

the CONNECTION

June 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 and click on the
calendar link



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- Elgin Pride
- Diaper Ministry
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St. Paul's
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Elgin, Illinois

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 / **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

from the PASTOR



Which songs inspire you to "love one another"?

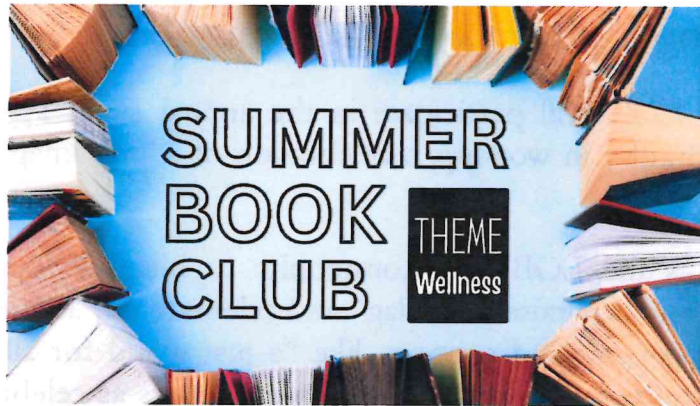
This summer we're asking a similar question as a church community: What inspires and shapes our mission to welcome, love, and help our neighbor? Thinking about music that inspires our Christian faith is a good springboard.

As a kid, I genuinely liked church music. Church music gave me language to understand God and Jesus: the Creator, the Almighty, present, loving, and faithful; and Jesus the Friend, Son, Sovereign, Shepherd, Savior, Word, Lord. When church was over, secular music (meaning not religious) complimented my faithful compassion education. Songs first heard from my dad's 8-track like Simon and Garfunkel's Like a Bridge Over Troubled Water (https://youtu.be/4G-YQA_bsOU?si=MV2UBVj8UynCKNXG), or over the airwaves of 93XRT like Supertramp's Give A Little Bit (<https://youtu.be/J9JOut9yh5g?si=2Do-if8z8xXOrV-J>) and The Call's Let The Day Begin (https://youtu.be/to2KasivROc?si=xcUhKT8Q_d6ZEP8z)- to name just a few. And new Christian music continues to inspire me, too! Like Spencer LaJoye's Plowshare Prayer (<https://youtu.be/NHQ9FoQC3BI?si=hedKZnPUUwrKz9gG>).

I love hearing God's still speaking voice in music: the religious and the secular. I appreciate artists who choose to give voice to the voiceless, who rally the peacemakers, who inspire the world to choose kindness, and remind us that loving one another is what mends creation and honors the Creator.

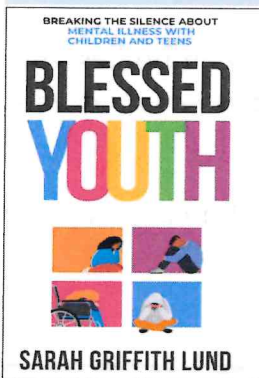
So, what are the songs that teach you compassion and inspire you to "love one another"? Religious and secular, old and new. What songs illustrate for you the Christian call to love, service, and unity? Please share! **Add your songs to the list at this link** https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zwlE5blkMxZIK2jevrD1nt4fFYrpd_wF1rss6t0uck/edit?usp=sharing, **email me** at pastorliz24@gmail.com, or **call the office**. I look forward to experiencing each other's inspirational songs!

Peace,
Pastor Liz



Wellness is our summer theme. See the book display and sign-ups at church. Book Club will meet for discussion the last Thursday of the month: an AM session and a PM session.

JUNE



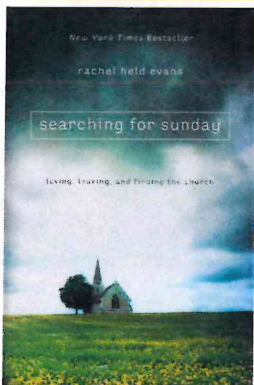
Blessed Youth: Breaking the Silence About Mental Illness with Children and Teens

by Sarah Griffith Lund

"Sarah Griffith Lund draws on the wisdom of experience, expert insight and profound faith in the immense value of our youth to spur us to action on destigmatizing mental illness."

