

Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

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# ST. PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

## August 2025

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Visit us on our Website at [www.stpaulucelgin.org](http://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](http://www.stpaulucelgin.org) and click on the  
calendar link

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### What's in this Issue:

- A Note From the Pastor
- Member Spotlight
- Historical Memorabilia Committee
- Blessings of the Animals Art Contest
- Prayer Card Outreach
- Diaper Ministry
- Blessing of the Backpacks
- Crop Walk
- Book Talk
- Highlights from the 35th Synod
- Financially Speaking
- August Birthdays & Anniversaries



## Monthly Newsletter

Vote for your favorite name for the Newsletter.

Here are the choices:

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. A Joyful Word            | b. Chimes                |
| c. Church Chatter           | d. St. Paul's Connection |
| e. St. Paul's Happenings    | f. St. Paul's Sentinal   |
| g. St. Paul's Scoop         | h. The Good News         |
| i. The Gathering Place News |                          |
| j. The Messenger            | k. The Plank Road Press  |
| l. Waz Happnin' Now Monthly |                          |

Call the church with your choice at 847-628-6118  
or by email at [stpauls4me@yahoo.com](mailto:stpauls4me@yahoo.com)

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**Church:** 40W720 Plank Rd., Elgin, IL 60124

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

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

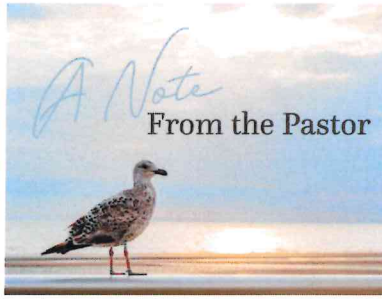
**Phone #:** 847-628-6118 / **Email:** [stpauls4me@yahoo.com](mailto:stpauls4me@yahoo.com) / **Website:** [stpaulucelgin.org](http://stpaulucelgin.org)

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

Rev. Liz Patz, Pastor

Sherry Severing, Administrative Assistant

Gay Bouwmeester, Pianist    Jon Kobel, Choir Director

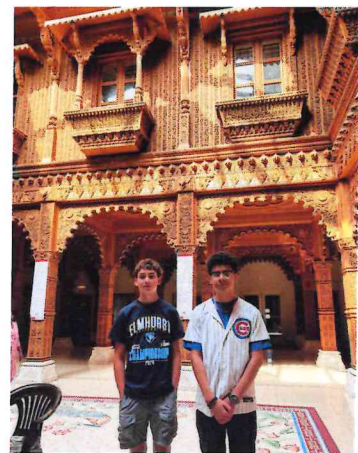


On Sunday, August 17th we will celebrate and witness the confirmation of Julian Soto and Xavier Duarte. Julian and Xavier will affirm their faith in Jesus Christ and commit to membership in the church. This summer we focused on one question: What does it mean to you to have God in your life? We had some good lessons and conversations and we took a couple field trips.

We visited Elmhurst University and learned of the school's United Church of Christ history and commitment to scholarship, service, and social justice. We learned about one famous alum Reinhold Niebuhr, author of the Serenity Prayer. We also spent time in Hammerschmidt Chapel where Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke in 1966. We talked about how our faith is more than Sunday morning; how we practice our faith everyday - in learning, in hobbies, in our work, in our community. We also took a field trip to places of worship and looked for similarities and differences between our worship space and practices at St. Paul's and our neighbors. With chaperone Barb Kamp, we visited BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Bartlett (a Hindu place of worship) and Holy Name Cathedral in downtown Chicago. We recognized how architecture and space are used to give praise and honor to the divine and appreciated how our own space is cared for and still looks new after almost 13 years. We also noticed similar religious messages of welcome, peace, and serving our neighbors. We were invited to attend a midday Hindu prayer service and were honored to be passed the candle of blessing. The Holy Name tour allowed us to get close to the impressive altar and beautiful running water baptismal font which moved all of us.

On Confirmation Sunday, Julian and Xavier will share what it means to have God in their life. We will celebrate the gift of faith with them and offer our friendship and encouragement as they take these next steps on their Christian faith walk into young adulthood.

Peace on the journey,  
Pastor Liz







# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Gay Bouwmeester  
St. Paul's Organist



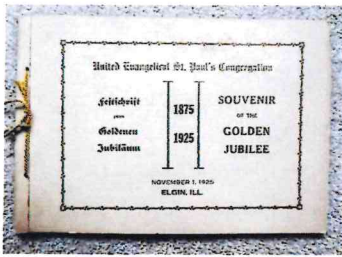
Greetings St. Paul's Church,

On the first Sunday in August, I will be celebrating my fifteenth anniversary here at St. Paul's. It seems as if fifteen years would feel like a long time, but for me, those years spent working and worshipping with you all have gone by in a flash. This congregation has come to mean very much to me. You are my friends, my brothers and sisters in Christ, and I value all the time that I have spent with you.

