

WELCOME

May



Our St. Paul

May 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 Manager
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

May Wedding Anniversaries

5/2-Terry & Syndi Kalinowski
5/7-Bobby Lee & Sandy Frerking
5/14-Tammy & Steven Flach

5/18-Dorothy & Gordon Maiworm
5/25-Julie & Ricky Morton

May Birthdays

5/1-Al Schuessler
5/2-Evan Wilhelm
5/5-Audrey Krummrich
5/7-Gene Buxton
5/11-Lana Gentry
5/11-Nancy Stanton
5/13-Sherry Stepp
5/15-Archie Garces

5/16-Avery Elser
5/19-Chase Mentzer
5/19-Terry Meyer
5/19-Laura Armstrong
5/20-Steve Schmidt
5/20-Teresa Schmidt
5/20-Jessie Arms
5/23-Zoey Davenport

5/25-Ray Chamberlin
5/26-Evan Bechtold
5/27-Mary Lu Bretsch
5/31-Wesley Krummrich
5/31-Carol Taake
5/31-Brett White
5/31-Drew Kramer

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: **June** - **Deadline to submit information: May 21.**

The Sabbatical Leave of Rev. Michelle Torigian *May 20 through August 26, 2025*

What will be Pastor Michelle's interaction with the congregation during her sabbatical?

She will not be taking calls or responding to texts or email messages from May 20 through August 26, 2025 nor will she lead any worship services, funerals, weddings, or baptisms. Of course, you may see Pastor Michelle around town at times. She will not be discussing any church business but will be glad to see you and say *Hello* if you happen to see one another!

Why is Pastor Michelle taking a sabbatical?

Pastors who take sabbatical leave often come back refreshed and having their creative energy renewed. Often clergy who take sabbaticals will have longer pastorates than clergy who do not take them.

Conference guidelines recommend sabbaticals for clergy after five years separate from any vacation, medical/sick, and continuing education time. In Pastor Michelle's contract, it was noted that she could take three months sabbatical after six years. On July 2, she will celebrate her seventh anniversary.

Who will fund the sabbatical?

While Pastor Michelle will still receive her salary and benefits, she and her family will be funding her plans. She will be using her continuing education funds towards this as well.

What are Pastor Michelle's plans during the sabbatical?

May 20 will be her first full day of sabbatical. Preparation will occur between May 20 and May 30 for a trip to Europe.

Pastor Michelle will be heading to London on May 30 with her mom Lauren. They will spend a week in London and then a few days in Leicester, UK (the area where Pastor Michelle's great-grandparents emigrated). Then, on June 9, they will head back to London where they will meet her husband Aaron. On June 17, they will head to Paris for a week, and on June 24, they will be spending a few days in Amsterdam. They will fly back to St. Louis on June 28, 2025.

Throughout their time in England, Paris, and Amsterdam, they will be visiting many places that are connected with the arts and her family heritage.

After another two weeks, Pastor Michelle and Aaron will be heading to the UCC General Synod in Kansas City from July 11-July 15, 2025 where she is a delegate and has been writing opening worship. She will add a week of continuing education for General Synod.

Then around June 26, Pastor Michelle, Aaron, and her mom will be going to St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada where her mom was born. During Pastor Michelle's childhood, she would spend a month with her family each summer there, and she is hoping to revisit many of the places where she spent time with her family. After two weeks in Canada, they will return to Belleville to spend time regrouping before returning to St. Paul UCC on August 26.

Who will cover when Pastor Michelle is away?

Pastor Michelle and church leaders have been in conversation with the various areas of church life throughout the past few months to organize who will carry on the pastor's duties.

Sunday morning worship:

We have a number of clergy who will be leading the worship services: Rev. Dr. Chance Beeler (chaplain and St. Paul member), Rev. Diane Grohmann (retired pastor and St. Paul member), Rev. Justin Lopez (Scott Air Force Base), Rev. Doug Stewart (Memorial Hospital chaplain), Rev. Carolyn Held (ministry support service coordinator at the Mercy Retreat Center in St. Louis and Pastor Michelle's former contextual education supervisor when at Lydia's House), Rev. Shana Johnson (Illinois South Conference Minister), Rev. Joan Meir (retired pastor).

