



"Maybe
Christmas,"
he thought,
"doesn't come
from a store."
"Maybe
Christmas,
... perhaps ...
means a little
bit more!"
♥



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



Welcome to Worship

Welcome to St. Paul Church. We are glad you are here!

9 am Traditional Service in the Sanctuary
Congregational Meeting following 9am Service
11am Celebration Service in Heritage Hall

Information for our friends ~

- Our **9am Traditional Service** is inspired with hymns, scripture and a theological based sermon. And our **11am Celebration Service** has a relaxed family-friendly message with contemporary Christian music. *Please feel free to try one or both styles of worship.*
- The Nursery is open during 9 am service (first classroom in the hallway off the sanctuary) If the small person gets wiggly, there are toys & books to enjoy.
- Hearing devices, large print bulletins, and large Bibles (in church library) are available, please see your ushers if you have any questions.
- Our Worship Service is broadcast on KSTL-690 AM radio & streamed on Jubilee690.com at 9am Sundays and repeated at 9pm.
- We want to know you!! Please sign the Pew Pad today. If you are new to St. Paul, want your information updated or with us every week– let us know you are here!! Please fill in your contact information and we will happily contact you as you wish.
- When you or a loved one is admitted to a hospital, please ask the hospital to notify the church office. If you have a new addition to your family, if your address or phone changes, please contact the church office so we can keep our records current.

LEADING THIS TIME OF WORSHIP

Advent Candle Lighters.....Judy Koch & Al Stahl
Lay Reader.....Lynn Koehler
Nursery Care.....Syndy Kalinowski and Barb Cornell
Radio.....Brett White
Sound / Control RoomRick Haar & Dana Rosenzweig
Ushering Team.....Al & Nancy Scharf, Wayne Caughman, Joyce Maurer, Paul & Sue Sutherland
Welcome Center.....Sandy Ritter, Fred & Carol Hotz
Sunday School Leaders.....Tyler Kohrs and Patty Frank
Director of Christian Education / Sunday School Teacher.....Tyler Kohrs
Music Ministry.....Chancel Choir, Glory Ringers, and Women’s Ensemble
Director of Music MinistryDan Fry
Senior Pastor.....Rev. Michelle Torigian

St. Paul
United Church of Christ
Second Sunday of Advent
December 9, 2018 9:00 am

OT = Old Testament NT = New Testament † Please stand if able

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* Paul Manz

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Reign of God is drawing near:

All: The prophet calls us to change our lives!

One: Prepare the way for the Lord:

All: A just and peaceful path!

One: Welcome one another, for Christ welcomes you:

All: For the glory of God!

INVOCATION (Unison)

Holy God, we long for your peace, and trust in your promise; we hear your call to turn toward you, to change our lives and welcome you in. Meet us here and fill our minds with your wisdom and our hearts with your peace. May our worship together open us to the challenge of your dream of wholeness for all. Amen!

+OPENING HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, and
 3 O come, O come, O A - do - nai, who
 4 O come, O shoot of Jes - se, free your
 5 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and

ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly
 or - der all things far and nigh; To us the path of
 came to all on Si - nai high, And from its peak a
 own from Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny, From depths of hell your
 o - pen wide your heaven - ly home; Make safe the path to

ex - ile here, un - til the Child of God ap - pear.
 knowl - edge show, and help us in that way to go.
 sin - gle law pro - claimed in maj - es - ty and awe.
 peo - ple save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
 end - less day, to hell's de - struc - tion close the way.

Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

- 6 O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your ad - vent here;
 Love stir with in the womb of night,
 and death's own shad - ows put to flight.
(Refrain)
- 7 O come, De - sire of Na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one heart and mind;
 Make en - vy, strife, and quar - rels cease;
 fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.
(Refrain)

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+UNISON PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

One: God, you call us to turn our lives around and work with patience and diligence to prepare the way for your Reign, but we get discouraged and give up too soon.

All: Lord, have mercy.

One: God, you call us to collaborate in community to prepare the way your Reign, but we neither trust nor honor the gifts of others.

All: Christ, have mercy.

One: God, you call us to be full of joyful confidence to prepare the way for your Reign, but we burden ourselves with anxiety and fear.

All: Lord, have mercy. Forgive us, O God, and lead us in the ways of patience, community and joy.

