

SEPTEMBER 2025



Our St. Paul Newsletter

YOUR St. Paul Team

Patrick Kinney, Facility Manager
Sherry Wilhelm, Office Manager
Kathy Buehler, Bookkeeper
Dr. Tristan Frampton, Director of Music
Cynthia Johnson, Organist
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**

Congregational Notice

We have reached a point where irreconcilable differences between Pastor Michelle and the Church Council as well as additional lay leaders have inhibited our shared relationship from continuing. In light of that, Pastor Michelle has decided to resign her call as our Senior Pastor. She will wrap up her work in the office over the coming weeks to conclude her ministry with us and begin the next chapter of her life. The church has released her from her call letter's obligation to serve the church for one year after the end of her sabbatical.

During Pastor Michelle's sabbatical, Mimi Llamas served as our Sabbatical Coordinator, and she has agreed to continue to serve in that position through at least the end of this year as our Transitional Coordinator. We are grateful for our years with Pastor Michelle but also look toward the future and the next chapter of our congregational life.

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: October - Deadline to submit information: September 22nd.

August 27, 2025

Dear St. Paul United Church of Christ, Belleville Community,

From the outset, it was always my intention to return from my sabbatical invigorated, sharing my findings and the renewed energy I had gained from my time away. However, even before the end of my sabbatical time, I realized that was not to be the case. Thus, in consultation with the Personnel Committee and the church Council, although there are some administrative tasks I will attend to, my official ministry with the church is coming to an end, effective immediately.

Each pastor and congregation has their own gifts, challenges, areas for growth, and dreams for the future. Sometimes these are not compatible. Likewise, every pastor and congregation deserves to live into their call of God as authentically as possible. Sometimes, it is no longer possible to do this together. While this time of departure might be filled with uncertainty and grief, it is my deepest prayer that our parting ways will allow each of us to shine our truest selves and utilize the gifts that God has given us.

The seven years I was your pastor have been a blessing to me. I've had the chance to walk with you in times of grief and celebrate times of joy. We navigated the COVID-19 crisis together safely, without any major outbreaks, and I am proud of the way we executed our safety plans. We began the "Kindness Project," which provided us with a season to focus on sharing the love of God with compassion and grace. Leaving the people of this church, whom I have come to love dearly, brings me much sadness, but I am confident that in time God will heal our hearts.

As we enter this transition, my connection with you will change, allowing each of us to embark on a new chapter of discernment and call. I will no longer be your pastor, so I will not be leading weddings, funerals, baptisms, or any type of pastoral role for anyone who has been a congregant at St. Paul UCC, Belleville. Our connections, both through social media and in person, will also change as you enter a time of discernment, search, and eventually call a new pastor.

Since my husband is still teaching in the area, we will continue to reside in Belleville, and there will be times when you will see me. I will greet you with joy, but understand that we are simply neighbors in our community. The departure ethics I will commit to practicing are to help us both have the space for discernment of what's next, to help you form a stronger bond with those who will come to serve you, and for the good of Christ's Church.

Siblings in Christ, we had the opportunity to celebrate seven Easters together as a congregation, and we were able to celebrate the resurrection of Christ and the new life around us. The Easter experience instills in us an energy of new beginnings, healing, and renewal. Through this, I know that each of us will experience the encouragement of the Spirit of God, leading each of us to share the love and light of Christ in our world now and into the future.

With Gratitude and Grace,

Pastor Michelle
Rev. Michelle L. Torigian



Summer is winding down. Labor Day signals the unofficial end of summer and fall is just a few weeks away on the calendar. Fall sports, activities, colors, and flavors signal changes. Our team meets those in need when life changes for any reason.

We continue to provide caring words, support and care in order to complete the circle of caring the church provides for all seasons of life.

We are looking forward to an annual event that is near to the hearts and many families in our congregation. 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 and walk for a cure.

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.

