



**THE DESERT SHALL
REJOICE AND BLOSSOM**

ISAIAH 35



“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
9:15 Pre-K Sunday School ~ Nursery

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>Readers</i>	St Paul Youth
<i>Radio</i>	Brett White
<i>Sound / Control Room</i>	Rick Haar and Dana Rosenzweig
<i>Ushers</i>	Wayne Caughman, Sue Hoffmann, Fred Hotz, Joyce Maurer, Paul & Sue Sutherland
<i>Welcome Center</i>	Fred & Carol Hotz, Sandy Ritter
<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***

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2019 9:00 am

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Prelude on In dulci jubilo
Janet Spencer

J. Michael Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP *after Isaiah 35: 1-10*

One: Leave your exile behind; God is calling us home.

Many: We'll follow the Way through the desert.

One: Enter the desert without fear; God's water will quench our thirst.

Many: We'll walk the Highway of God's people.

One: Travel the Highway with joy; God is leading to life in abundance.

Many: We'll strengthen weak hands, and support feeble knees;

We'll encourage the fearful and calm the anxious:

Rejoice! Be strong! God is with us!

One: Come, let us worship!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

One: We come to the third week of the 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 (Isaiah 9:2-3a)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy.

We light the first purple candle for the Christmas story that shines hope on our lives.

We light the second candle to shine on the places that bring us peace, including this church, and the places and people that need peace this day.

We light the pink candle to celebrate the generosity and festivity of this season and to hold in tenderness and care feelings of loss and loneliness.

Unison Prayer

Emmanuel, we celebrate the true joy in so many of our human customs of this season and consecrate them to you. We acknowledge the stress that expectations put upon some of us. We hold tenderly the sadness and depression that longer nights, commercial demands, memories of loss, or simple loneliness bring. Transform the joy that each of us finds into a gift of kindness. 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.

Service Prayers for the Third Sunday of Advent were written by the Rev. Susan A. Blain, Minister for Worship and Gospel Arts, Justice and Local Church Ministries.

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Benediction by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian

Advent Wreath Lighting Prayers based on liturgy written by Rev. Maren Tirabassi and can be found at [https://](https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2019/11/19/an-advent-wreath-ceremony-2019/?fbclid=IwAR00pz9ITR58UdggM9SF0uJizgUXDLWpXNNVrzpdoVkzoCZ3ReFfj_QY3gE)

giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2019/11/19/an-advent-wreath-ceremony-2019/?fbclid=IwAR00pz9ITR58UdggM9SF0uJizgUXDLWpXNNVrzpdoVkzoCZ3ReFfj_QY3gE

+OPENING HYMN

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The lyrics are as follows:

1 A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joyce, re - joyce, take heart in the night, though

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.

Hymn continues on next page

D G D Em Am D
 Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less

Em D7 G C B7 Em
 geth - er, he o - pens wide the heaven - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - ery day we share and

Am7 D7 G Am7 G
 lives now in - side us for ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

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+PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

One: Advent calls us to “wake up!” and rejoice in the hope that is ours.
Day is coming, and with it the promise of new hope in Christ.
but we must commit to living in the light. And so we pray:

One: When the heaviness of clinging to “stuff” we no longer need and
bad habits too comfortable to shed keeps us half asleep and unable
to wake up and follow Jesus,
Lord, have mercy; **All: Lord, have mercy.**

One: When the bitterness hinders us from recognizing the “new thing”
God is doing in our midst,
Christ have mercy; **All: Christ have mercy.**

One: When a history of injustice hinders fullness of life for all,
Lord, have mercy; **All: Lord, have mercy.**

+ASSURANCE OF GRACE

One: The night is far gone, day is on the horizon.
In Christ we are forgiven and given strength to face a new day,
rejoicing, and to participate, fully awake, in working for the
Kin-dom of God. Let us celebrate this great joy by passing the
peace in community.

