



Our St. Paul December 2024

YOUR St. Paul Team

Rev. Michelle Torigian, Senior Pastor
Patrick Kinney, Facility Manager
Dr. Tristan Frampton, Director of Music
Sherry Wilhelm, Office Coordinator
Kathy Buehler, Bookkeeper
Ian Hipkins, Technology Coordinator
Evan Wilhelm, Support Staff
Mary Blaies, Support Staff
Cynthia Johnson, Organist/Pianist

Church office hours:
Monday - Thursday
8:30am-4pm
Friday
9am-12pm

**Church Office Contact
Information:**
618-233-3303
stpaulucc.org



**Please welcome our new
organist/pianist
to the St. Paul UCC team!**

Cynthia Johnson



Cynthia has been actively involved as a church musician, collaborative pianist, vocal coach, and professional choral singer in the St. Louis/Metro East area for decades. Cynthia served as accompanist for the Masterworks Chorale in Belleville, Illinois, for its 50th and final season, and also served in that same capacity from 1983 until 2001. She was a principal soprano and assistant accompanist for the Bach Society of St. Louis for 18 seasons, and an accompanist for the American Chamber Chorale and Orchestra for one season. She is an experienced church musician and has been on the staff of many area churches. She is currently an accompanist for the St. Louis Children's Choirs. Cynthia earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in piano performance from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. We welcome Cynthia here on December 15th!

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**.

NEXT ISSUE
January

DEADLINE
December 15

MAIL DATE
December 30

Pastor's Message - God in the Darkness

I do not like rooms without light. It often feels like a vacuum, robbed of any life, as we become more in tune with any little noise that comes our way.

Recently, I was here for an evening meeting. Prior to business, I walked into the sanctuary. There weren't any lights on in the Activity Center, the Narthex, or the Sanctuary. Before I had a chance to turn the Sanctuary lights on, I took a moment to breathe in the space. And I did something I rarely do: I appreciated the absence of light. Even though our Sanctuary is flooded with light on Sunday mornings, the evening presents a different ambiance, especially in these winter months when nightfall happens extremely early. The beauty of darkness and the stillness of the space calls me to pause and appreciate the ways minimal streams of light enter the nighttime spaces we inhabit.

This experience at church reminded me of the practices I may need to include in my life this Advent. As I immerse myself in darkness, my hope is to find clarity and discern how God is calling me.

I don't know about you, but I know my mind races during this season. I think about all that is going on at church, at home, with my family, and more. My mind fails to settle down. Ultimately, I feel like I have 100 internet search engine tabs open in my brain as my thoughts bounce from one subject to the next. By changing routes and embracing the beauty of this season's long nighttime may be where I find inspiration and the stillness for which I long and need.

If quiet centering doesn't come easy to you, sometimes blocking out 15 minutes for that spiritual practice is required. I know being intentional and scheduling spiritual practices will be healthy for my spirit. The world will not end as I walk away from the buzz and brightness of life for 15 minutes.

In fact, in 15 minutes of a silent night may help me see God a little more clearly.

Friends, many blessings during the seasons of Advent and Christmas!

Blessings, Pastor Michelle



**Pastor Michelle's
December office hours
(December 1-December 24)**

Monday-Thursday 10am-1pm
I will be away December 25-January 2

Fridays are my sabbath days.
While I am not in the office or attending to administrative work, I am
available for pastoral emergencies.



Star Tree

The Star Tree is coming Nov. 24th!

Please take one or more stars. We have 40 kids who will love to receive a Christmas gift this year. To be sure each child receives a similarly valued gift we recommend a gift value of \$30.

If you prefer not to shop, we will have our elves shop for you! Please send in your monetary donation to the office by Dec. 1st.

Please bring your wrapped gifts to the church by Sunday, Dec. 15th.



ST. PAUL UCC MISSION BOARD IS ACCEPTING MONETARY DONATIONS FOR FRANKLIN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Money collected will be given to Franklin Neighborhood Association to purchase holiday food baskets for those in need! Please consider donating and help others have a blessed holiday. Please send in your donations to St. Paul UCC by December 8th. Please make checks payable to St. Paul UCC.

MATS FOR COMMUNITY COMFORT

Please join us
on the 3rd Tuesday of
every month from 1-3pm
in the craft room.
Please join us!





ST. PAUL UCC

Holiday Worship Services

Blue Christmas

December 17th

7:00 pm in Heritage Hall

Youth Sunday

December 22nd

9:00 am

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24th

4:30 pm and 7:00 pm

ST. PAUL UCC, 115 WEST B STREET, BELLEVILLE
STREAM AT STPAULUCC.ORG
ALL ARE WELCOME!



