

# St. Paul's Scope



Faithful and Welcoming Church

Volume 50, Issue 5

May 2023

## From Our Pastor - Rev. Andrew Lovins

We had a terrific Easter season. Thanks to everyone for showing up and giving their best to make Jesus known in our community.

I recently asked for suggestions regarding topics you'd like to hear from the pulpit. I had some actionable recommendations, such as: dealing with the death of parents, sin, our place in the church, roles and gifts of the Spirit, and spiritual warfare. Also, a few other topics were mentioned that I would like to address here.

### WHY NOT PREACH ON THE BOOK OF REVELATION?

I know the future and the meaning of the book of Revelation: Christ is returning, and we win! But, beyond this, we often enter into the realm of much speculation.

Teaching Bible prophecy should never be done to satisfy unhealthy curiosity about tertiary matters. However, I usually hit the high notes of prophetic revelation a few Sundays every year. The second coming, resurrection, and judgment to come are implicit themes in my preaching. On occasion, I make them explicit.

### HOW SHOULD A PREACHER DRESS?

Someone asked me why I don't wear a robe when I preach. It is not a requirement for a UCC clergyman to wear a robe. And I'm not particularly eager to look like a character from the Harry Potter movies.

On a more serious note, God has called me to shed any signs of elitism. If I "dress down" a little, maintaining a professional appearance, it is less confusing and intimidating to new generations and the unchurched. My goal is to reach the unreached more than it is to satisfy the tastes of the already convinced. "There is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner that repents than ninety-nine righteous persons that don't need to repent" (Luke 15:7).

### HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE UCC?

Many things about the UCC have enriched me, but nearly all denominations are rapidly declining. I have nothing but affection for how the UCC has nurtured me. But we live in a post-denominational era. Denominational bonds will play a minor role in future ministry vitality. Our institutions are eroded by age and radical mission drift, which will continue unabated.

Despite my conviction that many historic denominations, including ours, will no longer play a significant role in congregational development, I am not discouraged. God always births new movements to grow new disciples. Remember, "Our help is in the name of the Lord" (Psalm 124:8).


### OPINIONS

I think it is essential that congregations give pastors some flexibility to express their individuality as long as the pastor stays faithful to the gospel and lives with integrity. I communicate my opinions based on observation and research, with a fair amount of theological reflection tossed in. If you disagree with me, I celebrate your freedom to do so. Every person must conduct their life and ministry according to conscience.

I feel a strong sense of divine call to St. Paul's, but God didn't bring me to St. Paul's to merely keep the wheels greased. If "business as usual" had been maximally effective, we'd be running thousands in worship after generations of faithful ministry. It is time for us to re-think ministry effectiveness and focus on soul-winning and radical discipleship in a manner that speaks to our generation.

Yours In Christ,

Pastor Andrew

	<u>Date</u>	<u>8am</u>	<u>10:15am</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Children's Church</u>	<u>Nursery</u>	<u>Online Viewers</u>
	April 2	104A, 1C	82A, 30C	27C, 36A	N/A	7C, 2A	149/113
	April 9	139A, 8C	132A, 20C	34C, 23A	5C, 5A	3C, 2A	178/106
	April 16	73A, 0C	69A, 8C	26C, 27A	6C, 3A	2C, 2A	146/96
	April 23	74A, 0C	75A, 9C	25C, 28A	6C, 3A	3C, 2A	114/87

### Sunday Volunteer Schedule

<u>Time/Date</u>	<u>Council Ushers</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
8:00 May 7	Stan Niemann	Scott Weber	Debbie Ross	Marj Rhutasel
	April Nail		Mary Endsley	Larry Rhutasel
May 14	Debbie Ross	Lynn Gipson	Sandy Dickens	Sandy Dickens
	Kim Borja		Virginia Lugge	Virginia Lugge
May 21	Brian Rippelmeyer	Mary Wandling	Marj Rhutasel	Marj Rhutasel
	April Beisiegel		Larry Rhutasel	Larry Rhutasel
May 28	Stan Niemann	Jeanie Stumpf	Dale Lickenbrock	Dale Lickenbrock
	April Nail		Kathy Lickenbrock	Mary Endsley
June 4	Debbie Ross	Tami Hughes	Scott Weber	Virginia Lugge
	Kim Borja		Julie Weber	Sandy Dickens
10:15 May 7	Lee Hartmann	Dale Fiedler	Ruth Vogel	Sarah Harms
	Dale Fiedler		Peggy Emery	Virginia Lugge
May 14	Chad Lindauer	Donna Asbridge	Sharon Klann	Paige Nowak
	Amy Walton		Gloria Niebruegge	Kale Gibson
May 21	Lauren Borger	Vicki Channer	Jim Jacobs	James Harms
	Dale Fiedler		Char Jacobs	Sarah Harms
May 28	Lee Hartmann	Julie Rickert	Betty Weber	Gloria Niebruegge
	Vicki Helms		Karen Neff	Dave Niebruegge
June 4	Chad Lindauer	Amy Walton	Ruth Vogel	Lee Hartmann
	Amy Walton		Peggy Emery	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 7	Jim & Char Jacobs	Lisa McDonald & Jill Kettler	Karen Neff
June 4	Mary Wandling & Barb Borger	Sandy Dickens & Jeanie Stumpf	Jim & Char Jacobs
July 2	Debbie Ross	Debbie Ross	Gloria Niebruegge & Lauren Borger

