



St. Paul's
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Elgin, Illinois

Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S CONNECTION

November 2025

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



Scan for
Website

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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What's in this Issue:

- From the Pastor
- The Church as Innkeeper
- Service of Remembrance
- Craft Night
- Diaper Ministry
- Christian Education
- November Mission Project
- Living Nativity
- Advent 2025
- FreeCycle
- Financially Speaking
- November Birthdays & Anniversaries

Save the Date:

- All Saints Remembrance; Sunday, Nov. 2
- Stewardship Sunday; Sunday, Nov. 9
- FreeCycle, Nov. 9
- Craft Night (Making Flowers); Thursday, Nov. 13
- Living Nativity Poster Plaster; Sunday, Nov. 16
- Advent Decorating; Sunday, Nov. 23
- Advent Workshop; Sunday, Nov. 30
- Christmas Craft Fair & Living Nativity; Sunday, Dec. 7

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

Gay Bouwmeester, Pianist Jon Kobel, Choir Director



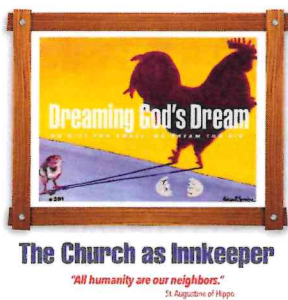
Thank you

The messages and support in your Pastor Appreciation cards have been like little birds flying into my view, singing sweetly, lifting my eyes up, inviting me to breathe deeply the peace of Christ that passes all understanding. I thank God for this "odd and wondrous calling" and the opportunity to serve with you. Sincerely, thank you for taking the time and making the effort. Your prayers for me and Tommy and for St. Paul's are the best gift.

I celebrate and commit again to the good work that is ours to do. May our words and actions show our community the light of Jesus. When we speak of justice, may they know we speak of Jesus. When we speak of love and compassion, may they know we speak of Jesus.

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving and Advent preparation in our 150th year, I look forward to worshipping and serving with you and making known to the community the power and joy of God's enduring love.

Peace - Pastor Liz



Stewardship Sunday—November 9th

The familiar Parable of the Good Samaritan tells the story of the Priest and the Levite who walked past a person in the ditch and the Good Samaritan who stopped to help. We often overlook another character in the story: the innkeeper. The Good Samaritan brought the wounded person to the inn, where the innkeeper nursed them to health until the Good Samaritan returned.

Saint Augustine, reflecting on this parable, highlights the unique role of the innkeeper, who provided a place where healing could happen. *What would it mean to understand our congregation as an "inn" for Good Samaritan work? Can we see our community as a place where healing happens?*

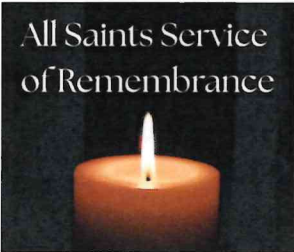
The innkeeper's role included managing resources, ensuring the inn's readiness, and extending mercy and help—roles we mirror when we care for one another and open ourselves up to caring for those in our community.

Focusing on the innkeeper can also challenge the ways we operate our building. Having a building is not the point of church. Rather, the building serves as a tool of our ministry. A church facility matters only because it can facilitate our mission.

Your gifts to our congregation help us provide a place of healing in our community, an “inn” where Good Samaritan Ministry can happen.

Look for the Stewardship invitation and pledge card in your mailbox the week of October 27th. Plan to join us in worship November 9th for Stewardship Sunday when we will dedicate our pledge cards and giving intentions and celebrate generosity during a special coffee hour.

The Stewardship Ministry



All Saints Service of Remembrance
Sunday, November 2nd

Sunday, November 2nd is a special service at St. Paul's called All Saints Service of Remembrance. This is an annual worship service when we remember the members and friends of St. Paul's who have died in the past year and whose services were organized through the church.

During the service we read out the names of those who have passed and ring the church bell for each person. We also invite the congregation forward to light candles for all our loved ones who have gone on before us.

This year we remember:

Eileen Andresen	Doug Volkening	Sally Dillow
Arlyce Snipes	Kathleen Porter	Gary Brown
Marvin Straub	Gerald Vetter	



Craft Night at St. Paul's
Thursday, November 13 at 6:30 p.m.

During Pridefest last June, some of our volunteers received beautiful handcrafted flowers made and shared by Carol Bailey. We're excited to welcome Carol to St. Paul's, where she'll show us how to make these lovely creations ourselves!

Carol will provide all the supplies, and everyone will have the chance to craft along with her. To help cover material costs, we're asking for a \$5 contribution per person.

Please sign up in the Narthex so we can let Carol know how many to plan for.

We hope you'll join us for this fun and creative evening!