Pastoral Care:

We also have a number of clergy who will be on-call for emergencies and funerals. Our With You team will be conducting hospital, home, and other various pastoral care visits. During the week, if you or your family member is having a health or life crisis, please contact the office at (618) 233-3303 M-Th 8:30am-4pm and Friday 9am-noon.

General Questions:

Council Vice President Mimi Llamas will be the point person for the sabbatical, and questions may be directed to her while Pastor Michelle is away. When the office is closed, please contact Mimi or Susan Relfe with a pastoral emergency.

Funerals:

Please contact Sherry Wilhelm in the church office so that she can coordinate the funeral with an on-call member of the clergy and/or ensure church space is available if a service is needed in the sanctuary or Heritage Hall.

Administrative:

Council President Roger Harris will also be involved in administrative duties. If there is a personnel concern, chair Brett White will be available.

Who will make decisions for the church?

St. Paul UCC will be business as usual! While Pastor Michelle gives input to many decisions made as head of staff and ex-officio on Church Council, St. Paul UCC's due process based on our bylaws is that Church Council makes most significant decisions (and, from time-to-time, the Congregation). When smaller decisions need to be made, Mimi Llamas will coordinate with our various teams and their leaders to handle day-to-day issues that may arise. Furthermore, teams will continue to do some planning throughout the summer as they look towards Fall 2025.



A Message From Rev. Shana Johnson

In the Illinois South Conference, pastoral sabbaticals are negotiated into most call agreements for our settled pastors, as sabbaticals are a part of our compensation guidelines in our Conference. We affirm that their purpose is as stated in the UCC resource, *A Sure Foundation*:

“Rooted in the Biblical commands for Sabbath, a sabbatical is a significant time of rest, renewal, and refreshment for pastors. For pastors, the sabbatical is a time to nourish their relationship with God, recommit to their call, and provide renewed vision and focus for ministry. A sabbatical is not a vacation, but it does provide time away from the daily work of ministry. Sabbatical leave may include study or a project, but its first goal is reconnecting with one’s sense of vocation through rest, reflection, and prayer.”

I have witnessed the benefit of sabbaticals for both the pastor and the congregation. For a pastor, a sabbatical can allow them to refocus on ministry, contribute to their spiritual growth, prevent burnout, and establish new patterns for work and self-care. For a congregation, a sabbatical can enable longer tenures of pastors, promote congregational self-sufficiency, and rekindle a sense of excitement and possibility with their pastor, who returns with a sense of refreshment and renewal.

In 2022, I took a sabbatical after delaying it two years because of COVID. While many understood and affirmed the value of my taking advantage of this benefit that was a part of my call agreement and compensation, some did not understand the need for a sabbatical. Those who did not understand the purpose of this time away questioned its value and voiced their disagreement. Some of the comments that I heard were:

“Doesn’t she already get vacation time?”

Why are we paying her to rest?

It must be nice; I worked for 30 years and never got that time off.”

I will confess that I understood those comments. Coming from a blue-collar family (Mom was a preschool teacher, and Dad was a technician for the phone company) in which my parents did not have this compensation and time benefit, I felt a bit guilty about taking a sabbatical (something I had unwisely not done in parish ministry).

I will also confess in the planning stages before my sabbatical because there was so much to do to get ready as I would not be attending meetings, conducting trainings, preaching, processing payroll, managing staff, or even answering voicemails and emails during my sabbatical, I wondered if it would be worth it. When the person we had contracted with to be the sabbatical Conference Minister fell ill, I thought about giving up the idea. Fortunately, the Personnel Committee and Conference Council insisted I take a sabbatical, and together we found a workable solution.

That sabbatical time, fully away without the pressure and expectations of responding to concerns and crises that happened 24/7, allowed me to reconnect with my family, helped me reestablish better self-care practices, and deepened my faith and spirituality, reigniting my creativity and passion for the ministry. I rebuilt a reservoir of resilience that I would never have known at the time I would need to face the leadership challenges at DuBois Center, changes in the Conference, and my own health concerns. All of this is to say that I understand the purpose and power of sabbaticals at a deeper level.

So, dear friends, as your pastor prepares for her sabbatical, I want to thank you for honoring this covenant you made with her and, more importantly, for supporting and affirming her taking this time away for rest and renewal. I fervently pray that Rev. Michelle's sabbatical brings renewal and reignites your mutual ministry as pastor and congregation.

