

St. Paul's

July
2021



THE BEACON



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Dear Friends,

St. Paul's has reopened its doors and resumed worshipping in person just like in "the olden days." However, it doesn't feel like the "olden days." It feels like things have changed - and in some significant ways. I wasn't sure what to expect when we resumed worshipping in person. I didn't think things would go back to the way they were. I figured that we would experience a liminal period - and "in between time" - a time of readjusting, sorting out, adapting. And it seems to me that is what we are in now.

Someone has likened liminal periods to being in a waiting room - like at the doctor's office or the airport. You've left one place but haven't yet arrived where you want to really go. That's how it feels to me. It seems like we have left one place but we have yet to arrive at our final destination. Somewhat like the ancient Israelites wandering in the desert - wandering between their old life of slavery in Egypt and their new life of freedom in the Promised Land. Wow, as I recall the story says that was forty years! Forty years of wandering? I'm sure some of us are not waiting forty years! I imagine some of us have jumped back into whatever feels close to "normal" - while others of us are still waiting cautiously to see what will happen next. Others may have left and moved on while, at the same time, some new faces have appeared.

Once more God offers us the option of choosing to trust and follow Him. Liminal periods can underscore just how out of control life can be. After all, who regularly chooses to wait in the "in between places?" But we can choose to trust that God will provide for us in the liminal places - as the scriptures tell us God provided for Israel in the desert. God is with us today.

Peace,

Pastor Greg

485 Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL
Rev. Gregory Lucas, Pastor

Phone: 815-459-5096

E-mail: info@stpaulsucccl.org

Website: www.stpaulsucc-cl.org

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram: [stpauls_ucc_cl](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsucccl)

Summer Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Via Facebook Live or streaming on website.

Church Office Hours

8:30 a.m.— 2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

St. Paul's Christian

Preschool 815-479-9770

July Beacon Council News

Dear Church Family,



As I write this, I am reflecting that we have just passed the one-month marker of having entered Phase 5 and reopened St. Paul's for in-person worship and activities without restrictions. Things seem to be going smoothly and it is wonderful to see one another and exchange greetings with unmasked smiles. It is helpful to be mindful, however, that we are in a transition period as we emerge from the many losses the pandemic has heaped upon us and attempt to rebuild our Church community. This period presents its challenges, but behind every challenge lies an opportunity, so I'd like to focus this month's Council News on some of the opportunities before us and invite your participation.

First, some background and review. Even before the pandemic, members of our Church community recognized the need to make some adjustments to our accustomed way of doing things. In early 2019, St. Paul's applied for participation in the TPIRC (Thriving Pastors in Revitalized Congregations) Ministry Program, which was an outgrowth of the Illinois UCC Conference's mission to equip pastors and lay people in the 241 churches in its Conference to grow as Christ's disciples and serve the pressing needs of the world around us. TPIRC is a five-year initiative funded by the Lilly Endowment that was made available, through an application program, to 45 pastors and lay persons within the Illinois UCC Conference. St. Paul's was accepted into the TPIRC Ministry Program and our TPIRC team has been hard at work since then developing numerous ideas and programs to revitalize our Church.

One of the needs TPIRC (and the Council at the time) had identified was to hire a youth leader and a program director on a part-time basis. However, the lack of available funds at the time prevented St. Paul's from turning this need into a reality. Fast forward to 2021 and one of the challenges presented by the pandemic crystalized into an opportunity for St. Paul's in the form of a Paycheck Protection Program loan that qualified for payment forgiveness (which means it doesn't have to be repaid). As I have previously mentioned, the Council applied for and received these funds on behalf of St. Paul's and approved using a portion of these proceeds to fund, along with other available resources, these two positions. These positions have the potential to revitalize St. Paul's faith formation process and develop programs to benefit both St. Paul's and the larger community of which it is a part. The Council is actively recruiting for these positions and praying that God sends us the right individuals to make this identified need a reality. Please join us in prayerful thanksgiving to God for making this opportunity available to us and asking that He answer our prayers for assistance in our efforts to revitalize St. Paul's and enable us to fulfill our vision.

