



ST. PAUL'S SCOPE

Faithful and Welcoming Church

Volume 51, Issue 5

May 2024

"Our Church: A Hospital for Sinners, Not a Museum for Saints"

by Pastor Andrew

Recently, a visitor shared a heartwarming comment after attending our church a few times. They said it was the most authentically kind, warm, and loving church they'd ever been to. This resonated deeply because, in my ministry experience, I know many churches prioritize doctrine and outward appearances over genuine connection.

Focusing on the Right Things

These churches often get caught up in "getting it right" — saying the right words, dressing appropriately, and behaving in a certain way. But, as the saying goes, "the church is not a museum for saints, it's a hospital for sinners." We're all human, and even after accepting Christ, our imperfections remain.

Creating an Atmosphere of Grace

True transformation happens within a community of grace. Our church strives to be a "hospital for sinners" because we recognize the truth. We extend love and acceptance, even when people stumble. This doesn't mean we condone wrongdoing, but we believe lasting change comes through God's love, not condemnation.

Love First, Change Follows

Some might say we're overly tolerant, but it's not because we believe anything goes. We understand change can't be forced — it's a result of God's love working in a person's heart. As Jesus tells us, "There is more joy in heaven over one sinner that repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons that don't need to repent" (LK 15:7) We love people so they can change, not the other way around.

Loving Our Neighbors

We've even been accused of loving people more than God! But perhaps our "high anthropology" (care for people) stems from an "exalted theology" (deep appreciation for God). Maybe loving our neighbors is the ultimate expression of our love for God, as Jesus himself taught.

The True Test of Faith

True faith isn't about reciting creeds or following rituals. It's about "orthopraxis" — how we treat others. Our church welcomes everyone, "just as you are," believing you'll grow on your spiritual journey, in God's timeframe. We trust God to judge hearts, not create a culture of condemnation.

A very self-righteous man asked a saint: "What is the worst sin?" The saint replied: "The worst sin is that YOU call someone else a sinner."

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Scope Deadline

The deadline for articles to be included in the June SCOPE is the 25th of May.





<u>Date</u>	<u>8am</u>	<u>10:15am</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Viewers</u>
March 31	161A, 16C	165A, 26C	25C, 9A	283/359
April 7	76A, 0C	62A, 5C	21C, 18A	119/74
April 14	62A, 0C	37A, 4C	20C, 5A	99/51
April 21	72A, 1C	75A, 6C	24C, 20A	87/56

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

<u>Time/Date</u>	<u>Council Ushers</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
8:00 May 5	Kathy Lickenbrock	Jeanie Stumpf	Larry Rhutasel	Larry Rhutasel
	Kim Borja		Marg Rhutasel	Marg Rhutasel
May 12	Brian Rippelmeyer	Scott Weber	Scott Weber	Stan Niemann
	April Beisiegel		Julie Weber	Dale Lickenbrock
May 19	Debbie Ross	Lynn Gipson	Sandy Dickens	Mary Endsley
	Kim Borja		Mary Endsley	Sandy Dickens
May 26	Kathy Lickenbrock	Donna Smoker	Dale Lickenbrock	Larry Rhutasel
	April Nail		Kathy Lickenbrock	Marg Rhutasel
June 2	Brian Rippelmeyer	Tami Hughes	Pat Smoker	Pat Smoker
	April Beisiegel		Donna Smoker	Donna Smoker
10:15 May 5	David Mitchell	Vicki Channer	Gloria Niebruegge	Gloria Niebruegge
	Lee Hartmann		Sharon Klann	Dave Niebruegge
May 12	Chad Lindauer	Julie Rickert	Brittany Kaiser	Lee Hartmann
	David Mitchell		Betty Weber	Jeanne Hartmann
May 19	Lee Hartmann	Amy Walton	Harry Dapron	Vicki Channer
	Amy Walton		Shere Dapron	Angela Kuburski
May 26	Amy Walton	Vicki Channer	Shirley Kuhn	Gloria Niebruegge
	Lauren Borger		Harry Kuhn	Dave Niebruegge
June 2	Chad Lindauer	Donna Asbridge	Brittany Kaiser	Lee Hartmann
	Vicki Helms		Karen Neff	Jeanne Hartmann

