



Our St. Paul

January 2025

## **YOUR St. Paul Team**

Rev. Michelle Torigian, Senior Pastor  
Patrick Kinney, Facility Manager  
Dr. Tristan Frampton, Director of Music  
Cynthia Johnson, 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**  
[stpaulucc.org](http://stpaulucc.org)

## **January Birthdays**

1/1-Rick Haar  
1/3-Judy Schuessler  
1/7-Paul Sutherland  
1/8-Janet Hentze  
1/12-Kathy Birkner  
1/13-Judy Crites  
1/14-Carrie Naylor  
1/16-Gloria Strohm  
1/16-EJ Sporleder  
1/17-Roger Henke  
1/18-Osceola Mueller  
1/18-Sarah Hafford  
1/19-JoAnn Elmore  
1/21-Cal Guthrie  
1/24-Lou Ann Niemann  
1/27-Shirley Boesch  
1/28-Betty Eckert  
1/29-Roger Harris  
1/29-Ray Kepler  
1/31-Andrew Elser

## **January Anniversaries**

1/3-Roger & Susan Relfe  
1/30-Cecil & Judy Crites

## **For Your Prayers**

Lori Coleman  
Carol Hotz  
Marilyn Dinkelmann  
Debbie McIntyre, daughter of Arline Worms  
Tim Ritter  
Wayne Caughman  
Tim Ritter Jr., son of Sandy & Tim Ritter  
Hector Rivera  
Lou Ann Niemann  
Cheryl Cooper  
Debbie Price  
Christopher Mitchell  
Audrey Krummrich  
Sue Sutherland  
Ralph Eckart, brother in-law of Marlene Mueller  
James Whitmarsh, nephew of Jan Friedrich  
Mike Llamas, brother in law of Mimi Llamas  
Norma Franke  
Richard Gentry, brother of Scott Gentry  
Jack Snyder  
Venita Jane Rogers

**Please send prayer requests to:**  
**[pastormichelle@stpaulucc.org](mailto:pastormichelle@stpaulucc.org) or**  
**call 618-233-3303.**

## **Pastor's Message - January**

Friends, there's no easy way to say it: January can feel a bit of a letdown.

When I look outside, the snow-covered ground begins to blend in well with the white-gray sky of an early January day. Colors lack in this landscape, with only splashes of black and brown to accompany the white and gray. In addition, all the holiday lights have been taken down from the outside of homes, and all decorations from the Christmas and other winter holidays have been packed away.

January is abiding in a liminal space between the bursting lights and activities of December, and the bold reds of Valentines Day. This segment of the year is a corridor between last year's memories and this year's adventures.

In what feels to be a holding a space void of many activities and brightness, there are many glimmers around us.

Glimmers are those small moments of light - not necessarily physical light - but something that illuminates our souls. Glimmers open us to God in our midst and the joy that the Divine bring into our lives.

When we refocus our souls during this month filled with grays and shadows, we can see the glimmers popping up. Through acts of kindness and words we use to lift one another, glimmers will draw us into a place of hope and joy instead of the blandness of the season.

We can find glimmers acts of mission, of giving of our talents and treasures, through the times spent with friends, and through reaching out to someone by any means of messaging - from texting to calls to visits.

May we keep our hearts and minds open to the ways God will be calling us to see and share glimmers even in the blandness of days.


Blessings, Pastor Michelle















**Pastor Michelle's  
January office hours**  
Monday-Thursday 10am-1pm

**Fridays are my sabbath days.  
While I am not in the office or attending  
to administrative work, I am available for  
pastoral emergencies.**

