

St. Paul's

March
2024



HOLY WEEK 2024

March 24th (Palm Sunday)

SERVICE: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

March 28th (Maundy Thursday)

SERVICE: 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

March 29th (Good Friday)

SERVICE 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

March 31st Easter Sunday

SERVICE 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM



FAST, PRAY, AND REPENT.

Words from Wang

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NEXT BEACON is April 12th
All articles are due in by 4/5

March
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Words from Wang

ST. PAUL'S UCC



Easter Origins and Earthly Delights

Did you know that Easter actually began as a pagan festival celebrating spring in the Northern Hemisphere, long before the advent of Christianity? Since pre-historic times, people have celebrated the equinoxes and the solstices as sacred times. It was with the advent of Christianity that the Easter period became associated with the resurrection of Christ. And that didn't officially happen until the 4th century A.D. (300+years after his death).

Like with the dating of Christ's birth, the feast days in the new Christian church were attached to well-established ancient pagan festivals. Why, with the theme of new life, it was fitting that spring festivals became connected explicitly to the Christian Easter message – of Jesus having conquered death by being resurrected after his crucifixion.

In most countries in Europe, the name for Easter is derived from the Jewish festival of Passover. In Greek, the festival is called Pascha, and is where we get the concept of the Paschal Lamb (connecting us with the idea of Christ being the sacrificial lamb that was slain).

But in English-speaking countries, and in Germany, Easter takes its name from a pagan goddess from Anglo-Saxon England. That pagan goddess' name is "Eostre." She was the goddess of spring (even described as the goddess of fertility) thus the reason why her feast is attached to the vernal/spring equinox. It comes as no surprise that rabbits and hares are also associated with fertility and were symbols linked to the goddess Eostre.

Many of the pagan customs associated with the celebration of spring eventually became absorbed within Christianity as symbols of the resurrection of Jesus. It seemed natural then that eggs, as a symbol of new life, became associated with the resurrection story; in essence, that nature was coming to life again, a welcome sight after having to endure the chill of a long and dark winter season.

Remember in Sunday school as kids when we got to plant a seed in a Styrofoam cup? Remember the anticipation of seeing the first sprout and, if lucky, to watch the sprout grow into a seedling and then into a full plant and eventually bloom. It's true that, along with bunnies and eggs, the planting of spring seeds has always provided believers with a wonderful analogy for the Easter story. The symbolism is profound as we reflect on life from death, hope from hopelessness, joy from sorrow, and promise from disbelief.

And it's always a double blessing when one of the Sundays included in the Easter season is the one that gives us the opportunity to make a beautiful connection with the annual observance of "Earth Day." So, stay tuned.

And may you have a blessed Easter - but **don't forget** the passion story that precedes it with the last supper, the betrayal, the trial, and the agony of the cross.

See ya' in church.
Pastor Bob

March
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Words from Wang

ST. PAUL'S UCC



Let's Talk Church P. 2

A word of thanks to all those who were able join us for our 2nd *Let's Talk Church* retreat and workshop on March 9. Our time together proved to be quite productive and certainly worth our taking the better part of a Saturday to engage in some lively but important conversations about “who we are” as a church and how we can best engage those within and outside the walls of the church.

Rev. Shernell Edney Stilley certainly shared some thought-provoking information that we hope to continue to have faithful dialogue around as we move forward in this crucial time of transition. We know there were some expectations that she might have shared more about, specifically, our next steps in the search for a settled pastor. However, we still have plenty of time on that topic and we do still need to trust the process. In the meantime, we have some important work to do before we proceed; it's all needed in order to position ourselves for the next chapter of life together as St. Paul's UCC.

Our conversations on 3.9 also confirmed that we're not all on the same page with regard to what we think we need to be doing in order to move in a positive direction and broaden our appeal as a local congregation. We must welcome further dialogue especially on some of the tough issues and topics - and even live with a little bit of tension which is not such a bad thing so long as we respect the integrity of all persons involved. And we need to be reminded about what Shernell helped us realize - that despite our being divided over some of the issues that it doesn't have to be an “either-or” scenario but a more fitting ideal with a “both-and” action model. Needless to say, keep the whole church in your prayers.

We are one in the spirit; we are one in the Lord. So let us put our trust in God and in one another as we continue to do what is best for the whole; the body of Christ.