With Deep Gratitude,

Nancy Bellis, Church Council President

Let's Celebrate Birthdays



Michael Popp	7/1	Bill Berghorn	7/21
Ernie Good	7/5	Marlene Kuhlman	7/21
Dave Key	7/9	James Henneman, Jr.	7/22
Jocelyn Elizarraraz	7/12	Harold Obermann	7/23
Monet Lindstrand	7/12	Deborah Patterson	7/23
Anna Mason	7/13	Jennifer Good	7/24
Barbara Thrun	7/13	Brian Click	7/24
Nancy Bellis	7/13	Mary Glauner	7/25
Norman Falk	7/15	Jordan Lombardo	7/25
Jeffrey Lutz	7/15	Leona Diedrick	7/29
Connie Burdloff	7/16	Andrew Eckhardt	7/29
Ruth Costello	7/18	Steve Tobin	7/31



Dylan Eckhardt	8/1	Susan Radet	8/17
Marianne Deacon Davis	8/2	Lydia Lang	8/19
Linda Ticknor	8/3	Marilyn Peaco	8/21
Jackie Loehner	8/7	Jeffery Moore	8/21
Tristin Monahan	8/7	Carla Voss	8/22
Evelyn Elizarraraz	8/9	Joyce Lucas	8/24
Paul Benz	8/10	Annette Roewer	8/25
Karen Hansen	8/15	Halle Rogers	8/27
Shirley Huddle	8/15	Savannah Obermann	8/30
		Rick Davis	8/30

Church News



St. Paul's Evangelism Ministry is back in business and we are inviting you to be a part of it! It is time to once again welcome visitors to our worship services and interact with those who are enjoying our streaming online services. Now that the pandemic has passed we need to get focused on growing St. Paul's and we need for you to be a part of this effort.

If you enjoy meeting new people and sharing the good works and favorite parts of our church, you are exactly who we are looking for. The Evangelism Ministry meets once a month and only requires about an hour a week to be an extremely effective member. Our lead-off meeting will be **Wednesday, August 11th at 10:00 a.m. in the church lounge**. We are asking any interested members to come and join us.

St. Paul's is back in business, it's time to praise the Lord and share our faith again.

WE ARE EXCITED ABOUT YOU!

One of the silver linings of the limitations of the COVID pandemic was the success of St. Paul's streaming of online services. We were excited about you, friends of St. Paul's, who joined us in worship. For that, we are grateful to God for your presence.

We would truly like to get to know you. If you are a friend of St. Paul's and have either attended worship in person or enjoyed our streaming services, we would like to follow up with you, thank you, and answer any questions you might have about St. Paul's UCC. Please give the church office a call at 815-459-5096 so we can get in contact with you and express our gratitude for worshipping with us.

St. Paul's UCC is a great place to call your spiritual home.

Church News



ANNOUNCING

DIRECTOR POSITION

We are **EXCITED** to announce that St. Paul's is seeking to add the paid position of a **Christian Youth Director** to our church staff. Responsibilities will be to create and lead our Sunday children's service, along with the help of our Sunday school teachers and BOCE. This position will also lead our youth group (grades 6-12), their Sunday school program, and youth activities.

This position is a paid part-time (10 hours/week) role and will report to our Board of Christian Education along with input from Pastor Greg. If you know of anyone with a strong Christian background, able to relate well to children/youth, and possessing energy and enthusiasm for this type of opportunity, please have them send a letter or resume to: TPIRC485@gmail.com for consideration.

Church News



Show up and Show off Your Musical Talent

It's summer and that means it's time for our congregation to hear the musical talents of our broader membership! We are looking for people to share their talents for Special Music during our Sunday services. Special Music can be soloists or small groups (singing or instrumental) performing one musical selection live during the service. Council has given permission for these musicians to perform from the altar/front of the sanctuary at this time. We have 11-12 Sundays to fill, so we need lots of musicians! This is a great opportunity for anyone with any kind and level of musical talent to share that with our congregation, whether you're in high school, college, or an adult of any age! Please contact Linda Kranz at KRANZLD@ATT or 815-861-1534 to let her know you're interested and she can work with you on schedule availability.

Memorial Donations

St. Paul's received some very generous memorial donations in honor of Bob Reber. Below are two of the cards that were included with the donation.

To St. Paul's,

Please accept this memorial honoring the memory of our father + grandfather, Robert Reber. Bob loved this church, and raised his family here. Today, we celebrate our beloved dad, and share this gift with you.

Sincerely,
Brian, Rebecca, + Meredith Reber

6/15/21

Blessings and Prayers to
The Family of Bob Reber
and to all of you

at
St. Paul's especially
for his many years of service
and friendship with you!

Sincerely,
Bob + Cindy Denny



McHenry County Mental Health Board



Help is a TAP away!

Empowering Minds



Transforming Lives

Dear Community Partner,

The McHenry County Mental Health Board (MCMHB) needs your **MCHELP!**

Funded in part through an anonymous donor supporting the Community Foundation for McHenry County (CFMC), the MCHELP Mobile App launched in October of 2016. Since launching MCHELP, the CFMC and the MCMHB partnered to market MCHELP as a primary tool and resource assisting McHenry County residents in meeting mental health needs. MCMHB is now taking the lead in promoting awareness of this valuable resource.

MCHELP allows for anonymous texting with immediate response from a licensed professional, direct connection to the McHenry County Crisis Line, and a link to the MCMHB's Local Service Directory.

