

the

CONNECTION

August 2026



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Website

Visit us on our Website at www.stpaulucelgin.org and
Facebook at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Elgin, IL

Browse our Church Calendar on our website to keep up to date on
our various events. You can find the calendar on our website at
www.stpaulucelgin.org under the "about us" tab.



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- 150th Summer Celebrations
- Diaper Ministry
- Christian Education
- Elgin Crop Hunger Walk
- Financially Speaking
- August Worship Schedules
- August Birthdays and Anniversaries



St. Paul's
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Elgin, Illinois

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Office: 12N268 Switzer Rd., Elgin, IL 60124

Mailing: P.O. Box 5598, Elgin, IL 60121

Phone #: 847-628-6118 / **Email:** stpauls4me@yahoo.com / **Website:** stpaulucelgin.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Rev. Liz Patz, Pastor

Sherry Severing, Administrative Assistant

Jon Kobel, Choir Director

Ron Zemke, Pianist



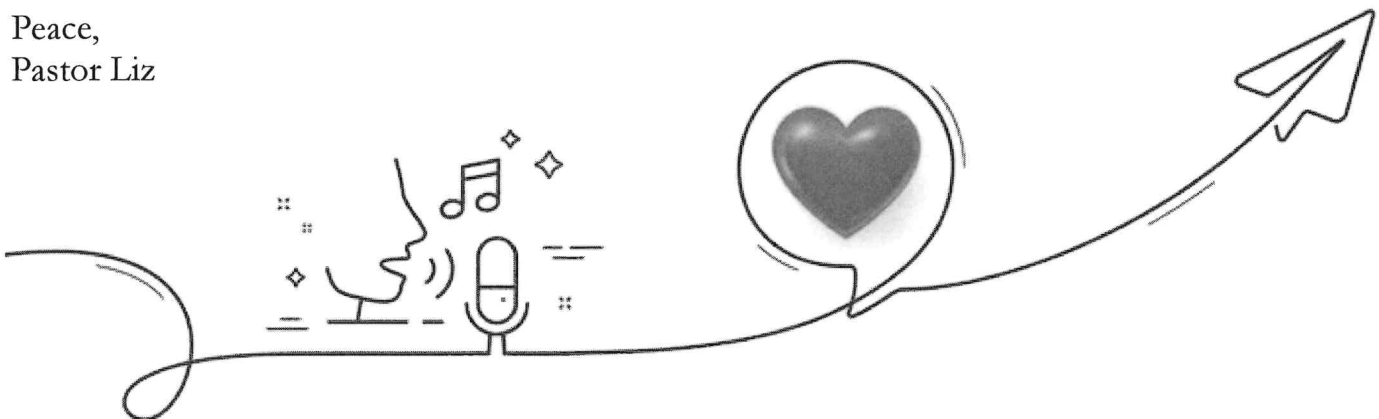
Recording...

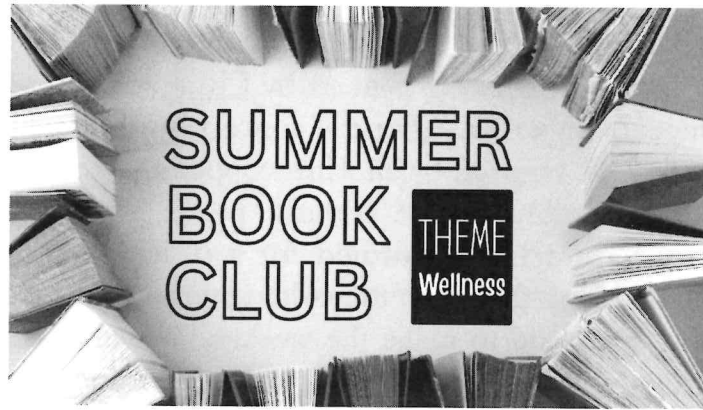
This week I did something completely new and way out of my comfort zone: I participated in a podcast! St. Paul's member Maya Garner kindly invited me to join her for an episode of *Empowered & Out* hosted by Jonathan Barbe: "rooted in LGBTQ+ live experience and open to everyone. This podcast supports listeners navigating burnout, career transitions, toxic workplaces, and the pressure to mask who they are." Our episode was a conversation about Open and Affirming churches and our Christian commitments to inclusion, allyship, and authentic belonging. The episode is scheduled to drop August 11th.

