

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

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.

Weekly Offerings	7/18/2026
Operating	\$ 25,671.00
Building Fund	\$ 5.00
	\$ 25,676.00
Giving YTD	\$ 229,380.43
*Large Donation	
Weekly Budget	\$ 6,974.00
Budget to Date	\$ 195,272.00
Total Budget	\$ 362,648.00

Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service

July 12, 2026	76	+ Online Participants
July 13, 2025	81	+ Online Participants



YouTube



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
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
Gay Eckert

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



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ST. PAUL UCC



STPAULUCC.ORG

Welcome

Sunday, July 26, 2026 ~ 9am
9th Sunday after Pentecost



TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Lay Leader Craig Bielke
Director of Music Dr. Tristan Frampton
Organist Cynthia Johnson
Liturgist Susan Relfe

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Chaconne
by Georg Phillip Telemann

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Beloved, this is the core of our faith: nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Thanks be to God!

God's never-ending love surrounds us and calls us, assuring us that through God's love, all things will work together for God's good purposes.

Thanks be to God!

God's never-breaking love empowers us in the face of temptation, distress, division, and scarcity to hold onto our faith and work together for the flourishing of all God's good creation.

Thanks be to God!

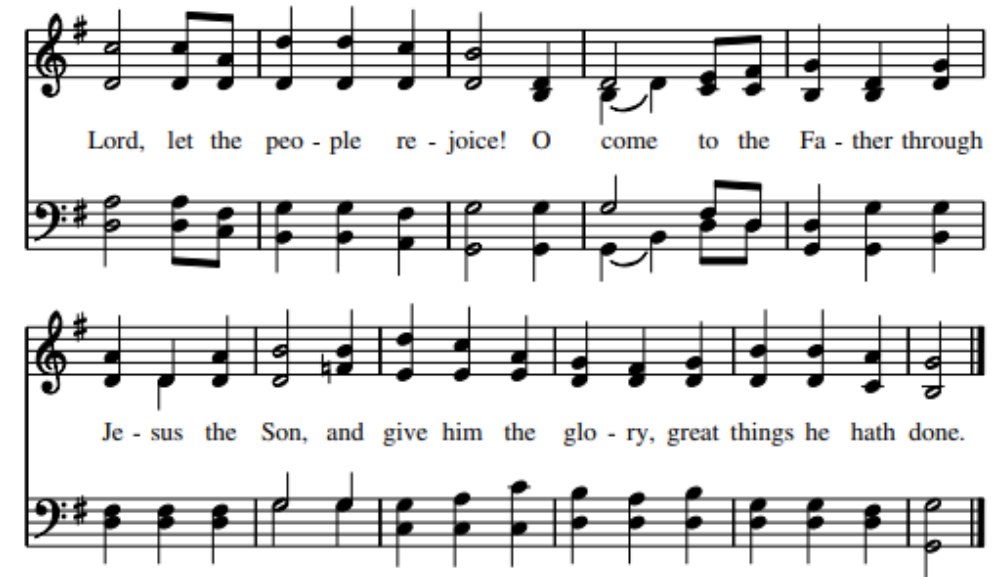
Come, let us worship God who is Love, trusting that through joy and sorrow, happiness and despair, contentment and pain, Love will carry us through.

Thanks be to God who forms, connects, and guides us through Love. Amen.

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Lord, the hearts of all turn to you in hope, and you give them what they need. May the time we spend together in your presence nourish our hearts and minds; may it strengthen our relationship with you, and renew our commitment to live in this world as your faithful disciples. For you alone are God, the source and sustainer of life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE





august



Worship Leaders

August 2 - Rev. Joan H. Mier
August 9 - Rev. Joan H. Mier
August 16 - Craig Bielke
August 23 - Craig Bielke
August 30 - Craig Bielke

August

Coffee Hour Host Schedule:

August 2 - Bruce & Pam Elser
August 9 - Al Scharf
August 16 - Linda & Carol Speichinger
August 23 - Mona Scheibel
August 30 - Donna Davis

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.
~Printed instructions & Assistance are always available.

Contact the office or Donna D. to sign up!





