

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL UCC

"WILLINGNESS TO BE FAITHFUL"

BALCONY WINDOW



August 31, 2025

STPAULUCC.ORG

St. Paul UCC

Sunday, August 31, 2025 ~ 9:00 am
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Worship Leader Susan Relfe
Director of Music Dr. Tristan Frampton
Organist Cynthia Johnson
Liturgists Roger Relfe, Stephen Schmidt, Brett White

WELCOME

PRELUDE

To Delight in the Lord
By Gerald Peterson

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 100)

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

People: Serve the LORD with gladness!

Leader: Come into his presence with singing!

People: Know that the LORD, he is God!

Leader: It is he who made us, and we are his;

People: We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

People: and his courts with praise!

Leader: Give thanks to him; bless his name!

People: For the LORD is good;

Leader: His steadfast love endures forever,

People: and his faithfulness to all generations. Amen

*SHARING THE PEACE

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.

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This worship service is live streamed and recorded.

***OPENING HYMN**

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Gather Us In

Unison D A/C# C G Gm/Bb Dm

1 Here in this place, the new light is stream-ing, shad-ows of doubt are
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery; we are the old, who
 3 Here we re-ceive new life in the wa-ters; here we re-ceive the
 4 Not just in build-ings, small and con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,

C G D A/C# C G

van-ish-ed a-way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way, here in this place the new light is shin-ing;

Gm/Bb Dm C Am7 D

brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is God pres-ent, and now is the day.

A C/G D/F# G A C/G

Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in; our
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink, the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and

Continued on next page

Gather Us In, Continued

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in the key of D major. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, with chords D/F#, G, A, D, A/C#, C, and G indicated above the staff. The second system covers the next two lines of lyrics, with chords Gm/Bb, Dm, C, Am7, D, C/D, Bb/D, and D indicated above the staff. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/8 and then to 6/8.

spir - its in - flame. Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en;
proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly;
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,

we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

1ST SCRIPTURE READING: St. Phillip John 1:43-51 Roger Relfe
St. Philip, one of the Twelve Apostles, is known for his calling by Jesus, his role in the early church, and his significant interactions with Jesus and others.
(See photo on page 6)

*PRAYER OF REFLECTION & RECONCILIATION (UNISON)

People: In times of conflict and division, we turn to prayer for strength and wisdom. Heavenly Father, we come before You seeking reconciliation. Heal the wounds that have separated us from one another, and help us to forgive as You have forgiven. Grant us patience and wisdom to understand each other's hearts. As we seek, let our actions reflect Your truth, leading us toward unity and love. Amen

2ND SCRIPTURE READING: St. Stephen Acts 6:1-6 8-15 Steve Schmidt
St. Stephen became the first martyr for the Christian faith.
(See photo on page 6)

SPECIAL MUSIC *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*
Traditional Spiritual, arr. Moses Hogan
Tristan Frampton, soloist

3RD SCRIPTURE READING: St. Paul Acts 9:1-22 Brett White
*Paul the Apostle, formerly known as Saul, was one of the most significant leaders
of the early Christian church. He played a vital role in spreading the gospel.*
(See photo on page 6)

SERMON Audio Recording from February 13, 2005
Rev. Drew Kramer

MORNING 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

Dana Rosenzeig

In 1 Timothy 6:17, Paul "Commands those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds and to be generous and willing to share." Let us now share those gifts through our morning offering.

COLLECTION OF THE GIFTS & OFFERTORY MUSIC

Supplication
By Lani Smith

***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**

**People: Bless these gifts, and let them be a sign of our love for others.
Help us to recognize the many gifts and talents you have given to each of
us, and teach us to use them for your honor and for the good of all people.
Amen!**

***CLOSING HYMN**

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

(See page 7)

WORDS FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Roger Harris

BENEDICTION

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. -Romans 15:5-6

POSTLUDE

Processional for a Joyful Day
By Dale Wood

St. Phillip



St. Paul



St. Stephen



Happy 70th Birthday

PAM NICHOLSON!

Love, Pam, Bill, Mark & Barb

355 This Is a Day of New Beginnings

Unison Eb Fm Gm7 Abmaj7 Ab6 Eb Bb Fm Ab

1 This is a day of new be-gin-nings, time to re-mem-ber
 2 For by the life and death of Je-sus, love's might-y Spir-it,
 3 Then let us, with the Spir-it's dar-ing, step from the past and
 4 Christ is a-live, and goes be-fore us to show and share what
 *4 In faith we'll gath-er round the ta-ble to taste and share what

Cm Bb Bb Ab Eb G Fm Ab Gm7(b5)

and move on, time to be-lieve what love is bring-ing,
 now as then, can make for us a world of dif-ference,
 leave be-hind our dis-ap-point-ment, and griev-ing,
 love can do. This is a day of new be-gin-nings;
 love can do. This is a day of new be-gin-nings;

C7(b9) C7 Fm Eb G Abm6 Abm 1-3 Bb 4 Eb

lay-ing to rest the pain that's gone,
 as faith and hope are born a-gain,
 seek-ing new paths, and sure to find,
 our God is mak-ing all things new,
 our God is mak-ing all things new,

*Alternate text for Holy Communion

WORDS: Brian Wren (1936-)
 MUSIC: Carlton R. Young (1926-)
 Words © 1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Company
 Music © 1987 Hope Publishing Company

BEGINNINGS
 9.8.9.8.

For Your Prayers

Carol Hotz & Fred Hotz Tim Ritter Tim Ritter Jr., son of Sandy & Tim Ritter Lou Ann Niemann 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 Gay Eckert Gene Buxton John Hoehn
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Please call the church for prayer requests: 618-233-3303 stpaulucc.org

Weekly Offerings		8/23/2025
Operating	\$	1,910.00
Building Fund	\$	15.00
	\$	1,925.00
Giving YTD	\$	228,539.09
Weekly Budget	\$	6,942.65
Budget to Date	\$	229,107.51
Total Budget	\$	361,017.89

Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service

August 17, 2025	80 + Online Participants	
August 18, 2024	78 + Online Participants	



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



Like us on Facebook
St Paul UCC, Belleville, Il

The Christian Education team believes every child deserves to start the school year feeling prepared and hopeful. From your generous support, we were able to help many children at Franklin school do that.

Children are stepping into the classroom with confidence. YOU were able to provide school supplies which encouraged them to have a successful school year. Thank you for your ongoing support of our projects with the youth of this community!

St. Paul will be hosting the 2025 Annual Meeting of the IL South Conference on Oct. 18th!

We are asking for prepacked snack donations for the hospitality room. Please bring your donations to the church office or drop off on Sundays in the Welcome Center.

Chips, pretzels, granola bars, trailmix, breakfast bars, etc.