

What's Happening at St. Paul's...the Church has left the building! August 2020

“How Long, O Lord?” At least another few months.

In our summer worship series, we've been thinking about what it means to unravel. Our lives collectively unraveled in March when in-person gatherings of all kinds were cancelled to stop the spread of COVID-19. St. Paul's has taken the loose ends of church life that came undone in March and woven them together in new and creative ways. Here at the end of July we find ourselves with another loose end in hand, another plan unraveled – our goal of meeting in-person in September. With spikes in COVID 19 surrounding our state and county, church leadership has determined it is not safe for our members to return to in-person worship in September.

Love is the reason we will not yet meet in-person. Love for you. We value your health and we will keep you safe to the best of our ability. If you haven't given Zoom a chance yet on Sunday morning or Wednesday for prayer, I encourage you to give it a shot. The first time I saw everyone's faces together on the screen and heard your voices and laughter, I got teary-eyed. I was both overwhelmed with missing you and overjoyed to be connected to you. Zoom is not perfect but being together to worship for those 40 minutes is life-giving for me. I hope you will give Zoom a try on your phone, iPad, or computer.

Calling and Caring will continue with small safely distanced visits. And I will too! We continue to worship every Sunday, pray together on Wednesdays, serve PADS, distribute frozen meals, and help our neighbors in need. St. Paul's continues to worship and serve, study and pray, grow and thrive - together as the church of Jesus Christ.

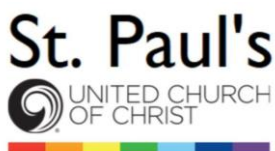
I stand in awe and gratitude at how the Spirit continues to weave our loose ends into new ways of being church and caring for one another. Want to talk about all of this? Call or email anytime 312-848-1349, pastorliz24@gmail.com or reach out to a council member.

Peace, Pastor Liz



Zoom News

- Want to practice using Zoom? Join a practice session Saturday, August 1st at 9:00 AM. See email from St. Paul's for link info.
- The weekly worship bulletin, Zoom link, meeting ID, and passcode for Sunday service are emailed every Saturday and Sunday morning around 8 AM. You can also watch church live at [St. Paul's YouTube page](#).
- **Zoom Coffee Hour** – You have the option to stay on Zoom after Sunday worship and be transferred to random small groups for 15 min of conversation and catching up.



An Open and Affirming Church
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Church Directory Photo – It's time!

Our latest photo directory was published in 2000 – three hairstyles ago when you owned a Nokia cell phone and printed directions from MapQuest. It's time! A photo directory is so much more than a fun visual record, it is a practical resource for new members to learn names and faces. A photo directory is also a welcoming and easily accessible snapshot of our community for visitors.



Please email an updated family or individual photo to stpauls4me@yahoo.com by the new due date Aug 23rd. Photo must be no more than one year old. There are two options for taking your directory photo:

1. Take your own photo in a location of your choosing and email it to stpauls4me@yahoo.com
2. Schedule a photo to be taken at your home or at the church. Call or email the office to schedule.

Questions? Contact Mia Berna, Sue Huber, Karen Snyder, or Karen Westerman. You can find their contact info in the boring text-only directory 😊

2020 Scholarships Awarded

The Scholarship committee received 3 applications this year. After reviewing all of them, it was determined that all 3 qualified to receive a scholarship. This year's scholarships go to Alison Smith, Ryan Smith, and Michelle Spencer. Alison Smith and Ryan Smith are both going for their Master's Degrees. Michelle Spencer is going for a Nursing Degree. They will be telling you more about their degree during an upcoming church service.

The following is taken into consideration when reviewing the applications: Financial need, involvement in the life of St. Paul's UCC and academic standing. The Scholarship Committee would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship Committee is Diane Peterson, Doug Volkening, and Karen Westerman.

Time with Children on Zoom



We continue in August with a segment during Zoom worship called Time with Children for kids PreK – 6th Grade. There are coloring and craft activities for each Sunday. Parents can pick up prepared lesson envelopes with activity materials at the Ministry House or print out the week's coloring page from our website. We love and value our children as part of our church family and we look forward to connecting with the kids and their families during worship.



Summer Worship Series: August 2 - August 30



What happens when our world falls apart? How do we press onward when our tightly knit plans unravel into loose threads? What if it's not the end we fear it will be? In our unraveling, sometimes life surprises us with a new beginning we couldn't have imagined. Sometimes we need God to unravel us, for we long to be changed.

- August 2 Discovering a New Path - Acts 9:1-20 The Conversion of Saul to Paul
- August 9 When Dreams Unravel - Jeremiah 29:1-7 Encouraging the Israelites in Exile to Plant & Build
- August 16 Unraveled Shame - John 4:1-29 The Samaritan Woman at the Well
- August 23 When Our Plans for our Children Unravel - Exodus 1:22, 2:1-10 Moses' Mother
- August 30 The Unraveling of the Mind - Mark 5:1-20 Jesus Heals Legion, a Man Possessed by Demons

Financially Speaking

I hope this note finds everyone well. I know this has been a bad time for all of us with Shelter-In-Place due to COVID-19 and we will all miss seeing each other in person, but we will get through this. I continue to deposit pledges and other monies that have been coming into church via mail or [direct deposit from Vanco](#). If you have any questions, please contact Jay Shircliff or the office. – Sandy Volkening, Financial Secretary

The total receipts for the month of July were \$15,490.50. Our spendable income came to \$15,470.50 including our OCWM income of \$960.00. We had \$20.00 of charitable income for the month of July, all of which was given to the Step It Up mission project.



“J” Dollars Update

This past month the handicap accessible front entrance ramp was installed at the Mission House. Thank you to Tommy Patz for completing the landscaping around the new ramp.

With both the accessible bathroom renovation and ramp projects complete, our new “J” Dollars goal is \$3,063.00 (\$363 remaining for the bathroom remodel plus \$2,700 for new the cement ramp). This month we collected \$20.00 toward “J” dollars.

The Mission House is fully accessible! 🎉

August Birthdays

Sharon Sorensen (Aug. 1)
Sharlene Gould (Aug. 8)
Patricia Thompson (Aug. 8)
Sandy Volkening (Aug. 10)
Ody Kamp (Aug. 11)
Becky Kelly (Aug. 11)

Judy Volkening (Aug. 11)
Brian Cowan (Aug. 11)
Bonnie Starr (Aug. 13)
Kay Guptail (Aug. 16)
Christy Volkening (Aug. 17)
Linda Smith (Aug. 18)

Patricia Schmoltdt (Aug. 20)
Gordon Flentge (Aug. 21)
Katie Kaye (Aug. 24)
Julian Soto (Aug. 28)

August Anniversaries

Linda and Myron Meglin (Aug. 1)
Bill and Kay Guptail (Aug. 26)
Lee and Nicole Thielke (Aug. 30)



Step It Up

We collected 22 pairs of shoes and \$145 in donations for the Step It Up ministry at First Baptist Church in Elgin. Thank you! The distribution will take place the first week of August.



Are you in need of food or financial help?

Please reach out to Pastor Liz at 312-848-1349, the office at 847-628-6118, or any council member. Your name and situation are kept confidential. The St. Paul's Outreach Fund is available to help. You are not alone.