



ST. PAUL UCC

January 25, 2026



You are welcome here!



St. Paul UCC



Sunday, January 25, 2026 ~ 9:00 am
Third Sunday after the Epiphany

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

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

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Antienne (Antiphon)
by Alexandre Guilmant

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather in this holy place, beloved of God, bringing into this time of worship both our joys and our sorrows, casting the darkness of this world away, seeking the light of Christ.

People: Jesus is the Lamb of God who brings divine light into our lives, helping us to see the brightness of our beloved Lord.

Leader: The light that our Lord offers to us is pure, illuminating and guiding. He wants to break the chains of darkness, setting us free to walk the brilliant path towards our God.

People: We want to walk this path; we want to walk as the children of light, straight into the arms of our beloved God.

**ALL: When Jesus calls our names, let us follow, follow, follow, only Him.
Amen.**

*INVOCATION

We arise this day to worship you, O' Lord our God. We gather to give glory to you and the beloved Son, Jesus Christ. We pray for the presence of your Holy Spirit to be among us, to cast your light upon us, and to embrace us in your divine love. May we truly feel the touch of your divine light and love in this time, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

PASSING THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

164

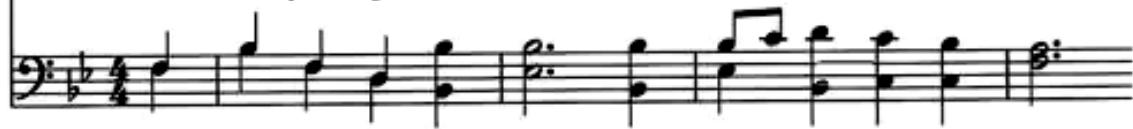
Arise, Your Light Is Come

Isa. 60:1; 61:1-2; Luke 4:14-21

Ruth Duck, 1973



1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!



Show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day!
Pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
Bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.



This hymn was first published by the Ecumenical Women's Center of Chicago in the 1974 collection of hymn adaptations, Because We Are One People. Ruth Duck later included it in her own collection, Dancing in the Universe.

Words Copyright © 1992 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

Tune: FESTAL SONG S.M.
William Walter, 1872



PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Pastor: This is that time when we have a very personal communication with God—a time to let go of the shadowy aspects of life, seeking God's divine light to direct us in wise actions and decisions. As I cannot put words into your mouth in regard to what you need to say to God, I can only welcome you into this sacred moment and then, afterward, I will offer the Words of Grace.

Silent Confession and Reconciliation

WORDS OF GRACE

In John 8:12, Jesus tells us, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." For those who seek forgiveness, the Lord Jesus will cast the light and the love of his forgiving Spirit upon us. We must be willing to follow Him to know the saving grace of our Lord. Let it be so for all of us. **Amen**

ANTHEM

Waitin' for the Light!
by Sally Albrecht
Sanctuary Choir
Steve Schmidt, soloist

SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1,4-9
Matthew 4:12-23

Beverly Brightwell
Beverly Brightwell
Rev. Joan Mier

SERMON

Darkness to Light

Rev. Joan Mier

PASTORAL 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

Jesus asks his disciples to follow him, to follow his way of giving, to follow his way of caring for others, and to follow the path of righteousness, leading to our God. Let us now give from our hearts in the ways of Jesus. May it be so.
Amen.

COLLECTION OF THE LOVE GIFTS AND OFFERTORY MUSIC

More Love to Thee, O Christ

Arr. by William H. Doane

*DOXOLOGY (Tune: Old Hundredth)

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

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (Unison)

We give thanks for the gifts offered in your holy name, beloved Lord. Touch them with your divine Spirit so that they will be blessed for your sacred ministry. Guide us and direct us with your brilliant light and wisdom. Help us to always follow you as your good and trustworthy disciples. We pray in the blessed name of Jesus. Amen

*CLOSING HYMN *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (see next page)

*COMMISSIONING

Jesus is the “light of the world!” Go forth beloved and follow the light, receive the light, and be the light out into a weary world. Where there is darkness, bring divine light and sacred caring, helping with the needs of others. For when we freely offer this to others, Jesus will do the same for you and I. May we be so blessed! Amen

*BENEDICTION

The Light of the World goes with you as you leave this sacred service, to warm you with the embrace of unconditional love. Receive this gift, and let it be what guides your every day. Let it be so for you as followers of Christ. Amen

POSTLUDE

Ricercare per Organo
by Floriano Arresti



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.