Twenty members reside at Retirement Facilities. If you are interested in sending cards to let folks know we are thinking of them—especially at the upcoming holidays, please see Susan or call the church office if you would like to help with this seasonal ministry.

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)**

St. Paul is collecting kid's birthday wrapping paper
for Happy Birthday boxes for kids in need!

2 ½ feet x 2 ⅝ yards.

Please bring to the office or drop off in the
Welcome Center by September 25th!

Thank you!



2025 Walk to End Alzheimer's

September 27, 2025

Registration: 8:30am,

Opening ceremony: 10:00am

Walk: 10:30a.m.

**Location: Eckert's Belleville Farm
951 S. Green Mt. Rd. Belleville, IL 62220**

Join our team: "St. Paul UCC
Belleville" and/or Donate!
Contact Susan Relfe!



Please join us after
worship service for a
Culinaires Breakfast
On September 21st
in Heritage Hall!
A free will offer is greatly
appreciated!

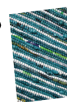


MATS FOR COMMUNITY COMFORT

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



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!**

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!**

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!

SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue
	1 LABOR DAY St. Paul Closed 	2 9am-Quilters 10am-Bible Study 5pm-Community Dinner
7 9am-Worship 10am-Coffee & Doughnuts Choir is back! 	8 10:30am-Yoga Gold	9 9am-Quilters 10am-Bible Study 11:15am-Stewardship 1pm-Shufflers @ Gus K's 5pm-Community Dinner
14 9am-Worship 10am-Coffee & Doughnuts 10am-Mission Meeting 	15 10:30am-Yoga Gold	16 9am-Quilters 10am-Bible Study 1pm-Mats for Community 5pm-Community Dinner
21 9am-Worship 10am-Culinaires Breakfast Fine Arts Concert! 4:00 pm 	22 First day of fall y'all! 10:30am-Yoga Gold 	23 9am-Quilters 10am-Bible Study 5pm-Community Dinner
28 9am-Worship 10am-Coffee & Doughnuts 	29 10:30am-Yoga Gold Griefworks Meeting 6:30pm Monday-Funday! 6-8pm	30 9am-Quilters 10am-Bible Study 5pm-Community Dinner

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 1pm-With You 6pm-Bells 7:15pm-Choir	4 10am-Worship Meeting	5 	6 
10 6pm-Bells 7:15pm-Choir	11 10:30am-Yoga Gold 7pm-Personnel Meeting	12	13
17 6pm-Bells 7:15pm-Choir	18 10:30am-Yoga Gold 6pm-Council Meeting Lifeline Screening Event	19	20
24 6pm-Bells 7:15pm-Choir	25 10:30am-Yoga Gold	26 	27 Alzheimer's Walk 10:30 am CRAFTY MANIA 9 am - 9 pm VENDOR FAIR 12-5 pm
			

ST. PAUL UCC RUMMAGE SALE

**115 W. B Street
Belleville, IL
Activity Center (Gym)**
(Across from Franklin School)
INSIDE RAIN OR SHINE!



Bake Sale!

Donations of
baked goods accepted!

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**

**CONTACT SUSAN RELFE
IF YOU CAN HELP!**

SUSANREFE@OUTLOOK.COM



SALE DATES
**Fri., Oct. 10th
4-7pm &
Sat., Oct. 11th
9am-12pm**

Donations are accepted **starting on September 29.**
Drop off hours: Monday & Wednesday from 10-4pm!
or if you do not need help unloading, you can place your
items in the garage by the activity center door Mon-Thurs.
*****PLEASE CALL before you come!*** 618-233-3303**



Agape Ringers

**St. Paul UCC
Fine Arts
Concert**

**Sunday,
September 21
@ 4pm!**

A Free will offering
Is appreciated

**Please join us
every Monday
and Thursday
@ 10:30 am,
for
Yoga with Julia.**



**Shufflers Club
@ Gus's
2nd Tuesday
Of the month
@ 1 pm**



St. Paul UCC MONDAY FUN-DAY

Our next Monday Fun-Day is September 29th, from 6-8pm!
We hope to see you!!! Everyone is welcome!
Building a better community!



