

Now the Lord is the Spirit,  
and where the Spirit of the  
Lord is, there is freedom.

2 Cor 3:17

Happy Independence Day

Our St. Paul

July 2020



## **YOUR St. Paul Team**

Rev. Michelle Torigian, Senior Pastor

Craig Bielke, Director of Faith Formation & Care

Dr. Bill Wade, Director of Music

John Posth, Non-Traditional Music Director

Patrick Kinney, Facility Manager

Tina LakeHopper, Office Coordinator

Stephenie Bauza, Accountant

Donna Young, Receptionist/Secretary

Kyle Adams, Staff Support

Rachel Budko, Director of Mother's Day Out

Leah Beth Black, MDO Teacher

Lindsey Davis, MDO Teacher

Diana Haar, MDO Teacher

Jennifer Hadley, MDO Teacher

Amy LeGrand, MDO Teacher

Lynn McCullough, MDO Teacher

Nicole McCullough, MDO Teacher

Kim Nunnally, MDO Teacher

Laura Osborn, MDO Teacher

## **Church Office Contact Information:**

618-233-3303

[stpaulucc.org](http://stpaulucc.org)

## **Please try St. Paul online giving!**

St. Paul UCC Belleville has  
joined the world of

Technology by bringing  
Online Giving to our church.  
You may now give to St Paul  
Church electronically and pay  
by credit card, debit card or use  
your bank account information.  
Simply log on to ***stpaulucc.org***  
and click the "Online Giving"  
button and follow the  
instructions. You can use this  
form of donating towards the  
Heritage Hall, Operating Fund,  
Building, Radio,  
a Memorial and more.

When you or a loved one is admitted to a hospital, please ask the hospitals to notify the church office. Also please telephone the church Office regarding hospitalized members of the St. Paul faith family. The pastor and visitation team will visit church members and their families each week. If you have a new addition to your family, please contact the church office so we can keep our records current.

*Your communication is crucial to our ministry!*

**OUR ST. PAUL** is published monthly. It is edited by our pastor and produced by the office staff.

Material for inclusion may be sent to the church noted for **Our St. Paul**.

<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>DEADLINE</b>	<b>MAIL DATE</b>
Aug 2020	July 20	July 27

# Pastor's Message

## On Being Single in Sanctuaries

In just a couple of weeks, I will be getting married. It's hard to believe it's actually here - which is not the best response when you still have much to accomplish before the wedding.

It also seems very unreal because I never thought I would actually get married. I was 40 years old when I met Aaron. While I experienced many wonderful adventures along the way, marriage never happened. And it honestly took a while to become comfortable being a single person in a world of married people.

I had returned to the church about the time I was 26 years old. When you are a woman in her mid-twenties in a Mainline Protestant congregation, you look around and see very few other unmarried people sitting in the pews with you. Most people are older and have families.

Granted, I had wonderful experiences in which families from the churches would ask me to dinners and other events knowing I didn't have my own family in the area. I also had a couple of very negative experiences being single in the church which made me feel like an outcast. As a Christian and a member of the clergy, I never want others to feel this way. This led me to the many items I've written and the seminars I've led on being unmarried in the progressive Christian church. While I was writing from a single person's perspective, I knew that it couldn't be easy for a number of our friends who were also separated, divorced, or widowed. Sitting in pews each week almost completely surrounded by couples and families wasn't easy for some unmarried people.

I've experienced waves of many of my friends getting married, and I wondered if I would ever find anyone. I also saw both pain and relief when friends got divorced. I've seen my mom and a number of her friends become widows and widowers and the grief that still pops up every once in a while. And I've seen how people have pulled together - no matter how their family was designed or whether they were married or unmarried. People of all marital statuses should always feel completely welcome in any and every church - because Jesus himself was a single 30-something year-old-man too.

So as I wrap up my last newsletter article before the wedding, I pray my experiences both as a single person and married person will continue to help me care for my congregants and neighbors. Whether being married or unmarried is never always easy, God is always with us. May God use the tears and laughter from my many single years to make the world a better place.