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 Pastor Michelle

CHOIR ANTHEM

Do You Hear What I Hear?

arr. Harry Simeone

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 35:1-10

SERMON

How to Survive the Wilderness

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.**

RECEIVING OUR MORNING GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

One: Our gifts today in this season of waiting and hope help us to strengthen one another and to offer hope to the world. Let us gather our gifts together and present them as an offering to God.

OFFERTORY

In Quiet Joy
Janet Spencer

Marcel Dupre

+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.

+DEDICATION PRAYER

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

+CLOSING HYMN

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un-furled,
3 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,

from an-gels bend-ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heaven-ly mu-sic floats o'er all the wea-ry world;
when, with the ev-er-cir-cling years, shall come the time fore-told,

“Peace on the earth, good-will to all, from heaven’s all gra-cious King”:
a-bove its sad and low-ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,
when peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,

the world in sol-ern still-ness lay to hear the an-gels sing.
and ev-er o'er its Ba-bel sounds the bless-ed an-gels sing.
and all the world give back the song which now the an-gels sing.

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+BENEDICTION

One: In the midst of the dusty wilderness,
As the sun sets on our short days,
God the Creator provides comfort in our exile,
Christ the Redeemer is the spiritual light in our nighttime
And the Spirit of God is the strength within us.
Know that you walk in the wilderness with the Divine. Amen!
All: Amen!

+POSTLUDE

In dulci jubilo

J. S. Bach

Thank you to the St Paul UCC Youth for participating in today's service!

**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



W
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We're glad
you're here!

News & Notes

stpaulucc.org



The music today is sponsored:

In memory of our dear son, Kurt
~ Lynwood & Kristine Mueller

The flowers today are sponsored:

With deep gratitude and thanks to Kenneth Sindle
and other veterans of the
World War II Battle of the Bulge
on the 75th anniversary
of it's commencement this week

~ Terry & Synthia (Sindel) Kalinowski



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



Christmas Concert



Stephen Wilson
Music Director

Sunday, December 15, 2019
3:00 pm at
St. Paul United Church of Christ
115 W B Street • Belleville, IL



Carol Brookshier
Accompanist

Free Admission

www.metroeastcommunitychorale.org

This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.



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

Fireside Club

Meeting TODAY / Dec 15 at 6pm. Please bring \$2 practical gift for exchange and cookies. Lasagna, salad, and bread will be provided. Installation of Officers and games.

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.



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!



Please check out the unique advent devotional which celebrates, honors and shares the wonder of God's biodiversity found in a sacred setting. Go to:

ISCUCC.ORG - DuBois Center -
Green DuBois Advent Devotional

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!!!

Culinares meal TODAY following service- yum!

St. Paul Women's Guild

Tuesday, December 17
7:00 pm

It's a Christmas Party in the Activity Center



Please bring: a dozen cookies to share and if you want to take a variety home, bring an extra dozen to swap.

Also, bring a wrapped gift (\$6 limit)

Women's Guild meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Activity Center.

Congregational Meeting Dec 22 following service



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:

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!



CRAFTY MANIA

Proceeds to Benefit: A Mission of the Church

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!!



What: All Day Crafting
When: Saturday –February 1st 2020
*****(if the event gets cancelled due to snow or low attendance, the new date would be April 18th)*****
9:00am – 4:00pm
Where: St. Paul UCC
115 West B st (enter on C st)
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

St. Paul Church @ (618) 233-3303

****Raffle tickets will be available for purchase of a variety of items.**

***** Early bird registration due January 6th (to be entered in special drawing)**

Reservation Deadline is January 20th

******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 Attn: Crafty Mania
115 West B st
Belleville, IL 62220

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

St. Paul Chris-



Every year when the Worship Board and the congregation members that join in at Hanging of the Greens get together and place the Chrismons on the tree - we know Advent is here!

Here is a bit of history on the Christmons. Our Christmons were made for the 150th Anniversary of St. Paul in 1988-1989.

A committee of ladies were gathered for the task of creating these beautiful ornaments (please see list below). Mrs. Karen Milton and Mrs. Doris Goepfert served as co-chairpersons on this committee.

