

# St. Paul's

December  
2024



# THE BEACON



# Tis the season

**Worship Opportunities**

Pg 2

**Council News**

Pg. 3

**December & January**

**Birthdays**

Pg. 4

**Church News**

Pg. 5-10

**Thank You**

Pg.11

**St. Paul's Prayer List**

Pg. 12

**SCRIP**

Pg. 13

**NEXT BEACON**

**January 17th**

**All articles are due  
in by January 9th**

# Worship Opportunities

## December

**December 1st** 1st Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Luke 21:5-38

Pastor Jim Benzing

**December 8th** 2nd Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Luke 3:1-6

Pastor Jim Benzing

**December 15th** 3rd Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Luke 3:7-20

Pastor Jim Benzing

**December 22nd** 4th Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Luke 1:39-55

Pastor Jim Benzing

**December 24th** Christmas Eve - 4:00 p.m.

Scripture: TBD

Pastor Dave Strang

**December 29th** First Sunday After Christmas

Scripture: Luke 2:41-52

Pastor: TBD



December 2024

The current council met for the final time this year. It was business as usual with issues of pastoral search updates, St. Paul's updated website development/maintenance and checking in with the Purple Moose preschool.

As in the past, the focus of the December meeting has been to discuss and develop the budget for the upcoming year. A huge thank you goes out to Fred Mullard for the extensive work he does, not only on the yearly budget but also on ongoing monthly financial statements. The result of this work will be presented at the January congregational meeting for discussion and approval.

During this time of transition, it is important that we, as a church family, support one another at all times, but especially when one of us is in need. Hospital visits, assisted living visits, prayers, and good conversation are just a few of the possible services that fellow members and friends may need. If you would like to offer your support to those in need, please have Lena add your name to the list of supporters. If you, or anyone you know, would like a visit from a church member, please call the office, and Lena will arrange for someone to contact you.

As always, complete and official minutes of our meetings are posted on the bulletin board by the elevator. Please take some time to look them over and support the good work that this group continues to perform.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to express my heartfelt thank you and appreciation for the outgoing council members:

Ruth Costello  
Donna Butler  
Nancy Schmitz  
Linda Ticknor

Also, without the support of John Whetham and Steve Tobin, who will be returning to the Council in 2025, many operational issues would not have been accomplished. It has been a challenging two years, but I am grateful and humbled by the dedication and commitment of the Council. Much has been accomplished, but there is so much more to do in the years ahead. I am confident that the St. Paul's family will rise to any challenge it faces.

Together, we are strong.

With love and gratitude,  
Wendy Manser

# Let's Celebrate Birthdays



Nancy Schmitz	12/3
Bill Jelinek	12/7
John Kennedy	12/12
Jonathan Kriegel	12/13
Adam Kay	12/13
Jared Kay	12/13
Lon Schmidt	12/17
JoEllen Roxworthy	12/22
Wendy Domanico	12/22
Eric Domanico	12/25
Marsha Britt	12/27



Michele Eich	1/1
Jean Hautzinger	1/4
Jane Gullino	1/5
Gene Virzi	1/6
Rebecca Burns	1/7
Martin Barski	1/11
Shirley Berghorn	1/11
Brian Kriegel	1/12
Carey Pagnotta	1/14
Eli Rickard	1/15

Virginia Covalt	1/15
Karen Radovich	1/16
David Burdloff	1/17
Garry Winter	1/17
Derek Sanchez	1/19
Larry Roewer	1/23
Hazel Kriegel	1/24
Janet Kay	1/28

# Church News

## End of the Year Reminders

I will be out of the office **December 24th through December 27th and January 1st.**

Please send in articles and content for the December 25th Church Chatter and the December 26th Bulletin by **December 20th. The earlier, the better.**

Your 2024 contributions and donations are due by **Sunday, December 29th. They will be counted and deposited on December 30th.** Year-end financials must be closed on **December 31st.**

The 2024 Giving Statements will be sent out the week of **January 6th, 2025.** They will be emailed through Realm. If you don't have an email address on file, or you don't use email, a hard copy will be mailed to the address on file.

The **2025 Giving Envelopes order has been placed.** No changes can be made. The estimated delivery is early to mid-January. I will send an email when they are ready to pick up at the church.

