

# WELCOME TO ST. PAUL UCC



September 14, 2025

[STPAULUCC.ORG](http://STPAULUCC.ORG)



# St. Paul UCC



Sunday, September 14, 2025 ~ 9:00 am  
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

<i>Guest Pastor</i> .....	Rev. Joan Mier
<i>Director of Music</i> .....	Dr. Tristan Frampton
<i>Organist</i> .....	Cynthia Johnson
<i>Liturgist</i> .....	Karen Keuss

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

*Sonnet*  
by Darwin Wolford

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come beloved of Christ, gather in this place where the lost shall be found, the wounded shall be healed, and the divine grace of God shall be known!

**People: We come from different places in this life; we come from various backgrounds, yet we are the same when we come before the presence of the Lord.**

Leader: Each one of us is equally important to God, that is why he sent his Son, Jesus, to bring the broken and the lost into divine presence, so that we might be found, be made new and healed from the wounds that want to overtake us.

**People: May the Spirit of the Living God embrace us in unconditional love, like being held in the arms of a joy-filled Mother who has found her child again.**

**ALL: We have gathered to feel the embrace of sacred love. Let it be so!  
Amen.**

## INVOCATION (UNISON)

Do not pass us by, O' precious Savior, but allow your Spirit to be present with us here as we offer you our worship and praise. We are open to the movement and guidance of your Spirit; let us hear that holy whisper in our ears; let it stir our souls; let it transform us and renew us truly into the people you call us to be in the world today. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## PASSING 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.

\*OPENING HYMN

551

# Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

Luke 18:35-43

Fanny Crosby (1820-1915); alt.



1 Pass me not, O gen - tle Sav - ior, hear my hum - ble cry;  
 2 Let me at your throne of mer - cy find a sweet re - lief;  
 3 Trust - ing on - ly in your mer - it, would I seek your face;  
 4 Be the Spring of all my com - fort, more than life to me;

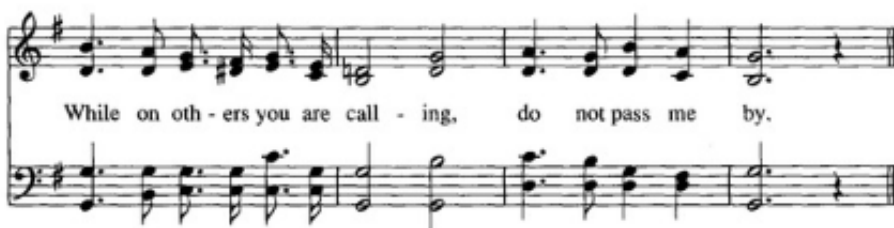


While on oth - ers you are call - ing, do not pass me by.  
 Kneel - ing there in deep con - tri - tion, help my un - be - lief.  
 Heal my wound - ed, bro - ken spir - it, save me by your grace.  
 Not just here on earth be - side me, but e - ter - nal - ly.

*Refrain*



Sav - ior, Sav - ior, hear my hum - ble cry;



While on oth - ers you are call - ing, do not pass me by.

*Fanny Crosby was already a successful writer when she became associated with gospel hymnists Sankey, Sweney, Root, and others. She directed her talent to gospel songs in her early forties, and collaborated with William Doane on many hymns.*

Tune: PASS ME NOT 8.5.8.5, with refrain  
 William H. Doane (1832-1915)

## **\*PRAYER OF REFLECTION & RECONCILIATION**

One: Open yourselves up, now, to communication with the divine Spirit of God, be honest and true to who you are called to be in the name of Jesus, and then prepare yourselves for the sacred whisper that can come at any day, any moment. I pray that you and I will be humble as we come before the Lord. 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**

When we are feeling lost, God seeks to find us and restore us. God wants us to feel well and whole. That is why God continues to offer amazing grace, amazing grace that releases us from our sins and re-lights our souls with a fire for the Lord. Feel a release, beloved, from all that is holding you back from a perfect relationship with Christ, and know that you are unconditionally loved. Let it be so. Amen

## **MISSION MOMENT**

Dubois

Donna Davis

## **ANTHEM**

*Gentle Shepherd*  
by Deborah Dresie  
Sanctuary Choir

## **SCRIPTURE**

Psalms 51:1-10 and I Timothy 1:12-17

Karen Keuss

Luke 15:1-10

Rev. Joan Mier

## **SERMON**

Being Lost, Being Found

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**

In our giving, we can help those who are lost, by caring about them in the ways that Jesus has taught us. He tells us to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Let this offering truly be a gift of love. Amen.

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

*God So Loved the World*

by John Stainer, arr. Larry Shackley

### **\*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)**

God of amazing grace, look upon these gifts being offered this day in the most holy name of Jesus Christ. Let his Spirit guide us, we pray, in the right ways to use these gifts to help our neighbor and guide our Christian ministry. May the touch of the Holy Spirit upon these gifts bring a greater awareness of how we are called to be more Christ-like in all that we offer to our community and the world. Amen.

