

August
2025



Our St. Paul Newsletter

YOUR St. Paul Team

Rev. Michelle Torigian, Senior Pastor
Patrick Kinney, Facility Manager
Dr. Tristan Frampton, Director of Music
Cynthia Johnson, Organist
Sherry Wilhelm, Office Manager
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

Anniversaries & Birthdays

August Wedding Anniversaries

8/7-Al & Nancy Scharf
8/9-Michael & Linda Herrmann

8/18-Ken & Osceola Mueller
8/29-Jean & EJ Sporleder

August Birthdays

8/1-Amy Florek
8/3-Sandy Ritter
8/4-Sandy Frerking
8/5-Craig Liddy
8/5-Eileen Peter
8/6-Mac McCoy
8/10-Laureen Torigian
8/11-Lyn Mueller

8/11-Diane Grohmann
8/13-Ken Mueller
8/15-Gerald Hough
8/16-Lee-Alison Wilson
8/18-Helen Whicher
8/20-Lynn Koehler
8/22-Ken Nettleton
8/22-Judy Keplar

8/23-Judy Harms
8/25-Tammy Flach
8/25-Doris Steiner
8/27-Diane Drake
8/27-Steven Maiworm
8/28-Diana Haar
8/29-Pam Nicholson
8/31-Karen Keuss

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: September - **Deadline to submit information: August 21st.**

News and Happenings at Our St. Paul:

Are the dog days of summer upon us? It certainly feels that way. During these incredibly hot and humid days, please remember to keep yourself as cool and hydrated as possible and also check in on your elderly neighbors who might be having a harder time with the heat. Remember that fall is on the way. That being said, we (as a church) are still in the season of Ordinary Time—a season of growth. There are signs of growth within our faith community.

- We recently welcomed new members into our church family (we will be sharing a brief profile of each one to further welcome them to St. Paul (look for that in this issue of the OSP on page)
- A growing number of people are getting involved with the St. Paul Progress Team—a collective of folks who gather once a month to brainstorm and put ideas into action in order to improve our witness and community spirit at St. Paul Church. If you are interested in being a part of this, please call the church office for information and our next meeting date and location.
- Folks are training to become more knowledgeable and certified caregivers for programs that involve working with children or vulnerable elderly folks. The With You Team visitors and people interested in working in the Nursery or in other programs for children and youth are doing this to comply with our “Safe Church Policy” that insures the safety of all participants and creates a safe, nurturing environment for these programs.
- Speaking of the Nursery, while we will continue to offer the “Family Room” for parents and children during worship services, our goal is to have the Nursery also open on Sunday mornings as another option for parents of children up to 3 yrs old. To that end, we need volunteers who would be willing to complete the online training (there are group training options or you can simply complete in the comfort of your home at the computer); have a background check completed; and be available to staff the Nursery on one Sunday a month. There is a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center or you can call the church office to claim a Sunday and get the information about training.
- We have enjoyed a variety of guest speakers and worship services this summer.
- Plans are underway to set up focus groups for parents and those who have worked with children and youth in the past to vision and plan for programming that is meaningful and good for families. Keep an eye out for details!

The heat will break. School will start again. Pumpkin spice will be everywhere. Stay as cool as possible and enjoy these last weeks of summer! We will see you in church.

Peace and blessings!





August is here—a time when (for families with children) thoughts turn toward the end of summer vacation and back to school. We know this can be a stressful transition. Transitions are our specialty. The With You Team diligently listens and works to make sure that those who are experiencing transitions have support from our church.

Those of us who conduct visits are in the process of completing training to better equip us for that calling. Even during this time of training, we are still going about doing the good work of caring for others. Our group not only does that work, but we are involved in providing opportunities to build community at church and help in the wider community as well.

Our fearless leader, Susan Relfe, has organized day trips for members of our Seekers Bible Study group which will resume their weekly meetings in the fall. Speaking of fall (and the cooler days that come with it), The Annual Alzheimer's Walk will be Saturday, September 27th. Walking is not even required to be on the team. The focus is raising funds for Alzheimer's Research. We will remember those in our congregation challenged by Alzheimer's Disease.

As always, we can always put someone to work, so if you want to be part of this incredible group, contact Susan Relfe (susanrelfe@outlook.com) if you would like to be part of this group. On a weekly basis, take home (or tear out the page with) the list of those we are keeping in prayer. We are encouraging ALL members to consider taking the prayer list home on Sundays (it's published in the weekly bulletin) or check it online (it's under the Media tab) and pray for those listed. God knows their needs, and your thoughtful petitions do make a difference; likewise, if you could use the support of our team or know a member of the church who could, please call the church office (233-3303). That communication is vital to our ministry. Our next meeting is Wednesday, August 6 at 1 PM.

