

ST. PAUL UCC

February 8, 2026

Racial Justice Sunday



You are welcome here!



St. Paul UCC



Sunday, February 8, 2026 ~ 9:00 am
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany/Racial Justice Sunday

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

<i>Visiting Clergy</i>	Rev. Joan Mier
<i>Director of Music</i>	Dr. Tristan Frampton
<i>Organist</i>	Cynthia Johnson
<i>Liturgist</i>	Beverly Brightwell

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Shine, Jesus, Shine
arr. Peggy Bettcher
Glory Ringers

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come this day, beloved, with steadiness in your hearts. Do not fear, for our righteous Lord is with us. The Lord is steadfast with love for those who do right in the eyes of God.

People: We gather, with great hope, that our Lord will guide us to walk upon the paths of justice, truly caring for all of God's people.

Leader: Yes, let us have hope, let us seek peace, and let us offer love to all, especially the weariest of souls, the downtrodden, and the oppressed.

People: Help us Lord, to offer love and care to all brothers and sisters no matter race, or creed, or socio-economic status.

ALL: Let us feel the presence of the Lord's Spirit among us, moving through us and around us and teaching us even more about the righteous will of our God. Amen

*INVOCATION

Spirit of the Living God, let us feel the movement of your divine energy, enlightening us to the ways we are called to live among all brothers and sisters. Help us to fulfill the right and just causes that God calls us to do in this present time. Give us the strength we need to stand up straight, and to rightly lift our voices against the oppressive entities of the world. Let it be so in the name of Jesus our righteous Savior. Amen

PASSING THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

498

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

John 13:1-20; Gal. 5:13-14

Tom Colvin, 1969; rev. 1994

Refrain Unison

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

1 Kneel at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their
 2 Neigh-bors are rich and poor, var - ied in col - or and
 3 These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
 4 Lov - ing puts us on our knees, show - ing our faith by our
 5 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their

feet, Je - su, you act - ed as ser - vant to them.
 race, neigh-bors are near and far a - way.
 love; all these are neigh-bors to us and you.
 deeds, serv - ing the neigh-bors we have from you.
 feet, this is the way we should live with you.

Tune: CHEREPONI Irr. with refrain
 Ghanaian folk song; adapt. Tom Colvin, 1969
 Arr. Jane Marshall, 1982

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Pastor: It is right to take time to talk to God, to tell our divine Creator about the things on our hearts that may be wearing us down, depleting the divine light within us. As I cannot put words into your mouth in regard to what you need to say to God, I can only welcome you into this sacred moment and then, afterward, I will offer the Words of Grace.

Silent Confession and Reconciliation

WORDS OF GRACE

Psalm 112:6 shares these words, “For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever.” As we have chosen to speak to the Lord from our hearts, sharing our wishes to live more righteous lives, the Lord has leaned into our words. The words we have shared will be remembered forever by our gracious Savior, freeing us from the sins that can deeply bind us, helping us to be even stronger in our Christian faith. **Amen**

ANTHEM

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

by Kathleen Thomerson

Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Beverly Brightwell

Psalm 112:1-10

Beverly Brightwell

Matthew 5:13-20

Rev. Joan Mier

SERMON

Your Righteousness

Rev. Joan Mier

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE 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

Let our giving be right in the eyes of God—given from the tenderness of our hearts and the depths of our souls, truly offering it for the ministry of Jesus Christ. May it be so. Amen.

COLLECTION OF THE LOVE GIFTS AND OFFERTORY MUSIC

In the Garden
arr. Kevin McChesney
Glory Ringers

***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

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (Unison)**

Beloved God, you are the righteous judge of every human soul. We pray that the offering we present before you this day, for the ministry of your divine Son, Jesus Christ, is touched by your grace. Our greatest hope is that every gift is used rightly according to your holy will and that you will find us as a people living just and merciful lives. Amen

***CLOSING HYMN** *Spirit of Jesus, If I Love My Neighbor* (see next page)

***COMMISSIONING**

Go forth walking on the path of righteousness, according to the holy will of God. Be people of divine care for all human brothers and sisters. Seek justice for the weary, the downtrodden, and the oppressed, for this is the will of the Lord our God, who has given us life and breath to journey side-by-side, making this world a better place for all. Amen

***BENEDICTION**

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our divine Creator and Sustainer, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word, according to God's righteous will. Let it be so in the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen

POSTLUDE *Postlude on "Monkland" by Craig Sellar Lang*

Let us with a gladsome mind, praise the Lord for He is kind.
For His mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.