## **BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS**

Blood pressure checks will be conducted in the Baltz parlor on May 14 and will continue on the 2nd Sunday of every month.



## **Blood Pressure Checks Schedule**

May 14	Donna Asbridge
June 11	Mary Wandling
July 9	Jeanie Stumpf

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

St. Paul's wishes to welcome our newest members, Rickey and Donna Stahl.

## **MOM, YOU TAKE THE CAKE**

All Women of St. Paul's  
Are Invited to Celebrate  
Mother's Day with Us!



**MAY 14  
9:05 AM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

## **Ill or in the Hospital**

Duane Forcade  
Mary Wandling  
Jim Feurer  
Jan Thrasher  
Kylie Hamilton



## **Scope Deadline**

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

**Don't Miss the  
DEADLINE!**

## **MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

Is the Spirit moving you to serve the Lord through Christian fellowship, and you're not sure where to begin?

The Missions Committee welcomes you with open arms!

Please contact Deanna Clossen (618)410-7103 or Jennie Schaller (618)719-3014.





## #BEKINDTOYOURMIND

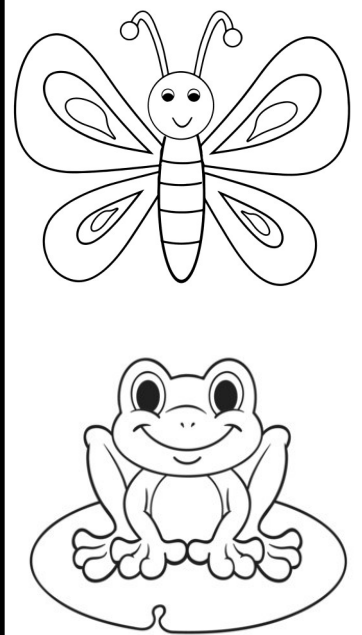
We as a congregation need to embrace each other where we are and accept each other. If we can remember to Love God first and trust in His Word, we will not be so quick to judge our neighbor and treat each other the way we want to be treated. What a Wonderful World that would be.

Contact me if you need a listening ear, a helping hand, a mentor or need information. If I am unable to meet your needs, I will be happy to reach out to other resources to assist you. If you would like to be a regular resource to a fellow congregation member, consider becoming a Stephen Minister. All information in these encounters are completely confidential and will not be shared without your explicit approval or request.

Amy Mueth, Parish Nurse  
amy@stpaulsfreeburg.org

Mental health is just as important as our physical health. In fact, many doctors will agree, one's will to live directly affects their physical health. Additionally, any illness that does not have an obvious physical characteristic multiplies the impact of that illness on that individual because often times they are judged by another as lazy or unhelpful. We encounter mentally challenging events many times throughout a day and don't even realize it.

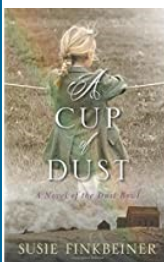
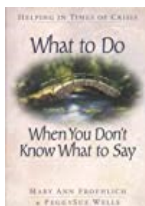
As Christians, we are to love God above all things and to love our neighbor as ourselves. This can be difficult for each of us even on our best day. God is Great and He loves us all equally and is always with us. We know this, but it is our nature to "handle" things. This takes our focus away from God and leaves us feeling like we are not enough or wrong for how we handled something. Maybe we are struggling with how to cope with a particular situation at work, at home, or at school; Your neighbor doesn't know what you are going through. You may be looking for some patience or grace from that neighbor, but they may be struggling with their own problem. It is so easy in the world we live in today to rush to judgment or be offended or lash out.



