



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

Weekly Offerings		8/1/2026
Operating	\$	1,231.00
Building Fund	\$	-
	\$	1,231.00
Giving YTD	\$	234,136.43
Weekly Budget	\$	6,974.00
Budget to Date	\$	209,220.00
Total Budget	\$	362,648.00

Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service		
July 26, 2026	82	+ Online Participants
July 27, 2025	88	+ Online Participants

Follow us





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
 Bette Ettling
 Michael Speichinger

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

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!

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St. Paul UCC



No matter who you are,
 No matter where you
 are on life's journey,
 You are welcome here."



stpaulucc.org

Welcome



Sunday, August 9, 2026 ~ 9am
11th Sunday after Pentecost

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Supply Pastor **Rev. Joan H. Mier**
Director of Music **Dr. Tristan Frampton**
Guest organists/pianists **Lisa Cleveland & Lynda Marshall**
Liturgist **Beverly Brightwell**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Blessed Assurance
by Phoebe Palmer Knapp, arr. Joel Raney

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Gather, all who feel weary, and battered by the storms of life; your Savior welcomes you here to this holy place.

People: We felt his love, even as we entered the doors; we can feel him opening his arms of great comfort to us now.

Leader: Our Lord invites us, as his disciples, to be together, to worship together and to support one another on this divine journey.

People: We are grateful for Christian brothers and sisters who journey with us on this walk of faith with Jesus, because sometimes we feel like we are drowning in the cares and concerns of this world.

ALL: Even when the winds and waves are raging around us and within us, the Savior calls to us to come to him and invites us to take heart and to not be afraid. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for the peace and comfort you offer us, this day. Amen

*INVOCATION

We pray for your Spirit of comfort and peace to be with us today O' Loving God. Help us to release the cares of this world for now and just focus on your divine presence with us. Receive our love and thanksgiving for the ways that you always invite us to walk a little closer with you. In Jesus' name, we pray. 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

**The Threads of Hope quilting organization had a
successful 6 months in 2026.**

We appreciate all of the participants who purchased
some of our crafts/quilts and the talented crafters who
made these items!

Total Sales January 2026 - July 2026 \$1,875.32
Quilts: \$845.32, Misc: \$220.00, Table Runners: \$810.00

**Your generosity has allowed us to make financial donations to
several community projects:**

St. Paul UCC: \$628.00, St. Paul Community Dinners: \$300.00,
Belleville Area Humane Society: \$200.00, Community Interfaith Food
Pantry: \$200.00, Dubois Church Camp: \$200.00
District 118: School supplies to local teachers

Future donations:

Women's Crisis/Violence Prevention Center

Thank you for your support! ~ Karen Boeschen

Just a Closer Walk with Thee 504

1 I am weak, but thou art strong; Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;
Refrain: Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it, Je - sus, is my plea,

D.C. for Refrain

I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
 Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
 guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.
 dai - ly walk - ing close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

OPENING HYMN

Trust and Obey

443

1 When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word, what a
 2 Not a bur - den we bear, not a sor - row we share, but our
 3 But we nev - er can prove the de - lights of his love un - til
 4 Then in fel - low - ship sweet we will sit at his feet, or we'll

glo - ry he sheds on our way! While we do his good will, he a - bides with us
 toil he will rich - ly re - pay; not a grief nor a loss, not a frown nor a
 all on the al - tar we lay; for the fa - vor he shows and the joy he be -
 walk by his side in the way; what he says we will do, where he sends we will

Refrain

still, and with all who will trust and o - bey.
 cross, but is blest if we trust and o - bey. Trust and o - bey, for there's
 stows are for them who will trust and o - bey.
 go - nev - er fear, on - ly trust and o - bey.

no oth - er way to be hap - py in Je - sus, but to trust and o - bey.

**Coming
 August 16 . . .
 165 Years of
 Heritage Hall!**

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: Just as Jesus invited Peter to walk toward him on the water, which seemed impossible, Jesus can do even more for us. He can connect his Spirit with the very heart of each one of us and open us up to honest communication with him. Let your spirits walk a little closer to Jesus, feel his loving embrace, and talk freely with the One who listens, heals, and forgives. 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 invited you to come to him because his love is so great for you; it is beyond measure. Let yourself feel loved, healed, and forgiven, but do not wander too far away. For in feeling the enormous care that Christ offers you, you can give greater care to yourself and care to other brothers and sisters who need to know of Christ's miraculous love. Let it be so. **Amen**

SPECIAL MUSIC

I See the Lord
by Chris Falson
Stephen Schmidt, soloist

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 85:8-13	Beverly Brightwell
Romans 10:5-15	Beverly Brightwell
Matthew 14:22-33	Rev. Joan H. Mier

SERMON

Walking Toward Jesus (Inflatable Feet)	Rev. Joan H. Mier
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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

We are blessed to know the presence of the Lord our God in our lives. Therefore, we are called to offer all that we can to the ministry of Christ, helping others who are fighting the raging storms of life. Let our gifts be blessed and used rightly in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

RECEIVING OF THE GIFTS AND OFFERTORY MUSIC

Jesus Loves Me
by William B. Bradbury, arr. Joel Raney

***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)
We walk toward you O’ precious Lord Jesus, carrying the gifts that we brought today. We pray for your blessing to be upon them, and for you to guide us in the ways God calls us to use them. Our greatest hope is that these gifts will honor you and your continued ministry of love, care, and comfort in the world. Let it be so in your holy name. Amen

***CLOSING HYMN** *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* (see page 6)

***COMMISSIONING**
Keep walking toward Jesus, beloved in Christ! Even when the storms of life want to overtake you, call to him, ask for his guidance, and do not be afraid to ask for his holy embrace to strengthen you on your journey. Let it be so. **Amen**

***BENEDICTION**
May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, this day and every day. **Amen**

POSTLUDE *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*
African American Spiritual
arr. Joel Raney



Community Interfaith Food Pantry Fundraiser

Pampered Chef consultant Sherri Foppe will be taking orders in Heritage Hall during coffee hour today. Your purchases will help support the Community Interfaith Food Pantry. Thank you for your support!