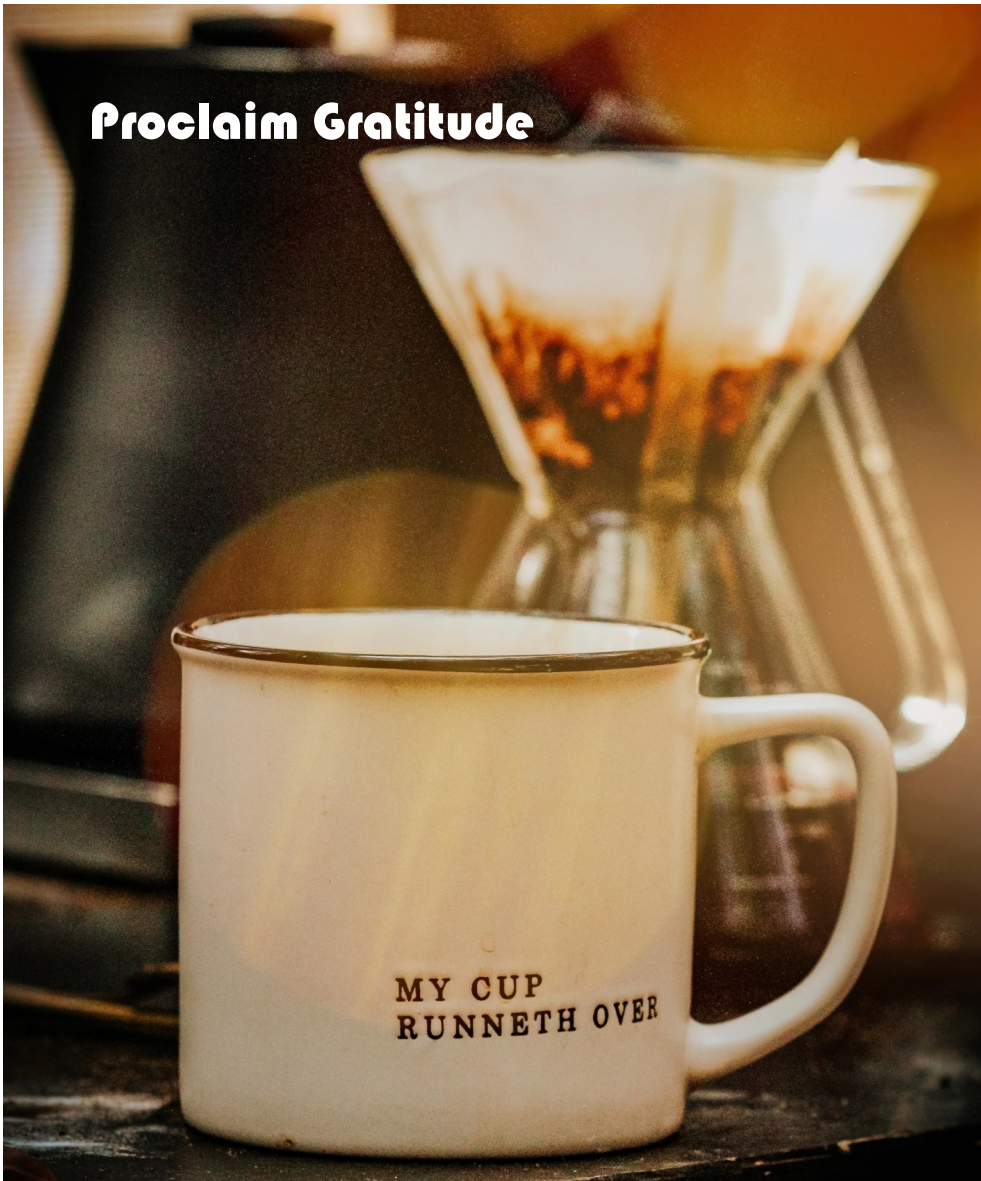


## Proclaim Gratitude



**Sunday, September 24, 2023**

“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



September 24, 2023    9:00 am  
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

### TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

<i>Senior Pastor</i> .....	Rev. Michelle Torigian
<i>Music Director</i> .....	Dr. Tristan Frampton
<i>Organist</i> .....	Kevin Chunko
<i>Liturgist</i> .....	Terry Kalinowski

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

*Hail This Brightest Day of Days, BWV 605*  
J.S. Bach

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Within us is a spirit of hope  
A spirit of connection.  
And in our unity with our neighbors  
Comes gratitude-  
A sense of ecstatic thankfulness for life's joys  
And appreciation even in the toughest times.  
As we enter worship today,  
May we give praise to our God, the Divine One  
From which all goodness blossoms  
And peace flows.