+ASSURANCE OF GRACE

One: Hear the good news: Jesus, our redeemer, is present with us in the painstaking work of the Reign of God -forgiving our weakness, rebuilding our relationships, restoring our joy. Let us celebrate this great grace by offering to one another a sign of Christ's peace.

All: Amen! Thanks be to God!

+PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: May the peace of Christ be with you. **All: And also with you.**

One: Let us share a sign of the peace with one another.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT with Tyler

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

ANTHEM

Every Valley
Chancel Choir

John Ness Beck

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:68-79 & Colossians 3:12-17

SERMON

The Grinch Finds Peace

SPECIAL MUSIC for MUSIC SUNDAY

Away in a Manger arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella arr. Cynthia Dobrinski
Glory Ringers

What is That Goodly Fragrance Flowing? arr. David Willcocks
Karey Sadler, soloist
Chancel Choir

Hurry, Shepherds Run! Lee/Wagner
Women's Ensemble

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE with 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 OUR MORNING GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

One: The Ruler of Peace is on the way, the prophet says, and we await that Gift of God together. Our gifts today in this season of waiting and hope help us to strengthen one another and to offer hope to the world as we look forward to that great day of everlasting joy. Let us gather our gifts together and present them as an offering to God.

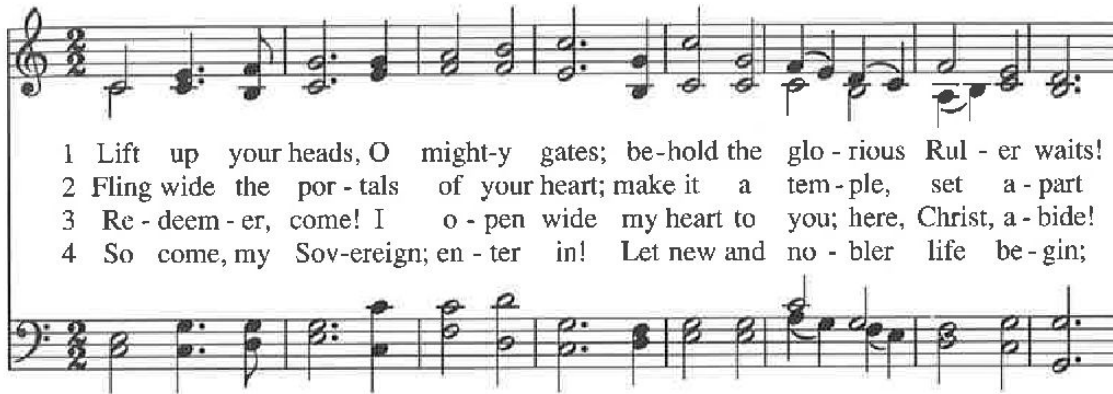
OFFERTORY *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* Paul Kickstat
+DOXOLOGY *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ in whom God's grace we know
Praise Spirit, with us evermore;
One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

+UNISON DEDICATION PRAYER

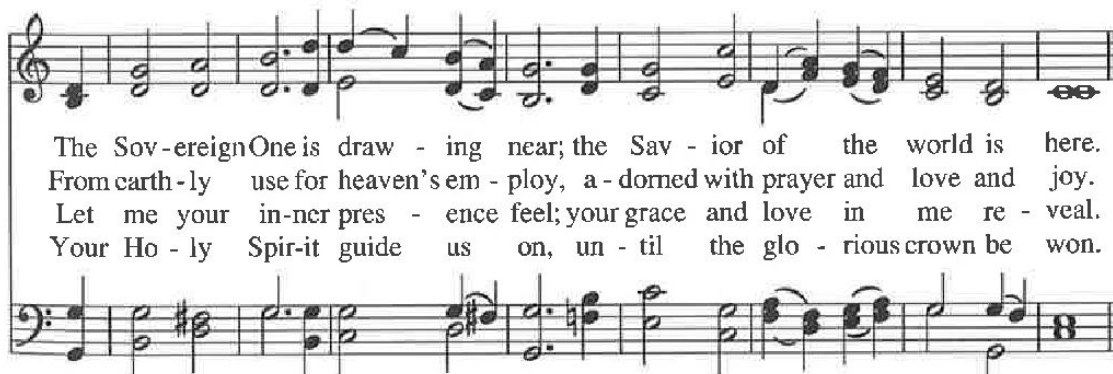
With these gifts, dear God, accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts which rejoice in your goodness and love. Let our gifts point to your presence in the world and further your dream for the world through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.

+HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates



1 Lift up your heads, O might-y gates; be-hold the glo - rious Rul - er waits!
2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a tem - ple, set a - part
3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to you; here, Christ, a - bid!
4 So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and no - bler life be - gin;



The Sov - ereign One is draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
From carth - ly use for heav - en's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
Let me your in - ner pres - ence feel; your grace and love in me re - veal.
Your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

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+BENEDICTION

One: Let us go forth with eyes to see and ears to hear
and voices to proclaim:

In the work of justice: Christ!

In the practice of mercy: Christ!

In good news for the poor: Christ!

In the vision of peace: Christ!

All: Amen! Thanks be to God!

+POSTLUDE

Voluntary

Maurice Greene

Worship Service from To Dream God's Dream: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Advent, was written by the Rev. Susan A. Blain, Minister Faith Formation; Curator of Worship and Liturgical Arts, Local Church Ministries.

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Advent candle lighting prayer by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian



NEWS & NOTES

Dec 9, 2018

St. Paul UCC Holiday Schedule



Saturday, December 15

Fine Arts Christmas Concert ~ 7pm in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 16 ~ 9am & 11am services in Sanctuary
Culinares special meal and fellowship time ~ 10am

Wednesday, December 19 ~ 6pm in Heritage Hall

Blue Christmas Service

The Blue Christmas service is an opportunity for people facing a difficult Christmas due to a variety of issues including the loss of a loved one, unhappy Christmas memories, seasonal depression, trauma, health issues or other transition.

Sunday, December 23 ~ 9am & 11am services in Sanctuary

Monday, December 24 ~ 4:30pm & 7pm

Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 30

New Year's Weekend

9am Single Service with Guest Craig Bielke



**SUNDAY
SCHOOL
TODAY!!**

10am in the library
with Tyler &
Patty Frank!

The music today:

*Giving thanks for all of God's blessings
as we celebrate our
16th wedding anniversary on Dec 14, 2018.
Dick & Ruth Ann Erdmann*



**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
TODAY
immediately following the 9am service**



The Star Tree

benefiting families in the Franklin Neighborhood
(Trying something new! Please read!)

- * You can choose a "Family Wreath of Stars" or a "Single Star"
 - * Sign your name, contact info & the Star #(s) in the Star Tree Book,
 - * Buy age appropriate gifts,
(please make sure gifts for families are of equal value,
- go in with a friend or a group for a large family)
 - * Wrap them and attach the "Star" on the front of the gift,
 - * Return it to the tree no later than Tuesday, December 11th.
- Santa's elves from The Women's Guild



**THE CHRISTMAS FUND for the VETERANS OF THE CROSS
Will be received on Sunday, December 16**

For 115 years, the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a tangible expression of God's love and light in the world. Year after year, UCC congregations have reached out in kindness, compassion and gratitude to those who have faithfully shepherded our Church in the past and who now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs.

The theme of this year's Christmas Fund Offering is *The Light is Surely Coming*. Our goal is to raise \$1.7 million to help support these ministries of light and love. The recipients of your gifts are persons who have faithfully served the church for many years. And now, in their time of need, you can be the church to them. We invited and encourage you to join thousands of UCC members who will support this year's appeal and trust the light is surely coming.

On behalf of the hundreds of clergy, lay employees and their families whose lives were touched by your support of the Christmas Fund Offering, we offer sincere thanks for your generosity!

Your St. Paul Stewardship Board

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS & MEMORIALS

Help decorate our sanctuary for Christmas this year!

We are planning a special display of assorted colors of poinsettias on Christmas Eve, December 24th.

Please order through the church on the form below.

***The poinsettias will not be personalized with tags; however, all will be recognized in the bulletin. There will be a variety of different colors of poinsettias and you are invited to choose one after the late service on Christmas Eve or later that week. We thank you for your understanding.*

You may also choose to give a cash gift in memory, in honor,
or in celebration of a special person or event.

Please fill out the form below and include a check in the **amount of \$10.00 for each plant.**

****Please note: We must have your poinsettia/memorial information no later than Friday, December 15th in order for your information to appear in our Christmas Eve bulletins - no exceptions.**

Poinsettias may be picked up after the **last** Christmas Eve Service of Worship
or later that week (office/church closed December 25 and 26).

The information you include below will appear in the Christmas Eve bulletins.

