

Worship Leaders

MAY 3 - REV. JOAN H. MIER
 MAY 10 - CRAIG BIELKE
 MAY 17 - CRAIG BIELKE
 MAY 24 - REV. JOAN H. MIER
 MAY 31 - CRAIG BIELKE

For Your Prayers

Carol Hotz & Fred Hotz
 The Ritter family, Tim, Sandy & Tim Jr.
 Lou Ann Niemann
 Mike Llamas, brother in law
 of Mimi Llamas
 Al Stahl
 Audrey Krummrich
 Laura Sadler
 Alec Zaber
 Jane Bonaldi
 Ruth Klingel
 Synthia Kalinowski
 Cathy Blaies and family (Mike's sister)
 Our Pastor Search Committee

Please call the office for prayer requests. 618-233-3303

Weekly Offerings	4/25/2026
Operating	\$ 12,072.00
Building Fund	\$ 30.00
	\$ 12,102.00
Giving YTD	\$ 135,397.76
<i>*large deposit</i>	
Weekly Budget	\$ 6,974.00
Budget to Date	\$ 111,584.00
Total Budget	\$ 362,648.00

Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service		
April 19, 2026	80	+ Online Participants
April 20, 2025	170	+ Online Participants

Have you been confirmed?

We are looking for people of all ages who are interested in learning about confirmation at St. Paul UCC.

IF THIS IS YOU
 PLEASE CONTACT
 Sandy Ritter 618-222-1123 or
 Synthia Kalinowski 618-277-3472

Leave a message with your name and contact information and your age group range:
 Age groups:
 10-20
 21-31
 32-42
 50 & over

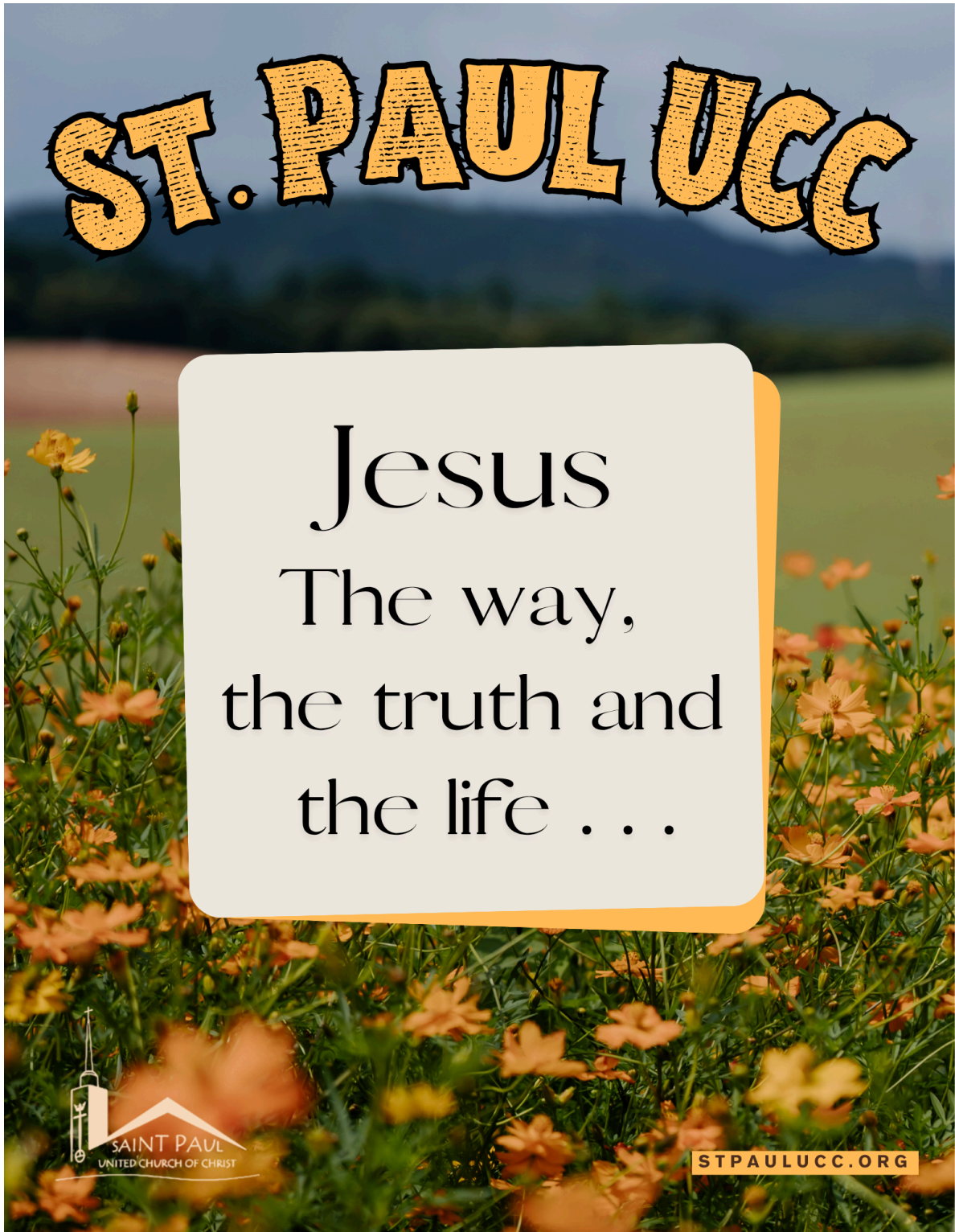




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ST. PAUL UCC

Jesus

The way,
the truth and
the life . . .