I desperately wanted to say helpful things; to share a sincere and extravagant welcome on behalf of affirming churches everywhere. I was so nervous during the recording. With a second chance, I know I would offer clearer responses. Alas, do-overs betray a podcast's authenticity. But I also know this: however clumsy or jumbled, I spoke the truth of belovedness from the heart of my Christian faith. I spoke from the collective heart of St. Paul's and all of the awesome affirming bodies of Christ working for inclusion, justice, and wholeness in Jesus' name.

The truth is that I wish everyone could experience St. Paul's over-the-top friendliness on a Sunday morning. The welcome - the genuine welcome - that you show visitors is like a warm hopeful sunray of Christ's light. Every one of us carries heavy things throughout our week. The responsibilities and challenges of work. Health. Parenthood. Relationships. Caregiving. Those in the LGBTQ+ community are often threatened to mask who they are, hide their love for their partners and spouses, worry how their children, their families, will be treated. Affirming churches like St. Paul's commit to providing sanctuary to be yourself and full inclusion into the life and ministry of Christian community. I believe in the faithfulness of our commitment with my whole heart. Guided by the Holy Spirit, relying on God's grace, and following Jesus. May our Open & Affirming commitment and our love for one another bring more and more people to experience God's life-giving love and to know their belovedness. Amen.

Peace,
Pastor Liz





Searching for Sunday

Friday, August 7th - The discussion of Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving and Finding the Church by Rachel Held Evans was rescheduled to Friday, August 7th at 6:30 p.m. We will meet at Churros & Chocolate in downtown Elgin (66 S. Grove Ave, Elgin, 60120). Your first churro is on Pastor Liz! Plan to discuss Parts I, II and III. [Find questions here.](#) Whether you get to read the book or not, come for Churros and join the discussion about our faith journeys and questions.

Breaking the Silence about Mental Health with Children and Teens

Friday, August 14th - The June discussion of Blessed Youth was so good that we did not get past Chapter 1! The first discussion focused on: Why are you reading Blessed Youth? For whom are you reading it? How has mental illness touched your life? What stood out to you the most from what was covered in this chapter/book? What were you left still processing or thinking about? What drew you in? Our next discussion on Blessed Youth will be August 14 and we will meet at Churros & Chocolate in downtown Elgin (66 S. Grove Ave, Elgin, 60120). Your first churro is on Pastor Liz! Discussion will focus on Chapters 4-7. Whether you read the book or not, come brainstorm how St. Paul's might offer support to youth and their families.

AUGUST

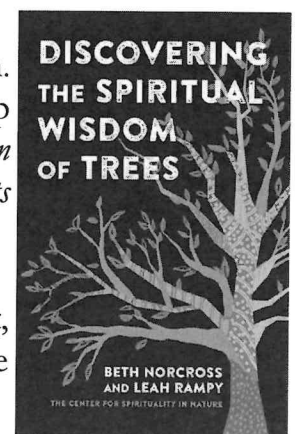
Discovering the Spiritual Wisdom of Trees

by Beth Norcross and Leah Rampy

Thursday, August 27th - Join the discussion at St. Paul's from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. We'll gather outdoors among our trees, weather permitting. Two worship services in September will feature this book: *Blessing of the Animals on September 20 and Creation in Christ Sunday on September 27. No churros, but sweets will be provided!*

