



Our St. Paul

April 2025

YOUR St. Paul Team

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

Church office hours:

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

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

April Wedding Anniversaries



4/3-Lonnie & Cindy Kettler
4/4-Tom & Kathy Birkner
4/14-Darwin & Mary Lu Bretsch
4/14-Kevin & Shelley Shipp
4/15-Wayne & Carol Weidemann



April Birthdays

4/2-Mindy Bernal
4/4-Cheryl Cooper
4/7-Peggy Burke
4/8-Dennis Luehder
4/9-Pastor Michelle

4/14-Pat Kinney
4/15-Gay Eckert
4/17-David Steen
4/17-Lisa Smith
4/18-Michael West

4/19-Duane Trickey
4/21-Jacob Florek
4/21-Rachel Dziaba
4/29-Dick Erdmann

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: May- **Deadline to submit information: April 23.**

Pastor's Message - Sabbath and Art

When I was a child, my parents encouraged me to embrace artistic expression that came naturally for me. By the age of seven, I was taking piano lessons and entering a variety of coloring contests. My dad bought me my first woodburning tool when I was 13 and encouraged me to complete my first pyrography piece for the Illinois History Contest even before I entered high school.

High school creative pursuits were filled with writing, art, and music. As I entered into adulthood, artistic expression was a companion for me over the years. Even when I was completing my undergraduate degree, I took a variety of classes connected to the arts, including being a part of the college band, taking a class on graphic design and continuing to play around with the Photoshop program in my down time, taking an acting class and acting in two shows, completing a class called Television and Society, and enrolling in a number of writing classes - including one in poetry. I completed a class in Writing the One Act Play and had my play staged in a festival at the school. I most enjoyed my undergraduate and graduate classes when our class would be held at the St. Louis Art Museum or the St. Louis Botanical Gardens. Through the creation of God and neighbor, I found my spirit stirring with inspiration.

Art is the way I express myself most in my life and how I utilize my gifts for God. Whether it's through writing liturgy, prayers, or poetry or the continuation of my woodburning arts, I am able to see the presence of God working with me and through me. Speaking the language of art by referring to pieces of artwork, movies, and music in my sermons and writings is a very authentic way for me to illustrate a scripture through a modern parable.

As part of my sabbatical journey, I look forward to the ways art will be a major focus of my respite time. I look forward to being in the room where it happens - the spaces where art was created and where art now hangs. From the National Gallery in London to the Louvre in Paris, I know I will find joy in my heart for the ways God has inspired many throughout the centuries. Maybe we'll have the opportunity to see a West End musical. My hope is to have some space to write some prayer and poetry along the way that I can share when I return. And in my travels, I also look forward to seeing the spaces where some of my favorite scenes in movies and TV were filmed - especially in London! To think that I will have the opportunity to be in the spaces where art was inspired and now abides makes my heart sing, and I hope you have chances to make your heart sing this summer too!

Blessings,
Pastor Michelle

Happy
APRIL



Pastor Michelle's
April office hours
Monday-Thursday 11am-2pm

Happy
Easter



Fridays are my sabbath days.
While I am not in the office or attending to administrative work, I am available for pastoral emergencies. I will be out of the office April 9 and April 21 and be at the clergy retreat April 29-30.

ST. PAUL UCC RUMMAGE SALE

115 W. B Street
 Belleville, IL
Activity Center (Gym)
 (Across from Franklin School)
INSIDE RAIN OR SHINE!



Bake Sale!

Donations of
 baked goods accepted!

**VOLUNTEERS
 NEEDED!**

**CONTACT SUSAN RELFE
 IF YOU CAN HELP!**

SUSANRELFE@OUTLOOK.COM



Donations are accepted **starting on March 17th.**
Drop off hours: Monday & Wednesday from 12-4pm!
 or if you do not need help unloading, you can place your
 items in the garage by the activity center door Mon-Thurs.
*****PLEASE CALL before you come!*** 618-233-3303**



A Life Line Screening event is being held at St. Paul on Saturday, May 3, 2025. Life Line Screening is the premier provider of stroke and cardiovascular disease risk screenings since 1993.

As the host of the event, Life Line Screening is extending a special offer to all of our St. Paul members for a screening package that enables you to get peace of mind or early detection.

**Go to
 WWW.LLSA.SOCIAL/HSCA
 or call
 888-814-0466 to
 schedule your
 appointment!**

A simple screening can be worth a lifetime.



Flowers and Fascinators Tea

Please Join Us

Sunday, April 27

2 - 4 p.m. in Heritage Hall

For Our

Mother, Daughter, Friend:

Flowers and Fascinators Tea

Reservations are \$10.

Children under 12, free!

