



Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

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# ST. PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

## July 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.

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### What's in this Issue:

- A Note From the Pastor
- Member Spotlight
- Diaper Ministry Report
- Vacation Bible School
- Blessing of the Backpacks
- Missions in July
- UCC Church Camps
- July Birthdays & Anniversaries



### Monthly Newsletter

This is an opportunity for a fresh start with a new name! Email your name suggestion to the church by the end of July at [stpauls4me@gmail.com](mailto:stpauls4me@gmail.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



*But I will hope continually  
and will praise you yet more and more.*  
- Psalm 71:14 (NRSV)

This July the 35th General Synod of the United Church of Christ will meet in Kansas City, MO (July 11-15). One purpose of synod is to discern how we are called to respond to justice issues. 2025 marks the 20th anniversary of the UCC synod in Atlanta, GA that affirmed marriage equality for all people, regardless of gender.

That 2005 national gathering was my first synod. I took a youth group on a driving tour of Civil Rights landmarks on our way there. We were hosted by UCC churches, staying overnight in sanctuaries, learning about a bike ministry in Memphis, a homeless ministry in Montgomery. That experience was transforming. The Spirit was alive and working in all of us that whole trip - teaching us, humbling us, opening us, expanding our mind and our heart. We believed what we were experiencing: the power of Love to heal, include, and give life - just like the stories of Jesus proclaim.

20 years later, and the backwards movement of "justice for all" is shameful; the cruelty and loss of rights is devastating many. I find myself reaching out for the hope of that holy experience 20 years ago - of the church responding with courage and joy to the Spirit of God, loudly affirming that love is love; of the kids learning what it means to be a neighbor; of experiencing the blessing of inclusion and diversity. I reach back, and then I hurl my hope forward, joining many in my fervent prayers for the affirmation and protection of the vulnerable and the outcast; for courage to be Christ's love in the world.

The 35th General Synod theme is Jesus' instruction to put out 'Into the Deep.' The deep: a source of life and sustenance which may be marked by mystery, risk, and reward. Please pray with me for our UCC church leaders and lay folks who are gathering this July. Pray for all of us - that hope and courage will continue to find and guide us as we discern God's command to love one another in this time and place.

Peace on the journey,  
Pastor Liz



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## Member Spotlight

Meet Eric

Professional Dog Trainer

**You love your dog;**

*do you ever wish their behavior was a little bit better?*

**Do they jump on visitors? Don't come when called? Have "accidents" in the house?**

Maybe I can help. My name is Eric Hayley and I am a retired professional dog trainer with ten years of experience. During my career I worked with over 1,000 dogs and several thousand of their human family members, and I have dealt with a whole host of problematic canine issues. I can't say I've seen it all, but I've seen a lot.

Can I help you? Let's find out! We'll set up a time to discuss your specific problems and goals, I'll then be able to tell you what can be accomplished over what timeframe as well as what the costs will look like.

A ten-minute phone call can change you and your dog's lives. Please don't hesitate, I'm well trained and I promise not to bite! All program costs will be donated to St. Paul's.

Eric Hayley

630-992-1070

# Ministry News



## Diaper Ministry

### Summertime Impact

Did you know that 1 in 2 families with young children cannot afford enough diapers to keep their infant or child clean, dry, and healthy?

We at St. Paul's are working together to make a difference in the lives of these families experiencing diaper insecurity. Because of YOU.... your diaper donations, financial support, and help out in the community, we are able to distribute diapers at the Learning on the Go Camps in Elgin and impact families this summer. **For the past three weeks we have been at Cornerstone Park, Lords Park, and St. Francis Park and have given out 2,148 diapers.** We will be distributing diapers through July 21st and hope you will consider signing up for this service project in our community. There is a sign up sheet on the church bulletin board.

We continue to distribute food and diapers with Northern Illinois Food Mobile Pantry the second Tuesday of the month at the old Sherman Hospital parking lot from 3:00-5:00 p.m. There is a sign up sheet on the church bulletin board.