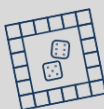
Chair Yoga 6-6:30. Yoga 6:30-7

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

VENDOR FAIR AT ST. PAUL UCC

SEPTEMBER 27 - 12-5 PM

Our vendors include:

- THREADS OF HOPE QUILTERS
- LILLA ROSE
- CARDS BY DEBBY
- SO SEW FUN CREATIONS
- SUGAR RUSH EXPRESS
- SCENTSY
- WASTE NOT, WANT NOT
- KIM'S CREATIONS
- PAMPERED CHEF
- STAMPIN' UP
- AND MORE!



stpaulucc.org

618-233-3303

115 W. B. Street, Belleville, IL

SEEKERS BIBLE STUDY

OUR NEXT SESSION BEGINS ON

→ **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2nd 10 A.M.**

LOCATION: THE GENESIS ROOM

SUBJECT: THE OLD TESTAMENT

IT IS A 24 PART DVD PRESENTATION BY AMY-JILL LEVINE.

ST. PAUL UCC, 115 W. B. ST.
BELLEVILLE, IL 62220
618-233-3303
STPAULUCC.ORG



GRIEFWORKS

An LGBTQIA+
Grief Support Group

A peer support group for anyone in the LGBTQIA+ community who has experienced loss and is struggling with grief.

MEETINGS HELD
4TH MONDAY
EVERY MONTH

6:30-8:00 pm

St. Paul UCC

115 W. B Street
Belleville, IL 62220

griefworks2025@gmail.com



FALL FESTIVAL DuBois Center

October 5th, 2025

11 am to 5 pm.

Free Entry

Free Parking

We have crafters, live music, delicious food, and more. This is a family-friendly event, so all ages are welcome. Younger guests can enjoy our Kids Korner with many crafts & games, and activities around the grounds. Ride a horse, view the scenic lake, or take a seat and tour our grounds via hay wagon. We host a Sweet Treat Shop bake sale each year. Help send a child to summer camp! All proceeds from this sale are added to the DuBois Center Scholarship Fund, allowing us to provide summer camp scholarships to children and youth from families with financial challenges.

Activities and food are available for an affordable price. This event is great for families, church groups, and friends to get outside and enjoy a beautiful fall day at DuBois!

Please consider Donating and/or Volunteering

Our Fall Festival is only possible because of the efforts of countless volunteers. They bake, promote, stitch, recruit, decorate, set up/take down, drive boats, lead tours, greet, direct traffic, clean, serve, and dedicate hours and hours to make it all happen. If you're interested in volunteering for Fall Festival, please email FallFestival@duboiscenter.org.

Calling ALL BAKERS: Our Sweet Treat Shop accepts donations of baked goods. We accept all kinds of baked goods – cookies, cakes, pies, candies, all of the good stuff! All money raised is used for scholarships to attend camp.

Sign up to be a Crafter or Maker

We are always looking for new makers and crafters to feature at this event! If you are interested in applying and have questions, email our Fall Festival Coordinator at FallFestival@duboiscenter.org.

Registration for the 2025 Festival is OPEN!

Apply online at <https://duboiscenter.org/news-events/dubois-center-fall-festival/registration/>.