### INVOCATION (UNISON)

**Holy God, Divine Fountain of Delights,  
Your presence flows alongside us. Your steadfast love refreshes us. Through you we  
find our strength, our gifts, and our companions for the journey. Through the pool of  
joys and sorrows, we see the blessings which come from our neighbors. Through  
laughter and tears, we see the gifts of compassion from our neighbors. May we soak  
up the love which is sourced from you and transformed into kindness for all. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN

# 721 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

F C E F Dm C F C E F Dm Gm Bb A

1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.  
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield,  
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home,  
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to your fi - nal har - vest home,

Dm Gm C F Bdim D C Dm F C G7 C

All is safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.  
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - rows grown.  
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way,  
 gath - er all your peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,

C C Bb F A G F F Eb Bb F7 Bb

God, our ma - ker, does pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied;  
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear,  
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in your pres - ence to a - bide.

D F# D Gm C E C F Bb D Bb F A Dm F C C7 F

come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.  
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.  
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.  
 Come, with all your an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home.

## **\*PRAYER OF REFLECTION AND RECONCILIATION (UNISON)**

Holy Source of All Goodness,

Whether spring or autumn, winter or summer, blessings are surrounding us. Yet we seek the negative and reach for the gloom. Because our focus is elsewhere, we forget to embrace the sparkle of goodness in the voices and love of our neighbors. May we open our souls to joy today, and may we share the kindness of gratitude with the ones who bless us. Amen.

## **\*ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Our Merciful God of Love is overflowing with grace and a desire to reconnect with us and reunite us with our neighbors. May we celebrate the ways God fills our lives with opportunities for reconciliation!

## **THE BAPTISM OF KARSON LIAM MITCHELL**

*Son of Jenna and Gregory Mitchell*

## **UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH (UNISON)**

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

**You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.**

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

**Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.**

**Amen.**

## **STORY SHARING MOMENT**

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Information about today's service: All St. Paul United Church of Christ services may be recorded and/or streamed. Music is used with permission through Onelicense.net License #A-715913, CCLI #1795791, St. James Press License #17755, or public domain.

Worship service written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian. Benediction and Liturgy of Baptism from the UCC Book of Worship.

## **ANTHEM**

*Amazing Grace*  
arr. Jack Schrader  
Sanctuary Choir

## **SCRIPTURE**

Philippians 1:1-11 & 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

## **SERMON**

Proclaim Gratitude

Rev. Michelle Torigian

## **PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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**

To our neighbors near and far: Thank you! Your acts of service, your time and talents, and your offerings and gifts fill this community with joy. In turn, we are able to serve our community to the best of our abilities. May we continue to reflect on the ways we can give as we celebrate the gifts of our friends far and near.

## **COLLECTION OF THE GIFTS & OFFERTORY MUSIC**

**\*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.**

**\*BLESSING OF THE GIFTS (UNISON)**

**Holy God, Spirit of Joy,  
With much esteem, we dedicate the gifts in front of us and within us to you. May we find creative ways to use these gifts as we decorate your Realm with kindness and love.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*For the Fruit of All Creation*

(See page 6)

# 723 For the Fruit of All Creation

F Fmaj7 Bb Bb D G G7 C F Bb Gm C C7 F

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

F Fmaj7 Bb Bb D G G7 C F Bb Gm C C7 F

For his gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

Bb D F C Bb D F Bb F A C7 G F C7 F C7 Dm Bbmaj9 Gm Bb

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are  
In our world-wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -

F C C F A Fmaj7 Bb Bb D G G7 C F Bb Gm C C7 F

sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
found us, most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000), alt.  
MUSIC: Welsh melody; harm. Luther O. Emerson (1820-1915)

AR HYD Y NOS  
8.4.8.4.8.8.4.