JOIN US
SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 22
AT 9AM
FOR OUR
YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT
SUNDAY AT
ST. PAUL UCC!

Know a youth or young adult
who would like to participate?

Contact
Pastor Michelle!



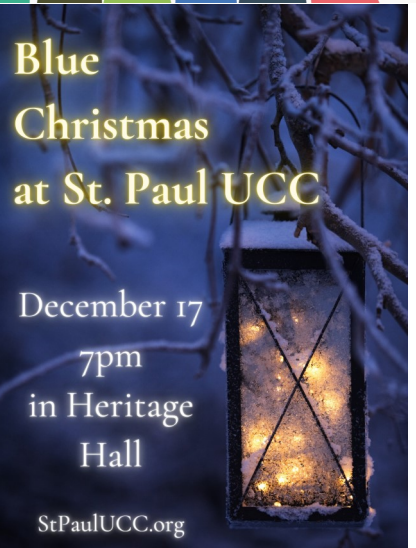
IT'S TIME TO ORDER
POINSETTIA'S
IN HONOR/MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

COST IS \$12.00

EACH 6.5" POT COVERED WITH FOIL WILL HAVE
10 OR MORE BLOOMS. ORDER BY 12/15/24

YOU MAY ALSO PLACE A CHRISTMAS EVE MEMORIAL
WITHOUT THE POINSETTIA.

PLEASE MAIL OR DROP OFF YOUR MEMORIAL INFO
TO THE OFFICE. BY DECEMBER 15.











Blue
Christmas
at St. Paul UCC

December 17
7pm
in Heritage
Hall




StPaulUCC.org

DECEMBER




Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
		
<p>1 1st Day of Advent 9am-Worship 10am-Coffee & Doughnuts 3pm-Hanging of the Greens</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>World AIDS Day</i></p>	<p>2 9am-Pickle Ball 10:30am-Yoga Gold</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  <i>National Mutt Day</i> </p>	<p>3 9am-Quilters 10am-Seekers Bible Study</p> <p style="text-align: center;">National Day of Giving Giving Tuesday!</p>
<p>8 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 9am-Worship 10am-Coffee & Doughnuts</p> <p style="text-align: center;">METRO EAST CHORALE 3PM</p>	<p>9 9am-Pickle Ball 10:30am-Yoga Gold</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  <i>Christmas Card Day</i> </p>	<p>10 9am-Quilters 10am-Seekers Bible Study 5pm-Community Dinner 5:30pm-Finance Mtg.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Human Rights Day</i></p>
<p>15 9am-Worship 10am-Culinaire's Breakfast 10am-Mission Meeting-Library</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>International Tea Day</i></p>	<p>16 9am-Pickle Ball 10:30am-Yoga Gold</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>National Chocolate-Covered Anything Day</i></p>	<p>17 9am-Quilters 10am-Seekers Bible Study 1pm-Mats for Community 5pm-Community Dinner 7pm-Blue Christmas</p>
<p>22 9am-Worship-YOUTH SERVICE 10am-Coffee & Doughnuts</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p>	<p>23 11am-Community Lunch</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p>	<p>24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES 4:30 & 7:30 PM</p>
<p>29 9am-Worship 10am-Coffee & Doughnuts</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p>	<p>30 11am-Community Lunch</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  <i>Bacon Day</i> </p>	<p>31 NEW YEARS' EVE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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<p>4 9am-Pickle Ball 1pm-With You 6pm-Bells 7:15pm-Choir</p>  <p><i>National Cookie Day</i></p>	<p>5 10am-Worship Meeting 10:30am-Yoga Gold</p> <p><i>World Soil Day</i></p>	<p>6 9:00am-Pickle Ball</p>  <p><i>St. Nicholas Day</i></p>	<p>7</p>  <p><i>National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</i></p>
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<p>11 9am-Pickle Ball 1pm-With You 6pm-Bells 7:15pm-Choir</p> 	<p>12 10:30am-Yoga Gold 7pm-Personnel Meting</p> <p><i>National Poinsettia Day</i> <i>Remember to order your poinsettias for Christmas Eve!</i></p>	<p>13 9:00am-Pickle Ball</p> <p>ST. PAUL FRIENDS CHRISTMAS PARTY 6 PM - Heritage Hall</p>	<p>14</p>  <p><i>National Wreaths Across America Day</i></p>
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<p>18 9am-Pickle Ball 6pm-Bells 7:15pm-Choir</p>  <p><i>International Migrants Day</i></p>	<p>19 10:30am-Yoga Gold 6pm-Council Meeting</p> <p><i>National Re-Gifting Day</i></p>	<p>20 9:00am-Pickle Ball</p>  <p><i>National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day</i></p>	<p>21</p> <p>AngeLs of St. Clair County service for the homeless 11 AM</p>  <p>1st Day of Winter</p>
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<p>25</p> <p>CHRISTMAS DAY</p> <p>St. Paul UCC Office is Closed Merry Christmas! <i>Hanukkah Begins</i></p>	<p>26</p>  <p><i>National Candy Cane Day</i></p>	<p>27</p>  <p><i>National Fruitcake Day</i></p>	<p>28</p>  <p><i>National Card Playing Day</i></p>
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For Your Prayers