Reservations can be made on Sunday mornings in the Welcome Center, or through the church office.

Payment is due when the reservation is made.

Hats & fascinators are encouraged but not required.



St. Paul UCC, 115 W. B. St., Belleville, IL 62220
 618-233-3303



Happy April! Twenty people attended the March 5 presentation by Chris Fulton—nine of those were from other teams at St. Paul and from the community. Many questions were addressed and plans for future contact with Age Smart were discussed. Valuable information was provided! Pastor Michelle has extra brochures, so please ask for one if you would like more information about Age Smart.

Two members passed in the early weeks of March. We were involved in extending care to their families and we give thanks for the lives of those lost but now in the eternal care of our God.

Members of With You who visit homes and care facilities have calling cards to leave behind when making a visit. If you know of someone who could use a caring presence, please contact the church office to be put in contact with Pastor Michelle and the With You Team.

Our team assists with the annual rummage sale fundraisers for missions. The Spring Rummage Sale/Mission is coming up on April 4 & 5. All proceeds benefit missions of St. Paul. If you would like to volunteer for that, please contact the church office. With You members are also active participants in the annual Alzheimer's Walk and are already putting together this year's team. If you are interested, contact Susan Relfe and mark your calendar for September 27, 2025.

If you feel a calling to help care for our members (even if you cannot attend the monthly meetings), please email Susan Relfe at susanrelfe@outlook.com.

Look for our next update in your May OSP!

~ Your St. Paul With You Ministry Team

**Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
(Galatians 6:2)**

Happy Administrative Professionals' Day to our office staff Sherry Wilhelm & Kathy Buehler!

EASTER GIFTS

There are two ways in which you can share in the Easter celebration. We will be decorating the altar area with assorted spring flowers. You may purchase a spring flower for \$10 each or make a memorial gift donation. Easter gifts will be listed in the Easter bulletin on April 20th.

Please mail or drop off your information by April 6th.

The flowers will include a variety of lilies, daffodils, hyacinth, calla lilies & tulips. Flower choices are on a first come basis. You may take a flower home on Easter.










PLEASE INCLUDE THE INFORMATION BELOW WITH YOUR CASH OR CHECK:

In Memory or Honor of:

Given by:

Circle one: Flower or Memorial



Sun	Mon	Tue
	National Volunteer Month Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers at St. Paul!	1 9am-Quilters 10am-Seekers Bible Study 5pm-No Community Dinner 6pm-Bells 7:15pm-Choir April Fool's Day!
6 9am-Worship 10am-Coffee & Doughnuts 10am-Mission Meeting 	7 10:30am-Yoga Gold  National Coffee Cake Day	8 9am-Quilters 10am-Stewardship 10am-Seekers Bible Study 4:30pm-Finance Meeting 5pm-Community Dinner
13 Palm Sunday  9am-Worship 10am-Coffee & Doughnuts	14 10:30am-Yoga Gold  National Gardening Day	15 9am-Quilters 10am-Seekers Bible Study 1pm-Mats for Community 5pm-Community Dinner
20 EASTER SUNDAY 9am-Easter Service 10am-Coffee & Doughnuts 	21 Easter Monday St. Paul UCC is closed! 	22 9am-Quilters 10am-Seekers Bible Study 5pm-Community Dinner  National Earth Day
27 9am-Worship 10am-Coffee & Doughnuts <i>Mother, Daughter, Friend:</i> <i>Flowers & Fascinators Tea</i> 2-4pm—Heritage Hall	28 10:30am-Yoga Gold Monday-Funday! 6-8pm FUN! 	29 9am-Quilters 10am-Seekers Bible Study 5pm-Community Dinner

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2 12pm-Rummage Sale Setup 1pm-With You</p>  <p>National Peanut Butter & Jelly Day!</p>	<p>3 9am-Rummage Sale Setup 10am-Worship Meeting 10:30am-Yoga Gold</p>  <p>National Burrito Day</p>	<p>4 9am-Rummage Sale Setup RUMMAGE SALE 4-7pm</p> 	<p>5 RUMMAGE SALE 4-7pm</p> 
<p>9 6pm-Bells 7:15pm-Choir</p>  <p>Happy Birthday Pastor Michelle!</p>	<p>10 10:30am-Yoga Gold 7pm-Personnel Meeting</p> <p>National Erase Self-Negativity Day National Siblings Day</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>National Pet Day</p>	<p>12 Spiff Up St. Paul Day! 9am-12pm</p> 
<p>16 1pm-Women's Guild 6pm-Bells 7:15pm-Choir</p> <p>National Tax Day</p>	<p>17 MAUNDY THURSDAY 10:30am-Yoga Gold 5:30-Dinner in Heritage Hall 7pm-Maundy Thursday Service</p>	<p>18 GOOD FRIDAY 7pm-Good Friday Service</p> 	<p>19 10am-Easter decorating at the church</p> 
<p>23 6pm-Bells 7:15pm-Choir</p> <p>National Administrative Professionals Day</p>	<p>24 10:30am-Yoga Gold 6pm-Council Meeting</p>  <p>National Bucket List Day</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>National Arbor Day</p>	<p>26</p>  <p>National Pretzel Day</p>
<p>30 6pm-Bells 7:15pm-Choir</p>  <p>National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day</p>	<p>April is the National Month of Hope</p> <p>Parkinson's Awareness Month</p>	<p>Stress Awareness Month National Pickleball Month Month of the Military Child</p>	<p><i>Save the date for our next Fine Arts Concert Series performances on May 2 and May 9. More information to come!</i></p>