Words © 1990 Hope Publishing Company



## \*COMMISSIONING

May we share the seeds of kindness even when the ground is dry and the weeds have taken over the ground. In due time, as the rains hydrate and the weeds take root elsewhere, the seeds of kindness will grow and from a tiny seed a great tree will grow to nourish us and give us fruit,  
to shade us from harsh heat,  
and to bring us beauty in God's Realm.  
This is how kindness blossoms and brings peace in our world. For this, we share our gratitude with God and neighbor.

## \*BENEDICTION

May God bless you and keep you.

May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace. Amen!

**POSTLUDE**     *Improvisation on "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"*



BL-53009

**ST PAUL UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST BELLEVILLE**

HALLOWEEN THEME-COSTUMES ENCOURAGED

*Belle Vegas Bingo Hall*

**Friday, Oct 27, 2023**

517 S. Illinois St, Belleville, IL

Doors @ 6pm     Bingo @ 7pm

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT :  
GLO-BINGO.COM/EVENTS  
(\$2/TICKET NON-REFUNDABLE FEE)  
ST. PAUL UCC 618-233-3303



\$25 in Advance-\$30 at the Door  
**MUST BE 18 OR OLDER TO ATTEND**  
Includes 6 bingo cards for 10 games  
Also includes Glow Hat & Dauber  
(\$5 per additional 6 cards)

CASH BAR - BYO SNACKS - BOOZE COOLER & LOTTERY RAFFLES - 50/50

**Crafty Mania**

**Saturday October 14, 2023**

9:00am-4:00pm  
Cost: \$35.00

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 **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** 

**At the St. Paul UCC Booth  
at Metro East Pride**

**September 30 from 11:30am-5:30pm**  
help get the word out about our  
church!

  **Join us downtown following  
the rummage sale. Contact  
Pastor Michelle for more  
information or to RSVP!** 

## Archives Artifacts - St. Paul trivia from the desk of Roger Henke

At a church service on September 23, 1973, almost one hundred people were installed and charged with the responsibility of providing a program that met twice every Sunday morning. What was this program that involved so many people?

### Upcoming Events

**Culinaires Breakfast**-3rd Sunday  
**Executive Council**-3rd Monday of the month @ 7pm  
**Quilters**-every Tuesday @ 9am  
**Seekers Adult Bible Study** –Tuesdays @ 10am starting September 26th  
**Community Dinner**-every Tuesday @ 5pm  
**Mats for Community**-3rd Tuesday @ 1pm  
**Shufflers**-2nd Tuesday of the month @ 1pm  
**Wednesdays**-Bells (6pm) & Choir (7:15pm)  
**With You group**-1st Wednesday of the Month @ 1pm  
**Women's Guild**-3rd Wednesday of the month @ 1pm (At Fletcher's Swansea on Sept. 20th!)  
**Personnel Meeting**-2nd Thursday of the month @ 7pm  
**Church Council meeting**-3rd Thursday of the month-6pm  
**Rummage Sale**-Sept 29 (4-8pm) & 30th (9-12)

### For Your Prayers

Lori Coleman	Alec Zaber
Carol Hotz	Jo Ann Purdy-Elmore
Marilyn Dinkelmann	Hector Rivera
Debbie McIntyre, daughter of Arline Worms	Scott Martin, son of Shirley Martin
Tim Ritter	Betty Rieso
Laura Howie, daughter of Elgee Phillips	Linda Mentzer
	Doug Bush

Please call the church for prayer requests:  
618-233-3303 [stpaulucc.org](http://stpaulucc.org)



Like us on Facebook  
*St Paul UCC, Belleville, IL*



Watch videos on YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/>

ANSWER: Sunday School.

### Weekly Attendance

9AM

September 3, 2023 92 + Online Participants    September 4, 2022 80+ Online Participants

Offering for 9/15/2023 \$4,585

### General Fund

Needed each week \$7,605

Giving to...  \$255,867

Budget to...  \$273,793

Total Budget  \$395,479