Lori Coleman
Carol Hotz
Marilyn Dinkelmann
Debbie McIntyre, daughter of Arline
Worms
Tim Ritter
Betty Rieso
Larry Walton
Wayne Caughman
Tim Ritter Jr., son of Sandy & Tim Ritter
Hector Rivera
Lou Ann Niemann

Cheryl Cooper
Debbie Price
Christopher Mitchell
Audrey Krummrich
Ralph Eckart, brother in-law of Marlene
Mueller
James Whitmarsh, nephew of Jan Friedrich
Mike Llamas, brother in law of Mimi
Llamas
Jeff Lutz, brother in law of Debbie Lippert
Karen Keuss
Jack Snyder



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please send prayer requests to: pastormichelle@stpaulucc.org or call 618-233-3303.

Seekers Bible Study

Please join us on Tuesdays@ 10am in the Genesis Room!

The First Christmas, by John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg

The First Christmas consists of 3 parts divided into three chapters.

It seems perfect for the three weeks between thanksgiving and Christmas.

December 3: Part Parable , Overture and Context

1. The Stories of the First Christmas 2. Parables as Overtures 3. The Context of the Stories

December 10: Genealogy, Conception and Birth

4. Genealogy as Destiny 5. An Angel Comes to Mary 6. In David's City of Bethlehem

December 17: Light, Fulfillment and Joy

7. Light Against the Darkness 8. Jesus as the Fulfillment of Prophecy 9. Joy to the World

St. Paul UCC - 115 W. B. St., Belleville
618-233-3303 stpaulucc.org



Anniversaries & Birthdays



December Wedding Anniversaries

12/14-Dick & Ruth Ann Erdmann

12/27-Peggy & Scott Burke

December Birthdays

12/1-Linda Herrmann
 12/2-Michael Wagner
 12/3-Debbie Lippert
 12/3-Judy Saeger
 12/4-Donna Thomas
 12/5-Nancy Scharf
 12/6-Robert Yung
 12/8-Tom Mentzer
 12/11-Jerilyn Hausmann
 12/13-Kathy Buehler

12/15-Carolyn Hazelip
 12/16-Bruce Elser
 12/16-Lou James
 12/16-Todd Keller
 12/17-Jeanette Miles
 12/19-Patricia Oberholtzer
 12/27-Carol Hotz
 12/31-Vera Juenger
 12/31-Dolly Kirsch
 12/31-Larry Reeble

Save the date!

PLEASE JOIN US IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE ON
DECEMBER 8, 2024

2025 Budget and Nomination Congregational Meeting

St. Paul United Church of Christ



Culinaires' Breakfast

Sunday
December 15!

IN HERITAGE HALL
FOLLOWING SUNDAY
SERVICE!



MEMORIALS AND GIFTS

Thank you from St. Paul Church. We appreciate your generosity!
TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

IMO Marilee Black

Kent Black

IMO Janet Heil

Jane Bonaldi
Mona Scheibel
Judy Koch
Rusty Wagener
Pat Morris
Jane Schlotto
Elizabeth Lange
Barbara Eilerman
Mary Lynn Harres
Carl & Jeanette Heil
Julia & Dennis Smith

Dolly Kirsch
Janet Spencer, FA
Gloria Strohm
Willis Steiger
Janice Friedrich
Louise McDaniel
Shirley Epplin