# January



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
		
		
<b>5</b> <b>9am-Worship</b> 10am-Coffee & Doughnuts  <i>National Bird Day</i>	<b>6</b> 9am-Pickle Ball 10:30am-Yoga Gold  <b>HAPPY EPIPHANY!</b>	<b>7</b> 9am-Quilters 5pm-Community Dinner
<b>12</b> <b>9am-Worship</b> 10am-Culinaire's Breakfast <b>10am-Mission Meeting-Library</b> <i>National Pharmacists Day</i>	<b>13</b> 9am-Pickle Ball 10:30am-Yoga Gold  <i>National Gluten-Free Day</i>	<b>14</b> 9am-Quilters 10am-Seekers Bible Study 1pm-Mats for Community 5pm-Community Dinner <i>Organize Your Home Day</i>
<b>19</b> <b>9am-Worship-YOUTH SERVICE</b> 10am-Coffee & Doughnuts  <i>National Imagination Day</i>	<b>20</b> <b>Office Closed in observance of Dr. M L King's Birthday</b> 	<b>21</b> 9am-Quilters 10am-Seekers Bible Study 5pm-Community Dinner  <i>National Hugging Day</i>
<b>26</b> <b>9am-Worship</b> 10am-Coffee & Doughnuts  <i>National Spouse Day</i>	<b>27</b> 9am-Pickle Ball 10:30am-Yoga Gold  <i>Holocaust Remembrance Day</i>	<b>28</b> 9am-Quilters 10am-Seekers Bible Study 5pm-Community Dinner <i>National Pediatrician Day</i>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p><b>NEW YEAR'S DAY!</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></p>	<p>2</p> <p>10am-Worship Meeting 10:30am-Yoga Gold</p> <p><i>World Introvert Day</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p><i>Festival of Sleep Day</i></p>	<p>4</p> <p><i>National Spaghetti Day</i></p>
<p>8</p> <p>9am-Pickle Ball 6pm-Bells 7:15pm-Choir</p> <p><i>National Career Coach Day</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:30am-Yoga Gold <b>7pm-Personnel Meting</b></p> <p><i>National Word Nerd Day</i></p>	<p>10</p> <p><i>Houseplant Appreciation Day</i></p>	<p>11</p> <p><i>International Thank You Day</i></p>
<p>15</p> <p>9am-Pickle Ball 6pm-Bells 7:15pm-Choir</p> <p><i>National Hat Day</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:30am-Yoga Gold <b>6pm-Council Meeting</b></p> <p><i>National Religious Freedom Day</i></p>	<p>17</p> <p><i>Customer Service Day</i></p>	<p>18</p> <p><i>National Thesaurus Day</i></p>
<p>22</p> <p>9am-Pickle Ball 6pm-Bells 7:15pm-Choir</p> <p><i>National Celebration of Life Day</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:30am-Yoga Gold</p> <p><i>National Handwriting Day</i></p>	<p>24</p> <p><i>National Compliment Day</i></p>	<p>25</p> <p><i>National Opposite Day</i></p>
<p>29</p> <p>9am-Pickle Ball 6pm-Bells 7:15pm-Choir</p> <p><i>Chinese New Year National Puzzle Day</i></p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:30am-Yoga Gold</p> <p><i>National Plan for Vacation Day</i></p>	<p>31</p> <p><i>National Fun at Work 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 Bernie Limper**

Janice Friedrich  
Darwin & Marylu Bretsch

### **IMO Sandra Karstens**

Janice Friedrich

### **IMO Cheryl Stanger**

Janice Friedrich

### **IMO Brian Relfe (Roger's brother)**

Janice Friedrich

### **IMO James Bevirt**

Jane Bonaldi  
Joyce Bevirt  
Evelyn Fritz  
Roberta Calvin

### **IHO Sandy Ritter** **(Community Dinner)**

Gloria Strohm

**Starting Tuesday, January 14th @ 10am - St. Paul UCC Genesis Room - 115 W. B. St.**

### **Seekers Bible Study - Pick a Psalm January 2025**

Seekers are asked to pick a Psalm, except the 23rd. Bring your Bible.

The Seeker can do any of the following:

- Read out loud and discuss what their psalm means to them or group discussion
- Use The African Bible Study Method Formational Reading of Scripture: The African Bible Study Method - Forming Lutherans<https://www.forminglutherans.org/2024/08/30/formational-reading-of-scripture-the-african-bible-study-method/>
- Be an active listener

We will continue each week until we have all 149 psalms covered or we have no more presentations. To aid in discussions, there are numerous sources online, in our church library, in your study Bible, and in your heart. We're going to try to stick to our usual 10:00 to 11:00 time slot and schedule four psalms each week. If we run out of time, we will move the scheduled psalm to the next week. It is important that we have the number of the psalm to be discussed ahead of time.