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light 248

1 I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to fol-low
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God; I want to look at
3 I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ; I want to be with

Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world; the
Je - sus. Clear Sun of right-eous-ness, shine on my path, and
Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

Refrain

star of my life is Je - sus.
show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at
shall know the joy of Je - sus.

all; the night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

light of the cit - y of God: Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.



SOUPER-BOWL OF CARING

Bring in your non-perishable food items

January 18 & 25 and February 1 & 8

for the Community Interfaith Food Pantry.

ITEMS NEEDED (preferably pull tops for canned food):

Hamburger & Chicken Helper, tuna, chicken, ravioli,
SpaghettiOs, chili with beans, chunky soups!

Boxes are marked in the Welcome Center to cheer on your favorite team with your donations. Thank you for participating!

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY BETTY ECKERT!

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT ST. PAUL!

BY, VI NETTLETON



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



MONDAY FUN-DAY!

4th Monday of every month!

Chair Yoga 6-6:30pm

Yoga 6:30-7pm

Pickleball 6-8pm

St. Paul UCC

115 W. B. Street, Belleville

Enter on 2nd St. at the Activity Center door!

No cost - just a free will offering!

618-233-3303



Bring your friends!

All are welcome!

**St. Paul Friends Annual
Planning Meeting**
Sunday, February 1st
in the large meeting room
Immediately following
worship service.

Please consider being a coffee hour host for March & April

It takes about 15-20 min to set up. Our guests arrive about 10:00. Better to have their coffee ready at that time. Last coffee call no later than 11:00, if not sooner. Takes about 20-25 min to clean up. Printed instructions are available. Assistance is always available.

Contact the office to sign up!



FEBRUARY CLERGY

FEBRUARY 1 - REV. DR. CHANCE BEELER

FEBRUARY 8 - REV. JOAN MIER

FEBRUARY 15 - CRAIG BIELKE

FEBRUARY 22 - REV. JOAN MIER



Weekly Offerings	1/17/2026
Operating	\$ 5,378.00
Building Fund	\$ 5.00
	\$ 5,383.00
Giving YTD	\$ 18,321.00
Weekly Budget	\$ 6,781.69
Budget to Date	\$ 13,563.38
Total Budget	\$ 352,648.00

Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service

January 11, 2026	85 + Online Participants
January 12, 2025	80 + Online Participants

All St. Paul United Church of Christ services may be recorded and/or streamed. Music is used with permission through Onelicense.net License #A-715913, CCLI #1795791, St. James Press License #17755, or public domain. This worship service is live streamed and recorded <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/advent-2a>.

For Your Prayers

Carol Hotz & Fred Hotz

Tim Ritter

Tim Ritter Jr., son of Sandy & Tim Ritter

Lou Ann Niemann

Ralph Eckart, brother in-law of

Marlene Mueller

Mike Llamas, brother in law of Mimi Llamas

Jennifer Wick, daughter of

Stephenie Bauza

Gene Buxton

Al Stahl

Audrey Krummrich

Rosie Keller

Laura Sadler

Mike Foppe

Alec Zaber

Nancy Viehman

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

Valentine's Craft Day

Save the Date! February 1st

SHARE THE LOVE COFFEE HOUR BEING HELD FEBRUARY 1ST. CHRISTIAN ED WILL PROVIDE THE SUPPLIES FOR THE CRAFT. THE CRAFT WILL BE GIVEN TO THE WITHYOU GROUP TO BE HANDED OUT TO OUR SHUTINS AND NURSING HOME RESIDENTS. SO PLEASE COME TO COFFEE HOUR AND ENJOY OUR COMMUNION AND CONVERSATION TOGETHER AND HELP OUR CHURCH TO BE CREATIVE IN SHARING OUR LOVE FOR OTHERS. BE A PART TO BUILD ST PAUL CHURCH IN 2026. THANKS SYNDY AND SANDY SEE YOU THERE CHRISTIAN ED BOARD.

Follow us on ...