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.

G D7 G $\frac{G}{B}$ D G C

1 To God be the glo - ry, great things he hath done; so loved he the
2 O per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood, to ev - ery be -
3 Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done, and great our re -

G A $\frac{A7}{C\#}$ D D7 G D7 G $\frac{G}{B}$

world that he gave us his Son, who yield - ed his life an a -
liev - er the prom - ise of God; the vil - est of - fend - er who
joic - ing through Je - sus the Son; but pur - er, and high - er and

D G G7 C $\frac{Am}{C}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ D $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

tone - ment for sin, and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
tru - ly be - lieves, that mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceives.
great - er will be our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

Refrain G $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{D}{A}$ G D D7

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the

F Dm $\frac{C}{E}$ F C Dm Am B $\flat$ F B $\flat$ $\frac{C7}{G}$ Dm B $\flat$ 6 C7

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a -
2 Praise to the Lord, a - bove all things so won - drous - ly reign -
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend
4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore

F Dm $\frac{C}{E}$ F C Dm Am B $\flat$ F B $\flat$ $\frac{C7}{G}$ Dm

tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal -
ing; shel - tering you un - der his wings, and so gent - ly sus -
you: sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at -
him! All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be -

B $\flat$ 6 C7 F $\frac{C}{E}$ F B $\flat$ F $\frac{B\flat}{D}$ $\frac{C}{E}$

va - tion! Come, all who hear; now to his
tain ing! Have you not seen all that is
tend you. Pon - der a - new what the Al -
fore him. Let the A - men sound from his

F $\frac{C7}{G}$ $\frac{F}{A}$ C Am B $\flat$ $\frac{C7}{G}$ Dm $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ A $\frac{Gm7}{B\flat}$ C7 F

tem - ple draw near, join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
need - ful has been sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
might - y can do, if with his love he be - friends you.
peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him.

CALL TO AND UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Diligent Lord, we confess that we have allowed a host of worries and frustrations to crowd out your word for us. As you give us peace and your transforming love, also forgive all those times when we have been less than faithful disciples. Gently visit us again with your healing powers. Restore our hope and courage and joy for all the times ahead. We ask this in the name of the Master Healer, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION
WORDS OF ASSURANCE

SPECIAL MUSIC
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
(Lobe den Herren)
arr. Joel Raney
Janie Bloomer and Peggy Burke, pianists

SCRIPTURES
Genesis 25:15-28
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
Susan Relfe

SERMON
Craig Bielke

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

RECEIVING OF THE GIFTS AND OFFERTORY MUSIC
Adagio e Vivace
by Telemann

***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

DEDICATION PRAYER
Steadfast God, you search our hearts and know our needs even when we struggle to find the words. In your mercy, you strengthen us in our weakness and bind us together in love that cannot be broken. As we bring these gifts today, may they bear witness to your enduring promise: that nothing—not hardship, nor fear, nor even death itself—can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus. Bless these offerings, that they may bring hope to the weary, peace to the troubled, and joy to the hearts of your people. Through Christ, our Redeemer and Companion, we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**
To God Be the Glory (see pages 6 & 7)

COMMISSIONING + CHARGE + BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE
Herr Christ, der einig Gottes Sohn
("Lord Christ, the Only Son of God")
by Telemann

Please join the Mission Team on August 2 during Coffee Hour as we wrap boxes for our mission project. Come lend a hand, enjoy fellowship, and help us prepare boxes for those in need. Your time and support are greatly appreciated! We look forward to seeing you there.



It's Your Birthday, Inc
Give a child a memorable birthday

(Mission: To create a fun and memorable birthday experience for children in homeless and domestic violence shelters.)

Gift wrap and boxes will be provided.

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

Puzzles and Board Games Available!

Bring your friends!

A free will offering is happily accepted.
Free! All are welcome!

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

Seekers Bible Study
September 8
to
October 13, 2026
Genesis Room
(downstairs at Sanctuary entrance)
or the St. Paul Library (first floor)

St. Paul UCC
115 W. B. St., Belleville, IL 62220
618-233-3303 www.stpaulucc.org