With deep gratitude for your faithfulness,
Rev. Shana Johnson
Conference Minister of the Illinois South Conference of the UCC



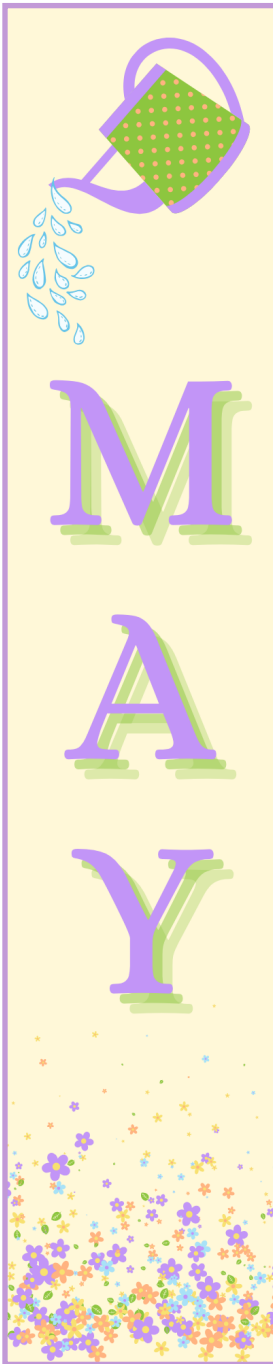
We are working closely with Pastor Michelle and a planning team to ensure that pastoral care continues without interruption during the sabbatical period, beginning in late May.




We could use some help in doing so. If you are feeling called to help care for members and friends of St. Paul (even if you cannot attend the monthly meetings), please email Susan Relfe at susanrelfe@outlook.com.





Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 14th, at 1:00 p.m. in the church library.

Look for our next (extended) update in your June 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)



Sun	Mon	Tue
<p>ALS Skin Cancer Cystic Fibrosis Celiac Disease Stroke Brain Tumor Mental Health AWARENESS MONTH</p>	<p>Pastor Michelle's Office Hours Mon-Thurs 11-2pm May 1-May 19</p>	<p><i>Hello May</i></p>
<p>4 9am-Worship 10am-Coffee & Doughnuts</p> <p></p> <p>3pm-Metroeast Chorale Spring Concert</p>	<p>5 10:30am-Yoga Gold</p> <p></p> <p>Cinco de Mayo</p>	<p>6 9am-Quilters 10am-Stewardship 10am-Seekers Bible Study 5pm-Community Dinner</p> <p> National Nurses Day</p>
<p>11 9am-Worship 10am-Coffee & Doughnuts 10am-Mission Meeting</p> <p></p>	<p>12 Camp Dubois Work Week NO Yoga Gold 6:30pm-St. Paul Progress</p> <p></p> <p>National Train Day</p>	<p>13 Camp Dubois Work Week 9am-Quilters 10am-Seekers Bible Study 1pm-Mats for Community 5pm-Community Dinner</p>
<p>18 9am-Worship 10am-Coffee & Doughnuts</p> <p></p>	<p>19 10:30am-Yoga Gold 6pm-Griefworks Meeting</p> <p>Monday-Funday! 6-8pm <i>Pastor Michelle's last day before sabbatical</i></p>	<p>20 9am-Quilters 10am-Seekers Bible Study 5pm-Community Dinner</p> <p> National Rescue Dog Day</p>
<p>25 9am-Worship 10am-Coffee & Doughnuts</p> <p></p> <p>National Family Fun Day</p>	<p>26 MEMORIAL DAY</p> <p></p>	<p>27 9am-Quilters 10am-Seekers Bible Study 5pm-Community Dinner</p> <p> National Grape Day</p>