MINISTRY NEWS

Diaper Ministry

November 2 Diaper Collection

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

Thank you for your continued support with donating diapers the first Sunday of the month. Your generous donations directly empower our community outreach efforts and provide essential, yet expensive necessities for families experiencing diaper insecurity in our community.

Mobile Pantry at Sherman Hospital

In October at Sherman Hospital Mobile Pantry, we distributed 804 diapers. We couldn't do this without your generosity and because of your kindness we are equipped to serve others and be a true light and helping hand. Every single diaper is a gift of love and support.

Saturday, November 15th

8:15-11:00 a.m.

St. Paul's has been invited to distribute diapers at Elgin Community College for the Special Meal Box Distribution in conjunction with For Greater Elgin and the Food Bank. A sign up sheet is in the narthex.

Volunteer Mondays & Wednesdays

We continue to distribute diapers at Zion Church and Izaak Walton in partnership with EPEL (Enriching Partnerships for Early Learning). Please consider joining us. A sign-up is in the narthex.

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

Blessings, Karen Smith, Karen Snyder, Barb Kamp

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Pumpkin Fun

Unfortunately, Sunday, October 19th, was a very rainy day and the children were not able to harvest their pumpkins. However, to the children's surprise, they found a trunk full of pumpkins and had fun unloading them into the Ministry House garage.

The children counted all 61 pumpkins and had fun choosing their very own pumpkin to take home. Donations to Christian Education were given for the extra pumpkins.



New Confirmation Class

We are thrilled that Charley Heinrich and Issac Volkening are beginning confirmation. This is a significant and exciting step in their lives as they choose to affirm their faith and take on a deeper commitment to Christ and our church community.

SAVE THE DATE



Sunday, December 21st **Children's Christmas Pageant**

During worship on December 21st the children will be performing their Christmas Pageant "Do Not Be Afraid." If your child is interested in being a part of the pageant please email Karen Smith at ks2teach@gmail.com.

The children will select roles and speaking parts and practice their parts/lines during Sunday school. We would love to have members of the church work with the children to help them learn their lines. If you are interested, please let us know.

The children will have two planned practices: Sunday, December 14th after church and Saturday, December 20th at 10:00 a.m. If your child is planning to participate, please ensure they can attend the practices leading up to the pageant.

November 23rd

Advent Workshop

On Sunday, November 30th from 11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Everyone of all ages is welcome to attend a time of fellowship and crafting. Make the lantern shown (or decorate with ribbon and accents of your choosing), make an ornament for the sanctuary tree, or color an angel poster. RSVP by November 9th for this free event. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex.



February 22nd

Author Visit & Family Fair

We are so excited to welcome Traci Smith, a best-selling author and speaker known for her work on practical faith practices for families on Sunday, February 22nd. She will lead our worship service and a one hour hands-on experience for all after church.

We're so excited to welcome her and we highly encourage families to join us for this amazing opportunity as we begin the Lenten season. More information will be coming.

CE Ministry,

Karen Smith, Council Chairperson

Karen Westerman, Ken Volkening, Kylie Smith, Janet Werner, Ginny Mursewick

MISSION

NEWS



November Mission Project

CASA Kane County Giving Program

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children) Kane County Giving Program is an annual item collection and fundraising event. Each year, before the holiday season, CASA launches a special initiative to ensure children in the foster care system receive a gift of their own.

A Christmas Tree with tags will go up at church November 2nd. You are invited to take a tag and shop for any of the items listed. We will collect items November 9th thru November 30th at the front of the church. Items need to be delivered to CASA on December 1st.

A Volunteer Opportunity with CASA

Be a Santa's helper! Advocates will shop for the children in their care at Fox Field Commons during December 5th - 12th. St. Paul's will volunteer to help with check-in, gift-wrapping, and loading vehicles with gifts. Volunteer days and times will be posted on sign-ups. Children are welcome to volunteer, too!

Gift Lists

Tags will be labeled by age group: infants, toddlers, children, and teens. The tags will be age specific, not child specific. Here's the gift lists if you want to start shopping early.

Infants:	Toddlers:	Children:	Teen & Young Adults:
Pajamas	Pajamas	Pajamas	XL/XXL Hoodies
Board Book	Baby Doll	Board Games	LED Strip Lights
Activity Mat	Books	Legos	Nail Polish/Make Up Kits
Stacking Toys	Car/Truck	Sports Items	Toiletry Sets
Lights & Sounds Toys	Educational Toys	Arts & Craft Kits	Headphones/Earbuds
	Puzzles	Stem Activity	Bluetooth Speaker
	Matching Game	Hair Accessories	Sling Bag/Fanny Pack
	Night Light	Card Games	

Please reach out with any questions.