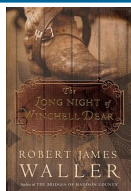


## May Book Picks

**Religion/Spirituality:** *What to Do When You Don't Know What to Say* by Mary Ann Froehlich & PeggySue Wells — Meaningful ways to help in times of Crisis. Filled with practical and doable ideas, this collection of short stories of people touching the lives of others in times of uncertainty, illness, or loss will inspire you and trigger new ideas of your own as you seek to answer the question "How can I help?"



**Christian Fiction:** *A Cup of Dust* by Susie Finkbeiner — Ten-year-old Pearl Spence lives in Dust-Bowl era Oklahoma with her mentally-impaired sister and sheriff father. Pearl's secure life begins to crumble when a hobo named Eddie comes into town and exposes a shocking secret that involves the whole town.



**Fiction:** *The Long Night of Winchell Dear* by Robert James Waller — Winchell Dear knows that something is about to happen, he just doesn't know what. Winchell is a professional poker player who lives on his ranch and remembers. He remembers his life, old friends and his lost love but things are happening that are beyond his control.

**Children/Young Adults:** *The Story of the Sower* by Penny Frank — *The Story of the Sower* comes from the New Testament, Matthew's Gospel chapter 13. It is one of the 'parables', or 'stories with a special meaning', which Jesus told to help people understand more about God's kingdom.



**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:** *Ideals—Mother's Day* - An endearing collection of poems, stories, dedications and pictures celebrating Mother's and Spring.



# Blasting off for adventure!

## June 7, 8, 9 9:30am-Noon

We need volunteers to help launch our kids on an out-of-this-world adventure! If you can help, please contact Sandi at 618.691.8449, or call the church office.



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## Preschool Registration



## Teeny Tot Pre-School Registration

Teeny Tot registration is open to all at this time for the 2023-2024 school year. Registration forms are available in the Church office. Please contact Colleen at (618) 977-3409 with any questions or for more information.

Thank you,  
Teeny Tot Preschool



## BUILDINGS & GROUNDS *and* CHURCH MICE

The newly planted boxwood shrubs took a hit during the winter. We anticipate waiting until the fall to assess which will survive and which will need replacement.

We anticipate yellow stripes to be painted on the parking lot within this next month. The paint has been purchased and committee members will to the job.

Smoke alarms on all the furnaces have been replaced by Neal's Heating and Cooling at no cost to the church. A motor was replaced in one of the older furnaces in the basement. An array of lights have been placed behind the archway in the sanctuary, hopefully to provide better visibility for the online viewers.

The Church Mice cleaned the steps outside the kitchen back door and those going down to the kitchen from the Baltz Parlor.

The rubber baseboards in the Ministry Building have been reglued.

Holes were drilled in the large plant pots in the Ministry Building to allow drainage.

Windows inside and out of the Baltz Parlor, the ramp area, the entrance into the Baltz Parlor and the windows in the doors of the sanctuary were all cleaned.

Weeds were pulled.

## REQUEST FOR DONATIONS

Hello everyone! You may or may not know me, my name is Paige Nowak and I am one of the young adults in the church! I have some very exciting news to share — I am going to Jordan from May 14-28! While I am there I will be seeing some biblically historic sites which I am very excited about, but my main reason for going is to work with a refugee camp. I will get to meet many locals who have traveled from Syria and hear stories from them while serving.

One of the things our group is really focusing on is taking over some products that they struggle to receive. Two major ones are reusable menstrual products and vitamins. In order to do that to our best ability, we are asking for donations.

Although I live two hours away when I'm in college, the congregation has always shown me so much support so I truly want to thank you all! If you are interested in donating, you can email me at [paige.nowak10@gmail.com](mailto:paige.nowak10@gmail.com), drop it off in the youth room with my name on it, or I will be home the weekend of May 7th and can receive any and all things in person then. If you would like to donate money instead of products, all checks can be written out to Kevin Klein our director or I can also take cash in a sealed envelope!

Thank you so much!  
Paige Nowak



## THANK YOU!

A special thank you to the Freeburg Dairy Queen for partnering with us for the Hoyleton fundraising event on Monday, April 17. We raised \$251.44.

Thank you for your support!





## MISSION MOMENT

The Mission Committee has turned its focus to **Hoyleton Youth and Family Services** for the next 2 years. Like in the past, we will be fundraising and planning events that will include their youth and adult clients. This month we will **"Fill the Bucket"** with money for the agency. Please put your donation, spare change, or check, in one of the buckets located in the church entry way on any of the Sundays in May.

In early June we will be making corsages and boutonnières for their **"Spring Fling Dance"** that was formerly their Prom. Our youth and any volunteers will also attend the dance to share the fun and dance the night away. If you have any questions or want to help with any of the upcoming activities please ask Sharon Klann or Jenny Hummert.

