



July 20, 2025

STPAULUCC.ORG



## St. Paul UCC



## Sunday, July 20, 2025 ~ 9:00 am Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

#### 

#### WELCOME

**PRELUDE** 

Great Is the Lord
Michael W. Smith and Deborah D. Smith
arr. Mark Hayes

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Christ is in our midst, inviting us to sit and listen.

All: We come to be still in God's presence.

One: In a world of many distractions, Jesus calls us to what is needed most.

All: We turn our hearts to God, ready to receive.

One: Let us worship the One who speaks truth and offers life.

All: With open hearts and willing spirits, we come to worship.

#### INVOCATION

Holy God, you call us to sit at your feet and listen, yet we are often restless and distracted. In this time of worship, quiet our hearts. Help us to hear your voice above the noise of our worries and tasks. May your Spirit draw us close, that we may be fully present with you. Amen.

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This worship service is live streamed and recorded.

\*Notes where to stand if comfortably able.

#### \*OPENING HYMN

## 486 Have Thine Own Way, Lord!



Parents: if you have a child with you this morning, we have activity bags with coloring pages in the Narthex along with fidget toys (for all ages). There is also a Family Room just off of the Welcome Center if you need a quiet place at any time during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance. They will we happy to assist.

#### \*PRAYER OF REFLECTION & RECONCILIATION (UNISON)

Merciful God, we confess that we are often like Martha—worried and distracted by many things. We strive and labor, yet forget to rest in your presence. We fail to choose what is truly needed: time with you. Forgive us when we are too busy to listen, too anxious to trust, too focused on doing that we neglect simply being with you. Teach us to rest in your love and follow you with whole hearts. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

#### \*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Hear the good news: Christ does not condemn us in our distractions but calls us back to his presence. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and invited to sit once more at his feet. Receive this grace and walk in God's peace. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC Meditation

by Frank Bridge Lauren Shepard, clarinet

SCRIPTURE Luke 10:38-42 Karen Keuss

**SERMON** Distracted by Service The Rev. Dr. Jeremy Lopez

#### PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

#### REFLECTION ON GIVING

Martha welcomed Jesus into her home with hospitality, while Mary welcomed him with her presence. Both were gifts of love. As we give today, may our gifts—whether of resources, time, or attention—be an act of devotion, choosing what truly matters: the work of Christ in the world.

#### **COLLECTION OF THE GIFTS & OFFERTORY MUSIC**

Bind Us Together by Bob Gilman arr. By Mark Hayes \*DOXOLOGY (Tune: Old Hundreth)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ in whom God's grace we know Praise Spirit, with us evermore One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen

#### \*BLESSING OF THE GIFTS (UNISON)

We give you thanks, gracious God, for the many gifts you have given us. We ask now that you would receive these offerings and bless them that they would further your mission of love and justice in our world. Guide us in our life of faith, and help us to see the world as you see it, with compassion and grace. Amen.

\*CLOSING HYMN

Christ, You Call Us all to Service

(See next page)

#### \*COMMISSIONING

Go now, choosing what is needed most. In a world of distractions, may you listen for Christ's voice. In the busyness of life, may you find rest in God's presence. And as you go, may you carry the peace of Christ into all that you do. Amen.

#### \*BENEDICTION

May God bless you and keep you.

May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace. Amen!

**POSTLUDE** 

Great Is Thy Faithfulness William M. Runyan Arr. Mark Hayes



Rev. Lopez is a native of Phoenix, AZ, and holds a Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry in Preaching from Chicago Theological Seminary. From 2011 to 2024, he served as Pastor of Salem United Church of Christ in Tonawanda, New York. Currently, he serves as an active duty chaplain in the United States Air Force. Rev. Lopez has been married to Debbie for 19 years, and they have a 17-year-old son, Charley. In his free time, he enjoys watching movies, working out at the gym, reading theology, and has recently taken up running with the Belleville Running Club. He and Charley plan to run the Belleville Half Marathon in September!

## 571 Christ, You Call Us All to Service



# 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



### LAST DAY TO ORDER

## St. Paul shirts!

THIS SUNDAY - JULY 20TH!



Order form located in the Welcome Center! If you haven't paid for your shirt, please prepay with cash or check to the office!

Flowers, Music and Bulletin sponsorships are a lovely way to honor the memory, birthday or achievement of your loved one. To sign up, call the church office.

Cost is \$35.00.

# 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!



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



#### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

For all the volunteers who are required to have background checks and complete on-line training . . .

We are now able to offer group classes!

Stay tuned for upcoming dates and times!



## 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 Cynthia Johnson Jim Young Syndy Kalinowski Larry Walton Betty Eckert Laura Sadler



#### Please call the church for prayer requests: 618-233-3303 stpaulucc.org

Weekly Offerings	7/12/2025
Operating	\$ 7,371.00
Building Fund	\$ 335.00
	\$ 7,706.00
Giving YTD	\$ 204,336.35
Weekly Budget	\$ 6,942.65
Budget to Date	\$ 187,451.60
Total Budget	\$ 361,017.89

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July 6, 2025 81 + Online Pa	rticipants
July 7, 2024 83 + Online Pa	rticipants



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