Communion Set-up/Clean-up Schedule

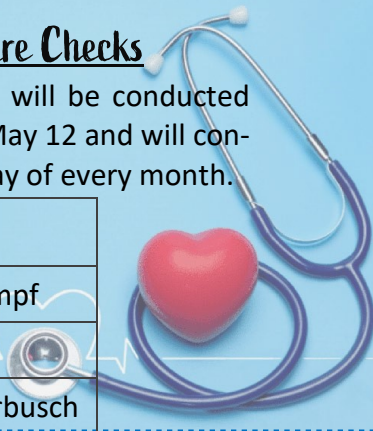
<u>Date</u>	<u>Set Up</u>	<u>After 8am</u>	<u>After 10:15am</u>
May 5	Jim & Char Jacobs	Shirley Kuhn	Gloria Niebruegge
June 2	Debbie Ross	Sandy Dickens & Jeanie Stumpf	Karen Neff
July 7	Lisa McDonald & Jill Kettler	Shirley Kuhn	Lauren Borger

Blood Pressure Checks

Blood pressure checks will be conducted in the Baltz parlor on May 12 and will continue on the 2nd Sunday of every month.

Schedule

May 12	Jeanie Stumpf
June 9	Pat Groth
July 14	Phyllis Ellerbusch



Ill or in the Hospital

Betty Huwer
Kenny & Jeanie Stumpf

*Sending
healing prayers*

Save the Date:

THE WAY
The Truth and The Life

The WAY, Adult #2 will be held October 25-27, 2024.

The event meets Friday from 7:00pm to approximately 9:30pm and Saturday from 9:00 m to approximately 6:30pm.

More information will be forthcoming this summer.



**Food
Pantry
Needs**

May Food Pantry Needs

The Freeburg Food & Clothing Pantry's "Meal a Month," a "Needs Menu" (donations) will be collected on the second Sunday of each month "Monthly Food Collection Sunday."

Needs for the month of **May** consist of: bar soap, pork & beans, pancake mix & syrup, jelly, and oatmeal.

Food Collection Sunday is **May 14th**.

The Food Pantry appreciates your donations and support!

Council Corner

At the April Council Meeting, committee reports were reviewed and unanimously accepted. Additionally, plans for the upcoming months were prominently highlighted, setting the course for future endeavors.

Chad Lindauer
Council Chair

Backpacks for Food & Clothing Bank

There's nothing quite like the excitement of starting school with a clean backpack and brand new pencils without the erasers already worn off. The E & O Committee is working to fill backpacks for the Freeburg Food & Clothing Bank. Starting May 5, consider picking up a backpack or two to fill with basic items: #2 pencils (1 pack), wide-ruled paper (2 packs), and pencil-top erasers (1 pack). Then return the backpack(s) by May 19 to be blessed at our May 26 worship service. Pitch in to help children in our community start classes this fall better prepared with school supplies.

Please contact Tami Hughes @ (618) 301-6721 if you have any questions.



Choir News

The extended choir of 33 members presented “The Risen Christ” cantata at both services Easter morning. With such a large group, it was a challenge getting everybody together for rehearsals, but Easter morning it all came together. What a wonderful group of people to direct.

I’d like to again thank the choir, extended choir, soloists, the narrators Noella Frevert (Mary Magdalene), James Miller (Peter), Mark Vernier (John), Scott Weber (Jesus), and Sandi Haege (video). There was a lot of hard work and many hours put into rehearsals not only for the choir, but also for the narrators and the mastering of the video. You all exceeded my expectations!

To the choir, my heart-felt thanks for the hard work and commitment that was put into this cantata. I will admit, I was emotionally moved throughout the entire cantata. You sang with the intensity and emotion that we have been working on for the past three months. I have played a lot of music over the past 50 years, and when something like that overcomes me, I know a message is being sent above and beyond just the singing of the music. Just a phenomenal job!!!! To the readers, Noella Frevert, James Miller, Mark Vernier, and Scott Weber, you surprised and touched me with your passion and excitement as you portrayed your characters. I had a great time directing you during the rehearsals and watching and listening to you make the story come to life. Well done! Also, a big thank you to Sandi Haege. She spent countless hours working to time the video clips perfectly with the music. She would meet with me to review the video with the music and I was always hesitant on making changes because she would have to start over to get the timing of the video and music in sync, but she never complained. This additional dimension of the cantata was awe-inspiring. Thank you, Sandi!

Now that all of the hard work, stress, fellowship, and fun had during cantata rehearsals are behind us, I feel saddened that the hustle and bustle of preparation is over. This group, the choir, the extended cantata members, and narrators, has a very special place in my heart. It was my pleasure to direct such a great group of people and bring the message of Easter through music, narration, and visual display to the congregation.