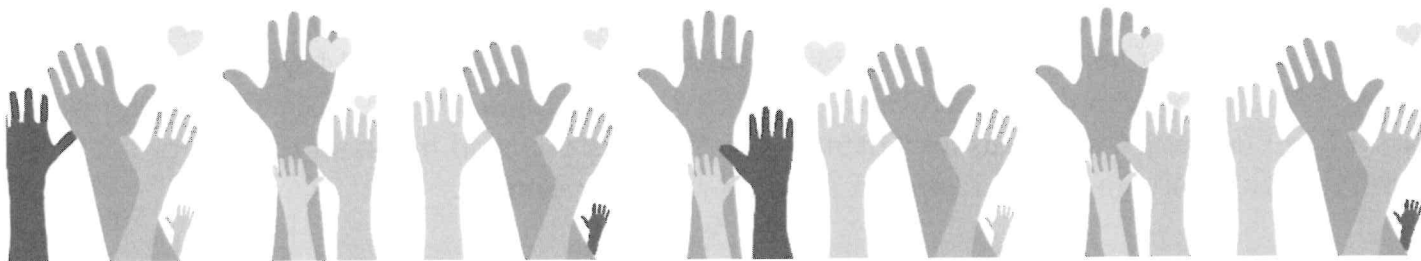
"This book encourages us into a more intentional balance of head and heart, being and doing, all wrapped up in a joyful celebration of the sacred presence - always available whenever we lay a grateful hand upon a sturdy trunk..."

-Carrie Newcomer, singer/songwriter



150th Summer Celebrations

On Saturday, July 18th we hosted an evening concert by Christopher Grundy, UCC pastor, Eden Seminary professor, and singer/songwriter. After the concert hotdogs, chips, and cool treats from the Ananzeh Ice Cream truck were enjoyed by all. Christopher also joined us on Sunday morning, leading music and preaching a sermon-song! A fantastic picnic lunch from BBQ on Wheels was served and the Ananzeh Ice Cream truck returned for a delicious encore. Jim Werner led ten rousing rounds of travel bingo. Many thanks to the volunteers and financial donors who contributed to the 150th Celebration Fund to make the weekend possible. Singing together, worshipping together, and enjoying good food and fellowship together was a joyful and grateful experience of God's enduring love.



MINISTRY NEWS

Diaper Ministry

St. Paul's Diaper Ministry continues to be a visible presence in the community distributing diapers at the Learning on the Go Camps.

We were selected as one of the organizations to be at EPEL's (Enriching Partnerships for Early Learning) Family Fun Fest on July 10th at the Salvation Army in Elgin. We distributed 456 diapers.

In July, we distributed 648 diapers at the old Sherman Hospital Parking Lot in conjunction with Northern Illinois Mobile Food Pantry. Our next diaper distribution there is set for Tuesday, August 11th from 3:00-5:00 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

We are looking forward to distributing diapers at the Elgin Community College Project Backpack event on August 1st.

On Sunday, September 6th we will begin collecting diapers again. We have made a huge dent in our diaper supply this summer. We are in need of sizes 1, 2, 4, 5, & 6. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus to the littlest ones in our community,

Together, we are "Changing" Lives One Diaper at a Time

Diaper Ministry Chairpersons,
Karen Smith, Karen Snyder, Barb Kamp



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our children continue to enjoy the outdoors on Sunday mornings exploring God's creation during our summer theme, "Wild Wonders".

We are so excited that Tammy Rath has joined our CE Ministry. She wasted no time getting involved and led a wonderful hands-on lesson about plants. The children had a great time inspecting different seeds up close with magnifying glasses. Everyone got to plant a flower of their very own to take home and care for.

If you are interested in spending a Sunday morning outdoors with our children, please contact Karen Smith.

SAVE THE DATE:

Sunday, August 9th is Blessing of the Backpacks

CE Ministry,
Karen Smith (CE Ministry Representative), Karen Westerman, Ken Volkening, Kylie Smith, Tammy Rath, Ginny Mursewick, Janet Werner



MISSIONS

Elgin CROP Hunger Walk

No one in this world should be hungry. That's why the CROP Hunger Walk is more than just a gathering of people in a place. We're part of a movement, taking steps and raising funds together to provide meals for those in our own community who need them - and supporting programs that create greater food security in communities all around the world.