Shernell encouraged us to continue these “sacred conversations” and charged each one who attended to talk with anyone who did not. Feel free to reach out to those who were in attendance if you wish to be “in the know (but remembering each one will have a different “take”). They are:

Wendy Manser, Ruth Costello, Bev Tyhsen, Cathey Schmidt, Cheryl Triefenbach, Jane Dawson, Jan and Joe Richard, John Whetham, Karen Radovich, Ken Thrun, Keven Kruse, Krista Huffman, Linda Ticknor, Nancy Bellis, Nancy Kramer, Shirley Berghorn, Steve and Margaret Tobin, Nancy Schmitz, Dana Sideris, and Pastor Bob.

Words from Wang

ST. PAUL'S UCC



Worship Opportunities

(March-April)

March 3: 3rd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Psalm 19

Sermon Theme: *Of the Lord*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served.

March 10: 4th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: John 3:14-21

Sermon Theme: *God So Loves the World – Present Tense*

Note: Faith, Food, and Fellowship Sunday in fellowship hall

March 17: 5th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Sermon Theme: *The Days Are Surely Coming*

March 24: 6th Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday

Scripture: Mark 11:1-11

Sermon Theme: *Everyone Loves A Parade*

March 31: Easter Sunday

Scripture: – Mark 16:1-8

Sermon Theme: *In Your Resurrections*

April 7: 2nd Sunday of Easter

Scripture: *John 20:19-31*

Sermon Theme: *The Kind of Peace that Unlocks Doors*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served.

April 14: 3rd Sunday of Easter

Scripture: *Luke 24:36b-48*

Sermon Theme: *Why are You Frightened?*

April 21: 4th Sunday of Easter/Earth Day

Scripture: Psalm 23, John 10:11-18

Sermon Theme: *Green Pastures, Still Waters, and Restored Souls*

April 28: 5th Sunday of Easter

Scripture: John 15:9-17

Sermon Theme: *Spiritual Labor and Delivery*



March, 2024

The Church Council met Tuesday, March 12, 2024. For the first time in many months, the meeting was held in person. What a joy it was to be able to interact without a screen separating us. Below are a few significant issues that were addressed;

- * Voted and agreed upon updates to the Safe Church Policy document
- * Reviewed February financials and proposed updates to the congregation on ongoing financial status of the church
- * Updated on proposals for kitchen renovation
- * Reviewed "Let's Talk Church" retreat
- * Discussed church insurance policy and its increase in yearly premiums
- * Voted and unanimously agreed on shared space agreement with the Purple Moose preschool
- * Discussed moving Mary Circle sewing room prior to Purple Moose painting and occupancy
- * Addressed ongoing issues with Facebook and concerns with live streaming
- * Discussed establishing an outside/inside clean up day
- * Discussed possible events for Earth Day

The Council wishes to thank the congregation for its support and prayers as we move toward revitalizing and reimagining St. Paul's.

In God's Service,

Wendy Manser Church Council President

Let's Celebrate Birthdays



Sharon Dieball	3/1
Erik Ogle	3/1
Luke Eckhardt	3/2
Rosanne Zickus	3/3
David Kranz	3/8
Barb Kriegel	3/9
Abigail Wikman	3/9
Meg Reckamp	3/11
Layla Lawson	3/12
Cathy Schmidt	3/13
Lisa MacKenzie	3/13

John Arvidson	3/17
Regina Lombardo	3/19
Deborah Sroka	3/20
Joe Rickard	3/23
Riley MacKenzie	3/24
Donald Roxworthy	3/25
Jean Fleenor	3/25
Ken Thrun	3/27
Mary Katenhusen	3/28
Noah Virzi	3/29
Janice Bordignon	3/31



Nolan Lotesto	4/3
Nancy Kramer	4/8
Charlie Lang	4/8
Terri Deuerling	4/8
Jamie Szabo	4/10
Greg Lucas	4/10
Evelyn Winter	4/11
Jane Dawson	4/12

Pete Singer	4/17
Jeremiah Wikman	4/18
Edward Bourdage	4/18
Janet Henneman	4/19
Eve Mertes	4/21
Brian Butler	4/22
Ursula Kriegel	4/30

Church News



Mary Circle
Spaghetti Sauce Sale

**Sunday
March 17th**

11:00 am
in the Narthex

**\$9 Meatless
\$10 Meat**



**EASTER
EGG
HUNT**

SATURDAY, MARCH 30TH
10:00 am

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
485 W. Woodstock St.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