The choir will finish the regular season on May 12 and we will resume rehearsals in mid-August.

Andy Channer
Music Director

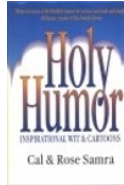


~St. Paul's Easter Cantata "The Risen Christ"~

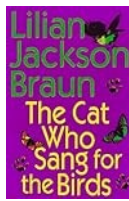


May Book Picks

Religion/Spirituality: *Holy Humor: Inspirational Wit & Cartoons* by Cal & Rose Samra — Effectively disproving any notion that Christians are relentlessly dour, melancholy, humorless, and joyless, these books from Cal and Rose Samra offer a rib-tickling treasury of Christian joy and humor. They're as ideally suited to individuals and families looking for a laugh as they are to pastors, speakers, and all those who seek to spice up their presentations - and their lives - with a few power-packed moments of Holy Humor.

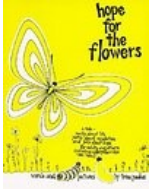


Christian Fiction: *The Last Target* by Christy Barritt — The paper found in a terrorist's pocket holds six names--and single mom Rachel Reynolds is the only one on the list who's still alive. Private security contractor Jack Sergeant wants to ensure she stays that way, but first he must convince Rachel the danger is real. Rachel can't believe that someone's after her...until she's grazed by a shooter's bullet. She won't take chances with her son's life--but she doesn't want Jack getting too close. Yet as Jack comes to care for both mother and son, the target he's after is a family to love and protect for a lifetime.



Fiction: *The Cat Who Sang for the Birds* by Lillian Jackson Braun — Fiction. Mystery. Suspense. Thriller. In this delightful new novel featuring Jim Qwilleran and his lovable cats, Koko and Yum Yum, the rites of spring are celebrated with the fine art of bird calling....and a fateful act of murder. It seems that this spring, a cat's fancy may turn to crime-solving...

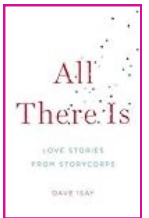
Children/Young Adults: *Hope for the Flowers* by Trina Paulus — Two caterpillars plunge into the pile of those who seek the ever elusive top, but, finding nothing there, return to the ground to change into beautiful butterflies.



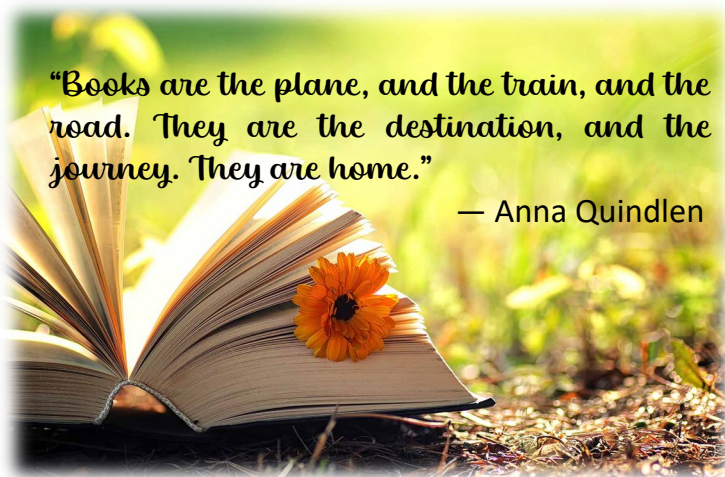
Prayer/Devotional: *Just Walking* by Clella Camp — Get motivated in your daily walk . . . Physically and spiritually. *Just Walking* connects the simple experience of the physical exercise of walking to the more challenging experience of spiritual walking with the Lord.



Non-Fiction: *All There Is: Love Stories from StoryCorps* by Davve Isay- The founder of StoryCorps, a national project that records, shares, and preserves the lives of Americans from all backgrounds, presents individuals' love stories from early dating to finding connections and lifelong commitment.



In honor of Administrative Professionals Day, observed on April 24, a huge "Thank You" to Diane and Donna for all of their hard work and dedication to St. Paul's. They keep the Church office running smoothly and efficiently and we greatly appreciate all they do.



"Books are the plane, and the train, and the road. They are the destination, and the journey. They are home."