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1 10am-Worship Meeting 10:30am-Yoga Gold</p>  <p>School Principals' Day</p>	<p>2 7PM FINE ARTS CONCERT Early Music Ministry performs Vivaldi's Four Seasons</p>	<p>3 Lifeline Screening Event</p> <p>Kentucky Derby Day Run For The Roses 3PM</p>
<p>7 6pm-Bells 7:15pm-Choir</p> 	<p>8 10:30am-Yoga Gold 7pm-Personnel Meeting</p>  <p>National Have a Coke Day</p>	<p>9 7PM FINE ARTS CONCERT Belleville West</p> <p>National Military Spouse Appreciation Day</p>	<p>10</p>  <p>National Dog Mom Day</p>
<p>14 Camp Dubois Work Week 1pm-With You 4pm-Website Meeting 6pm-Bells 7:15pm-Choir</p> 	<p>15 Camp Dubois Work Week NO Yoga Gold 6pm-Council Meeting</p>  <p>Bring Flowers to Someone Day</p>	<p>16 Camp Dubois Work Week</p>  <p>National BBQ Day</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>National Graduation Tassel Day</p>
<p>21 1pm-Women's Guild 6pm-Bells 7:15pm-Choir</p>  <p>American Red Cross Founders Day</p>	<p>22 10:30am-Yoga Gold</p>  <p>National Solitaire Day</p>	<p>23</p>  <p>National Road Trip Day</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>Brother's Day</p>
<p>28 6pm-Bells 7:15pm-Choir</p>  <p>National Beef Hamburger Day</p>	<p>29 10:30am-Yoga Gold</p>  <p>National Paperclip Day</p>	<p>30</p>  <p>National Water A Flower Day</p>	<p>31</p>  <p>National Smile Day</p>



MOTHER'S DAY HONOR ROLL

The Mission Board invites you to honor your Mother (or any special woman in your life) on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11th! Give a donation in her name and she will be placed on the Mother's Day Honor Roll in the bulletin on Mother's Day! This year the Mission Board will focus these contributions to Camp Dubois and Kindercottage.

Please place this form with your donation in the offering box or mail/drop off to the church office by May 4th.

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CIRCLE ONE: IN MEMORY OF OR IN HONOR OF

MOTHER / LOVED ONE'S NAME

YOUR NAME

CAMP DUBOIS WORK WEEK

May 12-16

TO DO LIST:

- Build a climbing wall
- Dismantle a deck
- Painting



If you can help, please
call Roger Harris 618-631-4502.

Have a member of your family graduating any level this year? Make sure to send a photo with the school they are graduating from and their plans for the future by May 12. Thank you!



PUZZLE RACE

Save the Date!!!

Wednesday, June 18th - 6:30-9:00PM

Cost is \$10 per person max of 4 people per table.

There will be attendance prizes and prize for 1st and 2nd place winners.

Bring your own drinks and snacks popcorn will be provided.

Sponsored by St Paul UCC Mission and Christian Education Teams.

Profits will be used to support, St. Pauls UCC Community Dinner, Kindercottage,

Hoyleton, Beacon Ministries, Dubois Center.

Sign Up information will be coming soon!

618-233-3303 or email swilhelm@stpaulucc.org





St. Paul Friends announces the annual observance of,
Kentucky Derby Day: **The Run for the Roses**

Saturday, May 3

Start Time 3:00 P.M.

At the home of Lyn and Kris Mueller

429 Weatherstone Dr.

Belleville 62221

Bring a favorite beverage, an appetizer to share and \$10.00
for "The Good of the Cause."

**MATS FOR
COMMUNITY
COMFORT**



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

PUZZLES

Now available to
borrow from the
St. Paul UCC
Library!
Bring one take one!

St. Paul UCC

MONDAY FUN-DAY

Our next Monday Fun-Day is May 19 , 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

I want to thank everyone
who ordered flowers from
me. My Boy Scout Troop
appreciated your support!
Thank you!

~Jack Wilson

Seekers Bible Study

Tuesdays @ 10am

St. Paul UCC Genesis Room

115 W. B. St. Belleville, IL 62220

618-233-3303



Crafty Mania

Saturday, September 27, 2025 - 9am-9pm

Cost: \$45 Includes: lunch, snacks, space & attendance prizes, raffle baskets, vendors & demos! Raffle tickets available for purchase. Dinner will be available for an additional \$10. Menu: chicken, pasta, vegetable & dessert. Please include dinner fee in with your reservation.

St. Paul UCC - 115 W. B. St., Belleville, IL (Enter on C. St. through the Activity Center)

Register by sending in a check with your information to St. Paul UCC!

Whether you're into scrapbooking, card & jewelry making, sewing . . . spend the day doing what YOU love to do!

Name & address: _____

Phone & email: _____

I want to sit by: _____

Proceeds to benefit St. Paul youth & church missions!