Ten members of our congregation are currently on our "Prayers for Healing." Seven caregivers are on our list for "Continued Support." Twenty members reside at Retirement Facilities.

Your partners in caring,

The With You Ministry Team

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

(Galatians 6:2)



News From The Council

Taylor Roofing completed the flat roof replacement project in June.

Total of Taylor Invoices \$353,062.94

Original Taylor Bid \$351,869.00

Unforeseen Costs \$1,193.94 (due to replacement of some sheathing)

At the October 27, 2024 Special Congregational Meeting, the congregation approved a motion to allow withdrawing up to \$370,000 from the Endowment Fund to replace the flat roof. The good news is that the withdrawal from the Endowment Fund will be much less than projected due to minimal unforeseen costs, a settlement check (approximately \$36,700) from our insurance carrier for prior storm damage, and donations for the roof project (approximately \$18,000) from the congregation.

A Big Welcome To Our New Members!

Mike & Mary Blaies



Mary Blaies

I am currently a senior citizen activities coordinator with the St. Clair County Office Aging and have been there 14 years and love it. I am one of six children who was raised in Belleville, Illinois and have lived in Freeburg the last 30 years.

I have been married 40 years to Mike Blaies and we have raised three children; Jennifer Blaies/Westerfield (Kurt) with two children, Madison and Keaton of Belleville, Brad Blaies (Meg) with a son, Desmond 4 years old of St. Louis, and Danny Blaies (Martha), Grand dog Odie, of St. Louis. I enjoy crafts, music festivals and the outdoors

Mike Blaies

He is currently an account manager for Lapham - Hickey Steel Company for 18 years. He is one of three children and was raised in Fairview Heights., IL.

He is a board member for the Village of Freeburg and has made a significant impact on the community. He enjoys watching sports, relaxing outdoors.

Linda, Carol & Michael Speichinger






We are the Speichinger family from Millstadt.

Mike is retired from SAVE after 40 plus years. He loves the STL Cardinals. He's never met a stranger and once he meets you, you're his friend for life.

Carol started out working in banking. She continued her schooling & became an RN. She retired after 26 years of nursing. She retired from SLU in the Utilization Review department.

Linda worked as an Executive Assistant for most of her career. She got her Broker's License and retired from Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield Sales after 24 years of service. Our family has always been active in the Masonic organizations. Mike is a Mason. Carol & Linda are both Past Honored Queens of Job's Daughters. Carol is also a past Worthy Matron of Eastern Star.



Sun	Mon	Tue
		National Back to School Month 
3 9am-Worship 10am-Coffee & Doughnuts	4 10:30am-Yoga Gold	5 9am-Quilters 9am-Seekers Outing 5pm-Community Dinner
10 9am-Worship 10am-Coffee & Doughnuts 10am-Mission Meeting	11 10:30am-Yoga Gold	12 9am-Quilters 11:15am-Stewardship 1pm-Shufflers @ Gus K's 4:30pm-Finance Meeting 5pm-Community Dinner
17 9am-Worship 10am-Coffee & Doughnuts	18 10:30am-Yoga Gold	19 9am-Quilters 1pm-Mats for Community 5pm-Community Dinner
24 9am-Worship 10am-Coffee & Doughnuts	25 10:30am-Yoga Gold 6pm-Griefworks Meeting Monday-Funday! 6-8pm	26 9am-Quilters 1pm-Seekers Bible Study 5pm-Community Dinner
31 9am-Worship 10am-Coffee & Doughnuts		

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>National Dog Month</p> 	<p>National Wellness Month</p> 	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> 
<p>6</p> <p>9:30am-Praesidium Training 1pm-With You</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>10am-Worship Meeting 10:30am-Yoga Gold</p>	<p>8</p> 	<p>9</p> <p>Scharf's Farm Fundraiser 6-10</p> 
<p>13</p> <p>9:30am-Praesidium Training 4pm-Website Meeting</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:30am-Yoga Gold 7pm-Personnel Meeting</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>20</p> <p>6pm-Bells 7:15pm-Choir</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:30am-Yoga Gold 6pm-Council Meeting</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>27</p> 	<p>28</p> <p>10:30am-Yoga Gold</p>	<p>29</p> 	

St. Paul UCC MONDAY FUN-DAY

Our next Monday Fun-Day is August 25th, from 6-8pm!
We hope to see you!!! Everyone is welcome!
Building a better community!