— Anna Quindlen

Notes from the Women's Guild

The Women's Guild met on Tuesday, April 9th. Deacon Corby Valentine and Mike Penrod gave a presentation about AMAZON HOPE, a non-profit mission organization that brings the Good News of Jesus to unreached people living along the Amazon River and partners with local churches in Brazil to deliver medical, dental, and eye care. The organization is funded, in large part, by the Amazon Hope thrift stores located in Alabama and Kentucky. Deacon Valentine and Mr. Penrod explained that surplus from the Freeburg Area Food & Clothing Bank is periodically transported to the thrift stores and is a significant provider of clothing that stock the stores. The Guild offered a monetary donation to Amazon Hope.

On May 8th, fifteen ladies will attend the annual spring luncheon at Zion Evangelical Church in Millstadt. Any woman interested in attending must RSVP by May 3rd. Please ask Karen Neff for information.

The next meeting for the Guild is Tuesday, May 14, 2024. Laurie Meek Watkins will offer a presentation based on Psalm 139. Please join in for a couple hours of food and fellowship!

St. Paul's Women's Guild

Tuesday, May 14, 2024 - Noon

Join us for food, fellowship, and a program focusing on Psalm 139 presented by Laurie Meek Watkins

Reminder: School supplies collection
for distribution in July
through the Food & Clothing Bank

Hostesses: Phyllis Ellerbusch & Judy Culli



Questions? ...

Please ask Karen, Jeanne, or any Guild friend

Building & Grounds

The church carpet and pew cleaning have been completed.

The Parsonage's HVAC system replacement \$8,250 bid by Neal's Heating & Cooling has been accepted.

Church Council approved a contract with Warnecke Building Restoration, Inc. for \$17,180 for tuckpointing the church building, repairing the steeple flashing, caulking the steeple, and blocking squirrel access to the steeple.

Work continues on mold and radon abatement at the St. Paul's Center.

Dead boxwoods will be replaced (\$1,500). Landscaping companies have been contacted.

Downspout drain is potentially clogged at the corner of the outside wheelchair ramp and will be checked.

St. Paul's Church Mice

April 17, 2024

- * Emptied and recycled paper from the paper bin.
- * Tightened pews that were loose.
- * Cleaned closet in Ladies bathroom and fixed the shelf in the Baltz Parlor.
- * Cleaned the kitchen in the Baltz Parlor.
- * Cleaned and dusted the narthex and the Baltz Parlor.
- * Found a leak under the sink in the Baltz Parlor kitchen.



Hoyleton Mission Committee News

The Easter baskets for the teens living in the Belleville Houses were a big hit. You are never too old for a basket of goodies delivered to your front door. The youth were very appreciative and grateful when they were dropped off.

Recently, the Missions Committee has been busy collecting shower curtains, liners, and pillows for the new Hoyleton Houses on campus. All six houses will get a new shower curtain and liner for their bathroom. Each child will also receive a new comfy pillow as they move into their new bedroom. Those items will be delivered as soon as the final shower curtains arrive.

Coming up in May, we will be organizing the decorations and making corsages and boutonnières for their Spring Dance that is held every year in Hoyleton. The dinner and dance is Friday, June 7th this year. If you would like to help with the dance and/or attend it, please let Jenny Hummert or Sharon Klann know so they can include you in all the fun.



THANK YOU!

I want to say a BIG THANK YOU to all my church family and friends for their many thoughts and prayers and cards! I really appreciate all the love you all have shown. I also want to thank Rev. Lovins for his very nice visit while I was in Convalescent Center; it was very enjoyable.

Peggy Emery



Thank you!

Special thanks to Andrea and Ryan Burton for all their work adding the beautiful drink station to the Baltz Parlor!

The brewed coffee option will remain, but now there are several other options, including decaf coffee and tea, ciders, hot chocolate, flavored coffee, teas and more.

Please enjoy a drink of your choice while you fellowship with friends.

Youth Meal Train

The Youth are looking for people to provide meals for a group of 12-15 people on Wednesdays. The new link for signing up for Youth Group meals is <https://mealtrain.com/ykzm4k>. If you have any questions, please contact BK.

If you can't cook and would like to give towards it, please let BK know.

Thank you for your support!



American Stroke Association.
A division of the American Heart Association.

Together to End Stroke®

May is Stroke Awareness Month

F.A.S.T. is how we come together to end stroke®

Learn the stroke warning signs

F.A.S.T.

Face
Drooping

Arm
Weakness

Speech
Difficulty

Time to
Call 911

Every 40 seconds, someone in the U.S. has a stroke.

