

OCTOBER

Worship Leaders

October 4 - Rev. Joan H. Mier

October 11 - Rev. Joan H. Mier

October 18 - Craig Bielke

October 25 - Rev. Jeremy Lopez

OCTOBER

Coffee Hour Host Schedule:

October 4 - Zoey Davenport

October 11 - Donna Davis

October 18 -

October 25 - Mona Scheibel

Please consider being a coffee hour host !

It takes about 15-20 min to set up. Have coffee ready by 10:00 a.m. Last coffee call 11:00 a.m. Printed instructions & assistance are always available.

Contact the office or Donna D. to sign up!

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YouTube



For Your Prayers

Carol Hotz & Fred Hotz
The Ritter family, Tim, Sandy & Tim Jr.
Lou Ann Niemann
Al Stahl
Laura Sadler
Alec Zaber
Jane Bonaldi
Paul Sutherland
Our Pastor Search Committee
Cathy Blaies and family (Mike's sister)
Sylvia, sister of Luci Bradley
Rich Wilburn and his family,
son-in-law of Stephenie Bauza
Stephen Agnew, son of
Carolyn Hazelip
Gay Eckert
Larry Walton
Jane Peters, sister of Jerry Pierce
Bette Ettling
The Gentry family
Wes Krummrich
Dorothy Maiworm
Daniel Holtzclaw, friend of the Birkners

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

Weekly Offerings	9/26/2026
Operating	\$ 1,700.00
Building Fund	\$ 7.00
	\$ 1,707.00
Giving YTD	\$ 281,270.64
Weekly Budget	\$ 6,974.00
Budget to Date	\$ 265,012.00
Total Budget	\$ 362,648.00

Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service

September 20, 2026	89	+ Online Participants
September 21, 2025	96	+ Online Participants

St. Paul UCC



World Communion Sunday

"No matter who you are,
No matter where you
are on life's journey,
You are welcome here."



stpaulucc.org

Welcome

Sunday, October 4, 2026 ~ 9am

19th Sunday after Pentecost—World Communion Sunday



TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Supply Pastor Rev. Joan H. Mier
Director of Music Dr. Tristan Frampton
Organist Cynthia Johnson
Liturgist Peggy Burke

WELCOME

PRELUDE

To God Alone Be Highest Praise
by J.S. Bach

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Through His holy word, the Lord our God leads us and guides us to live a better life, a life of faithful and honorable actions toward human brothers and sisters.

People: We are always accountable to our Lord for the actions we take now and in future days.

Leader: God calls us to think and act in responsible ways that no harm should ever come to others because of the choices that we make.

People: We are a people who never wish for harm to come to other people, but pray for God's precious healing to be offered to the most wounded in society.

ALL: As you love us, O God of amazing grace, help us to be more loving, and guide us to seek justice for the downtrodden and hurting people in the world.

Amen

*INVOCATION

Let your Spirit flow among us, so that your divine wisdom should move around us and within us, O Lord we truly pray. May the words that you offer to us this day, speak volumes to us on how we are to truly live as people who follow in the footsteps of Christ. Guide us always in the things that we should and should not do. Let it be so. Amen

PASSING THE PEACE



each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with
all who be - lieve. The seed of the teach - ing, re -
each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with
your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this
cep - tive hearts reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for
your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this
life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -
God and for all. God's grace did in - vite us, and love shall u -
life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -
giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.
nite us to work for God's realm and to an - swer the call.
giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.

CLOSING HYMN

76

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Omer Westendorf, 1964

Descent

2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

Unison

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con - fess-ing, the
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

peo - ple of God from this dwell-ing take leave. The ser - vice is
tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

shar-ing, in love ev - er car-ing, em - brac-ing God's chil-dren of

end-ed, O now be ex - tend-ed the fruits of our wor-ship in
shar-ing, in love ev - er car-ing, em - brac-ing God's chil-dren of

6

OPENING HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1

Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt.

1 Tim. 1:17; Ps. 36:6

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;
4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;
in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;
your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
Your jus - tice like moun-tains high soar - ing a - bove,
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,
All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.
your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.
in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

Walter C. Smith, minister of the Free Church of Scotland and later moderator of the Assembly, wrote poetry as a retreat from work and to say what could not be fully expressed in the pulpit.

Tune: ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.
Adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts' Caniadaeth y Cysegr, 1839

PRAYER FOR REFLECTION AND RECONCILIATION

Pastor: God calls us to always be faithful. The reality is sometimes we are and sometimes we are not. It can be too easy for the ways of the world to woo us away from our focus on all that is sacred and acceptable to God. That is why we must take time, beloved ones, to reconnect with our Creator and Sustainer, the one who gives us life and breath. Let us take time now to do some reconnecting with our Lord. 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

Thank you God for the spiritual release that you offer to us this day, releasing us from the sins that can bind us and keep us separated from you. Let us be more open to your holy words and the guidance that we receive from them. We have asked for forgiveness and you have offered such a blessing to us. Let us all, now, feel refreshed and renewed by the freeing presence of the Holy Spirit of our God. May it be so. **Amen**

ANTHEM

Living Bread

Words by ANON.
Adapted by JOEL RANEY

Music by
JOEL RANEY

Congregation:

And— may we all one bod - y be;
joined, through Christ, in u - ni - ty.
Here at this ta - ble we are fed,
nour-ished by truth and liv - ing bread.

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SCRIPTURES

Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-20 and Psalm 19
Matthew 21:33-46

Peggy Burke
Rev. Joan H. Mier

SERMON

“You Shall Not” and “You Shall”

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.**

MISSION MOMENT

Neighbors in Need

REFLECTION ON GIVING

In Acts chapter 2, after the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost, all the faithful joined together in worship and in the sharing of all that they had to offer so that no one would be hungry, so that no one would go without their needs met. We have that same opportunity to offer what we can to further this ministry of caring and sharing. Let us open ourselves to the touch of the Holy Spirit as we offer our love gifts to God this day. Amen.

RECEIVING OF THE GIFTS AND OFFERTORY MUSIC

Sacrament
by Walker Baylor

***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)
Bless these gifts that we offer to you today, O Lord our God. Guide us that we are responsible with what has been offered and to use it rightly for the loving ministry of Jesus Christ. Let your Spirit guide us in what we should and should not do. We pray for this in the blessed name of Jesus. Amen

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION (See insert)

***CLOSING HYMN** *Sent Forth by God’s Blessing* (see pages 6 & 7)

***COMMISSIONING**
God tells us clearly, “You Shall,” and “You Shall Not!” Go forth with these simple words in your minds, let them sink deeply, let them be a force that guides you and directs you to make the best decisions you can as followers of Christ Jesus. I pray that they guide you as you interact with the diversity of people you will encounter in this great big world. Let it be so. **Amen**

***BENEDICTION**
God’s love is greater than hatred; God’s embrace is stronger than the bindings of our enemies. Go forth, beloved of God, feeling held in the strong, protective arms of our great Sustainer, and know that you are divinely loved beyond measure. May it be so. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

O God, Our Help in Ages Past
Hymn Tune: St. Anne
arr. J. Stuart Archer