

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	6/20/2026	
Operating	\$	3,974.00
Building Fund	\$	135.00
	\$	4,109.00
Giving YTD	\$	177,921.08
Weekly Budget	\$	6,974.00
Budget to Date	\$	174,350.00
Total Budget	\$	362,648.00

Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service		
June 21, 2026	102	+ Online Participants
June 22, 2025	89	+ 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
 Carol & Wayne Weidemann
 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

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

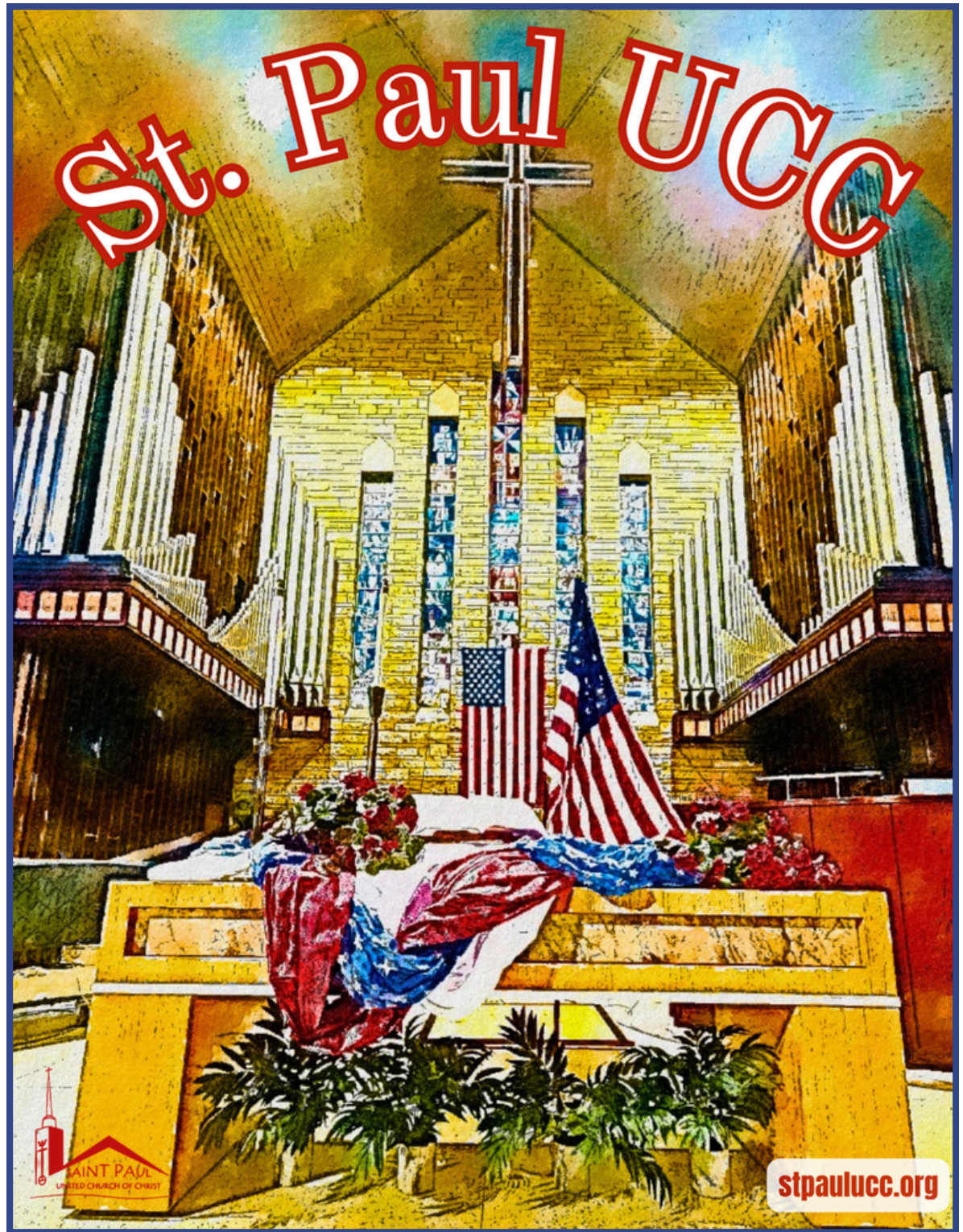
Coffee Hour Host Schedule:

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

PLEASE CONSIDER BEING A COFFEE HOUR HOST !



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stpaulucc.org

Welcome

Sunday, July 5, 2026 ~ 9am
6th Sunday after Pentecost



TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

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

WELCOME

PRELUDE

A Prayer for the Nation
by Lani Smith

*CALL TO WORSHIP

PLEDGE TO THE CHRISTIAN FLAG

I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Savior for whose Kingdom it stands. One Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again with life and liberty to all who believe.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

*INVOCATION

God who is the great giver of our souls, be with us this day as we gather to honor your beloved son, Jesus Christ, and to celebrate the gift you have given us of living in this great country, the United States of America. Help us to be ever strong in our faith and to be people of righteousness and justice for all who live across this land from "Sea to shining sea." Let 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



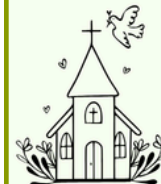
CONFIRMATION CLASSES UPDATE!



After a meeting between Pastor Joan, Sandy, and Syndy, a decision has been made to start 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.