As the combined stressors, the global nature of the pandemic, the isolation and social distancing, unemployment, and various other COVID-19 related issues are taking their toll, now more than ever we must emphasize the importance of our mental health. While **MCHELP** was originally intended for teens in crisis situations, one does not need to be in crisis or a teenager to use the service. The MCMHB encourages the use of **MCHELP** for anyone with concerns about a friend or loved one who needs support in getting them help.

Anyone can get quick access to critical and vital McHenry County support by downloading the **MCHELP** app via Google Play or Apple's iTunes.

Included is a flash drive with promotional materials to help spread the word about MCHELP in any of the following ways:

- Post the MCHELP Animation via Website and/or Social Media
- Highlight MCHELP on electronic billboards
- Feature MCHELP in Newsletters and Communications
- Display and Distribute the MCHELP Flyer or Poster
- Host and Encourage Download Days/Events
- REPEAT! The more we spread the word, the healthier our community!

We all play a part in reducing mental health stigma and fostering a recovery-ready community.

620 Dakota Street - Crystal Lake, Illinois 60012 - 815.455.2828 - Fax: 815.455.2925 - www.mc708.org



MCHELP

HELP IS A TAP AWAY!

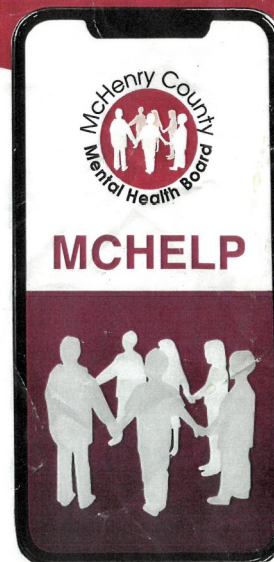
McHenry County Mental Health Board

MCHELP App

RE-LAUNCH! TIME TO UPDATE!

The MCHELP App has been streamlined to provide immediate access 24/7 to licensed mental health professionals via voice or text. Here for you, your friends or family, MCHELP is quick and confidential. Anything you need to talk about, licensed mental health professionals are ready to listen and help.

Existing MCHELP App users will receive an update on their smart phone. New MCHELP users can download the app free via Google or iTunes.



Learn more by scanning the QR Code or visit McHenry County Mental Health Board on the web: www.MC708.org

Call or text your concerns to **MCHELP** on any subject 24/7, 365 days a year:

Anxiety
Mental Health Issues
Depression
School
Family Concerns

Substance Use
Stress
Suicide

DOWNLOAD TODAY!

Scan me



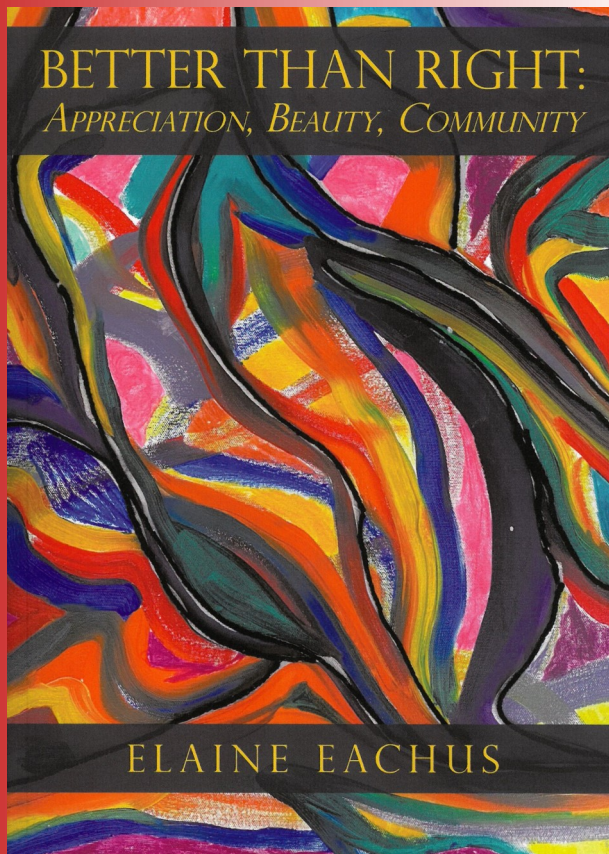
Church Library



St. Paul's Church has received a new book!

Elaine Eachus who served as an interim Pastor at St. Paul's in 2011 has written a new book called,
"Better Than Right."

You are welcome to stop in the Church library and read it.