- Ellen O'Donnell, PhD, author of *Bless This Mess*

JULY



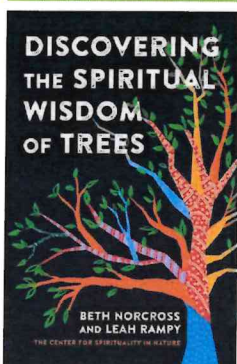
Searching for Sunday

by Rachel Held Evans

"If you need a book to pastor you, befriend you, pick you up and dust you off, and maybe even give you a spiritual kiss on the cheek and a devotional kick in the pants, you've found it here."

- Brian McLaren, author and speaker

AUGUST



Discovering the Spiritual Wisdom of Trees

by Beth Norcross and Leah Rampy

"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

Elgin Pride: Showing Up for Love and Neighbor

On Saturday, June 6th St Paul's will participate in the annual Elgin Pride Parade and Festival. Sunday, June 7th is Pride Sunday in worship, a celebration of God's image and belovedness in all of us.

In a world that often asks the LGBTQ+ community to blend in or even hide, the parade organizers encourage everyone to "raise your flag" and celebrate our authentic selves. St Paul's will wave messages of encouragement and support, like "a just world for all," "you are loved," and "love is louder." We will also proudly display our mission values as celebrated in our 150th logo: Loving God, Loving All People, Loving Creation.

Jesus is clear about how to love God and one another: "Love your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27, CEB).

Our UCC denominational message *Love is Louder: Love Your Neighbor OUT LOUD* embodies the testimony of Jesus and calls on the Church to be faithful siblings to one another – friend and stranger – for the sake of love.

We participate in Elgin Pride to support the spiritual, physical, and mental well-being of our LGBTQ+ siblings and do our part to build the beloved community.

Let's root ourselves in the spirit of Jesus's call to love our neighbors as ourselves!



MINISTRY NEWS

Diaper Ministry

News by the Numbers

756

diapers distributed

We distributed 756 diapers at the Northern Illinois Mobile Pantry on Tuesday, May 12th. Thank you Paula DeFarno, Polly Russell and Karen Smith.

255

families served

We distributed food to 255 families on May 12th, too! Thank you Barb Kamp, Anne Heinrich, Sue Huber and Chuck Smith.

Next Distribution: Tuesday, June 9th

Old Sherman Hospital parking lot from 3:00-5:00 p.m. There is a volunteers sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

3,752

diapers bagged

Volunteers bagged 3,752 diapers on Saturday, May 16th. Definitely a good start for our Learning on the Go Camps starting in June. It was especially wonderful to have the children helping. Thank you Anne Heinrich, Barb Kamp, Pastor Liz, Debbie Monteith, Kendra Monteith, Sue Huber, Karen Smith, Karen Westerman and Claire, Jack and Violet Westerman.

5

size needed

We are in need of size 5 diapers. Sunday, June 7th is the next diaper collection and then we will take a donation break for July and August. Thank you for the incredible generosity, love, and compassion you have shown. Your support has made an incredible difference for families in need. Enjoy your well-deserved summer months off, and thank you for being such a wonderful part of this community service.

21

and counting!

We are serving three camp locations for seven weeks this summer. We have 21 diaper team volunteers to-date! We are so grateful for your help and commitment to be out in the community this summer serving our youngest families that are in need of diapers. If you are still interested in volunteering, but haven't signed up, there are still dates for you to help.

1,000

labels

What an amazing gift from our partner EPEL - 1,000 color labels for our diaper bags!

3

wagons

The Diaper Ministry bought three wagons to help transport the diapers more easily this summer to the parks. We are also purchasing baby wipes to distribute a couple times at the three camps. Thank you to those who have so generously given a monetary donation to the diaper ministry to make these purchases possible.

Thanks to each volunteer and donor for being the hands and feet of Christ and supporting the ministry work of St. Paul's.

Together, St. Paul's is "Changing Lives One Diaper at a Time"

Blessings - Karen Smith, Karen Snyder, and Barb Kamp



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

It's Summertime!

New Playground Mulch

We were able to completely refresh the church playground with brand new kid-friendly mulch, thanks to the generous bequest to Christian Education from Linda Carrasco. All are welcome to come and play!!!



Nursery Makeover Reveal

Please join us Sunday, June 14th, Children's Day, for our Nursery makeover reveal. We are so excited for our church family to see the newly fresh painted and beautifully redecorated space. A huge thank you to Ashley Young, Heather Heinrich and Kylie Smith for their great ideas, hard work and vision for creating a new welcoming space for our littlest ones at St. Paul's.