## COUNCIL CORNER

St. Paul's continues to be blessed in so many ways; members donating talent, time and monetary donations.

The Council accepted recent significant donations by members and allocated their use in accordance with the desires of the donors.

The Council also discussed the information and format of the Council financial reports.

Pastor Andrew discussed the upcoming prayer gathering which will be held on the first Sunday each month and the church leadership meeting scheduled for Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. He also discussed the broad topics of future sermons. Christian education committee reported that plans for special events for Mother's Day and Father's Day and VBS are being developed.

The youth reported that 15 people are going on the mission trip.



## Congratulations St. Paul's 2023 High School Graduates!

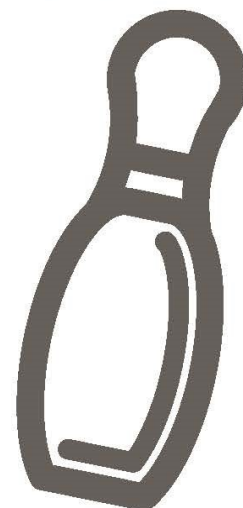
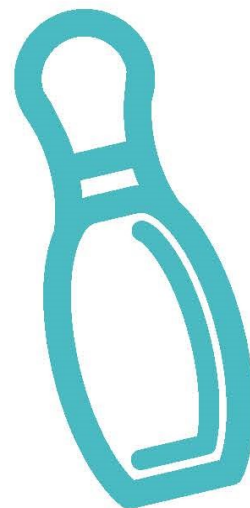
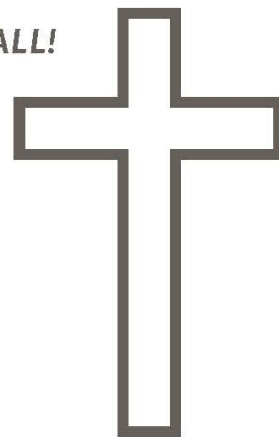
STUDENT	COLLEGE	AREA OF STUDY
Banks, AJ	Augustana University	Kinesiology
Beisiegel, Ashley	Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville	Business Admin/Environmental Studies
Borja, Bella	Kaskaskia College	Biology/Communications
Davis, Alex	University of Kansas	Architectural Engineering
Dobler, Brooke	Undecided	Clinical Psychology
Dumke, Emma	University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point	Physical Therapy
Kuhn, Adam	Iowa State University	Computer Science
Fervert, Noella	Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville	Pharmacy
Matchett, Samantha	Illinois College	Health Sciences
Miller, James	Brookes Bible College	Biblical Studies
Trentman, Jacey	Illinois State University	Occupational Therapy
Trentman, Raegan	Hannibal LaGrange University	Elementary Education
Walton, Mason	University of Memphis	Dietetics



NEW  
THIS YEAR:  
**VENDOR  
FAIR!**

JOIN US! WE'RE HAVING A BALL!

# THE 2ND ANNUAL ST. PAUL'S SCOTCH DOUBLES BOWLING TOURNEY



Held at Bel-Air Bowl in  
Belleville, IL

On June 10th, 2023  
Bowling begins at 7pm!

**\$50 PER COUPLE**  
(Price includes 3 games  
+ shoe rental)

**VENDOR FAIR 6-8PM!**  
**ATTENDANCE PRIZES**  
**SILENT AUCTION**  
**50/50 DRAWINGS**  
**& MORE!**

.....  
**LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE!**  
**RSVP TO SAVE YOUR LANE!**

**VA @ 6187916424**

**OR**

**BK @6188038013**



## Women's Guild

The April meeting was held on Tuesday, April 11. Linda was asked to say the prayer before lunch as Pastor was not there. We had no birthdays so everyone just got in line for our lunch which consisted of baked chicken, scalloped potatoes, broccoli and salad. Our delicious desserts were beautiful cupcakes decorated in Spring colors. Our hostesses for the day were Barb Joseph and Debbie Ross. Our tables were decorated with bright multiple-colored covers and pots with butterfly decorations in honor of Spring. We had 17 members and 2 guests present.

After lunch our guest, Barbara Kay did her program playing the role of "The Unsinkable Molly Brown". She always does a wonderful job of telling the story and portraying the person she is for that day.

After our program was over, Vice President Sharon Klann called our meeting to order. Linda gave our devotional of Psalm 37:4 says "Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart." God wants to give us miracles because every miracle is a testimony of how much He loves us.

Peggy read the minutes from last meeting.

Mary gave the Treasurer's report. Our balance is \$1,452.27. Mary also reported that our bake sale brought in a Total of \$1,228.43. This does not reflect in the Alan e shown above.