BETTER THAN RIGHT: *APPRECIATION, BEAUTY, COMMUNITY*

"After a disquieting trip to Palestine in 2014, which was immediately followed by the Second Intifada in Israel, she was blown off her life's course. In turmoil she read extensively looking for a refuge from the shock of her encounters. Rumi, Wendell Berry, Richard Rohr, Mary Oliver, Thomas Merton, the liberation theologians, and mystics lifted their lights for her. *Better Than Right* is one woman's steps toward meaning. Definitely not a superhighway, her story is full of twists and turns, denoting her reflections and journey to make sense of life. She walks gingerly on a path that feels like a bewildered child caught in the crossfire of a bitter divorce. Her literary camera has both wide angle and close-up lenses to catch the sweeps and the detail of her journey on the third planet from the sun. *Better Than Right* invites you to see if her description resonates with your experience. Better still, does her light offer solace and hope for your next mile?

ELAINE EACHUS is a student of life. Currently her classroom is the South Florida COVID-19 environment which has shrunk her access to the physical world. Searching for "something more" she seeks clues to a more generous landscape, greater appreciation of the moment, the gift of others, and being an active participant in an ever-expanding universe. A wife, mother, grandmother, Eachus has been a public school teacher, librarian, director of gifted education, pastor, and interim minister. She reflects on life while puttering in the garden which gives her a canvas on which to practice the art of living in these times. She has master's degrees in education, library science, divinity and a doctorate in preaching. She lives with her husband in Plantation, Florida.

Usher & Greeter Schedule

JULY

Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m.

USHERS

JULY 4th

Ken Hansen - Captain
Karen Hansen
Linda Ticknor

JULY 11th

Jim Henneman - Captain
Lauren Henneman
Bill Berghorn

JULY 18th

Gary Voss - Captain
Carla Voss
Wendy Domanico

JULY 25TH

John Whetham - Captain
Don Roxworthy
Jane Dawson

GREETERS

JULY 4th

Jean Hautzinger

JULY 11th

Jan & Joe Rickard

JULY 18th

Karen Radovich

JULY 25TH

Linda Christensen

St. Paul's Prayer List

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

St. Paul's Members

Jennifer Good, Marianne Spencer, Ernie Good, Shirley Huddle

St. Paul's Homebound Friends

Martha Hughes, Arlene Kopsell, Barb Biscomb

Deceased Members and Friends

Jim Butler, John Jeffers, Dillard Mason, Bob Reber

Friends

Mark Hildebrandt, Carl Kazimier

Military - Stateside

Beth Roxworthy & Todd Whetham

Sponsored Children

Alberly (Dominican Republic), Andrian (Indonesia), Daniel W. (Indonesia), Nicole V. (Bolivia), Nicole S. (USA), Tran Thi Chin (Vietnam), Breny (Columbia), Alfred (Tanzania), Dereje (Ethiopia), Isack S. (Tanzania), Maria, Jobenta M. (Haiti), Emyli (Guatemala) Brayan Dayiro (Peru), Adanech Bure (Ethiopia), Luis Fernando Layme (Bolivia)



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 our pages and share our posts on social media.



Church Staff

Reverend Gregory Lucas

815-459-5096 - revgl@stpaulsucccl.org

Office Manager, Lena Vocalino

815-459-5096 - info@stpaulsucccl.org

Church Council

Nancy Bellis, Council President

312-493-5144 - nkbconsulting@yahoo.com

Jan Rickard, Council Vice President

815-459-2287 - jrick4@sbcglobal.net

Elizabeth Speros, Secretary

815-341-6979 - elsperos@yahoo.com

Fred Mullard, Treasurer

224-629-3755 - mullard@mc.net

Jennifer Good, Financial Secretary

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

Amanda Lotesto - amandalotesto@yahoo.com

Jane Dawson - dawson247@comcast.net

Rob Revak - robrrr52@gmail.com

Gary Gee - ggwn@aol.com

NEXT BEACON

August 13th, 2021

All articles are due in the church
office by August 6th.



Give the Gift of SCRIP

IN STOCK SCRIP CARDS as of June 22, 2021

Amazon	3 @ \$25
Starbucks	5 @ \$10/2 @ 25
Buffalo Wild Wings	3 @ \$25
Target	5 @ \$25
Buona Beef	7 @ \$10
Walgreens	4 @ \$25
Chili's	4 @ \$25
Walmart	4 @ 100/3 @ 250
Chipotle	7 @ \$10
Darden	2 @ \$25
Fannie May	7 @ \$10
IHOP	2 @ \$25
Jewel	5 @ \$25/ 2 @ \$100
Kohl's	8 @ \$25
LL Bean	2 @ \$100
Mariano's	3 @ \$50
Meijer	2 @ \$50
Menards	2 @ \$100
Mobil	5 @ \$50
PF Chang	1 @ \$25
Panera	8 @ \$10/ 2 @ \$25
Red Lobster	6 @ \$25
Shell	2 @ \$50
Speedway	6 @ \$25/ 1 @ \$100
Stein Mart	1 @ \$25

With so many cards still in stock, I am currently only replenishing those purchased on a regular basis. 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 <mailto: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!