



# **WELCOME TO ST. PAUL UCC**



**August 17, 2025**

**STPAULUCC.ORG**



# St. Paul UCC



Sunday, August 17, 2025 ~ 9:00 am  
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

## TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Guest Pastor.....	Rev. Joan Mier
Director of Music .....	Dr. Tristan Frampton
Organist .....	Cynthia Johnson
Liturgist .....	Beverly Brightwell

## WELCOME

### PRELUDE

*Larghetto* (from the 4th Organ Concerto)  
by G.F. Handel

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Welcome beloved of Christ to this time of worship. Here, we receive the touch of the Holy Spirit! Here, we open ourselves up to holy transformation! Are you ready?

**People: Yes, we are ready to receive the touch of the Holy Spirit, to offer our prayers and our praise to the one eternal God. We are ready to have our hearts and souls transformed!**

Leader: If you are ready and I am ready, then let us begin to offer all that is right to our God, and let us open ourselves up to all that the Spirit can offer us!

**People: The Spirit can come like a mighty wind or like the gentle touch of a feather upon our skin. We are prepared, and we are waiting for whatever the Spirit may bring to us!**

**ALL: Let us pray! Let us sing! Let us worship! Amen.**

### INVOCATION (UNISON)

**Spirit of the Living God, come fall afresh upon us this day. Enlighten us with the holy Word of God and let those divine words enter deep into our souls. Let us feel the change of sacred transformation, we pray, in this moment and in days ahead. Amen.**

### BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS (see insert)

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 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 be happy to assist.

**\*OPENING HYMN**

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# Every Time I Feel the Spirit

2 Sam. 22:9; Ps. 18:8

*African-American spiritual*

*Refrain*

Ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing in my heart I will

pray. Yes, ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing

*Last time, end*

in my heart I will pray. 1 Up - on the moun - tain my God  
2 Oh, Jor - dan riv - er, chil - ly and

spoke, out of God's mouth came fire and smoke. Looked all a -  
cold, it chills the bod - y, not the soul. There's on - ly

*to Refrain*

round me; looked so fine; I asked my God if all were mine.  
one train on this track; it runs to heav - en, then right back.

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

One: God knows us, inside and out, yet the Divine One invites us to a time of personally making amends with our Creator, allowing our hearts, minds, and souls to be refreshed in the Spirit. Only you know what you must say to God. As I cannot put words into your mouth in regard to what you need to say to God, I welcome you into a time of silent confession and reconciliation, and then I will offer the Words of Assurance:

Silent Confession and Reconciliation

## **\*ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

“God loves you,” words that we hear in song and sacred text. These are not just words made up but are words that offer God’s promise made to us. “God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16) With such an amazing gift of love and never-ending promise offered to us, let us be humbled by God’s great forgiveness, in this very moment and to eternity. Amen

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*From a Distance*

by Julie Gold, arr. Tom Birkner

Osceola Mueller and Tom Birkner, soloists

## **SCRIPTURE**

Psalm 80:1-2,8-19

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Luke 12:49-56

Beverly Brightwell

Beverly Brightwell

Rev. Joan Mier

## **SERMON**

Something Better For Us

Rev. Joan Mier

## **PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER AND THE 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**

We are faithful people: Faithful to God, faithful to the Church, and faithful to one another. Every faithful gift that we offer helps to keep the teachings of Jesus Christ alive in this community and in the world. Let us, now, prayerfully give what is right and good in the eyes of God. Let it be so. Amen.

## COLLECTION OF THE GIFTS & OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Air* (from the Harpsichord Sonata in g minor)  
by G.F. Handel

### \*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

God, you offer us holy transformation, loving forgiveness, and your amazing grace. With all that you offer us, we humble ourselves before you and ask you to receive these gifts unto yourself for the ministry of Jesus Christ. Through these gifts, guide us to be evermore faithful in our serving your holy Son and offering his love and care to those most in need. Amen.

### \*CLOSING HYMN      *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*      (See page 6 & 7)

### \*COMMISSIONING

Go forth now, beloved of Christ, being a good saint for God, using your gifts and skills to make this world a better place, not only for you, but for your family, your friends, your neighbors, your community, and your world. Care not just about what is right in front of you, but care about the needs of many across thousands of miles. For we are of one race—the Human Race—and every hurting person is a hurting brother or sister of ours, and every starving child is also a starving child of ours. May the divine mercy and amazing grace of God go with you, so that you may also help to transform this world into more sacred space, offering great care and kindness to those who are most in need, now and always. Let it be so. Amen

### \*BENEDICTION

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Amen

### POSTLUDE

*Alla Breve*  
(from the Sonata for Flute and Harpsichord)  
by G.F. Handel



## I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

Lesbia Scott, 1929; alt.

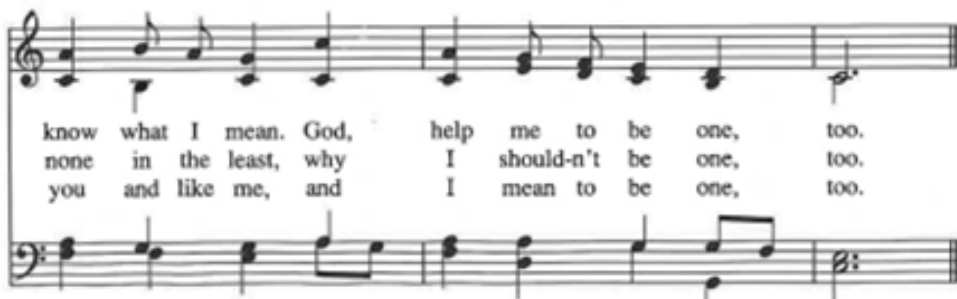
Unison

1 I sing a song of the saints of God, . . . faith-ful their whole lives  
 2 They loved their God and they lived that love. It was lov-ing that made them  
 3 They lived not on-ly in a- ges past, there are hun-dreds of thou-sands

through, who brave-ly la-bored, lived, and died for the God they strong. They did what was right, for Je-sus' sake, lived just-ly their still. The world is filled with liv-ing saints who choose to

loved and knew. And one was a doc-tor, and one was a queen, and an-whole lives long. And one was a proph-et, and one was a priest, and an-do God's will. You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea, in a

oth-er a shep-herd in pas-tures green: they were saints of God, if you oth-er was slain by a fierce wild beast: there is no earth-ly rea-son, church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea: for the saints are folk like



Tune: GRAND ISLE Irr.  
*John H. Hopkins, 1940*

# Crafty Mania

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

**Cost: \$45 Includes:** lunch, snacks, space & attendance prizes, raffle baskets, vendors & demos! 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!**



## For Your Prayers

Lori Coleman Carol Hotz & Fred Hotz Tim Ritter 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 Larry Walton Betty Eckert The loved ones of Wayne Coughman
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**Please call the church for prayer requests: 618-233-3303 [stpaulucc.org](http://stpaulucc.org)**

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](http://stpaulucc.org)

## Pampered Chef Fundraiser!

On Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup> 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!

Weekly Offerings		8/9/2025
Operating	\$	7,728.00
Building Fund	\$	45.00
	\$	7,773.00
<b>Giving YTD</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>223,265.09</b>
Weekly Budget	\$	6,942.65
Budget to Date	\$	215,222.20
Total Budget	\$	361,017.89

Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service	
August 3, 2025	85 + Online Participants
August 4, 2024	78 + Online Participants



Watch videos on YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/stpauluccbelleville>



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*St Paul UCC, Belleville, IL*

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\*Notes where to stand if comfortably able.