Sharon brought up the fact that it is time to find our new officers for next year. We actually had volunteers for President being Karen Neff and Vice President Jeannie Hartmann. Mary has said she will stay on as Treasurer and Peggy will stay on as Secretary. Linda Adams will stay on as our Devotional person and Pat Groth will be Program Chairwoman. We will be voting on this slate of officers at our May meeting.

We received an invitation from Zion Evangelical Church in Millstadt for their Spring Luncheon. It will be Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at noon. The price is \$15 each which includes lunch, dessert and drink; attendance prizes & entertainment (provided by John Dittmer - a professional bee keeper). We need to reply by Friday May 5th so if you are interested call Peggy Emery (618-604-3466). She will be sending the count to them on Friday May 5th. They are encouraging guests to pay their \$15 in Advance. At this time, we have 12 ladies going.

Our hostesses for our May 9 meeting will be Jeanie Stumpf and Cheryl Emge. Please bring a \$5.00 wrapped gift as we will be playing Bunco.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Peggy Emery



### **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: cereal, rice mix, potato mix, dish detergent, pancake mix & syrup.

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

The Food Pantry appreciates your donations and support!!!

## YOUTH MEAL TRAIN

The Youth are looking for people to provide meals for a group of 12-15 people on Wednesdays. The Meal Train sign up sheet is in the narthex. Or, you can go online at <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/6gggod>.

If you can't cook and would like to give towards it, please contact VA or BK.

*Thank you for your support!*

# May Birthdays

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  
Matthew Wilke

05/17 Anna Neff  
Carol Young  
05/22 Nolan Green  
Tim Pruett  
05/24 Vicki Gaffney  
James Harms  
Claire Walker  
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

## 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 \$380.00. Thank You!!!

May Sunday School Offering is:  
Christian Activities Center (CAC)

## 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 2023

### Normal Sunday Schedule

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

May 1 - Mon	Srvc. & Communion Cedar Trails 1pm E & O Meeting 6:15pm Buildings & Ground Meeting 7pm	May 14 - Sun	Mother's Day Mother's Day Special 9:05am Blood pressure checks Food Collection Sunday
May 2 - Tues	Food Pantry 2-4pm Pastoral Relations Comm. Mtg. 7pm	May 16 - Tues	Freeburg Care Center Service 3:15pm Church Council Meeting 7pm
May 4 - Thurs	Painting 9am	May 18 - Thurs	Painting 9am Food Pantry 5-8pm
May 7 - Sun	Communion Sunday St. Paul's Night of Prayer 5:30-6:30pm	May 20 - Sat	Leadership Roundtable 9:30-11am
May 9 - Tues	Women's Guild 12 noon Food Pantry 2-4pm Stephen Ministries 6:30pm Food & Clothing Bank Board Mtg. 7pm	May 23 - Tues	Stephen Ministries 6:30pm
		May 25 - Thurs	Scope Deadline
		May 26 - Fri	F & C Bank Clothing Sale 9-11am
		May 29 - Mon	Memorial Day — Office Closed

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

**Bible Study:** Tuesday 9:30 am, Tuesday at 7 pm (Zoom)

**Quilting:** Tuesday & Wednesday 8:30 am, Thursday 6:00 pm (Ministry Building)

**Boy Scouts:** Tuesday 7:00 pm (Basement)

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

**Choir:** Wednesday 6:00 pm

**Faith Journey:** Wednesday 7:00 pm

**Reconfirmation/Adult Bible Class:** Thursday 7:00 pm

### *A Mother's Day Prayer*

*Dear Lord,*

*Please watch over  
and support all mothers  
on earth and in heaven . . .*

*and help them to know how much  
they are loved and appreciated  
on Mother's Day and every day.*

RightQuotes4all.Com

**Memorial Day  
Blessings**  
Lord, may we never  
forget those who gave their  
lives for our freedom  
**God Bless America**



**ST. PAUL'S SCOPE** published by  
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210 West White Street  
Freeburg, IL 62243

## St. Paul's SCOPE ~ May 2023

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
7 North Belleville Street  
Freeburg, Illinois 62243

Mailing address: 210 W. White St.  
Freeburg, IL 62243



**Faithful and Welcoming  
Church**

**Worship Services:**

Sunday 8:00 & 10:15 AM

Sunday School 9:05 AM

Rev. Andrew Lovins  
Office Phone: 618-539-3262  
Church Phone; 618-539-3962  
Email address: [churchoffice@stpaulsfreeburg.org](mailto:churchoffice@stpaulsfreeburg.org)