

St. Paul's

November
2023



Words from Wang
Pg. 2

Worship Opportunities
Pg. 3

Council News
Pg. 4

November & December
Birthdays
Pg. 5

Church News
Pg. 6 –15

Thank You
Pg. 16

Usher Schedule
Pg. 17

St. Paul's Prayer List
Pg. 18

SCRIP
Pg. 19

NEXT BEACON
December 8th
All articles are
due in by 12/1

November
2023

Words from Wang

ST. PAUL'S UCC



Words From Wang – *Room At the Table & In All Things, Give Thanks*

Sadly, most of us are feeling overwhelmed, perhaps even numb, at the news of yet another mass shooting, not to mention, the ongoing conflicts and fighting in the middle east and Ukraine. And many of us are experiencing our own personal griefs and anxieties. And yet, through it all, we still say, *in all things, give thanks*. It's not as easy, however, especially when we find ourselves being pressed on so many fronts.

Much is said these days about the need to restore civility and dignity to our common life. Many of us pray for a renewed sense of sanity and sanctity in this beloved land. Because the possibility for positive change lies within each of us, as we commit anew to the golden rule and the ways of Jesus. *Now is the time for us to lean in and love more.*

On November the 23rd, we will come together as a nation of one people, blessed so beautifully with our varied landscape and graced so richly with our diversity in race, religion, culture, personal identity, and language. And to be blunt, many of us will celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends who are across the political and social spectrum. And therefore, civility must be our priority at these, and any gatherings where opinions might be shared.

Yes, there is a time for, what some refer to as righteous indignation, but a reading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ tells us such prophetically charged moments are most effective when they are uttered amidst a lifetime of kindness and compassion. So, as you make your Thanksgiving preparations, consider setting the table of civility!

If the Spirit of God is indeed welcome around our tables, then surely there is enough room for people of all political persuasions and of every spiritual pathway. And there is enough room for confessing and lamenting the wrongs inflicted upon the original people of this land, and there is enough room for celebrating the traditions and stories of our own immigrated ancestors. According to the table of grace set by Jesus himself, there is always enough room.

The Apostle Paul writes, “*give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you*” (1 Thessalonians 5:18). We all admit the difficulty of seeing the positive in some things and acknowledging God in all matters under the sun - with our gratitude. Never the less, it is critical to begin each and every segment of life and living with grateful hearts. Nothing else matters - or it means a whole lot less when we are not thankful. In all things, give thanks. Even when we don't feel like it. It is good to give thanks and sing praises unto God's name.

May you all have a blessed Thanksgiving season. And don't let the onslaught of the Christmas hype interfere with the Thanksgiving holiday like it often can. In all things, first and foremost, give thanks.

See ya' in church. Pastor Bob

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

Words from Wang

ST. PAUL'S UCC



Worship Opportunities November & December

Worship Opportunities (November-December)

November 12: The 19th Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Matthew 25:1-13

Sermon Theme: *The Battle Between Light and Dark*

November 19: Thanksgiving Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30

Sermon Theme: *Risky Business*

November 19: Thanksgiving Evening Worship

5:00 – Pre-Turkey Dinner

Worship Theme: *A Harvest of Praise and Thanksgiving*

November 26: Reign of Christ Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon Theme: *The Stuff That Legacies are Made of*

December 3: 1st Sunday in Advent

Scripture: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, Isaiah 64:1-9

Sermon Theme: *Restore Us, Oh God*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served.

December 10: 2nd Sunday in Advent

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11

Sermon Theme: *The Stuff That Legacies are Made of*

December 17: 3rd Sunday in Advent

Scripture: The Christmas Story

Sermon Theme: *A Do-it-yourself Christmas Pageant*

December 24: 4th Sunday in Advent

Scripture: Luke 1:26-55

Sermon Theme: *Let It Be*

December 24: Christmas Eve @ 4:00 p.m.

Scripture: Assorted Seasonal Texts

Sermon Theme: *So Far, So Good*

December 31: 1st Sunday After Christmas

Scripture: Luke 2:22-40

Sermon Theme: *In All My Days*



November 2023

To My St. Paul's Family,

Another winter is approaching. How quickly the seasons change and another year comes to an end. 2024 will be filled with exciting times for St. Paul's UCC. I would like to take the opportunity to once again thank John Whetham and Steve Tobin for agreeing to join the church council. We still have openings, so please don't think it's too late to become a part of this group. Also, the BOCE would be delighted to have more members involved.