Birdhouse Team Building



Birdhouse Team Build

On Sunday, June 21st we invite our children to team up with a special adult and build a birdhouse together. Their teammate can be a parent, a grandparent, uncle or aunt. It is a wonderful way to create a lasting memory to adorn our church property. If interested, please let Karen Smith know by June 7th. (ks2teach@gmail.com)



Summer Sunday School

Sunday mornings June 28 through August 2 children are invited to activities focusing on our summer theme "Wild Wonder"! All children will have the opportunity to be active participants being outside and caring for God's creation on our St. Paul's property. Let us know if you are interested in joining us or leading a lesson on any one of the given Sunday mornings.

Christian Education Ministry

Karen Smith (Chairperson), Karen Westerman, Ken Volkening, Kylie Smith, Janet Werner & Ginny Mursewick

MUSIC MINISTRY

Singing at The Vines

On Wednesday, May 6, the choir made a trip to The Vines Senior Homes in Elgin to visit with church member Alice Eichhorst and to sing a concert for residents. Jon Kobel lead the choir in a variety of sing-along hymns and choir anthems.



Music Appreciation Sunday

I'm always glad that we take a Sunday (May 17th) to recognize and celebrate the importance of music in the life of our congregation. From the hymns we sing, songs from the choir, special music, prayer responses, gathering songs, as well as the preludes and postludes—they all add to our level of worship each Sunday.

A big thank you to the dedicated choir members who through their voices help elevate our worship experience with the gift of song: Maya Garner, George Jacobs, Sara Tustin, Sam Raue Hebert, Linda Meglin, Jennifer Volkening, Anne Heinrich, Kristie Miller, Debbie Wodrich, Heather Heinrich, Bill Snyder, and Ron Zemke. We are grateful to Ron for stepping in as our accompanist in November.

We also thank the others who have participated in music at St. Paul's this past year: Gay Bouwmeester, Iris Heinrich, Winifred Heinrich, Liz Patz, Be Swanson, Richard Teaster, Derek Weinhof, Janet Werner, Clare Westerman, Dawn Zemke, and Marilyn Ziegler.

As always, I thank you, the congregation for your encouraging words and support. May God continue to bless us all.

Jon Kobel, Choir and Music Director



What's Happening at the UCC Camps

Check out what's happening at Pilgrim Park Camp and Retreat Center! It's only about 2 hours away.

Kids Sports Camp June 21-27 for completed 6th-9th grades.

Making Memories July 6-8 for grandparents and grandchildren.

Women's Sacred Relax and Renewal October 2-3

Crafter Retreat December 3-6

Visit their website for more information or to register by going to this link:
<https://pilgrimpark.campbrainregistration.com/>



Check out what's happening at Tower Hill Camp and Retreat Center. It's only about 2 hours away!

HUG Camp July 5-10 for completed 4th-11th grades
HUG Tenderfoot July 8-10 for K-3rd grades
Godstock July 19-24 for 3rd-9th grades
Godstock Tenderfoot July 22-24 for K-3rd grade
Creation Care Camp August 3-6 Intergenerational

Visit their website for more information or to register by going to this link:
<https://www.towerhillcamp.org/youth-camps>



Worship Servers for the Month of June

Greeters:

June 7 - Chuck & Karen Smith
June 14 - Kandy Jones & Elsie Ward
June 21 - Bill & Karen Snyder
June 28 - Fred & Karen Vollman

Ushers:

June 7 - Dan Heinrich, Vern Knaak, Connie Moraca, & Mike Westerman
June 14 - Chuck Smith, Ryan Smith, Rick & Sara Tustin
June 21 - Lee & Nicole Thielke and Dexter & Ashley Young
June 28 - Linda Meglin, Mike & Ginny Mursewick, & Ken Volkening

Scripture Readers:

June 7 - Anne Heinrich
June 14 - Sue Huber
June 21 - Ryan Smith
June 28 - Alison Smith

Counters:

June 7 - Sandy Volkening
June 14 - Linda Meglin
June 21 - Karen Vollman
June 28 - Judy Reimer

Media:

June 7 - Sandy Volkening
June 14 - Anne Heinrich
June 21 - Anne Heinrich
June 28 - Anne Heinrich

Communion:

Sue and Lorrel Petty

Thank you to our dedicated worship service volunteers each Sunday morning. Your time, commitment, and willingness to serve help make our worship services possible, and we are truly grateful for all you do.