SAVE THE DATE

SPIFF UP ST. PAUL DAY

Saturday, April 12, 2025
9:00 a.m. until noon

A variety of tasks to be completed both inside and out (weather permitting).

Donuts provided to give you extra energy!



We hope to see you there!



MATS FOR COMMUNITY COMFORT



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

Seekers Bible Study

Tuesdays @ 10am

St. Paul UCC Genesis Room
115 W. B. St. Belleville, IL 62220
618-233-3303

The Adult Bible Study group will begin "The Dead Sea Scrolls" presented by Professor Gary A. Rendsburg on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. to 11:15-ish in Genesis Rm. We will probably do two lectures each week. Please enter at the Sanctuary entrance. The accompanying Course Guidebook for The Dead Sea Scrolls may be found online at The Great Courses or perhaps on other websites. These 30 minute lectures are part of a 24 part series.

Tentative schedule. This may be subject to change.

- Apr 19** Peshet Interpretation—Prophecy Read Anew
- 10 The War Scroll and Other Apocalyptic Texts
- Apr 8 11 Biblical Manuscripts at Qumran
- 12 Alternative Views of Qumran and the Scrolls
- Apr 15 Holy Week No Class
- Apr 22** 13 Stops and Starts En Route to Publication
- 14 The Qumran Vision for a New Temple
- Apr 29 15 Daily Life at Qumran
- 16 The Halakhic Letter—Rituals Define the Sect
- May 27** 17 The Qumran Biblical Canon
- 18 The Qumran Calendar
- Jun 3** 19 Jewish Scholars and Qumran Ritual Practices
- 20 Prayers, Hymns, and the Synagogue
- Jun 10** 21 Qumran Hebrew as an Anti-Language
- 22 The Enigma of the Copper Scroll
- Jun 17** 23 Connections to Christianity
- 24 Scroll Fragments and a New View of Judaism

St. Paul UCC

MONDAY FUN-DAY

Our next Monday Fun-Day is April 28, from 6-8pm!
We hope to see you!!! Everyone is welcome!
Building a better community!



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

ECUMENICAL MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 17

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
115 WEST B STREET, BELLEVILLE
Dinner in Heritage Hall at 5:30pm
Worship in the Sanctuary at 7pm

Crafty Mania

Saturday, September 27, 2025
9am-9pm

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday
April 17th @ 7pm
Dinner @ 5:30pm

Good Friday
April 18th @ 7pm

Easter Sunday
April 20th @ 9am

Please join us in person, live on facebook or on youtube!

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The Quilters are
selling of Easter
and springtime
table runners
in the
Welcome Center.

March 30th
April 6th
April 13

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



News from the Council

- Taylor Roofing plans to start on our flat roofs after they finish one of their current big jobs.
- The computers used by the staff have been replaced with models that can run Windows 11
- Our keyholder policy has been revised. If you are the leader/organizer for after hours events/meetings at our church, then you may request a key from the office if your events/meetings occur monthly for at least six months out of a calendar year.
- A white doorbell has been installed on the right side of the double doors by the Activity Center that face N 2nd St. The white doorbell should be used when people are in Heritage Hall or the Activity Center, but the church office is closed.



ST. PAUL PROGRESS TEAM – A NEW IDEA!

There's a new team in town and its name is St. Paul Progress. How did it come about? Late last fall, the Personnel Team came up with the concept of forming a new group to brainstorm about promoting St. Paul in the greater Belleville community as well as energizing our Congregation to become more involved in our St. Paul Family. The first gathering yielded many positive and creative ideas, such as: sponsoring a float in the Santa Claus parade, providing Christmas yard signs, having a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and many other exciting events and concepts. It was immediately evident that the group needed to grow if these many ideas were to be successful. Since then, folks from the Finance, Stewardship, Christian Ed, Mission, St. Paul Friends, Community Dinner teams and Church Council members have joined forces to "make it all happen!" Many hands will certainly make the tasks easier. Anyone is welcome to become involved and be a part of this group as we look forward toward our St. Paul future. Please let Pastor Michelle, Brett White, Al Scharf or Sandy Wagner know if you'd like to become an active member of this new team. St. Paul is an integral part of the Belleville community and we need to build on that truth!