"Let's Talk Church" is quickly approaching. We need many voices as we begin this process of creating a current church profile. Please join us in this endeavor as we move St. Paul's into the next phase of its history. We will have the opportunity to take a long and hard look at where we want to proceed. It is essential that we have a variety of perspectives in this process. Don't forget to RSVP to Lena before November 7th.

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." 1 Peter 4:10.

*In God's service,
Wendy Manser
Church Council President*

Let's Celebrate Birthdays



Ann Kummerow	11/3
Todd Fredrick	11/6
Bill Deuerling	11/9
Nolan Van Hoorn	11/9
Michael Czosnyka	11/9
Barbie Fredrick	11/10
Joan Lloyd-Gohl	11/13
John Gulino	11/13
George Heck	11/15
Elizabeth Speros	11/15

Faith Lotesto	11/17
Glenn Berg	11/17
Dan Pagnotta	11/21
Timothy Monahan	11/21
Jill Albertsen	11/23
Kevin Kruse	11/24
Dennis Radet	11/24
Gary Voss	11/25
Kevin Lang	11/28



Nancy Schmitz	12/3
Arlene Kopsell	12/6
Bill Jelinek	12/7
Milton Diedrick	12/9
John Kennedy	12/12
Jonathan Kriegel	12/13
Jared Kay	12/13

Adam Kay	12/13
Lon Schmidt	12/17
Wendy Domanico	12/22
Jo Ellen Roxworthy	12/22
Eric Domanico	12/25
Marsha Britt	12/27
Rylee Whetham	12/29

Church News

2023 CROP WALK RECAP

As I write this Crop Walk update, I am filled with gratitude to those who supported this year's CROP Hunger Walk.

Thank you for supporting St. Paul's in your special way, be it with prayers, monetary donations, or participation!

Jane Dawson and her sister, Marjie, helped with the paper work on the day of the walk. Pastor Bob, Ruth Costello, Jean Hautzinger, Sondra Matterness, Jan Rickard, Becky Berg (a first-time walker), Lynn Virzi, Ann Lingner, Fred Mullard, and Linda Ticknor were your walkers.

Easy Eats Meal kits were also assembled the day of the walk. The Crop Walk committee organized the fund-raising and purchase of supplies to make meal kits for local food pantries. Three-Hundred Easy Eats Meal kits were assembled and distributed the next day to four local food pantries. Algonquin, Lake in the Hills Interfaith, Cary-Grove, Crystal Lake, and Grafton all took meal kits and were so grateful!

St. Paul's raised \$95.00 for Easy Eats.

Easy Eats raised \$775.38 from fund raisers at local dining establishments.

Thrivent Financial and Aldi donation of spending cards: \$535.00

McHenry County CROP expense account: \$780.00

Total cost of the East Eats Program: \$1,315.57

Church World Service McHenry Country 2023 CROP Hunger Walk Total

St. Paul's raised \$1,848.00.

All eight churches combined raised \$18,750.02.

25% of this will be split evenly between the four food pantries mentioned above.

The 2024 McHenry County CROP Hunger Walk needs a host church. When the date and host church are decided, I will let you know.

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for the dedicated group of CROP Walk volunteers. Thank you to all the churches, members, and friends who supported them. Thank you to the businesses that allowed us to raise funds for East Eats supplies. Thank you to the food pantries that serve our community. Thank you for Church World Service reaching out to global communities. Thank you to our walkers and volunteers. Together, we have worked to bring hope and sustenance to people we will never meet. Guide us in our lives to continue to share our abundance and "be the change".

Amen.

On behalf of the McHenry County CROP Hunger Walk, we THANK YOU!

Linda Ticknor,
Committee Member





Church News

2023 VOLUNTEERS



Church News



Thanksgiving Food Drive Sunday November 19, 2023

Fall is in the air! The holidays are right around the corner and Crystal Lake Food Pantry is gearing up for its annual food drive. The Food Pantry has been serving our community for over 40 years and St. Paul's has been a part of the team since the beginning.

