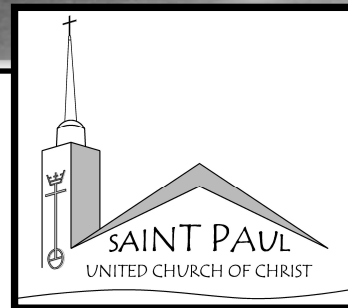


Keep Awake...



“No matter who you are,
No matter where you are
on life’s journey,
You are welcome here.”



Welcome to Worship

at St. Paul UCC

We are glad you are here!

9 am Worship in the Sanctuary
10 am Sunday School ~ Library

Information for our friends ~

- Our **9am Worship Service** is inspired with hymns, scripture and a uplifting, theological based sermon, in a family friendly environment.
- The Cry Room is open during 9 am service ~If the small person gets wiggly, there are toys & books to enjoy in this space.
- 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

<i>Lay Reader</i>	Dick Erdmann
<i>Radio</i>	Sherri Stepp
<i>Sound / Control Room</i>	Rick Haar and Tina Lake Hopper
<i>Ushers</i>	Wayne Caughman, Dana Rosenzweig, Beverly Brightwell,Carly, Megan & Leslie Dahm, Tammy & Amber Flach, Judy Saeger, Carol Simon
<i>Welcome Center</i>	Lana Gentry, Shirley Martin, Jerry Messick, Gloria Strohm
<i>Interim Choir Director</i>	Dr. Tristan Frampton
<i>Organist / Pianist</i>	Janet Spencer
<i>Senior Pastor</i>	Rev. Michelle Torigian

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

St. Paul United Church of Christ

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2019 9:00 am

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Behold, A Rose Is Blooming
Janet Spencer

Johannes Brahms

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: All around us days shorten and nights lengthen,
but we are told that the night is almost over,
and a light is drawing near.

Many: We wait on God's light together.

One: Chaos surrounds us as the busyness of the season approaches,
but we are called along pathways of peace.

Many: We wait on God's peace together.

One: In this season of friends and family,
we dearly miss the faces that are absent this year.

Many: We wait on God's comfort together.

One: Though the world can seem dark and chaotic both within
and without, we are told that God will build a house among us.

Many: We wait on God's presence together.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

One: We come to this new season of Advent and gather around a
wreath to light candles. The wreath reminds us of the circle of
our human community and the lights illuminate the many ways
in which we bring ourselves to the Incarnation, God's longed-for
presence among us — human and holy, Emmanuel — God with
us and God coming to us.

Scripture — John 1: 1-4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through the Word, and without the Word not one thing came into being. What has come into being was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Lighting of first purple candle

One: The Advent season is a season of stories that bring us into the presence of God. The story of the birth of Jesus is told in the gospels of Matthew and Luke, in carols that we sing, and in legends as old as the first century Common Era. And we celebrate this season of stories that give us more stories of hope. We light this candle for the Christmas story that shines hope on our lives.

All: Emmanuel, we find your story in the pages of scripture and the whispers of all our storytelling. Help us in this Advent season to become your story-tellers of hope for our time. Amen

Information about today's service: All St. Paul United Church of Christ services may be recorded. Pieces of this service are often video recorded for our website, social media and can be heard over the radio. Worship service from Keeping Watch, Service Prayers for the First Sunday of Advent, was written by Laura Hodges, a Member in Discernment. Copyright 2019, Faith Education, Innovation and Formation Ministry Team (Faith INFO), United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Service of Communion written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian
Advent Wreath Lighting Prayers based on liturgy written by Rev. Maren Tirabassi and can be found at https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2019/11/19/an-advent-wreath-ceremony-2019/?fbclid=IwAR00pz9ITR58UdqgM9SF0uJizgUXDLWpXNNVrzpdoVkozCZ3ReFj_QY3gE

+OPENING HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Unison

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
3 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
4 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and
far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, and
heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill

Refrain (Harmony)

til the Son of God ap - pear.
death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
cause us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
the whole world with heav - en's peace.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

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+PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

Lord of mercy, God of grace, we give thanks to you with one voice for the joy and hope this season brings. At times we find ourselves distracted by all the preparations and stresses that surround us. Help us to focus on you our Rock and Redeemer. Restore our hearts to your message of love and your call to peace. Amen.

+ASSURANCE OF GRACE

One: We worship a God who is not distant nor apathetic, but a God who is with us—a God who loves us.
Let us keep our eyes open and look for God’s daily presence and conform our ways to God’s teachings of compassion and grace.

All: Let the Holy Spirit shine like a light in our hearts fueled by the love and teachings of Jesus Christ who came into the world that we would be forgiven. Amen.