It could happen on your street, in your workplace, at a store where you shop — anywhere. Your readiness to spot the stroke warning signs and call 911 could save a life or make the difference between a full recovery and long-term disability. That's why it's so important to learn the stroke warning signs and urge everyone you know to do the same.

The faster stroke is treated, the more likely the patient is to recover.

In fact, stroke patients who are treated with the clot-busting drug IV r-tPA Alteplase within 90 minutes of their first symptoms were almost three times more likely to recover with little or no disability.

In some cases, a procedure to remove the clot causing the stroke is also recommended. Ninety-one percent of stroke patients who were treated with a stent retriever within 150 minutes of first symptoms recovered with little or no disability.

The thing to remember is that stroke is largely treatable. It's a matter of getting the right treatment, right away.



Moms Bind Our Hearts Together

Please Join Us in Celebrating
Mother's Day

Sunday, May 12th
9:05 am
Fellowship Hall

Mother's Day Ideas

1. Get or make a Mother's Day card
2. Clean and tidy the house
3. Give her flowers
4. Prepare her favorite breakfast
5. Write a thank-you letter to mom
6. Dinner and a movie
7. Write a book about your mom's life
8. Treat mom to a night on the town
9. Book a cooking class
10. Family game night
11. Bake or cook together
12. Make a family tree
13. Look through old photos
14. Book a spa day
15. Go camping
16. Visit the Botanical Gardens
17. Go for a walk
18. Help out in the garden
19. Set up a craft day
20. Go to church together

YOU'RE INVITED
**TRIVIA
NIGHT**
With
Uni-Pres Kindercottage

Kindercottage Holds
Trivia Night Fundraiser

May 18th 6pm-10pm at
St. Paul UCC 115 W. B St,
Belleville, IL.

\$20 per ticket or table of
8 for \$160 and includes
water and soda. Mulligans available, 50/50, Si-
lent Auction, Table Decorating Contest, too!
Bring your own snacks. For more information,
call Aimee Hart or Antron Rose at (618) 874-
6505. Please note-- the address to mail checks
is: 564 Veronica Ave, East St. Louis, IL 62205
attn: Trivia Night.



SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

Early Bird
Registration
opens
MARCH 4

The grade listed next to each camp is the grade campers have completed.
★ Partial-week camps are **Sunday-Tuesday** and have an Asterisk next to
the camp name.

	MAIN CAMP	RUSTIC VILLAGE
May 26-31	Discovery (1st-3rd)★ Settler (3rd-4th) Imagine That (5th - 7th)	Trekkin' It (5th - 7th) LEAD Camp (10th-12th)
June 2-7	Just You & Me (Ages 5-7 & Adult)★ Imagine That (5th-7th) Movin' & Groovin' (5th-7th) Trail Mix (5th-7th)	Saddle 'Em Up (7th - 8th)
June 9-14	Discovery (1st-3rd)★ Settler (3rd-4th) Movin' & Groovin' (5th-7th) Splash (5th-7th)	Horsin' Around (5th-6th) Outback (5th-7th)
June 16-21	Drenched (8th-12th) Survivor (8th-12th)	Wrangler (8th-12th) X-Plore (8th-12th)
June 23-28	Discovery (1st-3rd)★ Settler (3rd-4th) Splash (5th-7th)	Saddle 'Em Up (7th-8th) X-Plore (8th-12th)
June 30 - July 2	Just You & Me (Ages 5-7 & Adult)★	
July 7-12	Discovery (1st-3rd)★ Settler (3rd-4th)	
July 14-19	Discovery (1st-3rd)★ Settler (3rd-4th) Music, Art, & Drama (5th-7th) Splash (5th-7th)	Horsin' Around (5th-6th)

DuBoisCenter.org • 618.787.2202 • DCinfo@DuBoisCenter.org

May Birthdays

05/01 Bill Hughes
 05/03 Tabitha Amann
 05/06 Joseph Pruett
 05/07 Virginia Capone
 Duane Forcade
 Zoe Rhutasel
 Bennie Schafale
 05/09 Delilah Foster
 05/10 Mary Wandling
 05/11 Jim Kaiser
 05/13 Johanna Crecelius
 05/13 John Whitmore
 05/14 Jacey Trentman
 Raegen Trentman
 05/15 Billie Louthan
 05/16 Michael Adamson

05/17 Sean Haack
 Anna Neff
 Carol Young
 05/18 Adelia Baker
 05/22 Nolan Green
 Tim Pruett
 05/24 Vicki Gaffney
 James Harms
 05/25 Julie Rickert
 05/26 Gregg Haege
 Sierra Harding
 05/27 Kim Borja
 Lydia Lindauer
 05/28 Behr Adamson
 Davida Favre
 05/31 Adam Dickens



Special Birthday wishes go out to Bennie Schafale, who turns 90 on May 7.

