMAS DAY** 9am-Quilters **Christmas Eve Services** 10am-Seekers Bible Study 5pm-Community Dinner 4:30pm & 7:00pm 31 9am Worship **Boxing Day** 10am Coffee & Doughnuts Kwanzaa Begins

Tue

7pm

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:15 am-Pickle Ball	2
ry Chri	stmas	National Pie Day World AIDS Day	National Special Education Day
6 9am-Pickle Ball 12pm-Beginner Pickleball 1pm-With You 6pm-Bells Rehearsal 7:15pm-Choir Rehearsal St. Nicholas Day	7 10am-Worship Meeting 10:30am-Yoga Gold Hanukkah Begins Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8 National Christmas Card Day	9 National Pastry Day
13 7am-Hot Mess Express 9am-Pickle Ball 11:30 am-Beginner Pickleball 6pm-Bells Rehearsal 7:15pm-Choir Rehearsal	14 7pm-Personnel Meeting	15 9:15 am-Pickle Ball 6:30pm-St. Paul Friends Christmas Party National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day	16
20 9am-Pickle Ball 11:30 am-Beginner Pickleball 1pm-Women's Guild 6pm-Bells Rehearsal 7:15pm-Choir Rehearsal	21 6pm-Council Meeting First Day of Winter National Homeless Persons' Remembrance Day	22 Crossword Puzzle Day	23 *11s \$6350h
27 9am-Pickle Ball 11:30 am-Beginner Pickleball 6pm-Bells Rehearsal 7:15pm-Choir Rehearsal	28	29 National Tick Tock Day	National Bacon Day

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)

Donna Davis Kenneth & Osceola Mueller Darwin & Mary Lu Bretsch Debbie Lippert Rusty & Sandy Wagner Rose Hoy Family

IMO Jeanette Phillips

Darwin & Mary Lu Bretsch Debbie Lippert John & Rhonda Wall





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.

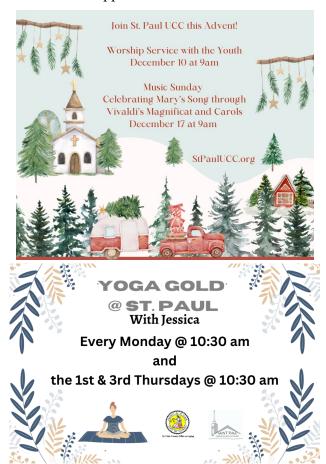
Cost is \$35.00.





IHO Lynn & Luci Bradley 40th Anniversary (Fine Arts

Wm & Lou Ann James Ruth Klingel Tim & Sandy Ritter Debbie Lippert



ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

October 2023 Attendance: 9am 412 + Online October 2022 9am: 429 + Online October 2023 All Gifts: \$42,006.28 October 2022 All Gifts: \$59,981.34

Revenues	2023 Final Budget	2023 October Actuals 30,014	YTD Actuals 304,962	% of Budget 81.65%
Congregational Offerings	373,479			
Special Stewardship Events	4,000	5,514	7,029	175.71%
Rental Income - 205 W B Street	10,200	915	8,825	86.52%
Building Fund	22,000	1,445	15,772	71.69%
Outreach / Various Missions	0	3,203	34,018	N/A
Memorials	12,000	310	6,509	54.249
Bequests	0	0	40,000	N/A
Building Income	5,000	1,664	5,025	100.509
Pastoral Honorarium	1,200	0	670	55.839
Pastoral Expense Revenue	0	0	0	N/A
Investment Income / Michelson Income	26,505	0	28.400	107.159
Endowment Distribution (per guidelines)	110,500	0	60,000	N/A
Endowment Distribution (Cap. Exp.)	63,000	0	50,392	79.999
Other Income	1,500	11,112	11,157	743.799
Total Operating Revenues	629,383	54,176	572,758	91.009
Team Revenues	9,000	507	9,643	107.159
Grand Total	638,383	54,683	582,402	91.239
Expenses				
Personnel	(328,793)	(24,348)	(260,843)	79.339
Administrative Support	(00.000)	(3,748)	(32,748)	84.789
(formerly Operating Expenses)	(38,628)			
Outreach (formerly Mission Board)	(13,885)	(1,744)	(25,407)	182.989
Education	(2,925)	0	(923)	31.559
Stewardship	(1,675)	(2,740)	(3,893)	232.439
Property	(237,000)	(20,412)	(209,391)	88.359
Congregational Care (formerly Worship Bd)	(15,477)	(12,039)	(57,247)	369.889
General Fund	0	0	(240)	N/A
Total Operating Expense	(638,383)	(65,030)	(590,692)	92.539
Difference between Revenue & Expenses	0	(10,347)	(8,291)	



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.



YOGA GOLD

Mondays at St Paul's UCC @ 10:00 am & the 1st & 3rd Thursdays @ 10 am.

St. Paul UCC 115 W B Street Belleville, IL

Bring a mat and water and wear cozy clothes.
Drop in fee is \$10.00
Punch cards available.





Anniversaries & Birthdays



December Wedding Anniversaries

12/14-Dick & Ruth Ann Erdmann 12/15-Bob & Bev Vokes 12/27-Peggy & Scott Burke

For Your Prayers

Lori Coleman Carol Hotz Marilyn Dinkelmann Debbie McIntyre, daughter of Linda Mentzer Arline Worms Tim Ritter Laura Howie, daughter of

Elgee Phillips Alec Zaber

Dawson Anderson

Hector Rivera

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

12/1-Linda Hermann

December

Birthdays

12/2-Michael Wagner

12/3-Debbie Lippert

12/3-Judy Saeger

12/4-Donna Thomas

12/5-Nancy Scharf

12/6-Robert Yung

12/8-Thomas Mentzer

12/11-Jerilyn Hausmann

12/13-Kathy Buehler

12/15-Carolyn Hazelip

12/16-Bruce Elser

12/16-Lou James

12/16-Todd Keller

12/19-Patricia Oberholtzer

12/21-Doug Bush

12/27-Carol Hotz

12/31-Vera Juenger

12/31-Dolly Kirsch

12/31-Larry Reeble

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!





115 WEST "B" STREET, BELLEVILLE, IL 62220

PHONE: 618-233-3303

MAIL DATE: December 1, 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





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 Bellevillearea 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.