Copies of the 2025 Annual Reports are now available in the Narthex.

Spirit of Jesus, If I Love My Neighbor

590

Brian Wren, 1973; rev. 1994

Rom. 13:8-14

Unison

D F#m Am7 Em

1 Spir - it of Je - sus, if I love my neigh - bor,
 2 And if, when I have an - swered need with kind - ness,
 3 If I am hug - ging safe - ty or pos - ses - sions,

Gm D G A7

out of my knowl - edge, lei - sure, power or wealth,
 my neigh - bor ris - es, wak - ened from de - spair,
 un - curl my spir - it, as your love pre - vails,

D F#m Am7 Gm7 F#7

o - pen my mind to un - der - stand the an - ger of
 o - pen my heart to hear the cry for jus - tice that
 to join my neigh - bors, work for lib - er - a - tion, and

Bm Em/G F#m7 Bm Em7 A7 D

help - less - ness that hates my power to help.
 strug - gles for the chang - es that I fear.
 find . . . my free - dom at the mark of nails.

Brian Wren gave this poem the subtitle "Pilgrimage of Confession" when it was first written, referring in part to the walk made by nine white South Africans in 1972 to draw other whites' attention to the injustice of migrant labor laws.

Tune: BENJAMIN 11.10.11.10.
 Jonathan McNair, 1994



TODAY'S MUSIC IS IN HONOR OF GARY FRIEDRICH'S 80TH BIRTHDAY ON FEBRUARY 10TH



Love, Janice, Lee-Alison and Daniel



2026 Annual Meeting

February 22, 2026

Immediately following worship service.

- Accept Annual Reports
- Review 2025 final budget
- Vote on by-laws change

www.stpaulucc.org

Please consider being a coffee hour host for March & April

It takes about 15-20 min to set up. Our guests arrive about 10:00. Better to have their coffee ready at that time. Last coffee call no later than 11:00, if not sooner. Takes about 20-25 min to clean up. Printed instructions are available. Assistance is always available.

Contact the office to sign up!



Shrove Tuesday

Pancake & Sausage Supper and a Skit

Enjoy pancakes & sausage served family style, along with a slice of King Cake

**Be entertained by our very own
St. Paul Players performing
"Purple Pancake Panic"**

**Come feast the evening prior to
Ash Wednesday -**

Tuesday, Feb. 17 @ 6 PM in Heritage Hall

UPCOMING CLERGY

FEBRUARY 15 - CRAIG BIELKE

FEBRUARY 22 - REV. JOAN MIER

MARCH 1 - REV. DR. CHANCE BEELER

MARCH 8 - CRAIG BIELKE



Weekly Offerings	1/31/2026
Operating	\$ 320.00
Building Fund	\$ 5.00
	\$ 325.00
Giving YTD	\$ 33,875.00
*No Sunday Service due to SNOW	
Weekly Budget	\$ 6,781.69
Budget to Date	\$ 27,126.77
Total Budget	\$ 352,648.00

Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service

January 25, 2026 **Closed due to Snow**

January 26, 2025 90 + Online Participants

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For Your Prayers

Carol Hotz & Fred Hotz

Tim Ritter

Tim Ritter Jr., son of Sandy & Tim Ritter

Lou Ann Niemann

Ralph Eckart, brother in-law of

Marlene Mueller

Mike Llamas, brother in law of Mimi Llamas

Jennifer Wick, daughter of

Stephenie Bauza

Gene Buxton

Al Stahl

Audrey Krummrich

Rosie Keller

Laura Sadler

Mike Foppe

Alec Zaber

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

Ash
Wednesday

SERVICE

February 18th, 2026

@ 7pm



St. Paul UCC
115 W. B. St., Belleville



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