+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 Pastor Michelle

CHOIR ANTHEM

A Prayer for Advent
Chancel Choir

Douglas Nolan

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 24:36-44

SERMON

It’s the End of the World As We Know It (And I Feel Fine)*

**Title from the song of the same name by the band REM*

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE with 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.**

CALL TO OFFERING

One: We are a people of peace, living in the light of God's promises.
As look forward to the birth, we reflect on how our offerings make
a difference in our church and community. We contribute our gifts
to build God's realm in our world.

OFFERTORY

O Thou of God The Father
Janet Spencer

J.S. Bach

+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

**God of hope and wonder, even surrounded by confusion and trouble
we look for you. Take these gifts and use them for acts of justice,
peace, mercy, and hope. Receive also the gifts of our time and our
actions that are just as precious to you as silver and gold. Amen.**

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

One: May you know that the God of comfort is with you.

Many: And may you see the God of hope with you.

One: Open wide our anxious hearts!

Many: We open them to God's peace.

One: Let us give thanks and share our joy.

**Many: In this space and time,
we offer God our love and praise.**

Prayer of Communion

One: The dawn of hope rests on the horizon,
And beams of love reach our doubting hearts.
We celebrate the newness of this season-
Waiting to see how the Christ will appear in our world.
Even in our despair, a glimmer of hope reaches into our twilight
Beckoning us to breathe and wait...

Our story tells us that the Christ child whose birth we anticipate
Will one day sit at tables with strangers and friends,
Building relationships filled with love and grace.

We see this as he fed the multitude,
Turned water into wine,
And ate with dear ones the night before his death.

He took the bread, blessed it, and broke it.
Eat in remembrance of me, he said.

He took the cup, and in his blessing
Reminded them that when they sipped from the fruit of the vine
To drink in remembrance of him.

Jesus. The Christ. Emmanuel - God with us.
Light of the World. The Word of Life.
No matter how we know him
Or what name we call him,
He is our hope, our peace, our joy, and our love.
May the Spirit bless us and these elements as we commune to
remember him.

Distribution of the Elements

Christ welcomes to the table all who seek his presence. The outer circle of cups contains white grape juice. The two inner circles contain wine. All bread is gluten free. Please hold the bread and cup until all have been served, so we may commune together.

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

**For the nourishment of spirit, mind, and body,
For hope that we begin to see,
And for comfort from the Prince of Peace,
We share our gratitude, Gracious God.
Encourage us in these shortened days.
Through the long nights of this season,
May your hope carry us until dawn arrives again. Amen.**



**St. Paul UCC
Holiday
Schedule**

Tuesday, December 17 6:30pm
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.

Tuesday, December 24
Christmas Eve Services
4:30pm & 7pm

Sunday, December 29
New Year's Weekend
9am Service with special preacher Craig Bielke

+CLOSING HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

1 Lift up your heads, O might - y gates: be - hold, the
2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart: make it a
3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to
4 So come, my Sov - ereign, en - ter in! Let new and

King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is
tem - ple set a - part from earth - ly use for
you: here, Lord, a - bide! Let me your in - ner
no - bler life be - gin! Your Ho - ly Spir - it

draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.
heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
pres - ence feel: your grace and love in me re - veal.
guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

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+BENEDICTION

One: As we leave this place, take with you God's promise
to be with us, the peace of the Holy Spirit,
and the watchful perseverance of Jesus Christ.
As God came into the world to know us,
now go out into unknown places with the same compassion
that has been given to us. Amen!

All: Amen!

+POSTLUDE

Noel II

Jean Charpentier



W
e
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We're glad
you're here!

News & Notes

stpaulucc.org

The music today is sponsored:

In loving memory and celebration of Dad,
Merlin 'Bud' Erdmann
on what would have been his
101st birthday on Dec 7th.
~ Dick & Ruth Ann Erdmann



A MASON JAR ADVENT

Advent is a season for stepping away from the frantic busyness and clutter of “stuff” and embracing instead, a time to slow down, breathe, and refocus on God’s love and goodness in anticipation of the coming of the Christ Child.



Sunday, December 1 is the first Sunday of Advent. This year we are offering a unique way to observe the season. We invite each family to take home a mason jar, available in the narthex. Each jar will contain 24 tags and each tag will suggest a prayer, activity, conversation starter or social media prompt. May the Peace of the season surround you and yours.

Your Stewardship Board

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.

**COOKIES
WITH
SANTA**

**SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 7TH
10AM -NOON**

**COOKIES,
GAMES, FUN**

STPAULUCC.ORG

St Paul UCC 115 West B Street, Belleville,
Enter/Park on C Street

THE BYLAW REVISIONS ARE ALMOST COMPLETE!

Your Bylaw Committee has been hard at work these past few months. Our task is to carefully revise our present bylaws in an effort to make them more efficient and flexible.

Some of the concepts we will be recommending will be quite different from the way we presently do business and govern ourselves. But we hope you will agree that the suggested changes will move us into the future with less cumbersome requirements.

