



Sunday, February 23, 2025

“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

February 23, 2025 9:00 am

7th Sunday after Epiphany

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

<i>Pastor</i>	Rev. Michelle Torigian
<i>Music Director</i>	Dr. Tristan Frampton
<i>Organist</i>	Cynthia Johnson
<i>Liturgist</i>	Roger Relfe

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship, setting by John Purifoy
“Let us love our God supremely; let us love each other, too.
Let us care for all his people till our God makes all things new.”

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 37)

One: Come, Beloved, and release your frenzied fear.

Many: We come, trusting the enduring promises of the Holy One.

One: Let meekness rise as strength of soul.

Many: May our promised inheritance of love shine brightly all around.

One: May it strengthen us in our waiting and our working.

Many: May all that is evil wither, and all that is good grow to fullness.

One: May the grace of God rest on us all as we gather.

INVOCATION (Unison)

Holy Love, bear in us a new beginning. Soften our hearts and still our minds into Your gracious embrace. Hold the worries and wanderings of our lives.

Gift us with the renewing energy of Your Holy Spirit. Let it meet our fatigue and form in us a deepened commitment to your vision of the beloved

community. Yes, mold us with Christ-love into agents of Your blessing, for the good of the world. May the cup of our lives run over with this of Your desire.

In Your Holy name, we pray. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

Help Us Accept Each Other

Unison
G A7 G Cdim G Am7(b5) Gmaj7 G6 A7

1 Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us;
 2 Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life
 3 Let your ac - cept - ance change us, so that we may be moved
 4 Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,

Bm Em Emsus2 Em D D Cmaj7 Bm7 Am7 D7sus2 D7

teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.
 we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
 in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
 who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for right - eous - ness and bread,

Bm7 Emsus2 Em Em(#7) Em7 Am9 Bm7 C D/C C#dim7

Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
 to prac - tice your ac - cept - ance un - til we know by heart
 we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on:

G/D C#dim7/D Am7/D Bm/D Am/D C/D G

we are our - selves ac - cept - ed, and meant to love and live.
 to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.
 the ta - ble of for - give - ness, and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us, make us one!

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

God of the grand reversal, we confess our easy attachment to revenge in its many forms. Instead of interrupting violence, it has been easy to support systems that encourage wrath. It has been easy to worship the lie of scarcity instead of trusting your promise of abundance. By this, the way of the world has worked into our hearts and minds. Forgive us and free us from ourselves. Equip us anew with an outpouring of Your love. By this of You, form us into channels of grace. Deepen our love, expand our generosity, and mold us and the world with Your abundant mercy. Let the heart and mind of Christ take up residence in us anew. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

The good news is here! The Holy One, Love Almighty, interrupts our missteps and misdeeds, our distractions and our detours. In Christ Jesus, God has shown us what forgiving love has already done and continues to do. It heals, it mends, and makes a new chapter possible. This is the forgiving power of God that embraces you and me, here and now. It is the good news! You can trust it with your life. Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Beloved, Let Us Love One Another
by William Dailey
Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURE

Luke 6:27-38

SERMON

Bless Your Hearts

Pastor Michelle

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.

MISSION MOMENT

OCWM and "5 for 5"

Stephenie Bauza

REFLECTION ON GIVING

Jesus reminds us that God works by a different economy. He tells us, “If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High.” Friends, by this, joy is given space to rise. May we discover it growing in us as we bring our gifts to God.

COLLECTION OF THE GIFTS & OFFERTORY MUSIC

My Peace I Give You
by Barbara J. Heastings

***DOXOLOGY (Tune: *Old Hundredth*)**

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)**

Generous God, thank you for pressing Your holy love into our hearts. Bless these gifts we bring so that they may be multiplied larger than we can imagine. Also, bless us, that we might live our lives in gratitude, sharing freely without expectation of return. Through this way of Jesus, stretch our hearts, minds, and lives into channels of Your Holy grace. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* *(See new page)*

***COMMISSIONING**

May you be blessed with the courage to interrupt revenge with love. May you be strengthened with a gratitude that freely shares with others. May you discover again and again the merciful embrace of the Holy One. And may the love of God, empower you to help change the world with forgiveness. Blessings on you all!

***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

By Faith Transformed
by Lani Smith

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther, there is no
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon and
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thy own dear

shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright

pas - sions they fail not; as thou has been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy and love.
 hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!

Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy

Please join us today for the St. Paul UCC Annual Meeting
immediately following worship.
Annual Reports are now available for you to pick up.

St. Paul UCC MONDAY FUN-DAY

Everyone is invited to our first monthly
Monday Fun-day on February 24th from 6-8pm!
We can't wait to see you!!!



Chair Yoga 6-6:30, Yoga 6:30-7pm - \$10



Pickleball - \$5 (bring your own paddle & ball)

Board Games (bring your own or play Uno!)



115 W. B. St., Belleville



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.

For Your Prayers

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

Cheryl Cooper
 Debbie Price
 Christopher Mitchell
 Sue Sutherland
 Audrey Krummrich
 Ralph Eckart, brother in-law of
 Marlene Mueller
 James Whitmarsh, nephew of
 Jan Friedrich
 Mike Llamas, brother in law of
 Mimi Llamas

Norma Franke
 Jennifer Wick, daughter of
 Stephenie Bauza
 Jack Snyder
 Venita Jane Rogers
 Dorothy Maiworm
 Jan Friedrich
 Sue Kuether
 Luci Bradley

Please call the church for prayer requests: 618-233-3303 stpaulucc.org



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



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St Paul UCC, Belleville, IL

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**THE WOMEN'S GUILD IS
 COLLECTING PAPER
 GROCERY BAGS FOR NEXT
 YEAR'S RUMMAGE SALES.
 PLEASE PLACE THEM ON
 THE SHELF IN THE
 HALLWAY BY
 HERITAGE HALL**
 —————



<u>Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service</u>	
February 9, 2025	107 + Online Participants
February 11, 2024	91 + Online Participants

Weekly Offerings		2/15/2025
Operating	\$	7,239.00
Building Fund	\$	490.00
	\$	7,729.00
Giving YTD	\$	50,010.25
Weekly Budget	\$	6,942.65
Budget to Date	\$	41,655.91
Total Budget	\$	361,017.89



**Interested in knowing the various ways you
 can give to St. Paul UCC?**

StPaulUCC.org

Contact the church to learn more:
 618.233.3303

