

St. Paul's

June
2024



THE BEACON



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NEXT BEACON

July 12th

All articles are
due in by 7/8

June
2024

Words from Wang

ST. PAUL'S UCC



"Let Music Swell the Breeze"

Who doesn't love singing a good patriotic song to celebrate the freedom and liberty that we all so enjoy? And for all those beloved community celebrations, festivals, and civic functions, there's nothing better than belting out "God Bless America" at the top of our lungs or clapping along to a marching band playing Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever" or George M. Cohen's *You're A Grand Ole Flag*. And then to add some "apple pie and Chevrolet" and you've got the perfect downhome, heartland, Norman Rockwell-esque scene at your disposal.

But the question always becomes, what is appropriate and in the best interest of all when it comes so featuring patriotic songs in our times of worship? The bottom-line answer is that we remember to prioritize and give honor where it is due; to pledge our allegiance first to God and the universal Christian church. That the emphasis be on the Creator, the Christ, the cross, the Word, and the overarching message of loving and honoring God. Worship must always be centered on matters of the Spirit; that our worship be filled with thanksgiving for the works of our God and Creator. But always with God at the center and grounded in the gospel message taught to us by the Prince of Peace himself.

And if and when the scenario becomes different, we run the risk of our worship becoming idol worship or even worse, that we find ourselves making worship more akin to the dangerous practice of Christian nationalism and less about honoring God and our faith traditions.

I always remember the time as a young boy scout when I was privileged to carry "the colors" (The American flag) in a civic parade. I still carry that same pride in my heart. But I have also heard the occasional words coming from a Christian that "worship is just not the same without the American flag being present in a prominent place in the sanctuary." Though I respect that person's feelings, and would never advocate for removing the flag, I do, at the same time, find that particular perspective a little troubling. For thirty-five years, my goal as a religious leader has always been, therefore, to promote and maintain a God-centered perspective when it comes to our houses of worship. And always with a strong level of discretion.

The idea of separating church and state was not taken lightly when it was wisely set up as a precedent for function and practice in a country that celebrates freedom and democracy. And we must therefore always seek to strike a balance; that patriotism and faith must both be expressed in ways that further the causes for which they were each intended and with the utmost care and respect.

Those who compile church hymnals always use great care in selecting thematic songs for worship so as to uphold good worship practices. Each verse is just as important as the next.

Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees, sweet freedom's song.
Let mortal tongues awake; Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.

Our father's God to, Thee,
Author of liberty, To Thee we sing.
Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King!

Summer blessings to all. See ya' in church. Pastor Bob



An Update on the Full Inclusion (ONA) Feasibility Study

Our team met again on June 2 and the short report is that we are moving slowly with developing a cohesive plan for conducting our study. With the topic of inclusion being a delicate topic, the emphasis continues to be on building trust and rapport and ultimately putting into practice a model for thoughtful dialogue and respectful communications among members of the team and with others in the congregation.

With that said, we had tentatively planned an “open” session for the wider church community to take place on Sunday June 30, following our Sunday morning worship. However, given our need for a “reboot,” and the timing of Pastor Bob’s vacation, we will need to consider an alternate date for that to happen. In the meantime, we can only presume that healthy conversations may pop up now and then and here and there. Open minds and hearts, with a dose of compassion thrown in, can usually lead to growth and mutual understanding. So, stay tuned and please continue to keep us all in your prayers.

Our Next “Let’s Talk Church” - Saturday, August 3

Our last gathering of concerned church leaders and those most interested in the future health and well-being of St. Paul’s church back in March, was a huge success. It featured our Associate Conference Minister, Shernell Edney Stilley, who lead us in a thought-provoking reflection and subsequent discussion on church identity and mission as well as the many current trends in our culture. There were too many “take aways” from that day to list but it become quite clear that St. Paul’s needs to continue asking some important questions about “who we are” and “what kind of church to we want to be” as we move forward in the process toward calling our next settled pastor.