Please join us in the fight against hunger. The steps we take and funds we raise will make a difference in the lives of others.

Mark your calendars with the dates below:

CROP Hunger Walk Kick-Off Rally

Sunday, August 30th at 1:00 p.m.

Gail Borden Library

Speakers: State Representative Anna Moeller
and CWS Representative Heather Wilson

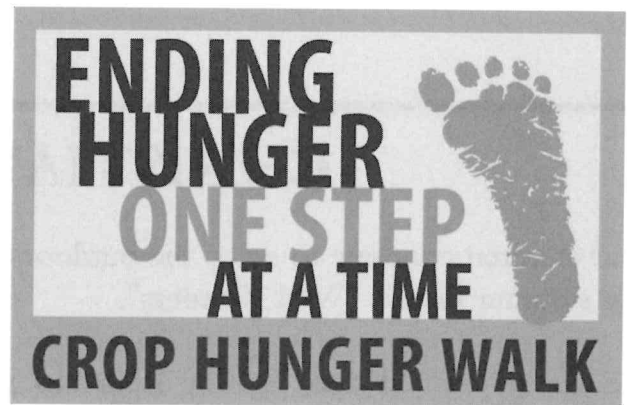
CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, September 27th at 1:00 p.m.

Gail Borden Library

2 mile walk

Be watching for more information.



Feed My Starving Children

On July 8th, 11 members volunteered at Feed My Starving Children in Schaumburg. With volunteers from other groups and organizations, our packing session packed: 62 boxes filled with a total of 13,392 meals which will feed 37 kids a daily meal for a year. The shipment information is not yet available to let us know where our meals were sent.

Thank you to everyone who supported this volunteer opportunity organized by the Missions Ministry. Interested in learning more about Feed My Starving Children? <https://www.fmssc.org/>



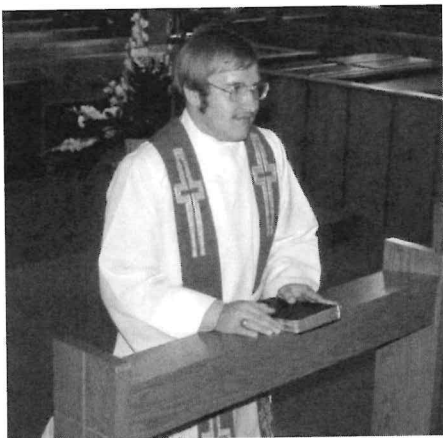
50 Years of Service

On Sunday, July 26th it was our joy and privilege to celebrate with Jim Werner the 50th anniversary of his ordination at St. Paul's on July 25, 1976. The fresh flower arrangements on the altar from Debi's Designs were in honor of Jim and a gift from the congregation. Jim designs all of our sanctuary floral arrangements and we wanted him to receive the blessing for a change. We also incorporated readings and hymns from Jim's ordination service. Jim co-led worship and hosted a delicious coffee hour with finger sandwiches and cake.

During worship we lifted up the call that Jim answered 50 years ago to shepherd God's people. Jim's active ministry spanned 40 years, serving congregations in Cincinnati, Ohio, Rock Falls, Illinois and New Holstein, Wisconsin. We give God thanks and praise for the countless times Jim nurtured faith, walked the hills and valleys with his congregations, the ways he helped people recognize their gifts and equipped people for Christian service.

This was the prayer offered in worship:

Eternal God, in wisdom you govern all things, and from the beginning you have chosen faithful people to serve you in ministry and to equip your people for the work of ministry and for building up the body of Christ. Thank You for the gift of vocation. We rejoice for the call you placed on Rev. James Werner's life and his willing, trusting heart to answer your call to serve and love your people and proclaim the Gospel. We thank you, God, for all the ways his words and deeds have brought - and continue to bring - hope, healing, and transformation in Jesus' name. Bless Rev. Jim and all of us that our service and lives will be a testament to your love and bring glory to your name. Amen.