We will be collecting food and monetary donations to benefit the pantry on Sunday November 19. Paper donation bags along with a list of needed pantry items will be distributed on November 5th and 12th to help remind everyone of this important ministry.

The Food Pantry has seen a significant increase in the number of neighbors needing assistance. Since January of 2022 the number of people requesting and receiving help has grown 150%.

Please consider donating to our food drive this year. It takes a village, it takes YOU!!

Thank You,

Laurie Revak and Cheryll Triefenbach,
St Paul's Food Pantry Representatives



Church News



Mary Circle Christmas Bake Sale Sunday December 3, 2023

The holidays are on their way!! It is a very busy time of year. Let Mary Circle help you with your Christmas baking this year. We are changing things up a bit this year, (yes there will be some toffee available at the sale) but we are adding some variety and offering baked goods and different Christmas confections also.

Plan to check us out Sunday December 3, let us help with your holiday baking this year.

Mary Circle



Church News



BLUE CHRISTMAS: A SERVICE OF WHOLENESS AND HEALING

Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

“Comfort, comfort my people, says our God” (Isaiah 40:1)

Christmas can be a time for many when we are in need of reassurance and comfort. Perhaps we are grieving over the loss of a job. Whatever the case, we wonder how we will get through the holidays.

There are many moments in our lives when we need comfort. There are tough times when we yearn for consolation. The suffering people who looked for the long-awaited Messiah were given a hope filled image of God in the writings of Isaiah. It expresses the belief that no matter what happens to us, God will be there to comfort and support us.

Our Columbarium Ministry is hosting **Blue Christmas: A Service of Wholeness and Healing** on Sunday, December 17th, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. Any and all who are feeling a little “blue” during the holiday season are welcome to join us. This service will be held both in person and online.

For those of you watching online, there will be an opportunity to interact virtually on Facebook by providing the name of a loved one who has been lost or any pain you are experiencing. Prayer requests will also be received.

Immediately following the service, there will be casual conversation along with refreshments for you to enjoy. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 815-459-5096 or visit our website. [St. Paul's UCCC](#)

Church News

Trunk or Treat was a success!

It was a chilly night, but the trunkers and volunteers of St. Paul's warmed the hearts of lots of children and their families on Saturday night! A big thank you to Church Life, Becky Berghorn, the trunkers, all other volunteers who assisted in running this event, and those who donated cash, candy, and hay bales. We all worked together to make this fun and spooky night available to our community. Our church can do amazing things!

Church Life

P.S. I have added some photos from the event. To see all of them LIKE our [St. Paul's UCC Facebook page](#).



Trunk or Treat



Church News



Trunk or Treat



Church News



St. Paul's Church U.C.C. Presents: *Let's Talk Church*

St. Paul's UCC finds itself at a crossroads and is therefore in a unique position to do some serious self-reflection and prepare for the next phase of our church life. The end goal in this intentional interim period is to work to become a healthy and revitalized faith community and thus be able to attract the best possible candidate to serve as our settled pastor. With that end goal in mind, we are proposing a three-part series of Saturday retreats.

Let's Talk Church is a project designed for the purpose of coming together with fellow church members (particularly those in leadership positions) to engage in a time of introspection, inspiration, and innovation.

As we engage in the process, we have the opportunity, therefore, to prayerfully consider the many ways in which we can be the kind of church that can best serve the people who belong, the community in which we exist, and the wider United Church of Christ. In short, to reflect on how we can best work together with others to become a more just, generous, vibrant, and vital church.

We understand that November 11 may not have fit into the schedules of every person wishing to be involved. There will be a level of carryover from session 1, but participation in session 2 is not contingent upon folks being present for session 1.

Session 2 is set for **Saturday, January 20th** (same time frame). Session 3 will happen sometime in mid-2024. To reiterate, our end goal for all three sessions is to prepare our church profile as well as to begin planning for the work of the pastoral search committee.

The planning team for *Let's Talk Church* is Wendy Manser, Ruth Costello, and Pastor Bob. Feel free to contact one of them if you have questions or ideas. As with anything crucial to our faith community, we always welcome your prayers.

Church News

It's time to order your CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS!

