

July

Worship Leaders

JULY 5 - REV. JOAN H. MIER

JULY 12 - REV. JOAN H. MIER

JULY 19 - REV. GARY KNIPEKAMP

JULY 26 - CRAIG BIELKE

Weekly Offerings	7/4/2026
Operating	\$ 1,601.00
Building Fund	\$ 15.00
	\$ 1,616.00
Giving YTD	\$ 179,537.08
Weekly Budget	\$ 6,974.00
Budget to Date	\$ 181,324.00
Total Budget	\$ 362,648.00

Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service		
June 28, 2026	76	+ Online Participants
June 29, 2025	92	+ Online Participants

For Your Prayers

Carol Hotz & Fred Hotz
 The Ritter family, Tim, Sandy & Tim Jr.
 Lou Ann Niemann
 Al Stahl
 Laura Sadler
 Alec Zaber
 Jane Bonaldi
 Ruth Klingel
 Paul Sutherland
 Our Pastor Search Committee
 Cathy Blaies and family (Mike's sister)
 Sylvia, sister of Luci Bradley
 Rich Wilburn and his family,
 son-in-law of Stephenie Bauza
 Staci Atwood, daughter of
 Judy Saeger
 Stephen Agnew, son of
 Carolyn Hazelip
 The loved ones of Carol Weidemann
 The loved ones of Dee Zopp

Please call the office for prayer requests. 618-233-3303

Coffee Hour Host Schedule:

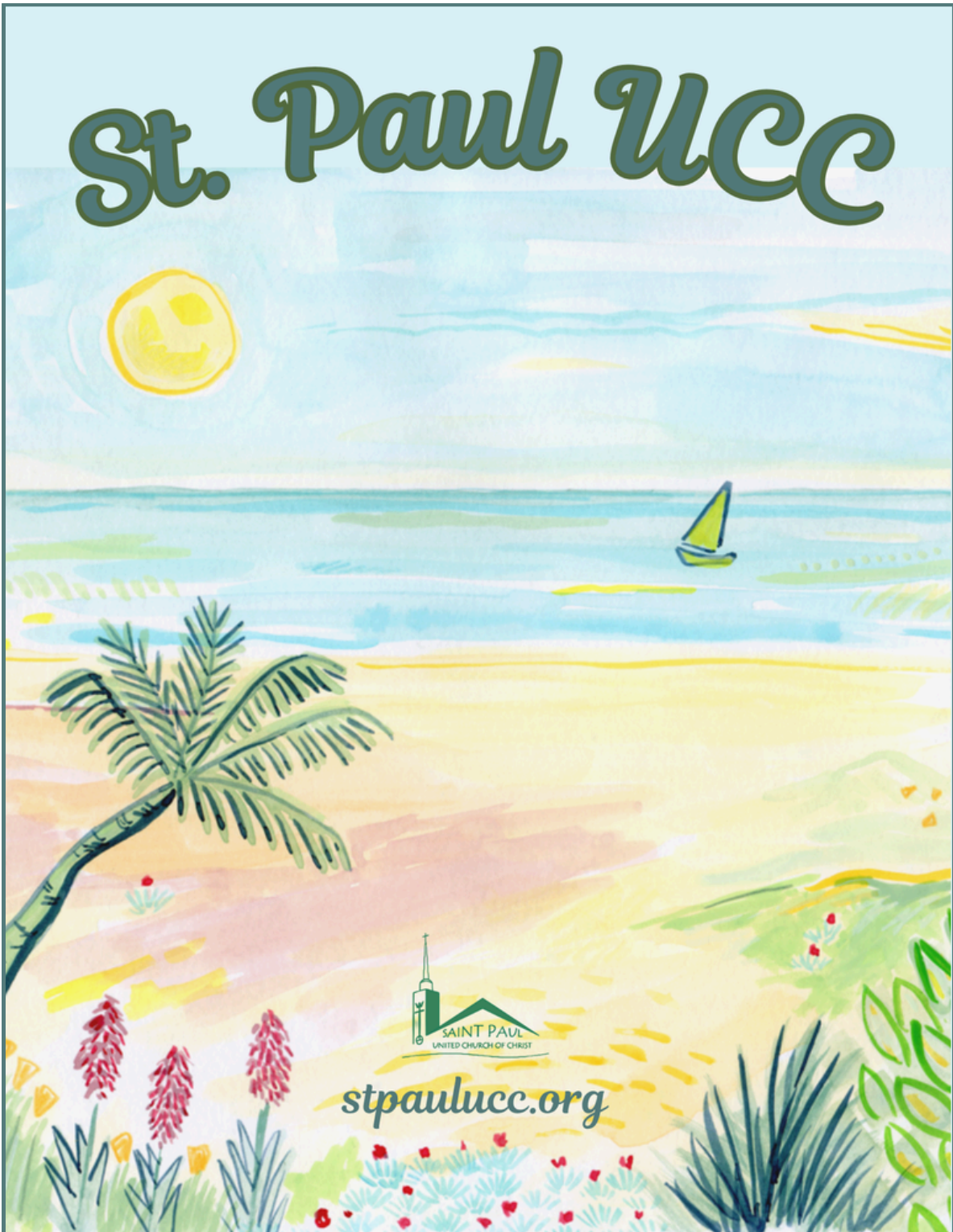
July 5-Lisa Hudnall
 July 12-Al Scharf
 July 19-Linda & Carol Speichinger
 July 26-Mona Scheibel