Things have been changing in my life recently. Many of you know that several years ago I started a program with Linda Schambach to become Licensed Ministers in the UCC. Many of you also know that this didn't work out the way we had planned. Linda is continuing her ministry efforts with the Disciples of Christ. I have been called back to the Church of the Brethren. Right now, I am working through the Training in Ministry (TRIM) program through Bethany Seminary in Richmond, IN. On July 20, my Brethren congregation voted to license me as a minister of that church. My actual licensing will take place on September 21. I will continue to take classes with Bethany and hopefully will be ordained later next year.

This is a calling I have felt all of my life, and it seems that it might finally be fulfilled. What does that mean for me here at St. Paul's? Well, nothing immediately, but my name and ministerial profile will be sent out to churches in the district. If one of them is interested in me as pastor, well, then it's time for me to discern if leaving St. Paul's and joining another church as their minister is the right choice. I could most certainly use your prayers over the next months as I seek to find God's will and way for my life.

In the meantime, I will be here most Sundays, enjoying worship with you all. My prayer for you now and in the future comes from the words of St. Paul, the first Christian theologian and the man whose name we claim. "I thank my God every time I mention you in my prayers... I'm sure about this: the one who started a good work in you will stay with you to complete the job by the day of Jesus Christ. I have good reason to think this way about all of you because I keep you in my heart." (taken from Philippians 1: 3-7)



**The Historical Memorabilia Committee** needs your help in locating a St. Paul's 50th Anniversary booklet. We do not have one in our archive.

Please see Karen Vollman, Polly Russell, Judy Reimer, or Jim Werner if you have one or know where one is.

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## Blessings of the Animals Art Contest

Submit your artwork inspired by the hymn lyric:

*All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small*

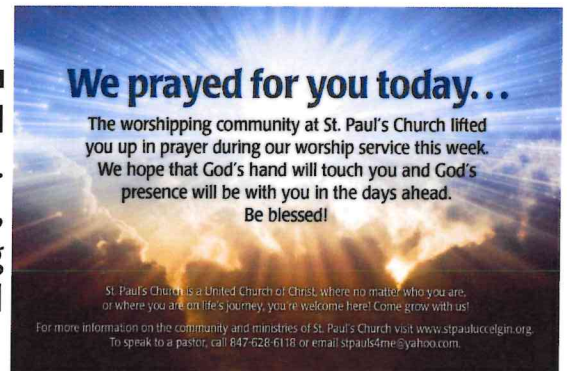
The winning artwork will be featured on the blessing certificate given to each pet guest at our Blessing of the Animals. Artwork can be in color or black and white and should be no bigger than 8.5 x 11. Artwork entries are due by August 31st.

Please email artwork to [stpauls4me@yahoo.com](mailto:stpauls4me@yahoo.com), give to Pastor Liz on Sunday, or bring to the church office M-F from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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## Prayer Card Outreach

The Evangelism Ministry offers “**We prayed for you today...**” cards that you can send to those we’ve lifted up in prayer during worship or throughout the week. Consider sending a card to someone you’ve named, letting them know our church community is holding them in prayer and asking for God’s comfort and presence in their life.



Cards are available on the table in the front hall, or you can see Jon Kobel to get one. Postage is included—just add your message and drop it in the mail!

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## MINISTRY NEWS

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### Diaper Ministry

#### August 3 Diaper Collection

The first Sunday of the month at St. Paul's is our diaper collection. We collect **sizes 1-6** and the diapers can be dropped off in the narthex, to the left of the entry doors.

**Tuesday, August 5th at 3:00 p.m.**

Food and Diaper Distribution at the Old Sherman



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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## Blessing of the Backpacks

Blessing of the Backpacks and the children starting back to Sunday school will be on **Sunday, August 10th**. All children and school personnel are encouraged to bring their school bag to be blessed by Pastor Liz during the worship service. After the worship service, all are invited for hotdogs that the children will be serving from their very own Food Truck.

We are grateful for all the children at St. Paul's and so blessed by the joy they bring to our church family.

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

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## MISSION NEWS

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### Save the Date Saturday, September 27th

The CROP Hunger Walk is a nationwide movement sponsored by Church World Service to raise funds to end hunger and poverty in the U.S. and around the world. The walk also raises money for the Burlington-Hampshire Food Pantry. Our walk is a joint effort of five churches and also partners with the St. Vincent de Paul Walk for the Poor. More information about the Walk Day event at Seyller Park coming soon.

ENDING HUNGER **ONE STEP** AT A TIME.

Check out the our Crop Walk website by scanning the QR Code.