**Jan 14** Psalm 1 and 27 Kris  
Psalm 139 Mary Ellen  
Psalm 96 or 121 Lynn

**Jan 21** Psalm 118 Anonymous

# MATS FOR COMMUNITY COMFORT

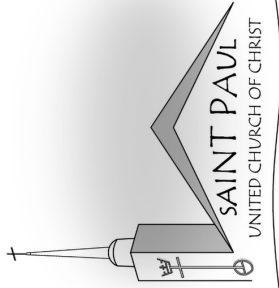
**Please join us**  
**on the 3rd Tuesday of**  
**every month from 1-3pm**  
**in the craft room.**  
**Please join us!**



		2024 Final Budget	2024 Nov Actuals	YTD Actuals
	<b>REVENUE</b>			
	130100 - Congregational Offerings	\$378,200.29	\$26,912.63	<b>\$318,770.64</b>
	130104 - Fund Raising Events*	\$3,000.00	\$5,450.00	<b>\$7,960.00</b>
	130105 - Rental Income-205 W B St.	\$11,790.00	\$1,200.00	<b>\$11,775.00</b>
	130500 - Building Fund	\$19,000.00	\$697.00	<b>\$12,408.00</b>
	130741-BASSC Utilities	\$6,600.00	\$672.05	<b>\$5,399.14</b>
	1302xx - Outreach (Various Missions #)	\$0.00	\$250.00	<b>\$9,954.00</b>
	131100 - Memorials	\$12,500.00	\$1,300.00	<b>\$7,115.00</b>
	131200 - Bequests	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
	131300 - Building Income	\$4,200.00	\$618.00	<b>\$9,239.00</b>
	131400 - Pastoral Honorarium	\$1,200.00	\$425.00	<b>\$1,385.00</b>
	131499 - Pastoral Expense Revenue	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>
	131500 - Investment Income /Michelson Income	\$28,400.00	\$0.00	<b>\$28,400.00</b>
	131600 - Stifel Investment-Donation fro Pastoral Minister	\$24,700.00	\$0.00	<b>\$15,000.00</b>
	131600 - Distribution from Endowment (Per Guidelines)	\$135,000.00	\$0.00	<b>\$78,500.00</b>
	131650 - Distribution from Endowment (Cap. Exp.)	\$22,000.00	\$0.00	<b>\$11,000.00</b>
	131900 - Other Income	\$50.00	\$50.00	<b>\$38,353.62</b>
	<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>\$646,640.29</b>	<b>\$39,574.68</b>	<b>\$557,259.40</b>
	Team Revenues	\$3,900.00	\$343.35	\$4,908.68
	Capital Expenses			
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$650,540.29</b>	<b>\$39,918.03</b>	<b>\$562,168.08</b>
	<b>EXPENSES</b>			
	Personnel Expenses	(\$381,018.00)	(\$23,906.51)	<b>(\$304,052.82)</b>
	Administrative Support (formerly Operating Expenses)	(\$41,607.33)	(\$3,115.06)	<b>(\$35,865.63)</b>

<b>ATTENDANCE &amp; OFFERINGS</b>			
Nov-24 9am	384 + Online	Nov-23 9am	415 + Online
Nov-24 All Gifts:	\$27,499.60	Nov-23 All Gifts:	\$27,179.97

**please join us!**



**In person on Sundays!**

Worship Service - 9am  
Coffee & Doughnuts - 10am

**Join us live on Facebook**

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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

For videos of services, sermons, archives, events and much more!!

**Sign up** for the online weekly

eNews newsletter and  
Our St. Paul monthly newsletter!

**St. Paul United Church of Christ**

115 W. B. Street  
Belleville, IL 62220  
618-233-3303

**Event Rental Space Available!**

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

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***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 22

**MAIL DATE**  
January 31