



St. Paul's Scope

A Faithful and Welcoming Church

March 2025

From Consumers to Contributors: Cultivating a Vibrant Church Future

Let's take a moment to look around our beloved St. Paul's UCC. What do you see? Many of us have been part of this community for a long time and built a strong foundation. Now, let's consider the future. What kind of church do we envision for our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren?

You might agree that a vibrant, multi-generational, and multicultural community is something to strive for. What challenges do you think we face in achieving this vision? One observation is that our congregation is predominantly older. We need the voices and energy of younger individuals to flourish truly.

Have you noticed how traditional methods and musical styles that resonate with us might not always connect with younger generations? It's understandable—we all have our preferences. But how might we bridge this gap?

Imagine our church as a restaurant. We consistently serve the foundational "food" of the Gospel, which is essential. But what if we could expand our "menu" to offer a variety of styles and flavors? This might mean that the musical selections or sermon themes may occasionally not align with your favorites. However, what if embracing these changes could open the doors to a new generation?

"Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand." - Philippians 4:5 (ESV). This verse encourages us to be considerate and understanding, especially when dealing with differences. What does this verse mean to you in our church community? How might we demonstrate this "reasonableness" in our actions and attitudes?

Perhaps this means shifting from being "consumers" of church services to becoming active "contributors" who prioritize the interests of others. What would that look like in practice?

A homogeneous, insular church isn't a thriving church! It can feel like we say, "if you don't like it, leave." Is that the kind of hospitality we want to offer? I believe in the power of variety—just as we enjoy diverse culinary experiences, shouldn't our spiritual experience be rich and varied? Variety is the spice of life, and a church devoid of it can become spiritually bland.

How can we expand our understanding of hospitality and embrace flexibility? Rigidity can lead to frustration and stagnation. We maintain core, non-negotiable beliefs: one God, one Savior, one day dedicated to the Lord, one book, one spouse. But are we imposing additional "laws" based on personal preferences that might hinder growth and our mission?

We must actively avoid the well-known epitaph of a stagnant church: "We've never done it that way before." Instead, let's become contributors, building a church that reflects Christ's diverse and vibrant body, welcoming all with open arms and hearts. What steps can we take together to make this vision a reality?

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Attendance for the Month of February				
<u>Date</u>	<u>8:00am</u>	<u>10:15am</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Viewers</u>
2/2	A 82 / C 4	A 84 / C 13	A 21 / C 33	515
2/9	A 77 / C 4	A 77 / C 17	A 18 / C 33	423
2/16	A 50 / C 3	A 50 / C 8	A 16 / C 22	753
2/23	A 63 / C 3	A 86 / C 17	A 19 / C 39	521

Sunday Volunteer Schedule						
Time	Date	Council Ushers	Greeters	Acolyte	Lector	
8:00	March 2	Kathy Lickenbrock	Pat Smoker	Owen Inselmann	Lynn Gipson	
		Tom Heppermann	Donna Smoker			
	March 9	Brian Rippelmeyer	Stan Niemann	Tenley Heppermann	Jeanie Stumpf	
		April Nail	Cheri Emge			
	March 16	Kim Borja	Scott Weber	Owen Inselmann	Scott Weber	
April Beisiegel		Julie Weber				
March 23	Kathy Lickenbrock	Dale Lickenbrock	Camden Junge	Tami Hughes		
	Tom Heppermann	Kathy Lickenbrock				
March 30	Brian Rippelmeyer	Sandy Dickens	Blyss Payne	Donna Smoker		
	April Nail	Mary Endsley				
10:15	March 2	Lee Hartmann	Jim Kaiser	Dahlia Payne	Julie Rickert	
		Amy Walton	Lori Kaiser			
	March 9	Lauren Borger	Jim Jacobs	Emily Kuhn	Teresa Huston	
		David Mitchell	Char Jacobs			
	March 16	Tom Heiken	Karen Neff	Audrey Lawson	Donna Asbridge	
		Julie Rickert	Gloria Niebruegge			
	March 23	Chad Lindauer	Sharon Klann	Alise Freebairn	Vicki Channer	
		Lee Hartmann	Brittany Kaiser			
	March 30	Amy Walton	Tom Heiken	Alise Freebairn	Amy Walton	
		Lauren Borger	Robin Heiken			

If you are scheduled to serve, please remember that we are counting on you!
 If you cannot attend, switch with another volunteer and let the office know. Thank you!

... VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES ...

Acolyte Schedule		
Date	8:00 a.m.	10:15 a.m.
March 2	Owen Inselmann	Dahlia Payne
March 9	Tenley Heppermann	Emily Kuhn
March 16	Owen Inselmann	Audrey Lawson
March 23	Camden Junge	Alise Freebairn
March 30	Blyss Payne	Alise Freebairn
April 6	Camden Junge	Dean Shaw
April 13	Owen Inselmann	Blyss Payne
April 20	Camden Junge	Emily Kuhn
April 27	Owen Inselmann	Audrey Lawson
May 4	Camden Junge	Dean Shaw
May 11	Alise Freebairn	Audrey Lawson
May 18	Camden Junge	Emily Kuhn
May 25	Tara Beisiegel	Ryleigh Ribes
June 1	Tara Beisiegel	Ryleigh Ribes
June 8 Confirmation	Tenley Heppermann	Owen Inselmann

Communion Set-up/Clean-up			
Date	Set-Up	After 8:00 am	After 10:15am
Mar 2	Lisa & Jill	Sandy & Jeanie	Amy Walton
Apr 6	Karen Neff	Debbie Ross	Gloria Niebruegge

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS
are done between church services in the parlor.

March 9	Donna Asbridge
April 13	Jeanie Stumpf

Benevolence Offering

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

Our February offering for Kids for Christ was \$ 460 .

March benevolence offerings will be for the

Eden Theological Seminary

Thank you!

Note of Appreciation

Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for the wonderful contribution of \$300 to the Foundation. We have designated your gift toward the SCIC Soup Program/Food Pantry Fund. To better serve our donors and comply with IRS guidelines, this letter now serves as your official receipt for tax purposes in compliance with the Internal Revenue Code.

St. Paul's generosity is truly appreciated. Because of friends like you, the Foundation is able to provide scholarship opportunities, enhance grant funding, provide teaching tools for faculty, and fulfill many other needs throughout our college campuses.

Thank you for your gift.

Sincerely,

Rena Thoele, Executive Director
Foundation Office
Southwestern Illinois College



... Ways to Donate & Love Your Neighbors ...



Food Pantry needs for the month of **March** are:

Cereal, Jellies or Jams, Pie Filling, Pie Crust Mix, Cake Mix and Kleenex

Food Collection Monthly Sunday is **March 9th!**

The Pantry appreciates your donations and support!



Looking for volunteers to help out the Church Mice.

Contact Char Jacobs if interested.

The Village of Freeburg will be collecting electronics for recycling on **Saturday, March 12th, 9am—12pm** at the Village Hall.



contact the church office to check on availability.

St. Paul's loans out clean, gently used medical equipment. If you or a loved one are in need of some type of medical equipment,

**HOSPITALIZED
OR NEEDING
MEDICAL CARE
LAST MONTH**

Charlie Schmidgall
Joyce Massmann
Donna Stein
Robin Skaer
Donna Asbridge



Building & Grounds February 3rd Meeting

1. Light outside on south side of church, fixture is bad, needs replaced. Proceed with getting bids.
2. Insurance claim for the roof has been finalized.
3. Neal's H&C replaced blower on furnace in office.
4. Parsonage carpet needs re-stretched in basement.
 - A. Bill H working with Collins, to be re-stretched on March 3.
5. Solar inquiry received via email?
 - A. Committee felt it was in the best interest of the church to proceed with getting additional information and present to council/congregation.
6. Request to install protection around audio equipment to prevent tampering.
 - A. Request was tabled to look at options.
7. Snow removal, Bills for Jan snow removal paid.