Chair Yoga 6-6:30, Yoga 6:30-7



Pickleball (bring your own paddle & ball)

Board Games (bring your own or play Uno!)

FREE WILL OFFERING!



**BRING YOUR
FRIENDS!!!**



115 W. B. St., Belleville

stpaulucc.org

Pampered Chef Fundraiser!



On Sunday, August 24th a Pampered Chef consultant will be in the Welcome Center taking orders . . . or you may order online.
Great gift ideas for birthdays, Christmas and anniversaries!
35% of the proceeds goes to **Community Interfaith Food Pantry!**
Brochures are available in the Welcome Center!

St. Paul Friends Fundraiser at Scharf Farm!

Saturday, August 9th from 6-10pm

\$20 per person for all who attend!
(all to benefit mission projects of St. Paul UCC)

WHAT TO BRING:

Your friends - the more the merrier!

Your favorite hors d'oeuvre/snack to share!

Your lawn chair and a cooler of your favorite beverage!

**Music by:
Jillian & Chris
Ritter**

Contact Sandy Ritter if you
have an questions!
618-222-1123



MATS FOR COMMUNITY COMFORT

Please join us!

We could use your help to make mats from plastic bags for people in need!

3rd Tuesday of every month from 1-3pm!



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

618-233-3303 ~ stpaulucc.org



NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



**WE NEED CARING ADULTS TO STAFF
OUR NURSERY DURING WORSHIP SERVICES!
TWO VOLUNTEERS (NOT FROM THE SAME
HOUSEHOLD) ARE NEEDED EACH SUNDAY.
A BACKGROUND CHECK AND ONLINE COURSE
TRAINING ARE REQUIRED. YOU WILL NEED TO READ
AND SIGN OFF ON THE "SAFE CHURCH POLICY".
THERE IS A SIGN-UP SHEET IN THE WELCOME
CENTER OR YOU CAN CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE TO
SIGN UP. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS,
PLEASE SEE BRETT WHITE OR
CALL SHERRY AT THE CHURCH MON. - THUR.**



618-233-3303



Griefworks

An LGBTQIA+
Grief Support Group

Announcing a new Grief Support Group for anyone (18+)
in the LGBTQIA+ Community
Who has experienced loss and is struggling with grief



Monday, May 19, 2025
6:30-8:00 pm
St. Paul UCC
115 West B Street
Belleville, IL 62220

(Use entrance under portico)



Meetings will be held monthly
on the 4th Monday of each month
Upcoming meetings: 6/23, 7/28, 8/25
(May meeting will be held on the 3rd Monday of the month
because of holiday weekend)

Contact griefworks2025@gmail.com for more information

August Seekers Outing

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5TH @ 9AM

ALL ARE INVITED!

The Seekers Bible Study group & friends will meet in the
church parking lot at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 5th to
visit the Old Courthouse (downtown St. Louis.)

Our travelers, so far, are: Mary Ellen Bertram, Edie Elliott,
Pam Nicholson, Susan Relfe

Will YOU be joining us?

RSVP susanrelfe@outlook.com or call the office!

Crafty Mania

Saturday, September 27, 2025 - 9am-9pm

Cost: \$45 includes: lunch, snacks, space & attendance prizes,
raffle baskets, vendors & demo! Raffle tickets available for purchase.
Dinner will be available for an additional \$10. Menu: chicken, pasta, vegetable & dessert. Please
include dinner fee in with your reservation.

St. Paul UCC - 115 W. B. St., Belleville, IL (Enter on C. St. through the Activity Center)

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

**Whether you're into scrapbooking, card & jewelry making, sewing... spend the day
doing what YOU love to do!**

Name & address: _____

Phone & email: _____

I want to sit by: _____

Proceeds to benefit St. Paul youth & church missions!

Call for questions or more information: 618-233-3303

Reservations and payment are due by:
September 19th!

STARTING JUNE 10TH

**THE SHUFFLERS ARE
RESHUFFLING!**

Those who like to play cards
and have good conversation,
come on the 2nd Tuesday of
the month at 1:00 p.m. to
Pastor Kuether's house.

For directions,
call 618-616-0077.

PUZZLES

Now available to
borrow from the
St. Paul UCC
Library!
Bring one take one!

Group training for SafeChurch/Praesidium:

August 6th @ 9:30 am
August 13th @ 1:00 pm

You are welcome to join one of the groups, or
you can do the training from home. Contact
the office if you have any questions.
Sherry will set up you up online.