Blessings,  
Pastor Michelle

### ***From the President's Corner***

Welcome to July! Our weather has definitely warmed up and dried out as you would expect for this month. As I said in my column last month, bright sunny days all seem to cheer us up much quicker than the gloominess of cold and damp days. With that in mind, I hope my second letter as council president still finds you all doing well as we all continue to combat this coronavirus disease that knows no bounds. Of course, one more case of the virus or another death is one too many. And we all still continue to wait for the vaccine to hopefully protect us from this unseen enemy. Hopefully sooner than later!

I must say again and without any hesitation, that it continues to be an unusual and different term as President for me since taking over the reins in March. We continue to operate the church albeit in a different manner than before the pandemic hit us all. We continue to meet and conduct church business on a regular basis through our Teams, the Executive Council and the Council itself using our virtual mediums. However, this takes a concerted effort on the part of many of our members. That brings me to a continued recognition of the entire church staff who have been nothing short of spectacular in doing what is needed for our church. Without their complete support, we would fall woefully short. And we all know what a job our church team starting with Pastor Michelle and including many of the staff as well as others continues to be in producing our Sunday virtual services, our Zoom sessions and meetings and the many other things we all enjoy through that medium. I want to give a special shout out for our church choir who, under the able direction of Dr. Bill Wade and John Posth, put in several hours each week to produce our wonderful music that we all enjoy each Sunday morning. I want to again mention that our church regathering team under the excellent leadership of Mimi Llamas and Dave Hoffmann, continues to be very active and meet regularly in addressing all of the issues we need to consider as we begin to plan for safely opening our church again. And I hope you all are aware that the first step in this reopening process is the Beach Blanket Worship. The first of these outdoor church services will be held on July 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6 PM in front of the Welcome Center and between 1<sup>st</sup> Street and C Street. You can rest assured that the entire regathering team is working deliberately to make our facility and you all as safe as possible for both the outdoor services as well as when we do return to our sanctuary.

I also want to mention that an initial meeting of our Mothers Day Out (MDO) school regathering team was held with a similar objective as our church regathering team of planning for a safe reopening of our school in a few months. Whatever it takes to protect the teacher staff, the children and others from the virus will have my complete support. Lastly, I want to mention that our church office will reopen for business with abbreviated hours beginning on Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. Entry will only be through the office doors on the B Street side. Please call the church office before you arrive. Don't forget your mask! Enough said but even with the unusual times we're all in, you can rest assured that we're trying not to miss a beat continuing with the life and doing the business of the congregation in fashion similar to what we've known in the past. Thank you one and all for your continued support to St Paul! Looking forward to seeing you all soon again!

Peace to all,  
Wayne Caughman, President



St. Paul United Church of Christ

# BEACH BLANKET WORSHIP

SUNDAYS @ 6PM

BEGINNING JULY 12TH

JOIN US FOR A FUN & RELAXING  
WORSHIP SERVICE  
ON THE C STREET STREET PARKING LOT  
OF ST. PAUL CHURCH



BRING A BLANKET OR CHAIR  
PLEASE WEAR A MASK  
NO BATHROOM ACCESS

ST PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
115 WEST B STREET, BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS  
[STPAULUCC.ORG](http://STPAULUCC.ORG)

# **A Letter from Your Regathering Team**

Dear St. Paul Friends,

Since our last update, our regathering team has met multiple times to discuss and begin to solidify ideas to gather again for public worship on our church property.

First of all, we are going to be holding our first ever Beach Blanket Worship on Sunday evenings at 6pm. These worship services will be a shorter service with a message by Pastor Michelle or Craig Bielke and music arranged by our director of non-traditional music John Posth. Gathering together on a Sunday evening in the fresh air with proper safety techniques is an exciting first step back into public gatherings in church life.

