

the

CONNECTION

October 2026



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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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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



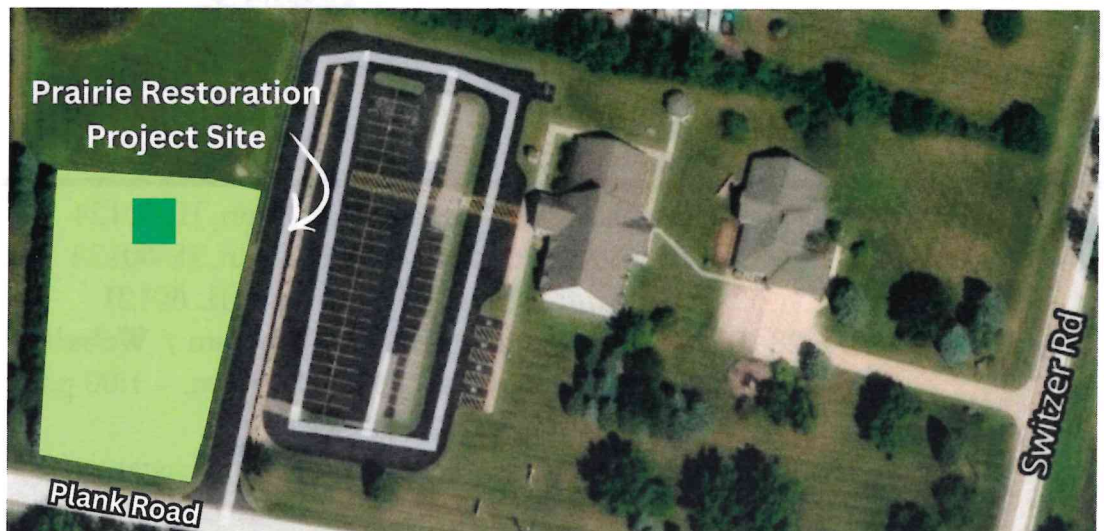
Restoration and Renewal

Unmowed and overgrown grass on the church grounds might sound at first like a bad idea to prepare for our 150th anniversary closing worship celebration on November 1st. But consider the faithful intention and vision behind – or rather under – the weeds. Our prairie restoration project at the west end of our property is a labor of love for us now and for church members and friends we have not yet met. It is not a landscape project to decorate the space. It is a demonstration of our love for God by valuing the environment and protecting native habitats. It is an opportunity to witness and appreciate firsthand the beauty and resilience of the "greening power" of God.

Creation Care ministry leader Eric Hayley explains, "In the very beginning God tasked us to take responsibility for every living thing upon the Earth (Genesis 1:28). To be a good steward is to care and to understand. Our desire is to foster a better connection to God's creation for our congregation and our community through this ministry. To stand in awe of Creation is to see the handiwork of God."

We plan to partner with the community throughout the stages of the prairie restoration project, inviting our neighbors to observe, learn, tend, and enjoy with us. This November we will seed the space under the supervision of Matt Hokanson, local ecologist and owner of Woods to Wetlands; seeding grasses that won't grow till next year, planting trees whose canopy will not shade us for another decade. Our garden will remain and a Sacred Grove gathering space is planned. We hope this project teaches us as much about prairie grasses and native birds and butterflies as it does about practicing trust and valuing creation and its creatures. The prairie restoration project is just one way St. Paul's is stepping into our 151st year with a ministry mindset of abundance, fruitful action, and hope.

Peace,
Pastor Liz





MINISTRY NEWS

Church Council Position Openings

Council Vice-President

The Vice-President position is a two-year term followed by a two-year term as President. When Jon Kobel approached me two years ago about becoming Vice-President it caught me off guard and I thought, "Me??" I told Jon I would think about it and let him know. I did some serious thinking about the four-year commitment and if I had the ability to help lead the church. I made the decision to take the position and have not looked back. The last two years have been interesting and meaningful and I can't wait for the next two years. If you feel stirred in your heart to consider the Vice-President position, please reach out to me and we can have a talk and I can answer your questions.

Barb Kamp

Council Vice-President

barb.kamp@yahoo.com

847-815-5242

Financial Secretary

The Financial Secretary Council position is open for a 3-year term starting February 2027-January 2030. The Financial Secretary is like an Accounts Receivable position in business. They count, record, and make a weekly deposit of all the money coming in for the week. Every week a volunteer counter records the offering money taken in on Sunday and the Financial Secretary adds money coming in from any other sources that week. The Financial Secretary prepares and presents a monthly report at the council meeting. Please reach out to me for more information about this position.