If you are interested in volunteering in one or more areas on Sunday mornings, we would love to have you join us! Please contact the church office for more information or talk to Pastor Liz.

Financially Speaking

	January	Year-to-Date
Offering		
Pledged Offering	\$9,333.00	\$70,845.00
Contributions (Non-Pledged)	\$1,148.35	\$7,242.80
Loose Offering	\$474.00	\$1,062.18
Denominational Support		
OCWM (Illinois Conference)	\$386.00	\$3,031.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$0.00	\$405.00
Neighborhoods in Need	\$0.00	\$0.00
Strengthen the Church	\$0.00	\$25.00
Christmas Fund/Veterans of the Cross	\$0.00	\$0.00
Church Fund Support		
Land, Building and Equipment Fund	\$700.00	\$5,270.00
Coffee Hour donations	\$66.00	\$277.00
Misc. General Fund	\$50.00	\$82.00
Scholarship Fund	\$750.00	\$750.00
“J” Dollars	\$96.00	\$511.00
Specific Ministry Support		
Music Fund	\$10.00	\$90.00
Mission Projects	\$0.00	\$0.00
Diaper Ministry (Including May Community Drive)	\$0.00	\$550.00
Fellowship and Hospitality	\$0.00	\$0.00
Creation Care Grant	\$500.00	\$500.00
Seasonal Giving		
Easter Breakfast	\$0.00	\$545.00
Lent/Easter Offering	\$0.00	\$2,125.00
Heritage Fest	\$0.00	\$0.00
Christmas Offering	\$0.00	\$100.00

	January	Year-to-Date
Church Project Support		
Constitution Review	\$0.00	\$300.00
Nursery Makeover	\$0.00	\$50.00
New Chairs	\$0.00	\$2,344.51
Community Support		
Pads 5K Sponsorship	\$0.00	\$0.00
Elgin Pride	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pads Emergency Appeal	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other		
CD Interest	\$0.00	\$1,321.52
CD (transferring to higher rate CD)	\$0.00	\$30,000.00
Memorial Giving	\$0.00	\$2,865.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00
Christmas Flowers	\$0.00	\$0.00
Easter Memorial Flowers	\$69.00	\$474.00
Initial Offering (Related to Giving Envelope)	\$0.00	\$51.00
150th Celebration Dinner/Butter Braid Sale & Donation	\$1,190.00	\$1,190.00
Donation to CE for VBS	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$1,000 Donation to CE for Confirmation	\$0.00	\$0.00
Christmas Trees	\$0.00	\$0.00
CE Pancake Breakfast	\$0.00	\$201.00
Craft Fair	\$0.00	\$0.00
Living Nativity Free Will Offering	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total:	\$17,041.35	\$132,208.01

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this report.

Karen Westerman
 Financial Secretary
 847-727-9973



- 6/01 George Jacobs
- 6/01 Savannah Kamp
- 6/03 Kelly Cowan
- 6/03 Amaya Rowe
- 6/04 Diane Menke
- 6/06 Carlos Duarte
- 6/07 Marsha Claybrook
- 6/08 Chuck Smith
- 6/09 Judith Reimer
- 6/11 Myron Meglin
- 6/11 Ginny Mursewick
- 6/15 Violet Westerman
- 6/16 Sarah Westerman
- 6/18 Herman Volkening
- 6/19 Kenneth Rabe
- 6/20 Kendra Monteith
- 6/26 Dawn Zemke
- 6/28 Bonnie Rohrsen



- 6/05 Michael & Heather Heinrich
- 6/08 Colman & Linda Smith
- 6/15 Maya Garner & Jessica Thomas
- 6/19 Dale & Sandy Volkening
- 6/21 Ron & Dawn Zemke
- 6/22 Fred & Karen Vollman
- 6/24 Chuck & Karen Smith
- 6/28 Christopher & Cindy Heinrich
- 6/29 William & Karen Snyder



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

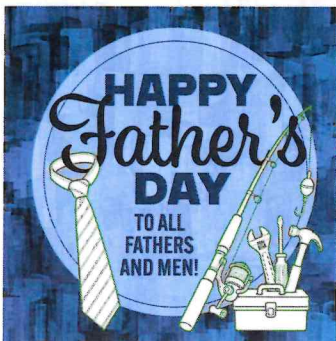


Online Giving

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.



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



July Newsletter Deadline: June 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!