God of All Ages, Whose Almighty Hand 728

E♭ Cm B♭ E♭ A♭ E♭_{B♭} B♭7

Trumpets
before each stanza

1 God of the a - ges, whose al - might - y
2 Your love di - vine has led us in the
3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti -
4 Re - fresh your peo - ple on their toil - some

E♭ Cm Gm C7 G B♭ Fsus F7

hand leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry
past, in this free land by you our lot is
lence, be your strong arm our ev - er sure de -
way, lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing

B♭ N.C. G♭ Edim G B♭m F7

band of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the
cast; be now our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and
fense; your true re - li - gion in our hearts in -
day; fill all our lives with heaven - born love and

B♭ E♭ G A♭ A♭ E♭ Edim7 Fm E♭ G B♭sus B♭7 E♭

skies, our grate - ful songs be - fore your throne a - rise.
stay, your Word our law, your paths our cho - sen way.
crease, your boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
grace, and songs of praise we'll lift be - fore your face!

WORDS: Daniel C. Roberts (1841-1907), alt.
MUSIC: George W. Warren (1828-1902)

OPENING HYMN My Country, 'Tis of Thee 731

F Gm B♭ C F Dm Gm F C7 Dm

1 My coun - try, 'tis of thee, sweet land of lib - er - ty,
2 My na - tive coun - try, thee, land of the no - ble free,
3 Let mu - sic swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees
4 Our fa - thers' God, to thee, Au - thor of lib - er - ty,

Gm B♭ F C F C7

of thee I sing: land where my fa - thers died, land of the
thy name I love; I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and
sweet free - dom's song: let mor - tal tongues a - wake, let all that
to thee we sing: long may our land be bright with free - dom's

C7 F C F C7 F A B♭ F C7 F

pil - grims' pride, from ev - ery moun - tain - side let free - dom ring!
tem - pled hills; my heart with rap - ture thrills like that a - bove.
breathe par - take; let rocks their si - lence break, the sound pro - long.
ho - ly light; pro - tect us by thy might, great God, our King!

WORDS: Samuel F. Smith (1808-1895)
MUSIC: Thesaurus Musicus, 1744

AMERICA
6.6.4.6.6.6.4.

PRAYER FOR REFLECTION AND RECONCILIATION

Pastor: What would we do without our faith in Jesus Christ? How would we ever handle the challenges that we face if it were not for the gift of being able to personally speak to our Savior? When we are weary, He invites us to come to him because he is willing to take on our burdens. Now beloved, it is the time to silently speak to your precious Lord and Savior. 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

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest,” Jesus says. Sometimes, the sins that we carry are like carrying a very heavy burden on our backs that doesn’t want to be released. When we honestly come before the Lord, Jesus opens himself to us, arms wide open and says, “Come to me; come to me.” He has always been willing to carry the burden of our sins, release us from them, and set us free. Thanks be to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and for the freedom that he offers to each one of us. **Amen**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Battle Hymn of the Republic
arr. Jay Althouse
Bill Guthrie, soloist

SCRIPTURES

Zechariah 9:9-12	Donna Davis
Psalms 118:1-17	Donna Davis
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Rev. Joan H. Mier

SERMON

“Rest for the Weary Souls” 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

Let our faith and love for Christ be ever present in the gifts that we offer this day. Let us pray that all that we give will be blessed by God as a greater expression of Christian love in our community and all across this beautiful country, the United States of America. Amen.

RECEIVING OF THE GIFTS AND OFFERTORY MUSIC

I Will Arise and Go to Jesus
from William Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835
arr. Mark Hayes

***DOXOLOGY** (Tune: Old Hundred)

**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)

We dedicate these love gifts to you gracious God in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. We truly pray that the Christian message of unconditional love, human justice, and inclusivity be sent forth from this church home all across the land, near and far. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION (See insert)

***CLOSING HYMN** *God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand* (see page 7)

*COMMISSIONING

You are Christian people, baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Go therefore, continuing to live out his love and compassion into the world. You are people who dwell in a great country—the United States of America, go therefore and live your lives honorably, not putting disgrace upon the land in which you live, but remember our history and respect those who became weary and suffered to keep this country a free nation. Let it be so. **Amen**

*BENEDICTION

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be bestowed upon you on this Independence weekend, keeping you safe in his splendid care. May it be so for all of us. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Postlude on “Materna” (America, the Beautiful)
arr. Mark Rippe



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

Pastor: Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

People: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

All: It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Eternal God, who has created the heavens and the earth, giving breath to every living thing, we thank you for all the gifts of creation and for the gift of life itself. We thank you for making us in your own image, for forgiving us when we act as if you have no claim on us, and for keeping us in your steadfast care.

We rejoice in Jesus Christ, the only one eternally begotten by you, who was born of your servant Mary and shares the joys and sorrows of life as we know it. We remember Christ's death, we celebrate Christ's resurrection, and, in the beloved community of your church, we await Christ's return at the end of history.

We take courage from the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit in our midst. We offer you our praise for women and men of faith in every age who stand as witnesses to your love and justice. With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints, and all the company of heaven we glorify you:

All: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!



Pastor: Merciful God, as sisters and brothers in faith, we recall anew these words and acts of Jesus Christ. Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat: This is my body." Jesus took a cup and after giving thanks, gave it to the disciples and said: "Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." We remember Christ's promise not to drink of the fruit of the vine again until the heavenly banquet at the close of history, and we say boldly what we believe:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pastor: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread, and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died. **AMEN**

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

Pastor: Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ. Through the cup of blessing, we participate in the new life Christ gives.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God.

Pastor: The Body of Christ, the living bread. People: AMEN

Pastor: The blood of Christ, the saving cup. People: AMEN

Pastor: Come, for all things are ready.

(Congregants are invited to come forward to receive of the Holy Elements)

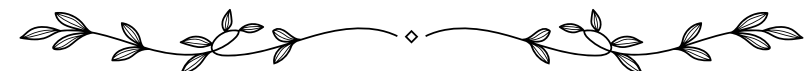
COMMUNION MUSIC

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

ALL: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

**Book of Worship, United Church of Christ, Service of Word and Sacrament II*



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