Karen Westerman

Financial Secretary

[847-727-9973](tel:847-727-9973)

westy582@gmail.com

Treasurer

The Treasure oversees where the money is going, making sure basic accounting procedures are being followed. Duties include doing payroll, signing checks, and assisting with and maintaining the budget. With the help of the Finance Committee, the Treasurer prepares federal and state required filings like our Non-Profit status, taxes, and maintains investments. The Treasurer prepares month-end reviews and financial reports for the council. Our current Treasurer, Jenn Volkening, is happy to discuss the position and encourages you to reach out to her. Jenn is happy to train and offer help at the start of the term.

Jenn Volkening
Treasurer
jvolk36@gmail.com
847-691-4843

Diaper Ministry

606

diapers donated at NI Food Mobile Pantry

Diapers were donated by two Northern Illinois Food Mobile Pantry volunteers that we serve with.

420

diapers distributed at Old Sherman

On Tuesday, September 8th, we distributed 420 diapers at the old Sherman Hospital parking lot. Our next distribution will be on Tuesday, October 13th from 3-5 PM. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

EPEL Partnership

We are excited to partner once again with EPEL (Enriching Partners for Early Learning) to support families by distributing diapers during their monthly playgroups from October through April. We are looking for volunteers to assist with diaper distribution and represent our church community.

- When: Monthly Playgroups (October – April), 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
- Where: Izaak Walton Youth Center - 899 Jay Street, Elgin

A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex Sunday, October 4th.

Thank You

A huge thank you for your generosity with donating diapers (Sizes 1-6) the first Sunday of every month so that we can maintain our diaper supply and support families experiencing diaper insecurity.

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

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



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Rally Day was Sunday, September 13th. 22 children were in attendance. Aiden and Willow Yucuis received Bibles. A framed diamond art of beautifully colored trees created by Fred Vollman was donated to the Sunday school classrooms.

CE is accepting book donations to build our classroom libraries, as we are in need of new books that inspire faith, learning and fun. A link for the book list can be found in the newsletter or a hard copy at the church. All books will have a donor label inside.

The Grandparent Day celebration followed worship in the narthex on Sunday, September 13th. The theme was "Tied Together with Love" and many bows adorned our space. A huge thank you to Janet Werner for her creativity, dedication with planning the event.

18 adults and 18 children attended. The children made a Grandparents' Day card and decorated a picture frame for their family picture that was taken at the gazebo by Sue Huber.

Save the Date - Sunday, October 18th the children will be picking pumpkins from their garden during Sunday School and after worship they will decorate/carve pumpkins with their families at the Ministry House. Please RSVP to Karen Smith if you plan on attending - ks2teach@gmail.com

CE Ministry

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



Amazon Book Wish List:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/15VY5S5LDVM7E?ref_=wl_share

MISSIONS

Elgin CROP Hunger Walk Recap

Thank you for supporting Elgin's CROP Hunger Walk. Funds support the work of Church World Service including disaster relief and refugee assistance. Half of the proceeds from the German Dinner Heritage Fest will also support the Elgin CROP Hunger Walk. Grand totals are still being calculated, but let's celebrate our September missions by the numbers!

30

Hygiene Kits donated by St Paul's for CWS.

17

Walkers on behalf of St. Paul's that made the 2.33 mile walk north on the Fox River Trail to Slade Avenue, east one block to Grove Avenue, and back to Gail Borden Library.

\$1,310.00

Funds raised by St. Paul's for the Elgin CROP Hunger Walk. Thank you!

\$327.50

The 25% of our donations going straight to Food for Greater Elgin to fight local food insecurity and poverty.

500+

CWS Emergency clean-up buckets, hygiene kits, period packs, and school kits delivered since June to the depot in our Ministry House garage.



Vineyard Breakfast Ministry is Back!