Secondly, we will be offering office hours each weekday. From 10am-2pm, our office staff will be available for you to make drop-offs, pick-ups, etc. We ask that you call ahead of time to arrange this visit, and please wear your mask. If you need to meet with any specific staff member, please call them to arrange the visit so as to make sure they are in the building.

Third, we are working on a video to welcome back our attendees to public worship in our sanctuary. In a spirit of joy, this video will introduce our congregants and visitors to the new processes of worship during this stage of COVID-19. Worship will look differently, yet we are excited that gathering again in the sanctuary is in our future.

As we mentioned in our last update, we continue to follow guidelines of the Illinois South Conference and the state of Illinois as well as consulting other guidelines to ensure everything is covered. With proper safety techniques like social distancing, masks, taking temperatures, avoiding group singing, and other procedures we believe that we can take on these new steps safely.

As always, we use the word “tentatively.” If we see a spike in cases in this area or if the virus directly affects the church, we will pull back temporarily until gathering becomes safer again. We are grateful to God’s gift of medicine and science to be our guide as we move ahead with hope, faith, love, and joy.

Due to underlying health issues, we know that not everyone will feel safe attending public worship events. To be more inclusive of our members with health issues, we will also be streaming our outdoor services and, when the day comes, will be streaming our live worship from our building. Pastor Michelle will continue to hold fellowship Zoom events twice per week to continue the connection between all who feel safe to go out and those who do not.

As we mentioned last month, we continue to hold worship in a variety of platforms. Not only can you listen to worship on Jubilee 690 AM on Sundays at 9am and 9pm, but you can also watch the services on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/stpauluccbelleville/> as well as on our website [StPaulUCC.org](https://www.stpaulucc.org). You can participate in Zoom Fellowship Time on Wednesdays at 5pm or Sundays at 10am, and most days, Pastor Michelle connects with congregants on Facebook Live. For more information, contact the church at (618) 233-3303. Please see our contact below with any questions or concerns.

If you are someone who is not connected by the internet and would like to find ways to keep connected with St. Paul UCC, please give us a call. Pastor Michelle and the leadership team want you to feel as connected as possible to our church life.



Beginning Monday, July 6th,  
the St. Paul Church Office  
will be open with shortened hours.  
Hours will be Monday - Friday 10am-2pm  
Please note:

- Must only enter thru office doors / B Street doors
  - Must wear mask
- Please call before arrival 233-3303

If you need help understanding Facebook Live Worship, Zoom, Youtube, or how to connect to the internet, we have members who are willing to assist you in getting connected!

Thank you to everyone who has continued their offerings during this season and all who have participated in the many virtual meetings and gatherings we have hosted on Zoom!

Scripture indicates that it took some time for the Israelites to get settled into the Promised Land and for them to return from the Babylonian Exile. But in all of scripture, we see hope shining. And we see hope shining in our current world as well.

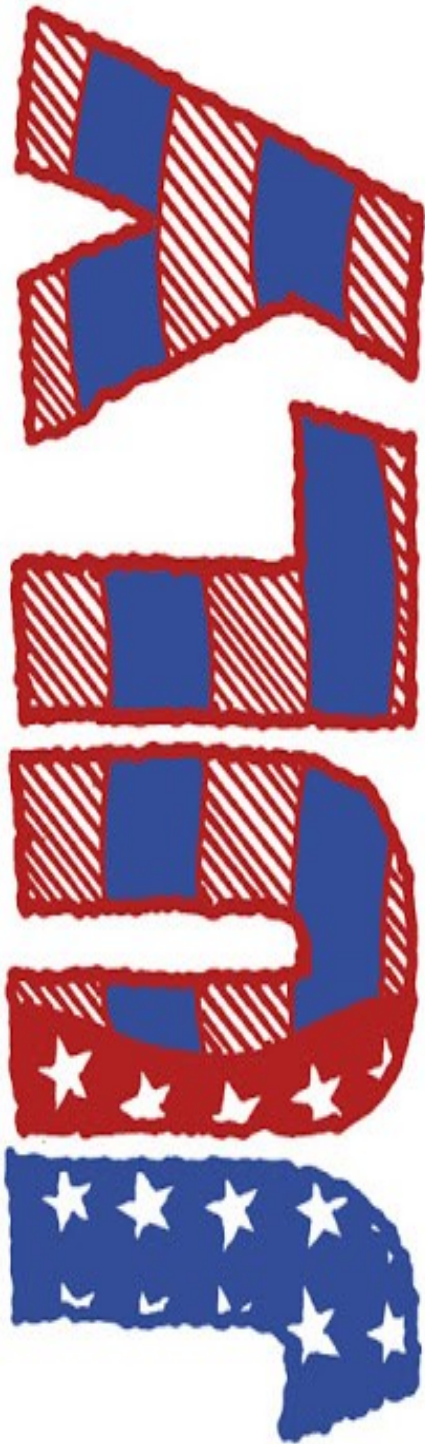
We will continue to keep you updated as decisions are made. Please keep our team in your prayers as we make the healthiest decisions possible for our congregation during this time.