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 Betty Rieso

Tim & Sandy Ritter

IMO Samuel Sivewright

Tim & Sandy Ritter

IMO Barb Ernst

Jane Bonaldi

IHO Ruth Erdmann (B-Day)

Richard Erdmann

IMO Edna Mae Schwarz

Viola Nettleton

Donna Davis

IMO Jerry Bennett

Tim & Sandy Ritter

IMO Raymond "Lynn" Bradley

Barb Suess

Viola Nettleton

Lynn Koehler

IMO Jack Snyder

Bruce & Pam Elser

Viola Nettleton

Sandra Loeffler

Terry & Syndy Kalinowski

Donna Davis

Darwin & Marylu Bretsch

IHO Bill Guthrie

Darwin & Marylu Bretsch



For Your Prayers



Lori Coleman

Carol Hotz

Marilyn Dinkelmann

Debbie McIntyre, daughter of Arline Worms

Tim Ritter

Wayne Caughman

Tim Ritter Jr., son of Sandy & Tim Ritter

Lou Ann Niemann

Cheryl Cooper

Debbie Price

Christopher Mitchell

Sue Sutherland

Norma Franke

Audrey Krummrich

Ralph Eckart, brother in-law of Marlene Mueller

Mike Llamas, brother in law of Mimi Llamas

Jennifer Wick, daughter of Stephenie Bauza

Venita Jane Rogers

Dorothy Maiworm

Luci Bradley

JoAnn Elmore

The loved ones of Jack Snyder

The loved ones of Sue Kuether



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.



REVENUE	2025 Final Budget	2025 Feb Actuals	YTD Actuals	% of Budget
130100 - Congregational Offerings	\$351,017.89	\$21,019.00	\$61,923.25	17.64%
130104 - Fund Raising Events*	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
130105 - Rental Income-205 W B St.	\$14,400.00	\$1,200.00	\$2,400.00	16.67%
130500 - Building Fund	\$10,000.00	\$962.00	\$1,914.00	19.14%
130741-BASSC Utilities	\$6,600.00	\$633.36	\$1,192.96	18.08%
1302xx - Outreach (Various Missions #)	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	N/A
131100 - Memorials	\$6,000.00	\$385.00	\$2,549.00	42.48%
131200 - Bequests	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
131300 - Building Income	\$11,000.00	\$128.00	\$395.00	3.59%
131400 - Pastoral Honorarium	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
131499 - Pastoral Expense Revenue	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
131500 - Investment Income /Michelson Income	\$28,400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
131600 - Distribution from Endowment (Per Guidelines)	\$131,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
131650 - Distribution from Endowment (Cap. Exp.)	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
131900 - Other Income	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Total Operating Revenues	\$572,642.89	\$24,677.36	\$70,724.21	12.35%
Team Revenues	\$4,360.00	\$359.00	\$681.00	
Capital Expenses				
Grand Total	\$577,002.89	\$25,036.36	\$71,405.21	12.38%
EXPENSES				
Personnel Expenses	(\$315,884.75)	(\$24,295.00)	(\$50,315.31)	15.93%
Administrative Support (formerly Operating Expenses)	(\$42,220.28)	(\$3,613.80)	(\$7,125.70)	16.88%
Outreach (formerly Mission board)	(\$10,325.00)	(\$43.21)	(\$43.21)	0.42%
Education	(\$1,500.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Stewardship	(\$1,350.00)	\$0.00	(\$240.98)	17.85%
Property	(\$189,897.86)	(\$17,527.13)	(\$34,223.62)	18.02%
Congregational Care (formerly Worship Board)	(\$15,825.00)	(\$643.57)	(\$1,211.66)	7.66%
General Fund	-	(\$3,000.00)	(\$3,000.00)	N/A
Total Operating Expense	(\$577,002.89)	(\$49,122.71)	(\$96,160.48)	16.67%
Difference between Revenue & Expenses	\$0.00	(\$24,086.35)	(\$24,755.27)	

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

Feb-25 9am 348 + Online

Feb-24 9am 403 + Online

Feb-25 All Gifts: \$17,260.36

Feb-24 All Gifts: \$35,131.26



Please join us!



In person on Sundays!

Worship Service - 9am
Coffee & Doughnuts - 10am

Join us live on Facebook

St. Paul United Church of Christ

Go to 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!



Label Here