If you have any questions, please call Lena in the office at 815-459-5096.



# Save The Date



## Sunday, January 26th

## Immediately after worship

# Church News



## **Calling All St. Paul's Members**

We are well into this year's Stewardship Campaign, and to date we have **received 49 pledges totaling \$186,282.00.**

We are being challenged this year. As you know, in addition to the funding to support our missions, ministries, and programs that God has called St. Paul's to fulfill, we also must provide financing for a settled pastor. We need your support to do this.

If you have not already submitted your gift to God, please either bring it this Sunday to worship or mail it to the church office.

Thank you, and may God bless you.





# Church News



*An open invitation to all St. Paul's Ladies to the Mary Circle's Annual Christmas Celebration.  
Reservation sign-up is in the Narthex. Please bring a friend!*



# Church News



St. Paul's Fellowship committee is looking for volunteers to set up coffee hour each Sunday. It is a month-long commitment and includes making the coffee and other beverages that we provide, as well as setting up the table and cleaning up after everyone has enjoyed their time with friends. You don't have to bring the food; a sign-up list is available, and if no one signs up, we just provide beverages. If you are interested, please get in touch with me, and I will discuss it more with you.

Thank you,  
Cheryll Triefenbach, 815-382-9367



## Christmas Cookies

FELLOWSHIP TIME  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

Please bring a dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies to share during Fellowship.

Spread the Christmas joy with our church family and friends!

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



# Church News



**McHenry County Crop Hunger Walk Update of Event held  
October 6, 2024, at St. Paul's UCC**

**It's a wrap!**

**As a community we raised \$17,639.45 for Church World Service.**

**THANK YOU and CONGRATULATIONS**

25% of funds raised, \$4,409.00 will be divided between 4 local food pantries:  
Cary Grove, Crystal Lake, Grafton and Algonquin LITH food pantries.  
They will each receive \$1,102.25 by December 31, 2024.





# Church News



**Thank you to all our members and friends of St. Paul's who provided poinsettias for this 2024 holiday season!**

## ***From***

*Jane Dawson  
Robelle Feffer  
Gary & Sheryl  
Jen & Ernie Good  
Nancy Kramer  
Ann Mullard  
Karen & Allen Radovich  
Donna Reber  
Lon & Cathy Schmidt  
Nancy Schmitz  
Ken & Barb Thrun  
Margaret Tobin  
The Triefenbach' s*

## ***In Honor***

*Ayden & Austin Bryant  
My Family  
Have a Blessed Christmas  
Our Family  
My Dear Family  
Lots of Love for My New Family  
Our Family  
My Dear Family  
Our Parents  
My Loving Family  
Our Church Family  
My Family  
St. Paul's Family*

## ***From***

*Nancy Bellis  
Linda Bichler  
Janice Bordignon  
Michael & Jan Czosnyka  
Sharon Dieball  
Bonnie Goldman  
Ken & Karen Hansen  
Nancy Kramer  
Wendy Manser  
Sondra Matterness  
Ann Mullard  
Sue Phillips  
Donna Reber  
Pete Sfoundsouris  
Margaret Tobin  
Bev Tychsen  
Gene & Lynn Virzi*

## ***In Memory***

*Loving Memory of Ted, Jon, and Doris Bellis  
Lillian & John Mergenthaler  
Anna & Richard Hayes  
Loving Memory of our Parents  
My Mother, Shirley McCoy, and my Uncle Vic Rehfeldt  
Ray Goldman  
Our Parents, Howard & Myrtle, and Neuton & Emma  
Loving Memory of George  
Bill, Bettyann & Kathy Manser  
My Parents Helen & Lee & Brother, Judd Boyer  
Louise Koenig, Ann Mullard's Mom  
My Parents, Jim & Lorraine Berning  
Bob Reber, My Dear Husband  
My Mother, Sylvia Sfoundsouris  
My Brother, Tony Domerchie  
George Kramer  
Our Parents, Sister and Son, Matthew*

# Thank You



**Crystal Lake  
Food Pantry**

No one should go hungry.



St. Paul's is grateful for the 526 lbs. of nonperishable food items donated to the Crystal Lake Food Pantry.