RAIN OR SHINE

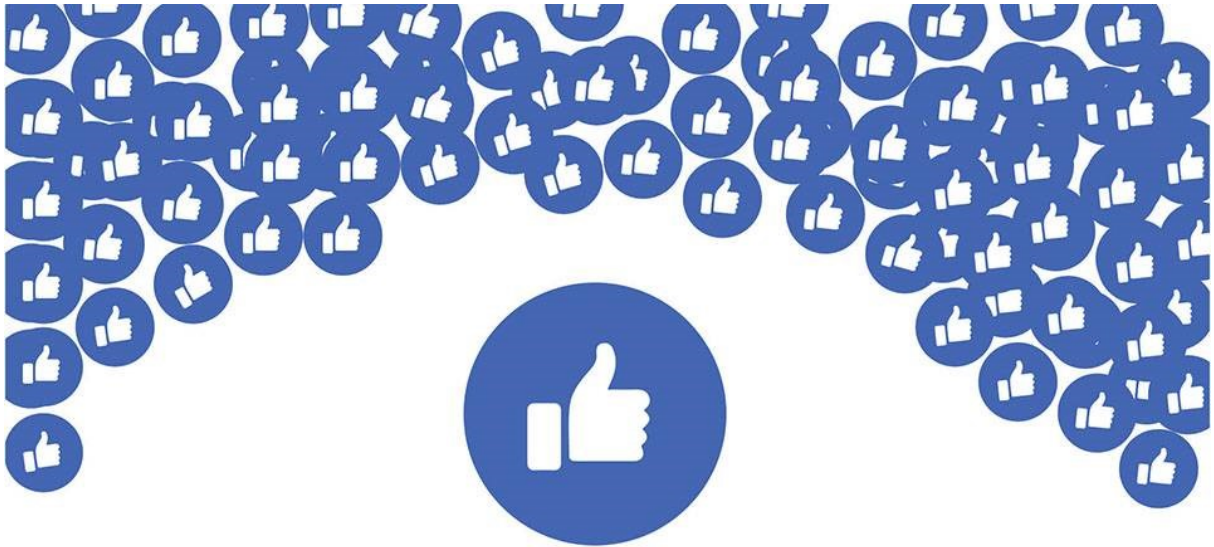
- Pictures with the Easter Bunny
- Goodie bag for each child
- Bring your own Easter basket
- Complimentary refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall
- Parking is in the back lot of the church

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

www.stpaulsucc-cl.org



Church News



FOLLOW OUR NEW FACEBOOK PAGE

[St. Paul's New Facebook Page](#)



We have a new St. Paul's UCC Facebook page. This new page will be the one to use for updates, events and watching live stream videos. The current Facebook page will be deactivated very soon, so please make sure to LIKE and follow the new page.

Usher Schedule

**April
Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.**

USHERS

April 7th

Rob Revak - Captain
Ann Lingner & Elizabeth Speros
Greeter: Linda Christensen
Liturgist: TBD

April 14th

Jim Henneman - Captain
Lauren Henneman & Steve Tobin
Greeters: Dave & Connie Burdloff
Liturgist: TBD

April 21st

Ken Thrun - Captain
Steve Tobin & Bill Eich
Greeters: Gordie & Cheryl Triefenbach
Liturgist: TBD

April 28th

John Whetham - Captain
Joe & Jan Rickard
Greeter: Arlene Tuscano
Liturgist: TBD

**May
Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.**

USHERS

May 5th

Ken Hansen - Captain
Karen Hansen & Don Roxworthy
Greeter: TBD
Liturgist: TBD

March 12th

Mother's Day

Ken Thrun - Captain
Gene & Lynn Virzi
Greeter: TBD
Liturgist: TBD

May 19th

Sheryl Gee - Captain
Gary Gee & Bill Berghorn
Greeter: TBD
Liturgist: TBD

May 26th

John Whetham - Captain
Wendy Manser & Jane Dawson
Greeters: TBD
Liturgist: TBD

St. Paul's Prayer List



St. Paul's Members

Dick & Jean Hautzinger

St. Paul's Homebound Friends

Arlene Kopsell

Deceased Members and Friends

Marianne Spencer

Friends

Claire Amelia De Guzman

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](#)

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

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Church Council

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Jennifer Good, Financial Secretary

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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	8 @ \$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!