Financially Speaking

Due to an upgrade issue encountered with PowerChurch, St. Paul's accounting software, the quarterly giving statements originally scheduled to be mailed in mid-July have been delayed and will now be sent in mid-August. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Karen Westerman at 847-727-9973

Karen Westerman
Financial Secretary

Worship Servers for the Month of August

Greeters:

August 2 - Bill & Karen Snyder
August 9 - Anne Heinrich & Barb Kamp
August 16 - Mike & Karen Westerman
August 23 - Ken & Mona Volkening
August 30 - Connie Moraca & Vern Knaak

Ushers:

August 2 - Linda Meglin, Mike & Ginny Mursewick, & Ken Volkening
August 9 - Dave & Pat Thompson, Craig Whyte, and Dale Volkening
August 16 - Dan Heinrich, Vern Knaak, Connie Moraca, & Mike Westerman
August 23 - Chuck Smith, Ryan Smith, and Rick & Sara Tustin
August 30 - Lee & Nicole Thielke and Dexter & Ashley Young

Scripture Readers:

August 2 - Sam Hebert
August 9 - Sue Huber
August 16 - Ryan Smith
August 23 - Alison Smith
August 30 - Jay Shircliff

Counters:

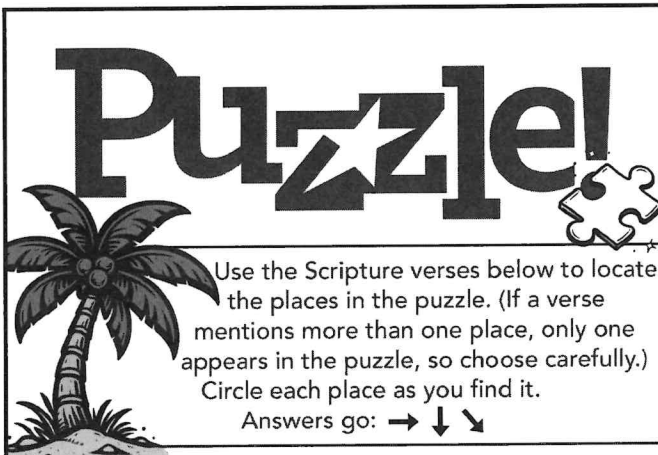
August 2 - Judy Reimer
August 9 - Fed Vollman
August 16 - Sandy Volkening
August 23 - Linda Meglin
August 30 - Karen Vollman

Media:

August 2 - Sandy Volkening
August 9 - Sandy Volkening
August 16 - Anne Heinrich
August 23 - Anne Heinrich
August 30 - Anne Heinrich

Communion:

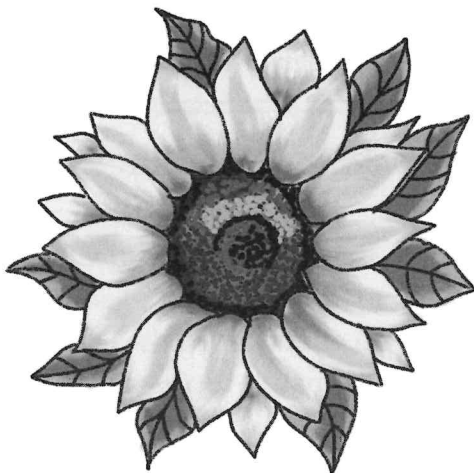
Sue and Lorrel Petty



Genesis 2:15	Isaiah 23:1	Luke 24:13
Genesis 11:9	Isaiah 23:2	John 2:1
Genesis 35:1	Isaiah 23:3	Acts 8:5
Exodus 13:18	Jonah 1:2	Acts 11:22
Ruth 1:1	Matthew 3:6	Acts 17:16
1 Kings 18:19	Matthew 4:18	Romans 1:15
1 Chronicles 11:4	Matthew 26:36	