Blessings,

Dave Hoffmann, Regathering Team Co-Chair [davehoff95@gmail.com](mailto:davehoff95@gmail.com)

Mimi Llamas, Regathering Team Co-Chair [mimillamas221@aol.com](mailto:mimillamas221@aol.com) 618-616-2148

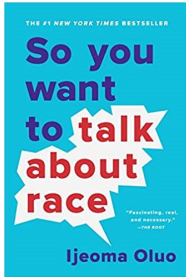
Wayne Caughman, President, St. Paul UCC Church Council President [waynecaug@yahoo.com](mailto:waynecaug@yahoo.com)



Sun	Mon	Tue
5 9am Virtual Worship With Communion 10am St Paul Zoom Social	6	7
12 9am Virtual Worship 10am St Paul Zoom Social  6pm Beach Blanket Worship	13	14
19 9am Virtual Worship 10am St Paul Zoom Social  6pm Beach Blanket Worship	20	21
26 9am Virtual Worship 10am St Paul Zoom Social  6pm Beach Blanket Worship	27	28



Wed		Thu		Fri		Sat	
	1 5pm St Paul Zoom Social	2		3		4	
	8 5pm St Paul Zoom Social	9		10		11	
	15 5pm St Paul Zoom Social	16		17		18	
	22 5pm St Paul Zoom Social	23		24		25	
	29 5pm St Paul Zoom Social	30		31			



## Social Justice Book Study

Our next social justice book study will be on the book So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo. We will meet by Zoom on Sunday, July 12 at 11am and discuss through page 36, if possible. You can purchase the book on Amazon and have it delivered, or download for your Kindle.

## Get your St. Paul Fashionable Masks - while supplies last!!!

\$10 each

Get one for each member of your family!

Colors are:

Blue, Red, White & Black

Contact the church if you would like one!!



Upper Room booklets for July and August have arrived. If you would like one, please contact Tina at [tlakehopper@stpaulucc.org](mailto:tlakehopper@stpaulucc.org) or call the church office at 233-3303.

If you would like to receive the OSP (Our St Paul) by mail and /or our weekly eNews -- and stay on top of what is happening here at St. Paul -- tell Tina and we can make it happen!!  
[tlakehopper@stpaulucc.org](mailto:tlakehopper@stpaulucc.org) or 233-3303



Thank you to everyone who came to the work day!  
The church looks wonderful because of you!  
Thanks for your hard work!

Before pictures



During/Work pictures



After picture





St. Paul Mother's Day Out Program is enrolling children for the 2020-2021 school year. Openings are available for children two through five years of age. Classes meet various days/week Monday through Friday from 9:40-1:00.

If you are interested in enrolling your child please call Rachel Budko at 618-355-1058 or [rachelmdo@stpaulucc.org](mailto:rachelmdo@stpaulucc.org) for more info.