STPAULUCC.ORG



Welcome

Sunday, May 3, 2026 ~ 9am
5th Sunday of Easter

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Supply Pastor	Rev. Joan H. Mler
Director of Music	Dr. Tristan Frampton
Organist	Cynthia Johnson
Liturgist	Karen Keuss

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Will the Circle Be Unbroken?
arr. Anna Laura Page
Glory Ringers

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Our Savior is present with us in this place, beloved of God, to hear our prayers, to receive our praise, and to move the spirit of God around us and within us.

People: Thanks be to our loving Lord, who chooses to be close to us in this time of worship. Leader: Let us open our hearts, minds, and souls to his presence, so that we might feel fully held in His holy love.

People: We are willing to open ourselves up to the movement of the Holy Spirit, to receive strength and wisdom that will guide us through all our days.

ALL: Thank you, Jesus, for loving us and bringing a new vision of where we are called to be, not only in this life, but also in the next—that which is eternal.

Amen.

*INVOCATION

Spirit of the Living God, be among us now, we pray, let us feel your angels and guides around us, touching our souls as we immerse ourselves in worship that is lovingly offered to you. Receive the hymns of praise that we sing from our hearts to honor you, this day. In the blessed name of Jesus. Amen

PASSING THE PEACE

St. Paul Fine Arts presents . . .



RECRUITS
YOUTH CHORUS

Sunday, May 31st @ 2pm



A free will offering is greatly appreciated.



Metro East Community Chorale

2026
Spring Concert

Sunday, May 3
3:00 p.m.

Philharmonic Society of Belleille presents

TCHAIKOVSKY FIREWORKS

Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorale
Joseph Choi, conductor

Tchaikovsky Symphony #5
Selections from Mendelssohn's "Elijah" and Haydn's "The Creation"



May 9, 2026 7:30 pm
St Paul United Church of Christ
115 W B St, Belleville, IL
Free Admission



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 or email the church office. 618-233-3303 ~ swilhelm@stpaulucc.org
Cost is \$35.00.

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me; see, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain
 N.C. watch - ing for you and for me. Come home, come home,
 mer - cies for you and for me? me? Come home, come home,
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home,

ye who are wea - ry, come home; ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, O sin - ner, come home!

Alleluia

1 Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,
 2 He's my Sav - ior, Al - le - lu - ia, he's my Sav - ior, Al - le - lu - ia,
 3 He is wor - thy, Al - le - lu - ia, he is wor - thy, Al - le - lu - ia,
 4 I will praise him, Al - le - lu - ia, I will praise him, Al - le - lu - ia,

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!
 he's my Sav - ior, Al - le - lu - ia, he's my Sav - ior, Al - le - lu - ia!
 he is wor - thy, Al - le - lu - ia, he is wor - thy, Al - le - lu - ia!
 I will praise him, Al - le - lu - ia, I will praise him, Al - le - lu - ia!

Rev. Joan Mier's Expanded Role

Rev. Joan has agreed to expand her Supply Pastor role at St. Paul UCC. She will continue to be our worship leader some Sundays each month. Additionally, she will be available if you would like to discuss something with a pastor. Rev. Joan will not have regular office hours, but you may contact her by calling the church office (618-233-3303) or by sending her an email (pasjoan@sbcglobal.net). If you call after normal business hours, please leave a message. We have agreed to limit Rev. Joan's workload to 15 hours per week.

PRAYER FOR REFLECTION AND RECONCILIATION

Pastor: Sometimes, when we are in deep communication with God, we get just a glimpse of heaven. How awesome is it to receive such a gift when we truly open our hearts to God, being truthful about the concerns that keep us from moving forward in our personal mission and ministry. 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

God loves and God forgives. God reveals and God opens. God embraces and God lifts, all things that are needed for our personal mission and ministry to move forward and touch the hearts and souls of others in need. Receive all that God has to offer you, this day. **Amen**

ANTHEM

Living Bread
by Joel Raney
Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 31:1-5,15-16 Karen Keuss
Acts 7:51-60 Karen Keuss
John 14:1-14 Rev. Joan H. Mier

SERMON

“The Heavens Opened” Rev. Joan H. 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

How can we put a price on heaven? We cannot! Yet, everything that is offered in Jesus’ name, brings the touch of divine love and a glimpse of heaven closer to us than we can even imagine, because these gifts are directed by the Spirit of God. Amen.

RECEIVING OF THE GIFTS AND OFFERTORY MUSIC

Unending Praise
by Michael Helman
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 DEDICATION** (Unison)
God who oversees heaven and earth, we give these gifts in the holy name of your Son Jesus. We truly pray that you will be the guide for us with these gifts, that we might use them wisely and recognize the special needs of your people. Let it be so in Jesus’ name. Amen

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION (See insert)

***CLOSING HYMN** *Softly and Tenderly* (see page 6)

***COMMISSIONING**
As you go forth and serve the Lord, may God offer you a beautiful glimpse of heaven—in the love that you offer and the love you receive, in the forgiveness you offer and the forgiveness you receive, and in the blessings you offer and the blessings you receive in the Spirit of Christ. **Amen**

***BENEDICTION**
Now, may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all! Alleluia! **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Allegro in C
by George Frideric Handel

Today is the last day to submit a memorial gift for the Mother’s Day Honor Roll. Please fill out the form below and place it in the collection plate if you would like to participate.



CIRCLE ONE: IN MEMORY OF OR IN HONOR OF

MOTHER / LOVED ONE’S NAME _____

YOUR NAME _____