Here's what you need to know about the timeline:

Sunday, December 8 immediately following the service at the Annual Congregational Budget Meeting, we will be asking the Congregation for permission to postpone the annual election until the Annual Meeting on February 8.

Sunday, December 22 the proposed Bylaw revisions will be available for you to read.

Sunday, January 5 immediately following the service, an informal meeting for Q & A will be held in the sanctuary

Sunday, January 12 immediately following the service, a Special Bylaw Meeting will be held in the sanctuary to vote on the proposed Bylaws.

Sunday, February 9 immediately following the service, elections will be held as part of the Annual Meeting agenda.

Thank you for your consideration concerning this most important effort.

Bylaw Committee:

Brett White	Mimi Llamas
Larry Walton	Dana Rosenzweig
Karen Keuss	Sandy Wagner, chair
Diane Drake	Pastor Michelle Torigian

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 Sunday, Dec 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 _____





**St. Paul Fine Arts
MUSIC MINISTRY
CHRISTMAS
CONCERT**

**DEC
21**

Doors open 6PM
Concert begin 7pm

"Prophets & Angels"

A Cantata Advent Festival of
Lessons & Carols
Presented by

THE ST PAUL CHANCEL CHOIR

Featuring ~
St. Paul Glory Ringers
Organist, Janet Spencer
Audience Carols

A free will offering will be received

St. Paul UCC 115 West B Street, Belleville, IL stpaulucc.org

Made with PosterMyWise.com



Mingles & Singles Christmas Party

Sat, Dec 14 6:30pm

Larry Walton's Home

Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share as well as your beverage of choice.
Please let Judy Koch know if you plan to attend.

Santa Needs YOUR Help

Christian Ed will be hosting the Cookies with Santa on Saturday, December 7th from 10am -noon for the youth of the church and community. We are asking the congregation to please bake 2 dozen of your favorite cookies and bring them the week of December first. Please mark them for Santa. Bring on your Christmas Spirit and once again your help in making this event special is very much appreciated. You can sign up or feel free to call me.

Sandy Ritter 222-1123



Undie Sundays

Please support the Mission Board in collecting new underwear, socks, pajamas, hats, and gloves for the children of our community.

Help us ensure no child goes without basic needs this winter. Our goal is to provide each child at KinderCottage with the items listed above they need. Sizes 2 – 16 are requested.

If we exceed our goal, thanks to your generosity, the items are distributed to other organizations within our community.

If you are unable to shop, we will kindly accept cash donations. Collection box will be available until December 15th.

If you miss collection at service, feel free to drop off at the church office.

We appreciate your support!



Center of Hope

The Center of Hope needs NEW Men's and Women's underwear

- in a range of sizes
and Men's clothes

- new & used

Please bring to

Center of Hope or to
church office

Thank you for helping
others!!!



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 Sheet,
- * 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 Wed, Dec 11th.**

Santa's elves from The Women's Guild



Help MDO
collect items for the
Community Interfaith
Food Pantry
this Holiday Season.

Please bring your items to the
church and place
in special boxes.

ITEMS NEEDED

Peanut Butter 18oz jars Jelly 2lb jars
 Spaghetti & Pasta Spaghetti Sauce 24oz cans
 Cereal - Sweet & Unsweet 18oz Oatmeal 12oz
 Paper Towels, Laundry Detergent, Dish Wash Soap
 Lg Salt & Pepper Diapers - all sizes
 Hamburger Helper Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix
 Chicken & Dumplings 24 oz cans Beef Stew 20 oz
 Can Tuna 5 & 12 oz Can Chicken 12.5oz

Please remember ~
No glass containers &
easy open tops are helpful when serving the
homeless community

Hello Social Justice Book Group!

Over the next three months, we will
be reading *The New Jim Crow: Mass
Incarceration in the Age of Color-
blindness* by Michelle Alexander.

We will be meeting on
the following dates:

December 8
January 12
February 9



All three of the dates
will be on days in which
we have congregational
meetings about the budget or bylaws,
so we will meet at Tavern on Main at
11am or as soon as the meeting is
over - whichever happens to be later.
You'll find the link below to the book
on Amazon.

I look forward to discussing this
with you!

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHURCH
115 WEST B STREET, BELLEVILLE

SUNDAY SCHOOL

WE ARE PLEASED TO INTRODUCE A
NEW PRE-K SUNDAY SCHOOL
FOR CHILDREN AGE 2-5!
DON'T FORGET ~ OUR WONDERFUL
SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR KIDS 6 & UP
COME & SEE WHAT'S NEW!

Pre-K Sunday School - Nursery
Time: 9:15 after Children's Time
Sundays: 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Sundays

Sunday School - Library
Time: 10am (after service)
Sundays: 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays
See you Sunday!!



For more information, contact Craig at 233-3303 stpaulucc.org