S	I	D	O	N	G	N	I	L	E	S	O
J	J	O	R	D	A	N	R	I	V	E	R
E	S	G	A	A	R	C	A	N	A	A	M
R	A	E	T	B	D	C	D	B	E	O	O
U	M	T	H	B	E	T	H	E	L	F	U
S	A	H	E	T	N	E	A	T	N	G	N
A	R	S	N	Y	O	M	N	H	I	A	T
L	I	E	S	R	F	M	T	L	N	L	C
E	A	M	D	E	E	A	I	E	E	I	A
M	F	A	R	S	D	U	O	H	V	L	R
G	H	N	O	A	E	S	C	E	E	E	M
I	J	E	M	B	N	A	H	M	H	E	E
T	O	W	E	R	O	F	B	A	B	E	L

Answers: Garden of Eden, Tower of Babel, Bethel, Red Sea, Bethlehem, Mount Carmel, Jerusalem, Tyre, Sidon, Nile, Nineveh, Jordan River, Sea of Galilee, Gethsemane, Emmaus, Cana, Samaria, Antioch, Athens, Rome



Footsteps with God

Have you ever walked along the shore and noticed footprints in the sand? The poem *Footprints in the Sand* reminds us that God is always with us.

Unscramble each word and write it inside the footprints to see what Psalm 119:133 (NIV) says about our steps. (Hint: the bold letters show the first letter of each word.)

 reDcti	 ym	 efoopstst	
 cgcdianro	 ot	 oryu	 dowr
 elt	 on	 nsi	
 lreu	 rvoe	 em.	

Psalm 119:133 (NIV)

Answer: "Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me."

Bible Quiz

Jesus said that his followers are the "light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). It wouldn't do much good to hide a light under a bushel, he said. It should be put on a lamp-stand to give light in the house. Then Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see ..."



Choose the ending of Jesus' sentence:

- A. their way and not stumble.
- B. how good and faithful you are as my servants.
- C. your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
- D. in their darkness.

Answer: C (Matthew 5:16, NIV)



8/01 Sharon Sorenson
 8/07 Debbie Schmidt
 8/08 Sharlene Gould
 8/08 Patricia Thompson
 8/10 Sandy Volkening
 8/11 Brian Cowan
 8/11 Becky Kelly
 8/11 Judy Volkening
 8/13 Elena Smith
 8/13 Bonnie Starr
 8/16 Kay Guptail
 8/16 Pamela Heinrich
 8/17 Zoey Wiggin
 8/18 Linda Smith
 8/20 Patricia Schmoldt
 8/24 Katie Kaye
 8/28 Julian Kamp Soto



8/01 Myron & Linda Meglin
 8/11 Arthur & Susan Tyrell
 8/16 Sara & Rick Tustin
 8/26 Bill & Kay Guptail
 8/30 Lee & Nicole Thielke

****Please forgive any omissions. Please contact the Church Office by email or by phone at 847-628-6118 with corrections.**



Mark Your Calendar:

- Sunday, August 9 - Blessing of the Backpacks
- Sunday, September 13 - Rally Day & Grandparents Day
- Saturday, September 19 - Creek Clean-Up
- Sunday, September 20 - Blessing of the Animals
- Sunday, September 27 - Elgin Crop Hunger Walk
- Saturday, October 3 - German Dinner Heritage Fest

Worship Online

Watch our Services live on YouTube every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. or watch them when you have time. Just scan the QR Code or go to YouTube and search St. Paul's United Church of Christ



Online Giving

Your gifts to the church provide for our ministries and programs. To make an online donation scan the QR Code or go to our website at www.stpaulucelgin.org and click on the give link.



Those who know your name
trust in you, for you, LORD,
have never forsaken those who seek you.

Psalm 9:10, NIV



September Newsletter Deadline:

August 19th

If you have an article you would like included in the next Newsletter, please submit it to the office by emailing stpauls4me@yahoo.com no later than the deadline!