PLEASE CONSIDER BEING A COFFEE HOUR HOST !

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!

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 This worship service is live streamed and recorded.



Welcome

Sunday, July 12, 2026 ~ 9am
7th Sunday after Pentecost



TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Supply Pastor **Rev. Joan Mier**
Director of Music **Dr. Tristan Frampton**
Organist **Cynthia Johnson**
Liturgist **Karen Keuss**

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Largo in E flat
by Alexandre Guilmant

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather as sisters and brothers of the Christian faith to worship the Son of God, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: Jesus is our Savior but he is also our Brother, as together we are the sons and daughters of the "Heavenly Father." We are one family.

Leader: As is true in any family, our Christian family has its ups and downs, its joys and sorrows, but we work at keeping our family together.

People: As a Christian family, let our focus always be on Jesus; if we listen to him, He will guide us toward a place of peace and comfort.

ALL: It will be our Brother Jesus who leads us home to dwell forever with our "Heavenly Father." Let us follow the path that he places before us, may it be so. Amen

*INVOCATION

You share these words with us from Holy Scripture Lord Jesus, "For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother." Thank you for accepting us as your brothers and sisters in God's family. Send your Spirit to guide us in the right way that we are called to live and serve next to one another, we pray, so that many blessings will be upon our Christian familial relationships. May it be so in Jesus' name. Amen

PASSING THE PEACE

St. Paul Friends Fundraiser at Scharf Farm!
Saturday, August 15th from 6-10pm

\$20 per person for all who attend!
(all to benefit mission projects of St. Paul UCC)

WHAT TO BRING:
Your friends - the more the merrier!
Your favorite hors d'oeuvre/snack to share!
Your lawn chair and a cooler of your favorite beverage!

Music by:
Jillian & Chris Ritter

Contact Sandy Ritter if you have any questions!
618-222-1123

New flags have been provided to St. Paul UCC by Al & Nancy Scharf, in honor of our their new granddaughter, Gabriella.



CONFIRMATION CLASSES UPDATE!



Confirmation classes for those who would like to be confirmed in the church and those who would like to just do a Confirmation refresher, on Monday evenings, **starting September 21, 6:00 p.m.** We will meet every week for approximately 1-1/2 hours (unless there is a holiday or other event), to discuss basic constructs of faith--i.e., God, Jesus, The Holy Spirit, The Bible, The Christian Church, what it means to be part of the United Church of Christ. Confirmation classes will finish March 15th and Confirmation presentations, and ceremony for the unconfirmed, will be on Palm Sunday, March 21st.



Please contact SHERRY in the church office to be added to the Confirmation list.
If you have questions, you can speak to Sandy R., Syndy K., or Pastor Joan on Sunday mornings.