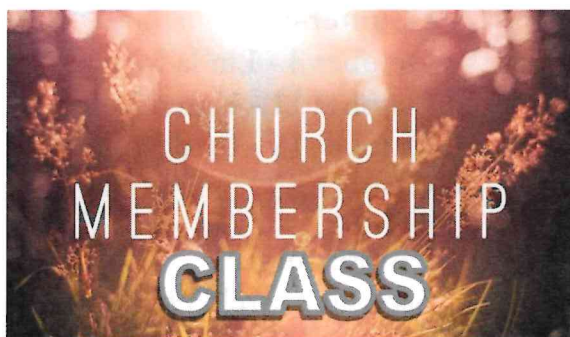
Hey, Early Risers! This service opportunity is for you. Vineyard Breakfast Ministry in downtown Elgin will resume serving breakfast on Monday & Tuesdays. St. Paul's will resume serving pancakes, eggs, and sausage (or bacon) the **first Monday of the month** at 6:30 a.m. starting October 5th. Be on the look out for a sign up sheet.



EVANGELISM

New Member Class

Sunday, October 11th - Have you been thinking about becoming a member of St. Paul's? Come for a time of learning, sharing, and asking questions about church membership, St. Paul's life and ministry, and our denomination of the United Church of Christ. We will meet at the Mission House after worship on Sunday, October 11th for 45-60 minutes. New Members will be welcomed in worship on November 1st during our special 150th Anniversary service. - Pastor Liz



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.

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/>



FELLOWSHIP & HOSPITALITY

Coffee Hour

Love the coffee, juice, and treats? Help keep it going! If you can sponsor a coffee hour, use the sign-up sheet outside of the kitchen. Questions? Contact Janet Werner at janwer@aol.com.

THANK YOU,
Fellowship/Hospitality Ministry



WORSHIP SERVERS FOR OCTOBER

Greeters:

October 4 - Anne Heinrich & Barb Kamp
October 11 - Mike & Karen Westerman
October 18 - Ken & Mona Volkening
October 25 - Connie Moraca & Vern Knaak

Ushers:

October 4 - Lee & Nicole Thielke and Dexter & Ashley Young
October 11 - Linda Meglin, Mike & Ginny Mursewick, and Ken Volkening
October 18 - Dan Heinrich, Vern Knaak, Connie Moraca, & Mike Westerman
October 25 - Dave & Pat Thompson, Craig Whyte, and Dale Volkening

Scripture Readers:

October 4 - Alison Smith
October 11 - Sam Hebert
October 18 - Sue Huber
October 25 - Ryan Smith

Counters:

October 4 - Linda Meglin
October 11 - Karen Vollman
October 18 - Fred Vollman
October 25 - Sandy Volkening

Media:

October 4 - Sandy Volkening
October 11 - Anne Heinrich
October 18 - TBD
October 25 - 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

The August receipts were \$21,660.27 which includes giving for fixed expenses as well as charitable giving. See below:

	September	Year-to-Date
Offering		
Pledged Offering	\$13,315.00	\$121,347.37
Contributions (Non-Pledged)	\$3,790.00	\$16,821.80
Loose Offering	\$206.00	\$2,433.18
Denominational Support		
OCWM (Illinois Conference)	\$720.00	\$5,638.50
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$20.00	\$425.00
Strengthen the Church	\$20.00	\$315.00
Neighborhoods in Need	\$20.00	\$120.00
Christmas Fund/Veterans of the Cross	\$20.00	\$20.00
Church Fund Support		
Land, Building and Equipment Fund	\$1,035.00	\$9,507.50
Coffee Hour donations	\$101.00	\$665.00
General Fund	\$20.00	\$182.00
Scholarship Fund	\$0.00	\$750.00
"J" Dollars	\$79.00	\$692.00
PADS	\$0.00	\$50.00
Specific Ministry Support		
Music Fund	\$0.00	\$90.00
Mission Projects	\$0.00	\$0.00
Diaper Ministry (Including May Community Drive)	\$0.00	\$922.00
Fellowship and Hospitality	\$0.00	\$0.00
Creation Care Grant	\$0.00	\$500.00
Seasonal Giving		
Easter Breakfast	\$0.00	\$545.00
Lent/Easter Offering	\$100.00	\$2,225.00
Heritage Fest	\$0.00	\$0.00
Christmas Offering	\$100.00	\$200.00

	September	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	\$2,094.27	\$8,429.00
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	\$0.00	\$474.00
Initial Offering (Related to Giving Envelope)	\$0.00	\$51.00
150th Celebration Dinner/Butter Braid Sale & Donation	\$0.00	\$1,812.00
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
In and Out	\$0.00	\$72.00
Total:	\$21,660.27	\$209,867.86

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

Karen Westerman
 Financial Secretary
 847-727-9973

Puzzle!