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 Raymond "Lynn" Bradley

Ruth Bush

Ben & Virginia Raby

Terry & Roxy Collins

William Hettenhausen

Karen & Al Keuss

Mr & Mrs Michael Schneider

Dana Rosenzweig & Beverly Brightwell

Allen & Nancy Scharf

Judy Koch & Al Stahl

Sonja Myland

Tim & Sandy Ritter

Carolyn Hazelip

Lois Ridenour

Bill & Sandy Fahrner

Bill & Sandy Guthrie

Jane Bonaldi

Fred & Betty Robinson

Charles & Jean Claxton

Donna & Jim Thomas

Stephenie Bauza

Lana Gentry

Henry Keck

Ruth Klingel

Gloria Strohm

Judy Saeger

Gay Eckert

Cathlene Bradley Alvarez

Marlene Mueller

Ambassador Travel

IMO Sue Kuether

Judy Saeger

IMO Raymond Chamberlin

Stephenie Bauza

Judy Saeger

IMO Janet Brannon

Donna Davis

For Your Prayers

Lori Coleman

Carol Hotz

Tim Ritter

Wayne Caughman

Tim Ritter Jr., son of Sandy & Tim Ritter

Lou Ann Niemann

Debbie Price

Christopher Mitchell

Audrey Krummrich

Ralph Eckart, brother in-law of Marlene Mueller

Mike Llamas, brother in law of

Mimi Llamas

Jennifer Wick, daughter of Stephenie Bauza

Venita Jane Rogers

Fred Hotz

Jim Young

Syndy Kalinowski

Larry Walton

Betty Eckert

Laura Sadler



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.

REVENUE	2025 Final Budget	2025 June Actuals	YTD Actuals	% of Budget
130100 - Congregational Offerings	\$351,017.89	\$23,609.00	\$203,212.35	57.89%
130104 - Fund Raising Events*	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,485.54	49.52%
130105 - Rental Income-205 W B St.	\$14,400.00	\$1,260.00	\$7,260.00	50.42%
130500 - Building Fund	\$10,000.00	\$725.00	\$8,393.00	83.93%
130741-BASSC Utilities	\$6,600.00	\$391.04	\$3,496.67	52.98%
1302xx - Outreach (Various Missions #)	\$0.00	\$1,730.00	\$5,478.00	N/A
130323 - Bank/Paypal Revenue	\$0.00	\$14.57	\$14.84	#DIV/0!
131100 - Memorials	\$6,000.00	\$440.00	\$7,094.00	118.23%
131200 - Bequests	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$107,500.00	N/A
131300 - Building Income	\$11,000.00	\$44.00	\$2,244.00	20.40%
131400 - Pastoral Honorarium	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$800.00	66.67%
131499 - Pastoral Expense Revenue	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
131500 - Investment Income /Michelson Income	\$28,400.00	\$0.00	\$14,200.00	50.00%
131600 - Distribution from Endowment (Per Guidelines)	\$131,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
131650 - Distribution from Endowment (Cap. Exp.)	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	100.00%
131800 - Distribution from Endowment (Roof Project)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$182,000.00	#DIV/0!
131900 - Other Income	\$25.00	\$54,763.33	\$55,780.72	223122.88%
Total Operating Revenues	\$572,642.89	\$82,976.94	\$608,959.12	106.34%
Team Revenues	\$4,360.00	\$258.76	\$2,215.76	
Capital Expenses				
Grand Total	\$577,002.89	\$83,235.70	\$611,174.88	105.92%
EXPENSES				
Personnel Expenses	(\$315,884.75)	(\$26,286.33)	(\$149,469.30)	47.32%
Administrative Support (formerly Operating Expenses)	(\$42,220.28)	(\$3,657.00)	(\$22,075.06)	52.29%
Outreach (formerly Mission board)	(\$10,325.00)	(\$3,988.00)	(\$4,031.21)	39.04%
Education	(\$1,500.00)	\$0.00	(\$18.14)	1.21%
Stewardship	(\$1,350.00)	(\$406.70)	(\$896.31)	66.39%
Property	(\$189,897.86)	(\$130,959.26)	(\$408,886.74)	215.32%
Congregational Care (formerly Worship Board)	(\$15,825.00)	(\$207.93)	(\$6,466.16)	40.86%
General Fund	-	-	(\$3,000.00)	N/A
Total Operating Expense	(\$577,002.89)	(\$165,505.22)	(\$594,842.92)	103.09%
Difference between Revenue & Expenses	\$0.00	(\$82,269.52)	\$16,331.96	

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

Jun-25 9am 434 + Online

Jun-24 9am 415 + Online

Jun-25 All Gifts: \$32,417.30

Jun-24 All Gifts: \$24,002.79

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

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!

Label Here