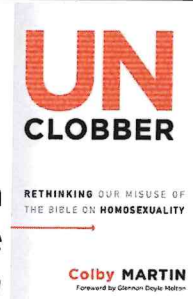
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## Book Talk: *Unclobber* by Colby Martin

**Wednesdays August 6, 13, 20** from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Ministry House

This August we will take on the heavy topic of how the Biblical interpretation has been misused to “clobber” LGBTQ+ people. We'll do this with the Progressive Christian lens of *UnClobber: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality*, written by Colby Martin (<https://a.co/d/hQjMijj>). Through this lens, we will reexamine six frequently quoted passages of Scripture.

This three-session series is designed to open our dialogue on where God is calling us to respond to present needs and active support of the LGBTQ+ community locally and beyond.



## Highlights from the work and witness of the 35th General Synod (July 11-15)

Read all General Synod highlight articles here.

<https://generalsynod.org/news-listings>

In partnership with the UCC Media Justice Ministry, the Missouri Mid-South Conference proudly announced the launch of KPVF-FM, a progressive faith radio station based in the St. Louis area and streaming nationwide. The station's antenna will be installed in the steeple of St. Paul's UCC in Oakville, Missouri, broadcasting on 99.7 FM.

The UCC National Collaborative on Immigration gathered over 200 people outside the Conference Center to call on the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) to stop the raids, family separation, and disappearances of community members that have been escalating under the current administration. The 35<sup>th</sup> General Synod overwhelmingly approved an emergency resolution that opposes this administration's immigration policies, supports immigrants and refugees, and calls for antiracism work.

Rev. Traycee Potter the UCC's youth and young adult engagement minister and director for Love of Children, addressed the age-old lament heard churchwide, "Pastor, we need more children and youth" by saying it was time to rewrite that narrative. It's time to stop focusing on bringing [youth] into the church to save a church. It's about recognizing children as a vital part of the worshipping community, and taking seriously intergenerational ministry.

The 35th General Synod declared the church to be in 'full communion' with its longtime Caribbean partner, Iglesia Evangélica Unida de Puerto Rico. The Iglesia left the UCC after the Synod voted in 2005 to support marriage equality for LGBTQ people.

The Rev. Shari Prestemon was elected the Associate General Minister, Co-Executive of Global Ministries. Before joining the National Ministries, Prestemon served 10 years as the Conference Minister for the Minnesota Conference, and also served as executive director at Back Bay Mission, and as a local church pastor. With a deep well of experience, a heart rooted in justice, and a vision attuned to the needs of the wider Church.

### HOW, CHURCH, CAN WE BE FAITHFUL?

Extend to each other  
more grace than gripes.

Honor the diverse wisdom &  
experiences that each part  
of the church offers

Practice some genuine  
humility with one another

Recognize just how much we need  
each other in this moment.



-Rev. Shari Prestemon,  
AGM Candidate  
Nomination Speech, General Synod #35



# Financially Speaking

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The total 2025 fixed expenses through June were \$81,497.06. We are working well within our budget at 70.8%.

The total 2025 receipts through June were \$139,774.34 which includes giving for fixed expenses as well as charitable giving. See below.

## Offering

\$84,628.00	Pledged Offering
\$12,598.00	Contributions (Non-pledged)
\$2,181.00	Loose Offering

## Denominational Support

\$4,160.00	OCWM (Illinois Conference)
\$315.00	One Great Hour of Sharing
\$20.00	Neighborhoods in Need

## Church Fund Support

\$6,765.00	Land, Building and Equipment Fund
\$452.00	Coffee Hour donations
\$552.80	General Fund
\$1,375.00	Scholarship Fund
\$476.00	"J" Dollars

## Specific Ministry Support

\$190.00	Music Fund
\$1,165.00	Missions Projects
\$2,755.00	Diaper Ministry (including May community drive)
\$200.00	Fellowship and Hospitality

## Seasonal Giving

\$460.00	Easter Breakfast
\$2,796.00	Lent/Easter Offering

## Church Project Support

\$2000.00	Member donation toward sanctuary sound equipment
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## Community Support

\$1,080.00	Pads 5K Sponsorship
\$122.00	Elgin Pride
\$2,360.00	PADS Emergency Appeal
\$1,640.00	Bienvenidos Emergency Appeal

## Other

\$8,674.47	CD Interest
\$2,266.00	Memorial Giving
\$37.07	Miscellaneous
\$375.00	Easter Memorial Flowers
\$51.00	Initial Offering (related to Giving Envelope)

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this report or on your statements.

Karen Westerman,  
Financial Secretary



**8/01** Sharon Sorensen  
**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 Tyrrel  
**8/16** Rick & Sara 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.**



### Online Giving

Your gifts to the church  
 provide for our ministries and  
 programs. To make an online  
 donation go to our website at  
[www.stpaulucelgin.org](http://www.stpaulucelgin.org) and  
 click on the give link.

### Worship Online

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



### 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](mailto:stpauls4me@yahoo.com) no later  
 than the deadline!