Missions Ministry,
Barb Kamp, Anne Heinrich, Allison Smith, , Karen Synder, Jenn Volkening

Living Nativity with *NEW* Craft Show

Sunday, December 7th

St. Paul's Living Nativity will be held on Sunday, December 7th with presentations at 4:00 & 5:00 p.m. This is an all church event and our gift to the community. We have a place for everyone to help and be a part of this wonderful experience.

An added feature to the Living Nativity this year is a **Christmas Craft Show** that will be held from 3:00-6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. If you are interested in being a crafter, please reach out to Anne Heinrich, Barb Kamp, or Sherry in the office or you can register and pay on our website by scanning the QR Code.



Living Nativity Poster Plaster

Sunday, November 16th

Join us Sunday, November 16th following the church service for our 2nd annual poster plaster. Each team receives a list of locations to drive to and "plaster" our Living Nativity posters out into the community.

We will have car snacks/drinks to go, a stack of flyers and postcards to post. When you return there will be food for all and prizes for the team who plasters the most posters and has photos to prove it. All ages are welcome!!

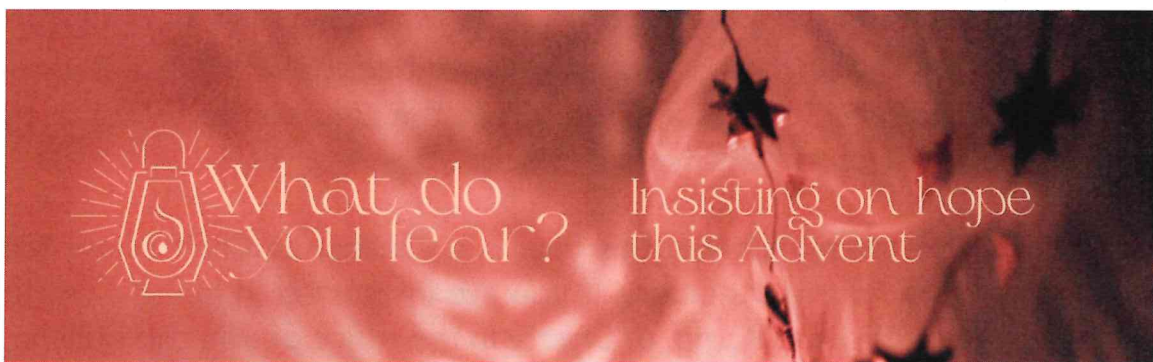
There will be a sign up in the narthex. Please RSVP by Sunday, November 9th.

Any questions, please see Karen Smith, Anne Heinrich or Barb Kamp



Brittany's Trees is a charity organization that honors the memory of Brittany Valene, a young girl who passed away from Long QT Syndrome. They sell 5-foot, pre-lit Colorado Spruce or Douglas Fir trees that are delivered and set up to spread holiday cheer and raise funds for the SADS Foundation, which supports children and young adults with inherited heart rhythm disorders.

We are asking our generous congregation to once again donate ten trees to help us light up our grounds for the Living Nativity and, more importantly, continue our commitment to supporting the amazing work of the Brittany Foundation. The purchase price of one tree is \$70. Please contact Jim Werner, if you are interested.



Advent Begins Nov 30th

We are insisting on hope this Advent with the worship series What do you fear? by A Sanctified Art. Throughout the stories of Christ's birth, we hear the whispers of angels delivering a surprising message: "Do not fear." When we find ourselves in fearful times, can we acknowledge our fears while also insisting on hope? This Advent we're taking seriously the angels' message and trusting that Christ's birth truly is good news of great joy for all people.

Order Your Devotional

Here is a simple spiritual practice for all of us: center on the Advent season and open up to God's enduring love by reading a short reflection and prayer every day during Advent thru to Epiphany (Jan 6). Claim your free copy of this year's UCC Advent Devotional *Soon & Very Soon* in your choice of hard copy or daily email.



"Soon & Very Soon" 2025

LOCATION

Choose to receive a hard copy or a daily email

DATE AND TIME

11/30/25 6:00 a.m.—1/06/26 6:00 a.m.

Claim your free copy and select your format by contacting Pastor Liz.

Advent Church Decorating

Sunday, November 23rd

Help us transform the church for the season of Advent. Volunteers please assemble in the sanctuary after worship. The Worship Ministry will offer decorating tasks all around the building: setting up Christmas trees, hanging wreaths inside and outside, setting up the Advent candles, and more.



Next FreeCycle

Sunday, November 9

The FreeCycle tables will be out before and after worship on Sunday, November 9. Here's an excuse to thin out holiday décor. Donations can be left on Sundays at the coat rack across from the nursery or at the office during the week, Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Donated items that are left on the tables at the end of coffee hour will be taken to Goodwill.