Invoice 14078	
Jan 4, pre-treat - food pantry	105.00
Jan 6, snow removal - food pantry	135.00
Jan 6, ice melt - food pantry	105.00
Jan 4, pre-treat - church	167.00
Jan 6, snow removal - church	385.00
Jan 6, ice melt - church	356.00
<hr/> Total	<hr/> \$1,253.00

Invoice 14080	
Jan 9, pre-treat - food pantry	105.00
Jan 10, snow removal - food pantry	135.00
Jan 10, salt - food pantry	105.00
Jan 9, pre-treat - church	167.00
Jan 10, snow removal - church	385.00
Jan 10, salt - church	251.00
<hr/> Total	<hr/> \$1,148.00

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 4th at 7:00p.m. in the Baltz Parlor.



Don't forget to set your clocks forward 1 hour **March 8th** before you go to bed!

NEED AN EASIER WAY TO GIVE?



Simply text "GIVE" to (618) 552-9327 or scan this QR code!

OR...Set up "Bill Pay" at your bank. Your bank will mail a check to St. Paul's for you for FREE!

Please remember to check your mail bin in the office if you or your committee has one. Thanks!

Lent offerings will be used for new advertising costs this year.

...Ministries ...

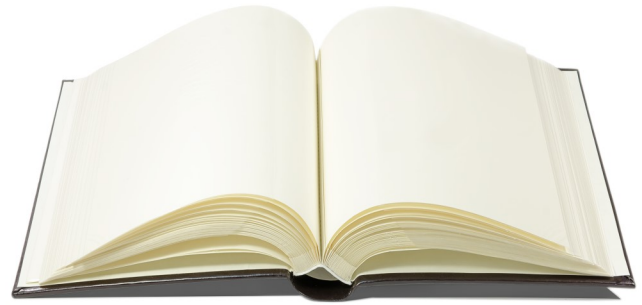
Outlet meals needed
for
March and April

[https://
www.mealtrain.com/
trains/ykzm4k](https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/ykzm4k)

St. Paul's Teeny Tot Preschool
Annual Waffle Breakfast
Sunday, March 16
Church Basement
8am—12pm

All you can eat \$10

Waffles, toppings, sausage, fruit,
coffee and juice



LIBRARY NOOK

Located in the Ministry Center

Come check out or donate Christian-based
books

Utility Assistance

- ♦ Must be a member of St. Paul's or live in the Freeburg School District
- ♦ Can only receive assistance once a calendar year
- ♦ Must have driver's license or ID showing address of utility bill
- ♦ Call the church office if you or someone you know is in need of assistance

...Ministries ...

Trivia/Lunch Afternoon March 23rd

Help purchase a horse for Camp DuBois, our 2-year mission partner. The herd is down to 14, and DuBois needs about 20 horses for retreats and camps. A generous member of the congregation agreed to purchase one horse if we can raise enough to purchase another horse.

Horseshoe sandwiches and a fun afternoon focused on trivia for all ages about camp life. Lunch will be served after church with trivia and silent auction following at 12:15. Invite your friends!

\$20 for lunch and trivia; \$10 for youth 8th grade and under.

Contact Tami Hughes to reserve your spot.
618-301-6721 or tamihughes765@gmail.com or sign up at church!