This year the altar guild will be ordering white and red poinsettias from Renee's in Ridgefield, the same place we ordered our Easter Lillie's. They are **\$12.00 each** and you can turn in an order form and check in the offering plate or send in your order to the church office.

Someone will be in the narthex to take your orders on **November 12th, 19th, and 26th.**

The deadline for ordering is November 26th.

The Altar Guild



ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS!

You have your choice of
two poinsettia colors, please indicate your selection.

All plants have 5-8 blooms per 6" pot.

___ Classic Red



___ White



Name: _____

Phone: _____

I would like to order _____ Poinsettias at **\$12.00 each.**

Enclosed is my check/cash for \$_____.

MEMORIAL LISTING

HONOR LISTING

Deadline for Ordering

November 26th, 2023

Please return your order form with payment to an Altar
Guild member or the Church Office.

Thank you.

All plants are available to be taken home after the
service on Christmas Eve service.

Church News



Wreath of Friendship

On **Saturday, December 9th**, we will sponsor our annual *Wreath of Friendship*. Poinsettias and delicious baked goods are delivered to members and friends of St. Paul's who have lost loved ones during the year. We also remember and honor our homebound and elderly friends with this gift from the church family.

Please put the ***Wreath of Friendship*** on your December "to do" list. You can help us by:

1. Donating baked goods, (cookies and small breads)
2. Donating your time and delivering the gift; and/or making a monetary donation to assist with the cost of the poinsettias.

Look for the sign-up sheet at the **Market Place** in the Narthex if you are willing to help us this year.

Circle **Saturday, December 9th** on your calendar today and keep the *Wreath of Friendship* in your thoughts and prayers.

Thank you,
Wreath of Friendship Ministry



Thank You



Thank you so much to everyone for your cards, prayers, and well wishes!

I'm blessed to have such a caring Church family.

Sondra Matterness

Usher Schedule

November
Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.

USHERS

November 5th

Ken Thrun - Captain
Joe & Jan Rickard

Greeter: Jo Ellen Roxworthy
Liturgist: Wendy Manser

November 12th

Sheryl Gee - Captain
Gary Gee & Don Roxworthy
Greeter: Jan Czosnyka
Liturgist: Jane Dawson

November 19th

Gary Voss - Captain
Carla Voss & Ann Lingner
Greeter: Jane Dawson
Liturgist: Cathy Schmidt

November 26th

Ken Hansen - Captain
Karen Hansen & Wendy Domanico
Greeters: Julie Menke
Liturgist: Gary Gee

Updated 11/3/23

December
Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.

USHERS

December 3rd

Ken Thrun - Captain
Joe & Jan Rickard

Greeter: TBD
Liturgist: TBD

December 10th

Ken Hansen - Captain
Karen Hansen & Ann Lingner
Greeter: TBD
Liturgist: TBD

December 17th

Gary Voss - Captain
Carla Voss & Linda Ticknor
Greeter: TBD
Liturgist: TBD

December 24th 10am

John Whetham - Captain
Wendy Manser & John Vogt
Greeters: TBD
Liturgist: TBD

December 24th 5pm

Bill Eich - Captain
Alec Eich & Jane Dawson
Greeters: TBD
Liturgist: TBD

December 31st

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

St. Paul's Prayer List



St. Paul's Members

Marianne Spencer, Sondra Matterness, Ernie Good

St. Paul's Homebound Friends

Arlene Kopsell

Deceased Members and Friends

Jean Lubovich, Barb Biscomb

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 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@stpaulsucclc.org

Office Manager, Lena Vocalino

815-459-5096 - info@stpaulsucccl.org

Preschool Director, Becky Berghorn

815 - 479-9770 - guidinglightdirector@gmail.com

Church Council

Wendy Manser, Council President

815-245-0058 - wendy0506@att.net

Donna Butler, Council Vice President

815-451-1114 - butlersmail6@yahoo.com

Janis Braun, Secretary

815- 575-1997 - eliotness62@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

Joe Rickard

815-243-6294 - jrick4@sbcglobal.net

Linda Ticknor—lindaticknor@gmail.com

815-382-8295

Give the Gift of SCRIP



IN STOCK SCRIP CARDS

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