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Gracious God,

Thank you for every good gift—for the food before us, the people around us, and the love that surrounds us. Help us to pause, reflect, and rejoice in Your constant goodness and grace. May our hearts overflow with gratitude, not just today, but every day.

Amen.

Financially Speaking

September 2025 Financially Speaking

The total 2025 receipts through September were \$195,819.98 which includes giving for fixed expenses as well as charitable giving. See below.

	September	Year-to-Date
Offering		
Pledged Offering	\$8,304.00	\$120,846.00
Contributions (Non-Pledged)	\$1,670.00	\$17,211.00
Loose Offering	\$253.00	\$3,134.00
 Denominational Support		
OCWM (Illinois Conference)	\$330.00	\$5,530.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$0.00	\$315.00
Neighborhoods in Need	\$110.00	\$130.00
Strengthen the Church	\$0.00	\$415.00
 Church Fund Support		
Land, Building and Equipment Fund	\$105.00	\$9,955.00
Coffee Hour donations	\$40.00	\$617.00
General Fund	\$432.00	\$1,059.80
Scholarship Fund	\$25.00	\$1,400.00
"J" Dollars	\$36.00	\$612.00
 Specific Ministry Support		
Music Fund	\$75.00	\$265.00
Mission Projects	\$0.00	\$1,165.00
Diaper Ministry (Including May Community Drive)	\$0.00	\$2,755.00
Fellowship and Hospitality	\$0.00	\$200.00
 Seasonal Giving		
Easter Breakfast	\$0.00	\$460.00
Lent/Easter Offering	\$0.00	\$23,796.00

	September	Year-to-Date
Church Project Support		
Member Donation Toward Sanctuary Sound Equipment	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Community Support		
Pads 5K Sponsorship	\$0.00	\$1,080.00
Elgin Pride	\$0.00	\$122.00
Pads Emergency Appeal	\$0.00	\$2,360.00
Bienvenidos Emergency Appeal	\$0.00	\$1,640.00
Other		
CD Interest	\$0.00	\$11,296.77
Memorial Giving	\$1,525.00	\$3,801.00
Miscellaneous	\$20.00	\$57.07
Easter Memorial Flowers	\$0.00	\$375.00
Initial Offering (Related to Giving Envelope)	\$0.00	\$51.00
150th Celebration Dinner	\$2,375.00	\$2,795.00
Donation to CE for VBS	\$0.00	\$266.34
Donation to CE for Confirmation	\$0.00	\$1,000.00

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

Karen Westerman,
Financial Secretary

Neighbors in Need (NIN) Update

St. Paul's collected \$510 (as of October 12) for the Neighbors in Need, the UCC fund supporting justice and compassion advocacy. Thank you for your generous support. We are proud to be a "5 for 5" church for over a decade - financially supporting all five UCC special missions both in Illinois and nationwide. With your NIN donations, we are officially 4 for 5 in 2025! The final special offering for 2025 will be in December for the Christmas Fund, supporting lower-income retired clergy.

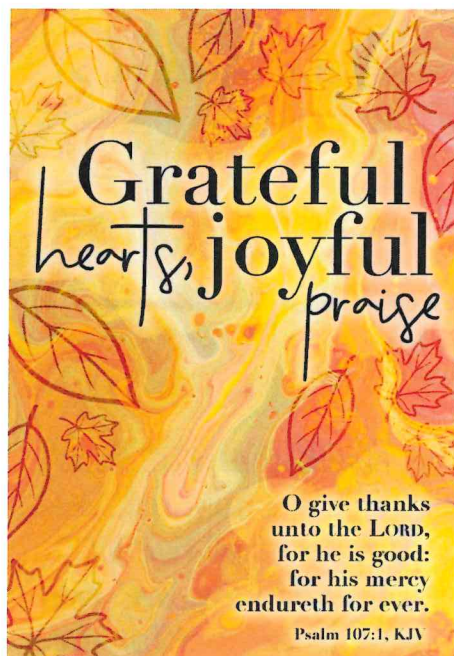


11/01 Jon Kobel
11/01 Jacob Volkening
11/04 Michael Heinrich
11/05 Bernice Bradley
11/06 Tanya Rowe
11/08 Dale Volkening
11/08 Aidan Wilson
11/09 Abraham Gluchman
11/09 Carol Graeff
11/10 Kenneth Volkening
11/11 Autumn Young
11/13 Nancy Cain
11/24 Bob Reimer
11/27 Jonathan Cowan
11/30 James Pace



11/25 Wayne & Linda Schambach

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



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.



December Newsletter Deadline: November 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!