Be on the **St Paul UCC Belleville** Team for the Annual Alzheimer's Walk at SWIC on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> and

**You, too, can be part of one of these awesome pictures!**

Our 2020 Team Goal is to raise \$2,000 for Alzheimer's Research. Be part of our team by:

1. Joining our team to walk on October 3<sup>rd</sup>... in person or spiritually.
2. Donating money personally and from your friends and family.
3. Sharing this opportunity for others to help via your social media.

Go to [2020 Walk to end Alzheimer's, Belleville, IL](#) to join and to donate. Thank you!

An activity of our *St. Paul With You* program.

Walk Team Leader: Susan Relfe



**Join our Team...**

**St Paul UCC Belleville**

Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at SWIC

Walk with us in person  
or in spirit.

Our 2020 Goal is to raise \$2,000 for Alzheimer's Research. Please share this opportunity with everyone you know!





July Anniversaries

2 Bruce & Pam Elser  
Scott & Lana Gentry  
8 David & Sue Hoffmann  
10 William & Lou James  
Rusty & Sandy Wagner  
15 Donald & Peggy Murphy  
Scott & Judi Keplar  
17 Brian & Jennifer Mentzer



July Birthdays

4 Emily Vokes	19 Bryant Steen
Pam Walton	20 Alec Steiner
5 Kelly Keck	21 Cheryl Buckrod
6 Marlene Mueller	Nick Elser
Brianna Schaefer	22 Lonnie Kettler
7 Sophia Florek	23 Barbara Harszy
Eileen Wetzol	Julie Morton
8 Vickie Dziaba	Jane Rogers
Pam Elser	25 Wayne Caughtman
Carole Goers	Nick Keplar
Kristine Mueller	27 Sue Kuether
Dana Rosenzweig	Nancy Viehman
9 Braedyn Hausmann	Sandy Wagner
Sandy Loeffler	28 Shelley Shipp
Lillian Miskimen	29 Emily Stokes
11 Gus Kuether	31 Donald Bayer
Peggy Murphy	Lynda Fish
13 Tom Birkner	Frank Graetz
Terry Kalinowski	Wayne
14 David Hoffmann	Weidemann
Samuel Sivewright	
15 Barbara Suess	
16 Grace Brashier	
Marilyn Dinkelman	
Judith Koch	
17 Scott Saeger	
18 Michael Herrmann	

# Prayer List

Family of Ruth Ann Erwin  
Family of Sally Ann Medder  
Christopher Clark, Beverly Clark's son  
Rosemary Henke  
Mary Ann & Joe Gain, Tammy Flach's parents  
Lynn Koehler                      Marsha McCoy  
Cordelia Neff                      Kenneth Oesterle  
Billy Ruth Pelc  
Rick Reeble, son of Sue & Larry Reeble  
Sandy and Tim Ritter                      Joan Sackmann  
Patricia Valerius                      Nancy Vieman

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please send prayer requests to  
pastormichelle@stpaulucc.org  
or call 233-3303 / 580-4440

*Thank you!*

### MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

The following memorials and gifts have been received by St. Paul Church:  
TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

#### **IMO Al Wunderlich**

Joyce Maurer

#### **IMO Edward Pelc**

Joyce Maurer

#### **IMO Ken Sindel**

Marlene Lindauer

#### **IMO Elmer Humphries**

Mary Ann Krausz

Melvin & Jeanette Becker

#### **IMO Marie Bade**

Donna Davis

#### **IMO Pastor John Trnka**

Debbie Lippert

Faye Weis

Ruth Klingel

Ann & Harry Wilson

**(Heritage Hall)**

Marilae Perkins

**(H/H Window Repair)**

Alan & Karen Keuss

### **ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS**

May 2020

Online Services All Gifts: \$23,063.76

May 2019

Attendance: 689 All Gifts: \$36,550.00

Gifts exclude MDO revenue and endowment distributions, but does include investment income.