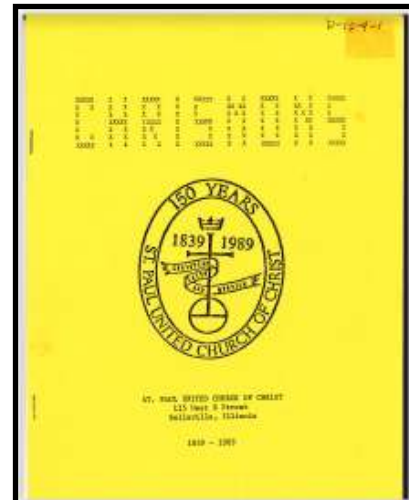
All Christmons are made in combinations of white and gold to symbolize the purity and majesty of the Son of God and Son of Man. Christmons designs are monograms of and symbols for our Lord Jesus Christ. There are a couple of copies of the original Christmons book available today in the Welcome Center for your viewing today.

Chrismon Committee

Carolyn Agnew
Helen Alexander
Jane Armbruster
Verna Arney
Karen Boeschen
Alice L. Bohnenstiehl
Wildamae Brestal
Karen Buehler
Caroline Busse
Bonnie Clements
Marjorie Coons
Diane Drake
Rita Eckert
Milfred Florreich
Lou Ann Forrler
Doris French
Doris Goepfert
Shirley Gump
Marilyn Harres
Jeri Hausmann
Janet Hentze

Olive Herald
Norma Hollansworth
Lynn Koehler
Sandy Kuehn
Ann Kunze
Kathy Liddy
Bernie Limper
Debbie Lippert
Joyce Maurer
Leslie Maurer
Karen Milton
Vi Nettleton
Kay Ortmann
Laura Ortmann
Sandra Ortmann
Barb Polanc
Evelyn Raab
Mary Ann Rafferty
Sue Reeble
Renee Rockwell
Shirley Saia

Virginia Schedske
Mona Scheibel
Myrtle Schlesinger
Bette Schmidt
Ella Mae Schwind
Doris Sindel
Vicki Stonesifer
Gloria Strohm
Joy Studer
Shirley Trinka
Jolene Wallis
Carol Weidemann
Judy West
Betty L. White
Michelle White
Barbara Wunderlich
Emma Wunderlich
Rita Wunderlich



For Your Prayers

Marsha McCoy
Casey Randolph
Tim Ritter
Dian Thom
Margo Uhrig

History with Henke *A hint of St. Paul history each week*

Jan 18, 1861 - A counterfeit \$5 bill and \$1.40 was the cash balance of the church.

Jan 1864 - The Ladies Aid, then known as the Frauen-Verein was organized by Rev. Graf. This was St. Paul's oldest auxiliary organization. (This organization was the forerunner of Women's Day Fellowship.)

Jan 1864 - The Ladies Aid organized St. Paul's first Sunday School.

This Week

Sun, Dec 15 **9am Worship**
9:15 Pre-K Sunday School
Culinaries
3pm MECC Concert
6pm Fireside

Mon, Dec 16 10am Exercise
6:30 Volleyball

Tues, Dec 17 9am Quilters
1pm Staff Christmas
5pm Comm Dinner
6:30 Blue Christmas Service
7pm Women's Guild

Wed, Dec 18 10pm Genealogy Class
Bells / Choir

Thurs, Dec 19 MDO Christmas Program (T/TH)
3pm Gov French
4pm Masterworks
6pm Council at the Wagner's

Fri, Dec 20 MDO Christmas Program (MWF)
2pm Private Rental - AC

Sat, Dec 21 Noon - Private Rental
3pm Bell/Choir Rehearsal
7pm Fine Arts
Christmas Concert

Pastor Michelle's Office Hours this week:
Mon and Tues 10am-1pm & Thurs 1-4pm

For Your Information

PRAYER REQUEST
Cards are now in the
church pews.
Please write your
Request, pass down
and place slip on the
center pew arm
before service
or give to usher.

Weekly Attendance

	Dec 1, 2019	Dec 2, 2018
9am / 11am	140/Single Serv	160/24