The current timeline is to have a search committee in place by August 1 which is the one-year anniversary of Pastor Bob’s service as interim (transitional) minister. This present goal fits nicely into the schedule for our “Let’s Talk Church” series with the next event being set for Saturday August 3. It would be ideal for as many of the general church membership as possible to participate in the day’s program and discussion and will give participants the opportunity to share thoughts and ideas that would ultimately assist in the creation of a church profile and help give direction to the search committee. Additionally, our hope would be that all members of the search committee will be in attendance as we hope to allow time for them to meet separately at some point during the course of the day.

As we have in the past, we will gather at 9:00 for coffee, break for lunch, and hopefully wrap things up by 2:30. Of course, we will be looking for volunteers to help in planning and preparing a lunch for all in attendance. Please notify the office if you can help and/or to indicate your desire to attend.

Words from Wang

ST. PAUL'S UCC



A Friendly Reminder About Weddings and Funerals

Please remember that if and when you are involved with scheduling a church wedding, memorial service, funeral, baptism (anything involving a pastor) that the discussion needs to start in the church office and involve whoever is the “sitting pastor” of the church (interim, bridge, or settled). If it is the desire to involve another pastor (former, retired, or from another church) in any service of a member of the church, as a courtesy, that discussion and subsequent request, needs to involve the current/sitting pastor and therefore, on behalf of those involved, any invitations to include another pastor should come directly from the current/sitting pastor.

In short, though there may be extenuating circumstances, there is a recommended ecclesiastical protocol for any service (on site or elsewhere) being conducted by ordained clergy involving church members. Best practices include church members not making arrangements with other clergy without discussing it first with the sitting/current pastor (again, as a courtesy).

Former clergy of a church consent to abide by certain boundaries when they leave a church and it's best if they are not put in a position to chose whether or not they may perform pastoral services with former church members (this actually includes counseling as well). This practice is designed to alleviate any confusion or misunderstandings and should be honored by all parties involved.

Words from Wang

ST. PAUL'S UCC



Worship Opportunities

(June-July)

June 2: 2nd Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: *John 8:22-27*

Sermon Theme: *Sailing On Faith*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served.

June 9: 3rd Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: *2 Cor 4:13-5:1*

Sermon Theme: *You're Not Getting Older You're Getting Better*

June 16: 4th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: TBD

Sermon Theme: TBD

Note: Eric Mason will be preaching.

June 23: 5th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: TBD

Sermon Theme: TBD

Note: Eric Mason will be preaching.

June 30: 6th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Mark 5:21-43

Sermon Theme: *Taking Matters Into Our Own Hands*

July 7: 7th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Mark 6:1-13

Sermon Theme: *Shaking the Dust Off*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served.

July 14: 8th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-14

Sermon Theme: *Marked for Life*

July 21: 9th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Sermon Theme: *On Seeking Balance*

July 28: 10th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: John 6:1-21

Sermon Theme: *Wonder Bread*

Let's Celebrate Birthdays



Anna Schmidt	6/1
Colin Braun	6/8
Kristin Dul	6/9
Janis Braun	6/13
Brian Zickus	6/13
Pinky Martin	6/20
Anna Zickus	6/21
Angela Loehner	6/22
Dana Sideris	6/28
Rob Revak	6/29



Michael Popp	7/1
Ernie Good	7/5
Dave Kay	7/9
Anna Mason	7/13
Barb Thrun	7/13
Nancy Bellis	7/13
Jeffrey Lutz	7/15
Connie Burdloff	7/18
Ruth Costello	7/18
Bill Berghorn	7/21

Bill Berghorn	7/21
Marlene Kuhlman	7/21
Jim Henneman Jr.	7/22
Debbie Patterson	7/23
Jen Good	7/24
Brian Click	7/24
Jordan Lombardo	7/25
Morgan Roewer	7/31
Steve Tobin	7/31

Church News



Sign up **NOW** for **“Junk in the Trunk”**. Reserve a spot for \$30.00 and bring all the junk your trunk will hold. You do the pricing and dispose of the leftovers. No time to price? Put a **“Make Me an Offer”** sign and watch your sales happen!

Trunks are open to St. Paul members, families and friends. Maybe you can do a trunk together? ***Deadline for Trunkers to sign up is June 30th.*** We will need at least 15 Trunkers to make this event worth a bit of work. Watch for the signup sheet in the Narthex.

Have a question? Call or text Karen Hansen at 815-455-1385.