**The  
Giving  
Tree**

We would like to thank those who generously pulled an ornament off the giving tree and purchased gift cards. It has been a huge success, raising \$2,475.00. These generous donations will be going to support Turning Point in Woodstock, a center that offers crisis services for victims of domestic violence.



# ST. PAUL'S PRAYER LIST



## **St. Paul's Members**

Ruth Costello

## **St. Paul's Homebound Friends**

Warren Spencer, George Heck

## **Deceased Members and Friends**

Tony Domerchie

## **Friends**

Lyn Woodrum

## **Military - Stateside**

Leland, Todd Whetham, Beth Roxworthy



## **Sponsored Children**

Alberly (Dominican Republic), Andrian (Indonesia), Daniel W. (Indonesia), Nicole V. (Bolivia), Nicole S. (USA), Tran Thi Chin (Vietnam), Breny (Columbia), Alfred (Tanzania), Isack S. (Tanzania), Maria, Jobenta M. (Haiti), Emyli (Guatemala)

St. Paul's UCC  
485 Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Phone: 815-459-5096

E-mail: [info@stpaulsucccl.org](mailto:info@stpaulsucccl.org) | Website: [www.stpaulsucc-cl.org](http://www.stpaulsucc-cl.org)

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram: [stpauls\\_ucc\\_cl](https://www.facebook.com/stpauls_ucc_cl)

**Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.**  
**Via Facebook Live or streaming on website.**

**Church Office Hours | 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday**



**St. Paul's Vision**

Call to serve

Our

Neighbors' and Members'

Needs by

Engaging as

Christ's people

Through service and Love

**Follow Us on Social Media!**

Keep up with St. Paul's latest news, information, and connection. LIKE and share our on social media.



**Church Staff**

**Interim Pastor, Jim Benzing**

**847-902-9781 - benzing310@comcast.net**

**Office Manager, Lena Vocalino**

**815-459-5096 - info@stpaulsucccl.org**

**Church Council**

**Wendy Manser, Council President**

**815-245-0058 - wendy0506@att.net**

**Donna Butler, Council Vice President**

**815-451-1114 - butlersmail6@yahoo.com**

**Linda Ticknor, Secretary**

**815-382-8295 - lindaticknor@gmail.com**

**Fred Mullard, Treasurer**

**224-629-3755 - mullard@mc.net**

**Jennifer Good, Financial Secretary**

**815-245-3287- jennifer.a.good@gmail.com**

**Ruth Costello**

**815-354-0121- rev.ruth.costello@gmail.com**

**Nancy Schmitz**

**815-338 -2670 - nancyschmitz123@icloud.com**

**John Whetham**

**815-276-3919 - whetham484@gmail.com**

**Steve Tobin**

**815-477-4235 - stobin4500@hotmail.com**

**Give the Gift of SCRIP**



**IN STOCK SCRIP CARDS as of December 9th**

Amazon	6 @ \$25
BP Amoco	5 @ \$50
Buffalo Wild Wings	2 @ \$25
Carter's	4 @ \$25
Chili's	3 @ \$25
Chipotle	2 @ \$10
Darden (Olive Garden)	4 @ \$25
Dunkin'	5 @ \$10
Fannie May	6 @ \$25
Home Depot	1 @ \$100
Jewel	5 @ \$25/13@ \$100
LL Bean	1 @ \$100
Mariano's	4 @ \$50
Menards	2 @ \$100
Panera	6 @ \$10
Shell	2 @ \$50
Speedway	8 @ \$25/1 @ \$100
Starbucks	7 @ \$10
Synergy (Mobile)	4 @ \$50
Target	1 @ \$100
Walmart	10 @ \$25/6 @ \$50 4 @ \$100—/3 @ \$250

If you need any of the above cards, they can be dropped off at church for pick up. If you want to order any particular cards, please let me know. As always, checks are made payable to St. Paul's. **Karen Radovich nuknees@mc.net**

**EASY AND CONVENIENT**

These products make it easy to earn on the go.

**PrestoPay™**

The secure online payment system for families that lets them pay for orders and receive e-gift cards and reload their cards immediately.

**MyScripWallet™**

Our mobile website where families can buy physical gift cards, reloads, and eGift cards. Directly onto their phones great for when you are in line at a store. you can reload or buy cards to go straight to your phone!