Detach below

_____ I will order a poinsettia through Church. _____ I wish to give a loving gift.

(If by check, please make payable to St. Paul Church)

IN MEMORY OF _____

or

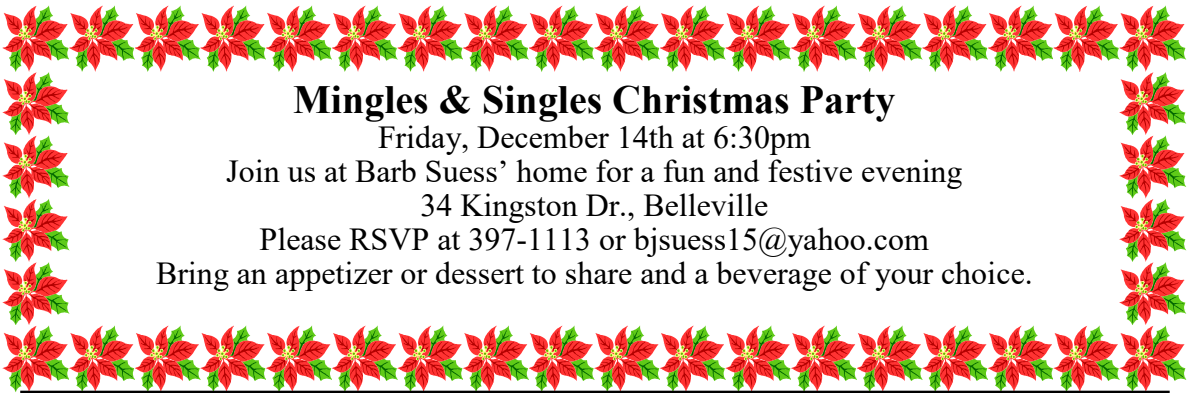
IN HONOR OF _____

or

IN CELEBRATION FOR _____

GIVEN BY _____





Mingles & Singles Christmas Party

Friday, December 14th at 6:30pm

Join us at Barb Suess' home for a fun and festive evening

34 Kingston Dr., Belleville

Please RSVP at 397-1113 or bjsuess15@yahoo.com

Bring an appetizer or dessert to share and a beverage of your choice.

Help those in need with Christmas Basket donations:

Christmas is fast approaching and the Mission Board would like to assist those less fortunate in the Franklin Neighborhood area.

Monetary donations in any amount will enable us to provide a Christmas basket for these families. Donations may be mailed to the St. Paul Church office or placed in the offering plate.

Please clearly mark your donation as "Christmas Basket Donation".

Thank you for your help.



Women's Guild Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 18th at 7pm

We will celebrate Christmas with the Christmas Story & Carols. Bring cookies to share and 1 dozen for exchanging plus a \$5.00 Christmas Exchange Gift. And of course we'll have Lots of Appetizers. Come join in the fun!!

SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE



UCC RESOURCES

DAY OF DISCIPLESHIP

Saturday, Feb 23 9am-2pm

at St. Paul UCC

Speaker Panel Includes:

Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC

Heather Kimmel, UCC General Council

Andy DeBraber, UCC Office of Phil, Tech, ID & Comm

Holly Miller Shank, MESA

Rep from the Pension Board

Dan Fry will be interviewed on the air by Kathy Lawton Brown on the Radio Arts Foundation station on Dec. 11 at 11am about our upcoming concert.
<http://www.rafstl.org/> 107.3FM and 96.3 HD2

St. Paul UCC Fine Arts

presents a

Music
Ministry
Christmas
Concert



featuring the

Music Ministry of St. Paul UCC

Chancel Choir, B Street Band, & Glory Ringers
St. Paul UCC 115 West B Street - enter on C Street
Belleville, IL 62220 233-3303

Saturday, December 15

7 pm

stpaulucc.org



The Culinares will be cooking!!

Join us next Sunday, Dec 16
after 9am service for a wonderful meal
prepared by the Culinares.

Winter Weekend 2019 January 19-21

(over the Martin Luther King Jr weekend)
The event will take place at DuBois Center and the theme is "Speak Your Truth". The keynote speaker is Rev. Trayce Potter who is the Minister for Youth and Young Adult Engagement for the UCC. The cost remains the same as last year at \$150 (early bird rate) or \$165 (late registrations) which includes lodging and meals. We plan to have the information and registration packet go out to the churches & youth leaders within the week, so watch your emails! We hope you will start to encourage your youth to attend this faith-filled and relationship-building event! Contact Tyler Kohrs about early registration.