Call for questions or more information: 618-233-3303

**Reservations and payment are due by :
September 19th!**



Seekers Bible Study

Tuesdays @ 10am

St. Paul UCC Genesis Room

115 W. B. St. Belleville, IL 62220



Contact Donna Davis for more information. 618-233-3303



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
Debbie Price
Christopher Mitchell
Sue Sutherland
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
Bette Rotert Bennett
The loved ones of Nancy Davis
The loved ones of Donna Wooden
The loved ones of Doug Bush

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 Theresa Yung

Robert Yung

IMO Samuel Sivewright

Tim & Sandy Ritter

IMO Raymond "Lynn" Bradley

Rusty & Sandy Wagner

IMO Jack Snyder

Gay Eckert

Lynn Koehler

Janet Spencer

IMO Linda Mentzer

Kevin & Shelley Shipp

IMO Sue Kuether

Terry & Syndy Kalinowski

Donna Davis

Dolly Kirsch

Viola Nettleton

Ms Sheldon Culver

Rusty & Sandy Wagner

Bruce & Pam Elser

Janice Friedrich

Marlene Lindauer

Lynnwood & Kristine Mueller

Diane Grohmann

Douglas & Ruth Bush

Beverly Brightwell & Dana Rosenzweig

Diane Drake

Pam Walton

Karen Boesch

Ruth Klingel

Neil & Vicotoria Jansen

Judy Koch

Alan & Karen Keuss

Ken & Angie Nettleton

Mike & Judy Bosick

Debbie Lippert

Marlene Mueller

Mimi Llamas

Doris Steiger

Larry Walton

Jim & Donna Thomas

St Paul Women's Guild

Stephenie Bauza

Carolyn Hazelip

Michael & Linda Herrmann

Barbara Eichenlaub-Cornell

Rev James & Ruth Mennerick

Donald & Anne Sabbert

Ann & Harry Wilson

Gay Eckert

Gloria Strohm

Lynn Koehler

Betty Eckert

Janet Spencer

Fred & Betty Robinson

Jane Bonaldi

Sandy & Tim Ritter

Gordon & Dorothy Maiworm



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 Mar Actuals	YTD Actuals	% of Budget
130100 - Congregational Offerings	\$351,017.89	\$39,802.00	\$101,725.25	28.98%
130104 - Fund Raising Events*	\$3,000.00	\$510.00	\$510.00	17.00%
130105 - Rental Income-205 W B St.	\$14,400.00	\$1,200.00	\$3,600.00	25.00%
130500 - Building Fund	\$10,000.00	\$560.00	\$2,474.00	24.74%
130741-BASSC Utilities	\$6,600.00	\$642.13	\$1,835.09	27.80%
1302xx - Outreach (Various Missions #)	\$0.00	\$825.00	\$1,175.00	N/A
131100 - Memorials	\$6,000.00	\$350.00	\$2,899.00	48.32%
131200 - Bequests	\$0.00	\$107,500.00	\$107,500.00	N/A
131300 - Building Income	\$11,000.00	\$91.00	\$486.00	4.42%
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	\$14,200.00	\$14,200.00	50.00%
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	\$222.92	\$222.92	891.68%
Total Operating Revenues	\$572,642.89	\$165,903.05	\$236,627.26	41.32%
Team Revenues	\$4,360.00	\$220.00	\$901.00	
Capital Expenses				
Grand Total	\$577,002.89	\$166,123.05	\$237,528.26	41.17%
EXPENSES				
Personnel Expenses	(\$315,884.75)	(\$24,467.15)	(\$74,782.46)	23.67%
Administrative Support (formerly Operating Expenses)	(\$42,220.28)	(\$6,142.87)	(\$13,268.57)	31.43%
Outreach (formerly Mission board)	(\$10,325.00)	\$0.00	(\$43.21)	0.42%
Education	(\$1,500.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Stewardship	(\$1,350.00)	(\$169.76)	(\$410.74)	30.43%
Property	(\$189,897.86)	(\$28,128.86)	(\$62,352.48)	32.83%
Congregational Care (formerly Worship Board)	(\$15,825.00)	(\$116.73)	(\$1,328.39)	8.39%
General Fund	-	-	(\$3,000.00)	N/A
Total Operating Expense	(\$577,002.89)	(\$59,025.37)	(\$155,185.85)	26.90%
Difference between Revenue & Expenses	\$0.00	\$107,097.68	\$82,342.41	

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

Mar-25 9am 436 + Online Mar-24 9am 501 + Online

Mar-25 All Gifts: \$49,092.13 Mar-24 All Gifts: \$71,378.14

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!