We appreciate your support of the diaper ministry so that St. Paul's Church is able to go out into the community shining the light of Jesus and sharing one of the UCC 3 great loves, Love of Children.

God's Blessings,  
Karen Smith, Karen Snyder, & Barb Kamp



[Photo: Our youngest member Axel helping pack diapers at the Ministry House]

## July 6 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.

# Christian Education

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## VBS July 24-27

Children in preschool through sixth grade are invited to attend Vacation Bible School Thursday, July 24th - Saturday, July 26th from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and then Sunday, July 27th during Sunday School. Our theme will be "Waves of Wonder". We will be out in God's creation, our beautiful church property, exploring scriptures in which God provides for plants, animals and people, learning to care for water, a precious natural resource. On Sunday, August 3, after church, the children and their families are invited to celebrate our theme "Waves of Wonder" with a water park celebration. More information will be given during VBS.

If you are interested in your child participating in VBS, Pre-K - 6th grade **you can register on our website and click on the vbs link.** Older children are invited to join us and help with the events.

If you are interested in helping with snacks, crafts, or games; you are welcome to join us any day as well. Please contact Karen Smith.

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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



# MISSION NEWS

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## Emergency Appeal Update

THANK YOU for your generous donations in support of PADS of Elgin and Bienvenido of Elgin in their emergency need of funds to support local neighbors facing imminent homelessness and food insecurity. With our matching incentive, St. Paul's is donating \$2,235.00 to PADS of Elgin and \$2015.00 to Bienvenido of Elgin (as of June 26).

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## July Mission Project "Step It Up"

We are helping First Baptist Church of Elgin provide new gym shoes for kids in need so they can have a brand new pair when they start off the new school year. Please consider purchasing a new pair of sneakers for a boy or girl. Bring them to church any time in July and place them in the "Step it Up" box in the narthex. Thank you!

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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.



## DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR OCWM GIVING SUPPORTS 2 CAMPS?

Pilgrim Park Camp and Conference Center in Princeton, IL and Tower Hill—nestled in the stunning sand dunes of Sawyer, Michigan, along eastern Lake Michigan—are more than just beautiful natural retreats.



Church camp goes far beyond its scenic settings. Outdoor ministry serves as an extension of our local churches, offering a wide range of spiritual opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds. Is there an upcoming camp for you, your family, or the church? See links.

Like many organizations today, our camps rely on the continued support of local congregations—not just through financial contributions, but through active involvement. Engagement is often measured by participation in summer camps, weekend retreats, and day programs. Yet the most meaningful measure of a camp's impact is found in the spiritual growth and faith formation that happen there. That is where outdoor ministry makes its deepest and most lasting difference.



“Tower Hill changed my life. Because in the weeks I attended every year (from ages 11-16) I was the most happy, confident and relaxed version of myself.”

— Emily, IL

[www.pilgrimparkcamp.com](http://www.pilgrimparkcamp.com)

[www.towerhillcamp.com](http://www.towerhillcamp.com)





**7/02** Bill Snyder  
**7/07** Ainsley Bryson  
**7/07** Evelyn Bryson  
**7/07** Winifred Heinrich  
**7/11** Christina Kamp  
**7/14** Anne Heinrich  
**7/15** Patrick Kelly  
**7/16** Wayne Schambach  
**7/18** Tommy Patz  
**7/20** Sara Tustin  
**7/21** Jay Shircliff  
**7/24** Melanie Werner  
**7/26** Margene Absolon  
**7/27** Langston Kelly  
**7/27** JoAnn Schircliff  
**7/28** Kandy Jones  
**7/31** Isaac Volkening



**7/02** Herman & Judy Volkening  
**7/17** Chet & Sarah Westerman  
**7/18** Dan & Roberta Wayeshe  
**7/20** Dave & Mia Berna  
**7/21** Ryan & Kylie Smith

**\*\*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:

**July 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!