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 or email the church office. 618-233-3303 ~ swilhelm@stpaulucc.org
Cost is \$35.00.

Blest Be the Tie That Binds 393

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
 2 Be-fore our Fa-ther's throne we pour our ar-dent prayers;
 3 We share our mu-tual woes, each oth-er's bur-dens bear;
 4 From sor-row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;

the fel-low-ship of kin-dred minds is like to that a-bove.
 our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com-forts and our cares.
 and oft-en for each oth-er flows the sym-pa-thiz-ing tear.
 and per-fect love and friend-ship reign through all e-ter-ni-ty.

OPENING HYMN (sing two times)

Where the Spirit of the Lord Is 396

Where the Spir-it of the Lord is, there is peace. Where the

Spir-it of the Lord is, there is love. There is com-fort in life's

dark-est hour, there is light and life, there is help and

pow-er in the Spir-it, in the Spir-it of the Lord.

If you're looking for something to read, check out the St. Paul Library. We have a large collection of books on many subjects, both nonfiction and fiction. We also have a small selection of audiobooks and DVDs, as well as many jigsaw puzzles. You can see a sample of the collection on the cart in the welcome center, or stop in to the library in the main hallway. Check outs and returns are easy, and there are no late fees!

PRAYER FOR REFLECTION AND RECONCILIATION

Pastor: Some of us are truly blessed to have brothers and sisters that we can talk to about anything. However, for a number of us, we do not have such a blessing in our lives. Therefore, it is important to reach out and speak to our Brother, Jesus, the One who listens with unconditional love and care for all sisters and brothers. Let us take time to speak to our divine Brother now. 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

Jesus offers brotherly love and care for us, the children of God. He loves us so dearly that He is willing to forgive us of our sins, when we sincerely repent of them. Thanks be to our precious Brother and Savior, Jesus Christ, for the grace that has been bestowed upon us this day. **Amen**

SPECIAL MUSIC

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
arr. Cydney Olson Van Duker
Teresa and Stephen Schmidt, soloists

SCRIPTURES

Genesis 25:19-34	Karen Keuss
Isaiah 55:10-13	Karen Keuss
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Rev. Joan H. Mier

SERMON

“Familial Division” Rev. Joan H. 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

As the Christian family, we are called to work side-by-side for the good works offered in Jesus’ name. We are also called to come together to bring our offerings in good faith, for the benefit of the great ministry that continues in the name of our divine Brother, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

RECEIVING OF THE GIFTS AND OFFERTORY MUSIC

Meditation
by Dom Gregory Murray

*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**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

“Heavenly Father,” your sons and daughters come before you with love gifts to be used for the benefit of the ministry of our Brother, Jesus. We pray that your Spirit will guide us in the ways that these gifts can be used to help other brothers and sisters most in need. Let it be so in Jesus’ name. Amen

*CLOSING HYMN

Blest Be the Tie That Binds (see page 6)

*COMMISSIONING

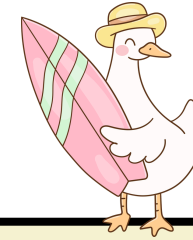
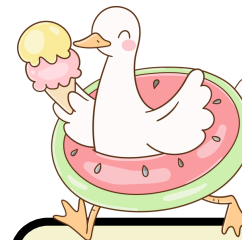
Head out into the greater community beloved brothers and sisters, being proud of the Christian family that you belong to here at St. Paul’s UCC. Let others know of the great works that are done here in the name of our divine Brother, Jesus Christ, and always invite people to be part of this Christian family. For here is a place where we know that Jesus recognizes us as brothers and sisters of the “Heavenly Father.” **Amen**

*BENEDICTION

You have been adopted into a holy family, being the sons and daughters of the Most High God. Recognize the blessings of being accepted as a brother or sister of Jesus, and let his brotherly love embrace you this day and every day. **Amen**

POSTLUDE

Postlude in C
by Adolph Friedrich Hesse



Archives invites you to see the new display for Assistant Pastor on the wooden bulletin board in the hallway to Heritage Hall. Hope you enjoy!