**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.**

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

Peggy & Scott Burke

IMO Marilyn Dinkelmann

Joe & Susan Lehr

Nancy Eckert

Betty Eckert

Jeffrey & Stephanie Eckert

IMO Jim Young

Terry & Synthia Kalinowski

Donna Davis

Stephenie Bauza

James & Donna Thomas

Jane Bonaldi

Rusty & Sandy Wagner

Judy Koch

IMO Julie Koehler Seikel

Lynn Koehler

IMO Wayne Caughman

Donna Davis

Stephenie Bauza

Pam & Bruce Elser

Terry & Synthia Kalinowski

Ruth Klingel

Allen & Nancy Scharf

Gloria Strohm

Viola Nettleton

Janet Spencer

Mark Horstman

Peggy & Scott Burke

Rusty & Sandy Wagner

Gerald & Nancy Wallace

Marilae Perkins

Anniversaries & Birthdays

September Wedding Anniversaries

9/8-Wayne & Janet Kniepkamp

9/17-Matthew & Lisa Smith

September Birthdays

9/1-Susan Relfe

9/1-Christopher Price

9/2-Karen Boesch

9/2-Sharen Guthrie

9/2-Henry Keck, Jr.

9/2-Wayne Kniepkamp

9/3-Steven Flach

9/3-Debbie Price

9/4-James Hughes

9/4-Avery White

9/9-Beverly Brightwell

9/10-Carol Simon

9/15-Elise White

9/16-Luci Bradley

9/17-Edie Elliott

9/18-Kathy Liddy

9/18-Janice Smith-Walta

9/22-Bill Enyart

9/24-Erlene Seelman

9/26-Colette Smith

9/28-Cynthia Johnson

9/29-Jan Bolding

9/30-Sue Sutherland

REVENUE	2025 Final Budget	2025 July Actuals	YTD Actuals	% of Budget
130100 - Congregational Offerings	\$351,017.89	\$21,609.74	\$224,822.09	64.05%
130104 - Fund Raising Events*	\$3,000.00	\$102.00	\$1,587.54	52.92%
130105 - Rental Income-205 W B St.	\$14,400.00	\$1,260.00	\$8,520.00	59.17%
130500 - Building Fund	\$10,000.00	\$797.00	\$9,190.00	91.90%
130741-BASSC Utilities	\$6,600.00	\$362.16	\$3,858.83	58.47%
1302xx - Outreach (Various Missions #)	\$0.00	\$80.00	\$5,558.00	N/A
130323 - Bank/Paypal Revenue	\$0.00	\$578.77	\$593.61	#DIV/0!
131100 - Memorials	\$6,000.00	\$1,400.00	\$8,494.00	141.57%
131200 - Bequests	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$107,500.00	N/A
131300 - Building Income	\$11,000.00	\$852.00	\$3,096.00	28.15%
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	\$5,203.30	\$60,984.02	243936.08%
Total Operating Revenues	\$572,642.89	\$32,244.97	\$641,204.09	111.97%
Team Revenues	\$4,360.00	\$393.00	\$2,608.76	
Capital Expenses				
Grand Total	\$577,002.89	\$32,637.97	\$643,812.85	111.58%
EXPENSES				
Personnel Expenses	(\$315,884.75)	(\$24,662.70)	(\$174,132.00)	55.13%
Administrative Support (formerly Operating Expenses)	(\$42,220.28)	(\$4,151.20)	(\$26,226.26)	62.12%
Outreach (formerly Mission board)	(\$10,325.00)	\$0.00	(\$4,031.21)	39.04%
Education	(\$1,500.00)	(\$25.96)	(\$44.10)	2.94%
Stewardship	(\$1,350.00)	(\$196.11)	(\$1,092.42)	80.92%
Property	(\$189,897.86)	(\$17,537.67)	(\$426,424.41)	224.55%
Congregational Care (formerly Worship Board)	(\$15,825.00)	(\$816.14)	(\$7,282.30)	46.02%
General Fund	-	-	(\$3,000.00)	N/A
Total Operating Expense	(\$577,002.89)	(\$47,389.78)	(\$642,232.70)	111.30%
Difference between Revenue & Expenses	\$0.00	(\$14,751.81)	\$1,580.15	

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

Jul-25 9am 331 + Online

Jul-24 9am 321 + Online

Jul-25 All Gifts: \$25,367.43

Jul-24 All Gifts: \$33,045.55

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
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618-233-3303

Event Rental Space Available!

Label Here