If you are interested on sponsoring a youth for the Winter Weekend, please contact Tyler Kohrs for more info. tkohrs@stpaulucc.org / 233-3303

BLESSING BAGS ITEMS

We are looking to collect items for "Blessing Bags" for those who are less fortunate. *Can you help?*
Items that are helpful and needed:
Clean blankets, clean coats, small containers of wipes, small bottles of sanitizer, individual heat packs, socks, gloves, hats, scarves, chapstick, combs, brushes, small packages of tissues, small first aid kits, deodorant, razor and shaving cream, toothbrush and paste, and personal notes of encouragement. Please place in designated box or bring to church office. *Thank you!!*

Threads of Hope

has baby quilts for sale for the holidays or for any occasion. The quilts are all handmade with love by our quilters and the profits go to St. Paul UCC. There are many to choose from— for boys, girls and neutral colors. If you are interested, please contact Sonja at 530-3897.



Choo-Choo



Little Girls



Teddy Bear

CRAFTY MANIA

Proceeds to Benefit: A Mission of the Church

Are you a Scrapbooker, Card Maker, Jewelry Maker, or like to Sew?
What ever your craft, join us!! Spend the day doing what you like!!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!!

What: All Day Crafting
When: Saturday –January 26, 2019*
8:30am – 4:00pm



**(if the event gets cancelled due to snow
or low attendance, the new date would be March 23rd)**

Where: St. Paul UCC
115 West B Street (enter on C Street), Belleville, IL

Adults: \$30.00 with lunch / \$25 no lunch

Includes: snacks, vendors, reserved space, attendance prizes,

Extended Hours Available! 9am–10:00pm \$35.00 per person (meals served) / NO meals \$30

Contact Person: Diana Haar - dmhaar@charter.net or
Tina at St. Paul Church - (618) 233-3303

**** ENTER RAFFLE TO WIN A CRICUT ACCESSORIES & other raffle items-**
Raffle tickets available for purchase at Crafty event!

***** Early bird registration due January 2nd (to be entered in special drawing)**

Reservation Deadline is January 16th

Please remember **IF the minimum is not met by the deadline, the event will be **CANCELLED!!***

Make checks payable to: St. Paul UCC

Mail payment & reservation to: St. Paul UCC
115 West B Street, Belleville, IL 62220
Attn: Crafty Mania

Name: _____

Phone _____ E-mail (print clearly) _____

I would like to sit by _____

My craft is _____

Enclosed is my payment of (please circle ONE below)

- 1 \$30.00 with lunch / \$25.00 no lunch 9am – 4pm
- 2 \$35.00 with lunch & dinner/ \$30.00 no meals 9am – 10:00pm

Thank you!!!



For Our Prayers

Marsha McCoy - Bill Whicher - Dee Zopp

For Our Thoughts

Everything you've ever wanted is on the other side of fear. — *George Addair*
 Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.

— *Winston Churchill*

Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny. — *C.S. Lewis*

— This week at — St. Paul UCC
 Please see stpaulucc.org for full calendar of events!

- Sun, Dec 9 Music Sunday
9am Traditional Service
10am Sunday School
11am Celebration Service
 1pm Private Rental
- Mon, Dec 10 10am exercise class
 4:30 Girl Scouts
 6pm Volleyball
- Tues, Dec 11 **OSP Deadline**
 9am Quilters
 4pm Memorial Service for
 Robert "Bob" Judy - AC
 4:30 Ecuador Mtg
 5pm Comm Dinner
 7pm Shufflers
- Wed, Dec 12 9:30 Baby Class
 Band / Bells / Choir
- Thurs, Dec 13 4pm Masterworks
 6pm Board Meetings
- Fri, Dec 14 4pm Hoyleton Xmas Party
- Sat, Dec 15 7pm FA Christmas Concert



The Genealogy Group decided at our Nov meeting that we will have **NO DEC MTG**. Our next meeting will be on the 3rd Wed in Jan: **JAN 16-10AM**. Our usual meeting room-*Genesis Room on the lower level*. For members and friends of St. Paul church who received a DNA testing kit over the holidays we will discuss "What do I do with my DNA test results?"

<u>Weekly Attendance</u>		
9am /Celebration	Nov 25, 2018	Nov 26, 2017
	169/21	121/28

stpaulucc.org