<https://duboiscenter.org/about/equestrian-program/horses/>

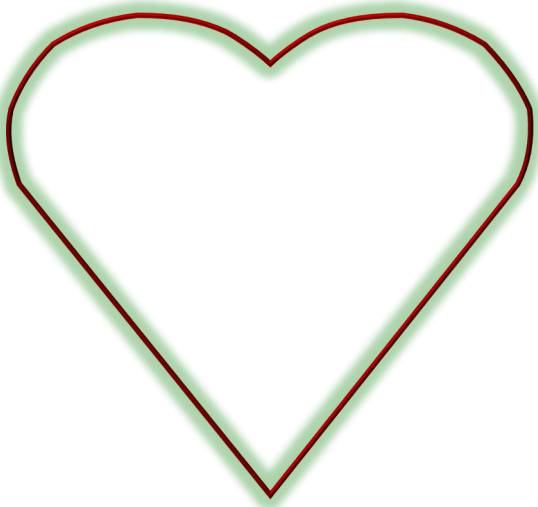


HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March

2 Steve Lindauer
Ainslie Parrish
3 Emma Dumke
Sarah Harms
Debra Sebol
4 Mark Schanuel
5 Rook Adamson
7 Craig Brazelton
Ethan Foster
Alise Freebairn
8 Linda Schneider
10 Dean Salvatore
12 Taylor Ellis
13 Colin Brueggemann
14 Dahlia Payne
Gage Ruhmann
Gannon Wakefield
15 Janet Thrasher
17 Mike Wangelin
18 Bryan Vogel
19 Lee Hartmann
Tammy Jacobs
Diane Nordhaus

21 Allen Castens
Pat Groth
Eric McDonald
22 Rusty Kern, Jr.
Jessica Smith
23 Joanne Braun
Mark Vernier
24 Waylon Endsley
Cameron Harms
26 Karen Forcade
Evelyn Mueller
27 Whitley Adamson
Ethan Baldwin
Chris Joseph
28 Lucas Shook
29 Lauren Beisiegel
Becky Rippelmeyer
Catherine Rohlfig
31 Kathy Alt
Jacob Pruett
Ken Stumpf



Happy Anniversary!

March 5
Rickey & Donna Stahl 48 Years

March 17
Lynn & Karen Gipson 25 Years

March 21
Mark & Alice Mullen 39 Years

March 24
Billie & Kerry Menn III 7 Years

March 31
Ken & Jeannie Stumpf 65 Years

Church Calendar - February 2025

Normal Sunday Schedule

8:00 am & 10:15 am Worship

9:05 am Sunday School

Children's Church 10:15 am

First Sunday of the Month—Communion at both services

March

- 2 Communion
- 3 Christian Ed & Organization 6:15 pm
- 4 Pantry 2 pm
Building & Grounds 7 pm
- 5 Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm
- 6 Painting 9 am
- 9 Blood Pressure Checks 9 am
Food Collections Sunday
Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 11 The Guild 12 noon
Pantry 2 pm
Food & Clothing Board Meeting 7 pm
- 12 Lent Service 7 pm
- 16 Teeny Tot Annual Waffle Breakfast
8 am- 12 Noon- \$10.00 All you can eat!
- 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day!!!!

March

- 19 Lent Service 7 pm
- 20 Painting 9 am
Pantry 5 pm
First day of **Spring**
- 23 Trivia/Lunch after church
- 25 Scope Deadline
Stephen Ministry 6:30 pm
- 26 Lent Service 7 pm
- 28 Food and Clothing Sale 9 am

Normal Weekly Schedule

7th & 8th Grade Confirmation: Sunday 9:15 am

Celebrate Recovery: Sunday 7:00 pm (Baltz Parlor)

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

Bible Study: Sunday 9:05 am, Tuesday at 7:00 pm (zoom)

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

Boy Scouts: Tuesday 7:00 pm (Basement)

Choir Rehearsal: Wednesday at 6:00 pm

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

Faith Journey Rehearsal: Wednesday at 7:00 pm

"Reconfirmation": Thursday at 7:00 pm (Ministry Building) Bible Study with Pastor Lovins

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**Faithful and Welcoming
Church**

Worship Services:

Sunday 8:00 & 10:15 AM
Sunday School 9:05 AM
Children's Church 10:15 AM



The *deadline* for articles
to be included in the
April 2025 SCOPE
is **March 26th.**