Revenues	<u>2020 Final Budget</u>	<u>2020 May Actuals</u>	<u>YTD Actuals</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Congregational Offerings	\$411,574.22	\$27,863.00	\$171,474.61	41.66%
MDO Tuition/Other Income	\$111,535.00	\$894.00	\$42,908.00	38.47%
MDO Fundraiser / Memorials	\$0.00	\$344.00	\$344.00	N/A
Special Stewardship Events	\$3,000.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	2.50%
Rental Income - 205 W B Street	\$9,600.00	\$800.00	\$3,200.00	33.33%
Building Fund	\$24,500.00	\$1,205.00	\$9,312.00	38.01%
Outreach / Various Missions	\$0.00	\$3,660.00	\$14,059.00	N/A
Memorials	\$13,000.00	\$835.00	\$3,297.00	25.36%
Bequests	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
Building Income	\$11,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,381.00	21.65%
Pastoral Honorarium	\$1,500.00	\$50.00	\$150.00	10.00%
Pastoral Expense Revenue	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	N/A
Investment Income / Michelson Income	\$10,620.00	\$0.00	\$11,360.00	106.97%
Endowment Distribution (per guidelines)	\$60,000.00	\$0.00	\$50,361.28	83.94%
Endowment Distribution (Cap. Exp.)	\$27,100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Other Income	\$6,500.00	\$8.26	\$67,641.90	1040.64%
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>\$689,929.22</b>	<b>\$35,734.26</b>	<b>\$376,663.79</b>	<b>54.59%</b>
Team Revenues	\$20,000.00	\$35.50	\$7,465.22	
Capital Expenses			\$0.00	
Pew End Donations (included in Property total exp)			\$0.00	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$709,929.22</b>	<b>\$35,769.76</b>	<b>\$384,129.01</b>	<b>54.11%</b>
Expenses				
Personnel	(\$342,588.22)	(26,828.04)	(133,775.07)	39.05%
Administrative Support (formerly Operating Expenses)	(45,550.00)	(3,065.50)	(19,215.31)	42.19%
Outreach (formerly Mission Board)	(15,100.00)	(3,145.35)	(9,214.58)	61.02%
Education (MDO listed separately)	(2,500.00)	7.50	(262.88)	10.52%
Stewardship	(1,600.00)	(152.00)	(375.25)	23.45%
Property	(179,081.00)	(7,890.28)	(61,446.91)	34.31%
Congregational Care (formerly Worship Bd)	(11,975.00)	0.00	(3,081.53)	25.73%
MDO	(111,535.00)	(6,364.77)	(48,776.30)	43.73%
General Fund		0.00	(160.00)	N/A
Total Operating Expense	(709,929.22)	(47,414.44)	(276,307.50)	38.92%
Difference between Revenue & Expenses		11,644.68	107,821.51	

115 WEST "B" STREET, BELLEVILLE, IL 62220  
PHONE: 618-233-3303  
MAIL DATE: June 30 , 2020

Non Profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BELLEVILLE, IL  
PERMIT #17  
Return Service Requested

Labels Here

### Weekly events

<u>Sundays</u>	9am Worship - online 10am Zoom Social Hour
<u>Wednesdays</u>	5pm Zoom Social Hour

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Please send prayer requests to  
[pastormichelle@stpaulucc.org](mailto:pastormichelle@stpaulucc.org)  
or call 233-3303 /580-4440  
Thank you!

Here is how to stay in touch with St. Paul!!

1) **Watch the services and check for event updates on FACEBOOK -**

Like us at *St. Paul United Church  
of Christ Belleville, IL*

2) **Go to [stpaulucc.org](http://stpaulucc.org)**

- and you will find: videos of services, sermons, archives, and much more!!

3) **Listen to the radio! 690am**

9am Live Sundays& repeat at 9pm

4) **Sign up for the eNews (Newsletter)!**

Call the church office or  
email [tlakehopper@stpaulucc.org](mailto:tlakehopper@stpaulucc.org)

*Praying for your health and well-being!*