Cards and birthday wishes can be sent to Bennie at the following address: 490 Urbanna Drive, Apt. 107
 Freeburg, IL 62243

SECOND MILE BENEVOLENCE

The Benevolence offerings that you mark on your envelopes each month are Second Mile offerings for special mission projects.

Our **March** offering for the **Eden Theological Seminary** was \$70.00. Thank You!!!

May Sunday School Offering is:
Christian Activity Center

The Benevolence for May is: Family Care Ministries

Family Care Ministries provides low and no cost Christian-based counseling both locally in Freeburg, as well as through offices of Hoyleton Youth and Family Services.

The Family Care group works closely with Hoyleton Youth and Family to offer counseling services. Professionals on the Hoyleton staff are available who specialize in child and adolescent psychology, substance abuse, marriage counseling, and a number of other areas.

Through Hoyleton, the Family Care group is able to offer the "Kids Rebound" program in area school districts, including New Athens. "Kids Rebound" helps young people who are coping with the divorce, separation, or even death of their parents

The Family Care ministry also sponsors a number of different workshops and seminars. Some have dealt with the issues adolescents and their parents face. Others looked at the challenges of parenting toddlers.

The Church Calendar—May 2024

Normal Sunday Schedule

8:00 am & 10:15 am Worship

9:05 am Sunday School

10:15 am Children's Church

May 2 Thursday Service & Communion Cedar Trails
Painting 9am

May 5 Sunday Communion Sunday

May 6 Monday E & O Meeting 6:15pm
B & G Meeting 7pm

May 7 Tuesday Food Pantry 2-4pm

May 12 Sunday **Mother's Day**
Blood Pressure Checks
Food Collection Sunday

May 14 Tuesday Women's Guild 12noon
Food Pantry 2-4pm
F & C Bank Board Meeting 7pm

May 16 Thursday Painting 9am
Food Pantry 5-8pm

May 17 Friday Teeny Tot Graduation

May 19 Sunday Senior Recognition Sunday 10:15am

May 21 Tuesday Church Council Meeting 7pm

May 24 Friday F & C Bank Clothing Sale 9-11am

May 25 Saturday SCOPE Deadline

May 26 Sunday Blessing of Backpacks for F&C Bank 10:15am

May 27 Monday **Memorial Day** - Office Closed

May 28 Tuesday Stephen Ministries 6:30pm

C.S. Lewis Bible Study: Monday 7:15 pm

Bible Study: Tuesday at 7 pm (Zoom)

Quilting: Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 am (Ministry Building)

Boy Scouts: Tuesday 7:00 pm (Basement)

Choir: Wednesday 6:00 pm

The Outlet: Wednesday 6:30-8:00 pm (Youth Room)

Faith Journey: Wednesday 7:00 pm

Reconfirmation/Adult Bible Class: Thursday 7:00 pm

FREEBURG POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY

10TH ANNUAL GOLF FUNDRAISER

The Freeburg
Police Thanks
you for your
Support

SATURDAY
MAY 18TH, 2024

AT MYSTIC OAKS GOLF
COURSE, WATERLOO

AM Shotgun: 8:00am

PM Shotgun: 1:00pm

Limited to first 28 teams in each start time.

The team slots have been filled. Sponsors are still needed. Please contact Matt if you'd like to be a Sponsor. (618)410-8077

.....
\$340 - Per Team
\$100 - Hole Sponsor
\$250 - Drink Sponsor
\$550 - Gold Sponsor
.....

Contact Matt at 618-410-8077 or
mtrout@freeburg.com to sign up or for
more information.

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St. Paul's United Church of Christ
210 West White Street
Freeburg, IL 62243

St. Paul's SCOPE ~ May 2024

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Freeburg, IL 62243



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Church Phone; 618-539-3962
Email address: churchoffice@stpaulsfreeburg.org
Web address: www.stpaulsfreeburg.org

Faithful and Welcoming Church

Worship Services:

Sunday 8:00 & 10:15 AM

Sunday School 9:05 AM

Children's Church 10:15 AM