Church News



“Big thank you to all of our amazing St. Paul’s musicians for sharing their talents, dedication, and praise to God during the past year. We all look forward to hearing even more of your beautiful music in the fall!

Directors: Lon Schmidt & George Rook

Former head of the music committee: Linda Kranz

Bells: Mary Benz, Cheryl Dawson, Lauren Henneman, Luann Hopkins, Linda Kranz, Carolyn Lundine, Lisa MacKenzie, Debbie McDowd, Sue Phillips, Cathy Schmidt, Linda Ticknor

Brass: Anthony Camarda, Jim Henneman, Randy Karon, Ann Lingner, George Rook (thank you all for continuing to play for services over the summer too!)

Choir: Ruth Costello, Bill Deuerling, Ginny Deuerling, Michelle Eich, Jean Hautzinger, Linda Kranz, Nancy Lutz, Eva Mertes, Karen Radovich, Anna Schmidt, Cathy Schmidt, Lon Schmidt, Dana Sideris, Sean Sideris

Thank you again for your hard work this year, and God bless you all, ♡

Kristin”

Usher Schedule

June
Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.

USHERS

June 2nd

Ken Thrun - Captain
Kevin Kruse & Nancy Bellis
Greeter: Joe & Jan Rickard
Liturgist: Cathy Schmidt

June 9th

Rob Revak - Captain
Laurie Revak & Jack Vogt
Greeters: Debbie Patterson
Liturgist: Jim Henneman

June 16th—Father's Day

Gary Voss - Captain
Carla Voss & Don Roxworthy
Greeters: Jan Bordignon
Liturgist: Jackie Mason

June 23rd

John Whetham - Captain
Bill Berghorn & Jane Dawson
Greeter: Elizabeth Speros
Liturgist: TBD

June 30th

Sheryl Gee - Captain
Gary Gee & Wendy Manser
Greeter: Bonnie Goldman & Hazel Kriegel
Liturgist: Sue Phillips

[Update 5/16](#)

July
Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.

USHERS

July 7th

Ken Thrun- Captain
Bill Berghorn & Elizabeth Speros
Greeter: Don & JoeEllen Roxworthy
Liturgist: TBD

July 14th

Jim Henneman - Captain
Lauren Henneman & Bill Eich
Greeter: Nancy Kendall
Liturgist: TBD

July 21st

Sheryl Gee - Captain
Steve Tobin & Gary Gee
Greeter: Nancy Haskins & Julie Menke
Liturgist: TBD

July 28th

John Whetham - Captain
Gene & Lynn Virzi
Greeters: Jan Czosnyka
Liturgist: TBD

St. Paul's Prayer List



St. Paul's Members

Linda Christensen, Ruth Costello,

St. Paul's Homebound Friends

N/A

Deceased Members and Friends

Carol Heck, Arlene Kopsell

Friends

N/A

Military - Stateside

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

Phone: 815-459-5096

E-mail: info@stpaulsucccl.org | Website: 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. - 2:30 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

Pastor Bob Wang

815-459-5096 - pastor@stpaulsucccl.org

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 November 28th, 2023

Amazon	10 @ \$25
Best Buy	1 @ \$25
Buffalo Wild Wings	2 @ \$25
Chili's	4 @ \$25
Chipotle	3 @ \$10
Darden (Olive Garden)	8 @ \$25
Dunkin'	6 @ \$10
Fannie May	5 @ \$10
Home Depot	2 @ \$100
IHOP	1 @ \$25
Jewel	2 @ \$25/11 @ \$100
Kohl's	4 @25/1 @ \$100
LL Bean	1 @ \$100
Mariano's	3 @ \$50
Menards	2 @ \$100
Panera	6 @ \$10
Red Lobster	8 @ \$25
Shell	7 @ \$50
Speedway	12 @ \$25/1 @ \$100
Starbucks	7 @10/ 10 @ \$25
Synergy (Mobil)	3 @ \$50
Steinmart	1 @ \$25
Subway	3 @ \$10
Synergy (Mobile)	4 @ \$50
Target	2 @ \$25
TJ Maxx (Sierra, HomeGoods, Marshall)	2 @ \$100
Walmart	14 @ \$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!