IMO Jeffrey Dinklemann

Marilyn Dinklemann
Carolyn Draper

IMO Theresa Yung

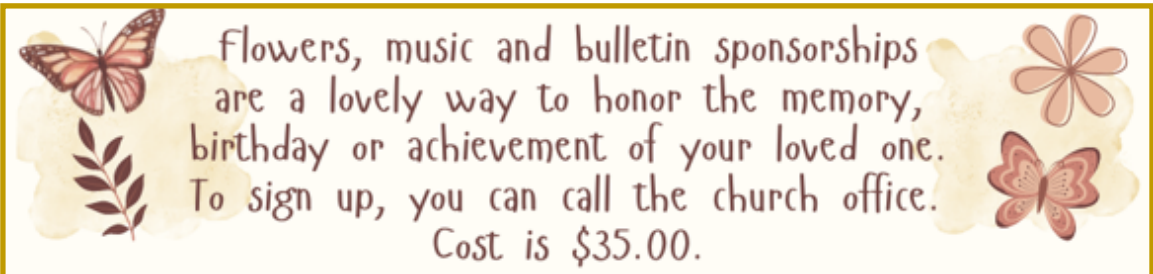
Robert Yung



**Remember St. Paul UCC as you
prepare your will or trust!**

Contact the church to learn more:
618.233.3303

StPaulUCC.org



Flowers, music and bulletin sponsorships
are a lovely way to honor the memory,
birthday or achievement of your loved one.
To sign up, you can call the church office.
Cost is \$35.00.

**Please note that on-line giving will be going away as of January 1, 2025.
Contact the office for more information!**

REVENUE	2024 Final Budget	2024 Oct Actuals	YTD Actuals	% of Budget
130100 - Congregational Offerings	\$378,200.29	\$36,750.00	\$291,858.01	77.17%
130104 - Fund Raising Events*	\$3,000.00	\$650.00	\$2,510.00	83.67%
130105 - Rental Income-205 W B St.	\$11,790.00	\$2,400.00	\$10,575.00	89.69%
130500 - Building Fund	\$19,000.00	\$4,070.00	\$11,711.00	61.64%
130741-BASSC Utilities	\$6,600.00	\$1,088.80	\$4,727.09	71.62%
1302xx - Outreach (Various Missions #)	\$0.00	\$5,380.00	\$9,704.00	N/A
131100 - Memorials	\$12,500.00	\$1,950.00	\$5,815.00	46.52%
131200 - Bequests	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
131300 - Building Income	\$4,200.00	\$768.00	\$8,621.00	205.26%
131400 - Pastoral Honorarium	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$960.00	80.00%
131499 - Pastoral Expense Revenue	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
131500 - Investment Income /Michelson Income	\$28,400.00	\$0.00	\$28,400.00	100.00%
131600 - Stifel Investment-Donation fro Pastoral Minister	\$24,700.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	60.73%
131600 - Distribution from Endowment (Per Guidelines)	\$135,000.00	\$0.00	\$78,500.00	58.15%
131650 - Distribution from Endowment (Cap. Exp.)	\$22,000.00	\$0.00	\$11,000.00	50.00%
131900 - Other Income	\$50.00	\$37,574.93	\$38,303.62	76607.24%
Total Operating Revenues	\$646,640.29	\$90,631.73	\$517,684.72	80.06%
Team Revenues	\$3,900.00	\$422.45	\$4,565.33	
Capital Expenses				
Grand Total	\$650,540.29	\$91,054.18	\$522,250.05	80.28%
EXPENSES				
Personnel Expenses	(\$381,018.00)	(\$26,520.50)	(\$280,146.31)	73.53%
Administrative Support (formerly Operating Expenses)	(\$41,607.33)	(\$2,957.97)	(\$32,750.57)	78.71%
Outreach (formerly Mission board)	(\$13,500.00)	(\$2,140.00)	(\$6,771.00)	50.16%
Education	(\$2,500.00)	(\$43.91)	(\$1,356.25)	54.25%
Stewardship	(\$1,480.00)	(\$40.00)	(\$842.73)	56.94%
Property	(\$196,184.96)	(\$17,413.26)	(\$175,572.50)	89.49%
Congregational Care (formerly Worship Board)	(\$14,250.00)	\$4.77	(\$7,898.36)	55.43%
General Fund	-	-	\$0.00	N/A
Total Operating Expense	(\$650,540.29)	(\$49,110.87)	(\$505,337.72)	77.68%
Difference between Revenue & Expenses	\$0.00	\$41,943.31	\$16,912.33	

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

Oct-24 9am 458 + Online

Oct-23 9am 412 + Online

Oct-24 All Gifts: \$38,330.00

Oct-23 All Gifts: \$52,188.28

115 WEST "B" STREET, BELLEVILLE, IL 62220

PHONE: 618-233-3303

MAIL DATE: November 26, 2024

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

Label Here

Please join us!



In person on Sundays!

Worship Service

@ 9am

Coffee & Doughnuts

@ 10am

or

Join us live on Facebook

St. Paul United

Church of Christ

Visit us @ stpaulucc.org

For videos of services, sermons,
archives, events and much more!!

Sign up for the online weekly
eNews newsletter and

Our St. Paul monthly newsletter!

St. Paul United Church of Christ

115 W. B. Street

Belleville, IL 62220

618-233-3303

Event Rental Space Available!

*No matter who you are or where
you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*