### **\*CLOSING HYMN** *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* (See next page)

### **\*COMMISSIONING**

You are people who have been found by the Lord Jesus Christ, therefore, go out into the world with joy and show his loving care to those who are lost, who are burdened and beaten down. Go forth beloved and be the hands, and feet, and words of Christ to a hurting world! Let it be so. Amen

### **\*BENEDICTION**

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, the great caretaker of those who were lost, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word. May it be so. Amen

## **POSTLUDE**

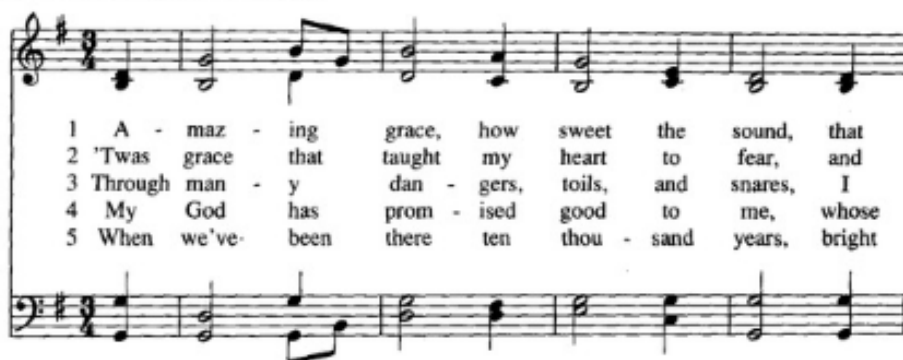
The Spirit of Joy  
by David Paxton

# Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

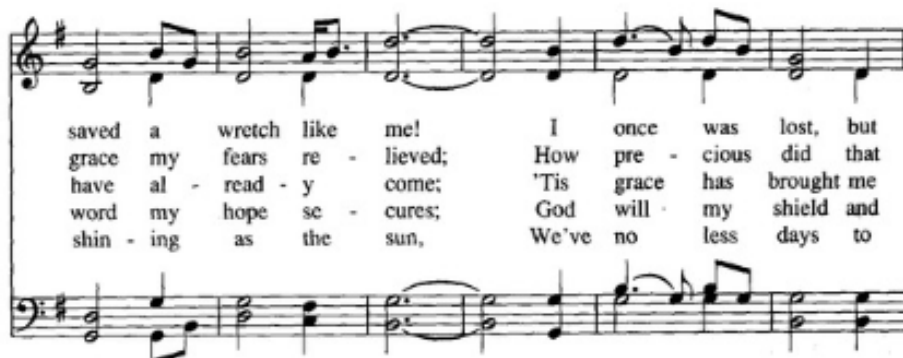
547

St. 1-4, John Newton, 1779; alt.

St. 5, A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, was blind but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

John Newton's autobiographical hymn reflects his conversion from his earlier existence as a slave trader. While serving as curate in the English village of Olney, Newton met William Cowper, and together they published Olney Hymns, which included this hymn.

Tune: AMAZING GRACE C.M.  
 (NEW BRITAIN)  
 Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829  
 Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900



**Today's altar flowers are  
in memory of Dean Danzer  
and Brian Relfe, the brothers  
of Susan & Roger Relfe.**

St. Paul Fine Arts presents ...



**Sunday, September 21st @ 4:00 p.m.**  
(Doors open at 3:30 p.m.)  
*A free will offering is much appreciated!*

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



*Join Pastor Michelle  
for a*

**SERVICE OF  
FAREWELL &  
RECEPTION**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025  
3PM  
ST. PAUL UCC'S  
HERITAGE HALL  
115 WEST B STREET, BELLEVILLE**



**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.**

## For Your Prayers

Carol Hotz & Fred Hotz  
Tim Ritter  
Tim Ritter Jr., son of Sandy  
& Tim Ritter  
Lou Ann Niemann  
Christopher Mitchell

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  
The loved ones of John  
Hoehn

**Please call the church for prayer requests: 618-233-3303 [stpaulucc.org](http://stpaulucc.org)**

Weekly Offerings		9/6/2025
Operating	\$	1,462.00
Building Fund	\$	10.00
	\$	1,472.00
<b>Giving YTD</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>231,515.09</b>
Weekly Budget	\$	6,942.65
Budget to Date	\$	242,992.81
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>361,017.89</b>

### Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service

August 31, 2025      88 + Online Participants  
August 30, 2024      103 + Online Participants



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



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*St Paul UCC, Belleville, IL*

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This worship service is live streamed and recorded.

\*Notes where to stand if comfortably able.

## 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](http://stpaulucc.org)

## 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!