NAMES OF GOD

Every name of God tells us something about his power, love and care for his people. Use the Scripture clues to uncover just some of these special names.



F _____ (Matthew 6:9)

A _____ and O _____ (Revelation 1:8)

I A _____ (Exodus 3:14)

Y _____ (Exodus 6:2-3)

G _____ M _____ H _____ (Genesis 14:19)

G _____ A _____ (Genesis 17:1)

R _____ (Psalm 18:2)

J _____ (Psalm 75:7)

F _____ (Psalm 18:2)

H _____ O _____ (Isaiah 40:25)

Answer key: Father, Alpha and Omega, I AM, Yahweh, God Most High and God Almighty, Rock, Judge, Fortress, Holy One



PUZZLE

A Family of Prayer

Acts tells us about a man named Cornelius. He was a Roman soldier who worshiped God and prayed with his family. God used Cornelius to help Peter learn an important truth: God welcomes everyone who loves Him and does what is right.

Solve the math problems using the grid. Then use the key to find the letter for each answer. Write each letter on the blank to discover what Cornelius and his family did.

GRID	
A	B
2	4
C	D
6	5

KEY

a = 7 e = 8
i = 10 o = 9
u = 11 y = 6

"H e _____ nd _____ ll h _____ s f _____ m _____ l _____
A+C A+D A+D B+C A+D B+C A+B

w _____ r _____ d _____ v _____ t _____ nd
A+C A+C A+C B+D C+D A+D

G _____ d-f _____ r _____ ng; h _____ g _____ v _____
B+D A+C A+D B+C A+C A+D A+C

g _____ n _____ r _____ sl _____ t _____ th _____ s _____ n
A+C A+C B+D C+D A+B B+D B+D A+C B+C

n _____ d _____ nd pr _____ y _____ d t _____ G _____ d
A+C A+C A+D A+D A+B A+C B+D

r _____ g _____ l _____ rl _____." _____ cts 10:2, NIV
A+C C+D A+D A+B A+D

Answers: "He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly." Acts 10:2, NIV

Bible Quiz



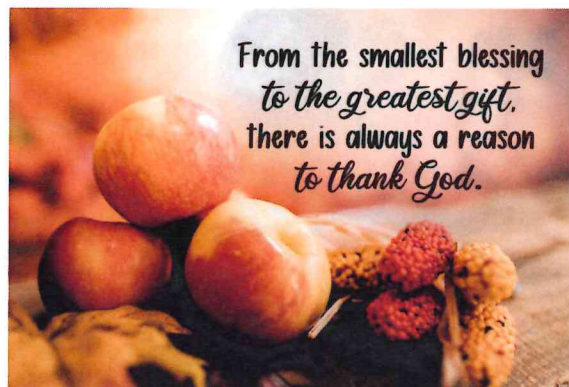
Psalm 103 (ESV) begins:

"Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his _____."

What should we "not forget"?

- A. goodness C. gifts
- B. kindness D. benefits

Answer: D. benefits (Psalm 103:2)



From the smallest blessing
to the greatest gift,
there is always a reason
to thank God.



10/01 Alex Kay
 10/01 Dan Wayeshe
 10/01 Janet Werner
 10/02 Hayden Thielke
 10/04 Lorrel Petty
 10/08 Dave Kaye
 10/09 George Bowers
 10/10 Chet Westerman
 10/11 Karen Vollman
 10/14 Judy Einwich
 10/15 Fred Vollman
 10/15 Karen Westerman
 10/17 Axel Heinrich
 10/20 Mark Kelly
 10/21 Barbara Kamp
 10/21 Robert Wayeshe
 10/24 Claire Westerman
 10/25 Karen Smith
 10/27 Bill Toth
 10/29 Daemon Volkening
 10/31 Susan Huber



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



10/03 Brian & Kelly Cowan
 10/05 Mitch & Serena Bryson
 10/07 Daniel & Melissa Wiggin
 10/14 Mike & Ginny Mursewick
 10/22 Otto Jr. & Judy Einwich



Upcoming Events:

- Saturday, October 3 - German Dinner Heritage Fest
- Sunday, October 4 - New Member Class
- Sunday, October 18 - Kids Pumpkin Harvest & Decorating
- Sunday, November 1 - 150th Finale Worship & Luncheon

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.stpauluccelgin.org



November Newsletter Deadline:

October 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!

