

St. Paul UCC

3rd Sunday of the season of

Lent

March 8, 2026



stpaulucc.org



St. Paul UCC

Sunday, March 8, 2026 ~ 9:00 am
Third Sunday in Lent



TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Visiting Clergy</i> | Craig Bielke |
| <i>Director of Music</i> | Dr. Tristan Frampton |
| <i>Organist</i> | Cynthia Johnson |
| <i>Liturgist</i> | Lou Ryseff |

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Two Meditations on the Cross
arr. Barbara Kinyon
Glory Ringers

*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus bids us welcome. He brings us pieces and forgiveness.

Yet we dwell in the midst of doubt and fear.

Jesus bids us welcome. He brings hope and healing.

But we persist in our ways of stubbornness and greed.

Jesus, come among us once more and bring us your word of Peace.

Open our hearts, our spirits, our souls to receive your healing Word. Amen.

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Wellspring of eternal life, we come to you this day having drunk deeply the waters of anxiety and despair. Bring to us your living water. Quench our thirsting souls, for we offer this prayer in Your Name. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

peace
BE WITH YOU

***OPENING HYMN**

Gather us in

Marty Haugen



1. Here in this place new light is stream-ing, Now is the dark-ness
 2. We are the young-our lives are a mys-t'ry, We are the old-who
 3. Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter, Here we will take the
 4. Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, Not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way, See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
 yearn for your face, We have been sung through-out all of his-t'ry,
 bread of new birth, Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light-years a-way, But here in this place the new light is shin-ing,



Brought here to you in the light of this day.
 Called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 Call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 Now is the King-dom, now is the day.



Gath-er us in- the lost and for-sak-en, Gath-er us in- the
 Gath-er us in- the rich and the haugh-ty, Gath-er us in- the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, Give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for ev-er, Gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; Call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,
 proud and the strong; Give us a heart so meek and so low-ly,
 bread that is you; Nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; Gath-er us in- all peo-ples to-geth-er,



We shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 Give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 Lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

CALL TO AND UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, from the beginning of time, you have called your children into communion with you. Yet we confess that like all the rest, we have turned to our own way and refused your love and grace. Restore us to the joy of knowing you and recognizing your reign among us, through Jesus Christ, bringer of your good news. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The waters of mercy and healing are poured over you. God is loving and faithful to those who come to God. Come, seek the loving presence and be healed. Amen.

ANTHEM

As the Deer
by Martin Nystrom
arr. Lloyd Larson
Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURES

Exodus 17:1-7
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

SERMON

Craig Bielke

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

RECEIVING OF THE GIFTS AND OFFERTORY MUSIC

Nearer to the Cross
arr. Sharon Elery Rogers
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

DEDICATION PRAYER

Gracious God, we pray that our gifts may provide nourishment to those who thirst for justice, strength to those who hunger for hope, and community to those living in loneliness. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less* (see next page)

COMMISSIONING, CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Wen nur den lieben Gott läßt walten*
(If you will only let God guide you)
by Christian Reichardt

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. All Easter gifts will be listed in the Easter bulletin on April 5th.



Please mail or drop off your information by March 23rd.



The flowers will include a variety of lilies, daffodils, hyacinth & 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



My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less 405

F $\frac{F}{C}$ C F B \flat $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$

1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' blood and
 2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on his un -
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood, sup - port me in the
 4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, O may I then in

$\frac{F}{C}$ C F $\frac{F}{C}$ C F

right - eous - ness; I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but
 chang - ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 whelm - ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, he
 him be found: dressed in his right - eous - ness a - lone, fault -

B \flat $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ C F *Refrain* $\frac{C7}{G}$ $\frac{F}{A}$ F B \flat

whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand: all
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.

F $\frac{F}{A}$ C $\frac{C}{Bb}$ $\frac{F}{A}$ F B \flat F C sus C7 F

oth - er ground is sink - ing sand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

St. Paul Friends



St. Patrick's Day Party

March 13 at the home of Judy Koch & Al Stahl.
The fun begins at 6:30 p.m. at 2345 Slammer Drive.

Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share, your adult beverage of choice and \$10 for "we don't do fundraisers" basket.

Call or email Judy if you'll be there!

618-795-6449

judithkoch@att.net



Everyone is invited!



St. Paul UCC

HOLY WEEK Schedule

29 MAR PALM SUNDAY-9AM

2 APR MAUNDY THURSDAY
AT TRINITY UCC-7PM

3 APR GOOD FRIDAY-7PM

5 APR EASTER SUNDAY-9AM



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

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



SALE DATES
Fri., Apr. 10th
4-7pm &
Sat., Apr. 11th
9am-12pm

Donations are accepted starting on March 23.
Drop off hours: Monday-Thursday. You can place your items in the garage by the activity center door. **If you need help unloading ***PLEASE CALL before you come!*****

618-233-3303

St. Paul Women's Guild

Please join us at our next meeting to see what we're all about! All ladies are welcome!

Refreshments ~ Fellowship ~ Fun

We help support the community and other relations with proceeds from our Rummage and Bake Sale!



Treat yourself to an afternoon out with old Friends & maybe make a new friend! We'd love to have you join us!



SAVE THE DATE CRAFTY MANIA

**Date: September 26, 2026
9am - 8PM**

Cost is \$45.00 for the day lunch included
Supper meal will be \$10 additional.

St. Paul United Church of Christ
115 W. B. St., Belleville, IL 62220

Check our website for upcoming information:

www.stpaulucc.org

618-233-3303

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



VISITING CLERGY

MARCH 8 - CRAIG BIELKE

MARCH 15 - REV. JOAN MIER

MARCH 22 - CRAIG BIELKE

MARCH 29 - REV. JOAN MIER

APRIL 5 - REV. JOAN MIER



| Weekly Offerings | 2/28/2026 | |
|-------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Operating | \$ | 4,448.00 |
| Building Fund | \$ | 5.00 |
| | \$ | 4,453.00 |
| Giving YTD | \$ | 58,200.76 |
| Weekly Budget | \$ | 6,781.69 |
| Budget to Date | \$ | 54,253.54 |
| Total Budget | \$ | 352,648.00 |

Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service

February 22, 2026 69 + Online Participants

February 23, 2025 95 + 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

Gene Buxton

Al Stahl

Audrey Krummrich

Rosie Keller

Laura Sadler

Mike Foppe

Alec Zaber

Lindsay Eversmeyer, niece of Pam Nicholson

Jane Bonaldi

Ruth Klingel

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

MONDAY FUN-DAY!

4th Monday of every month!

Chair Yoga 6-6:30pm

Yoga 6:30-7pm

Pickleball 6-8pm



St. Paul UCC

115 W. B. Street, Belleville

Enter on 2nd St. at the Activity Center door!

No cost - just a free will offering!
618-233-3303



A free will offering is happily accepted.

Free! All are welcome!

Follow us on ...

