



Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S CONNECTION

March 2026



Scan for 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



Scan for Facebook

What's in this Issue:

- From the Pastor
- Creation Care Ministry
- Diaper Ministry
- Christian Education
- Pancake Breakfast
- Art Contest
- Lenten Mission Project-Blessing Bags
- Financially Speaking
- March Birthdays

Mark Your Calendar:

- Sunday, March 8 Pancake Breakfast, PADS Speaker, Scout Recognition
- Saturday, March 28 Marklund Accessible Egg Hunt
- Sunday, March 29 Recipe Bag Note Writing
- Sunday, March 29 The Last Supper Presentation
- Thursday, April 2 Maundy Thursday Service
- Friday, April 3 Good Friday Service
- Sunday, April 5 Easter Sunday
- Sunday, April 5 Easter Egg Hunt

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



On February 12th I attended a "Dementia 101 Training" at the South Elgin Gail Borden Library. Many of you know the name Cherie Aschenbrenner from her work with the Elgin Police department supporting Senior Services. Cherie and her training partner Glenna are representatives of Dementia Friendly Elgin, a partnership of local support and resources for people with dementia and their caregivers. Our Bonnie Starr is also a volunteer.

Cherie and Glenna shared their personal experiences with loved ones with dementia and offered practical tips like the "10 second rule": when asking a question to a person with dementia, allow at least 10

seconds for the person to respond. Processing is still happening, but it takes more time to formulate the words for the answer. The trainers also shared that in Illinois an estimated 1 in 8 seniors age 65 and older is living with Alzheimer's disease (only one of the many memory loss diseases) and more than 840,000 people are caregiving for someone they love with Alzheimer's. Compassionate and supportive community is vital.

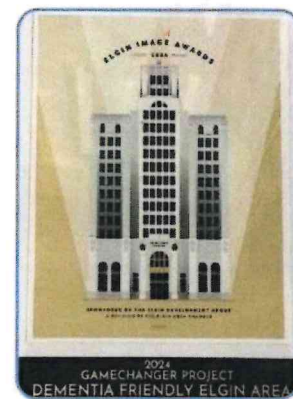
Cherie and Glenna shared the wonderful network of support available to our community. Please share widely: The Memory Cafe is a FREE monthly gathering, 2nd Tuesday of the month from 4:00 - 5:30 PM at the South Elgin Public Works Building. Next cafe is Tuesday, March 10th. All are welcome. The Memory Cafe is a community of friends and support for people with dementia and their caregivers. You'll meet volunteers like Bonnie Starr. Support doesn't get more friendly and trustworthy than Bonnie! Learn more at <https://dementiafriendlyelginarea.org/>.

Peace,
Pastor Liz

Elgin Area Memory Café

Memory Cafés are comfortable, social gatherings that allow people experiencing memory loss, and their care partners, to connect, socialize, gather resources, and build new support networks. Cafés are free to attend. All are welcome.

2nd Tuesday of every month | 4-5:30 pm
 South Elgin Public Works Building
 1000 Bowes Rd., South Elgin, IL 60177
 (Between McLean & Rt. 31, next to TRACON)



Please share with your contacts. Bring a friend!



Glenna Godinsky



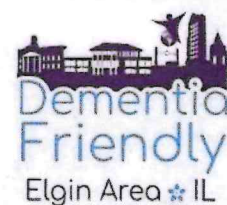
Cherie Aschenbrenner



Valerie Reh



Kevin Hall



18637-AA-1/9/26

Please register:
 First time attendees please call 847-289-5848
 and give names of care partner and guest.

Visit our website: DementiaFriendlyElginArea.org
 Facebook: [DementiaFriendlyElgin](https://www.facebook.com/DementiaFriendlyElgin)

www.gailborden.info

[@GailBordenPublicLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/GailBordenPublicLibrary)

[@GailBordenLibrary](https://www.instagram.com/GailBordenLibrary)



MINISTRY NEWS

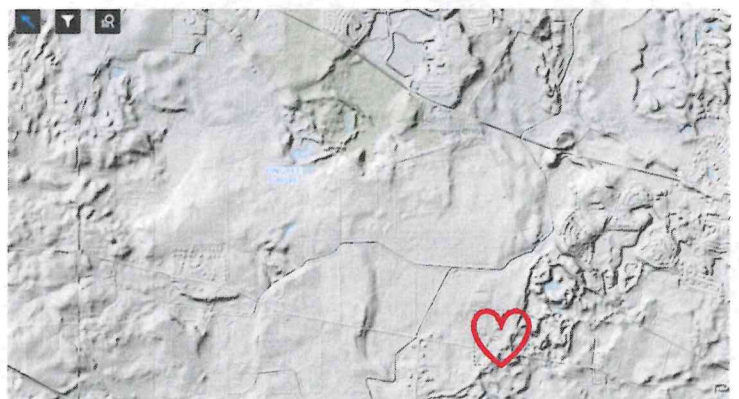
Creation Care Ministry

St. Paul's Hosts Bus Tour

On Saturday, January 31st, St. Paul's was the lunch stop on a local bus tour hosted by A Rocha USA and Hawthorne Hill Nature Center. The Chicagoland Churches of Restoration cohort toured Kane County's kettle lakes, kames, glacial lake bottomlands, moraines, and ancient bogs, with a stop at St. Paul's to hear about our Churches of Restoration project to landscape part of the property with native plants. Participants brought a sack lunch and St. Paul's served hot beverages and sweet treats.

From A Rocha USA: Today Kane County, Illinois is on the front line of suburban sprawl; but 20,000 years ago the last lobes of the Wisconsin glaciation were still in the neighborhood. Northeast Illinois has the fingerprints of the Ice Age all over it. [St. Paul's is located on an ancient lakeshore!] Our eternal Creator works on epic timescales, using glaciers the way a potter molds clay, creating hummocky topography and providing fresh water sources that supply our communities even today. When we get to know a place on this intimate yet geological scale, we come to love its particularities and find enduring motivation to care for what God has so painstakingly shaped over time.

The Creation Care Ministry



ReaderShip



Gail Borden
Public Library District

THRIVING IN NATURE

AT HAWTHORNE HILL NATURE CENTER

FREE!

Every first Thursday, 10am-3pm

Ages: 1-8 yrs.

with storytimes from Gail Borden Library Readership:

Jan 8th*: 11:30am & 12:30pm

Feb. 5th: 11:30am & 12:30pm

March 5th: 11:30am & 12:30pm

April 2nd: 11:30am & 12:30pm

*second Thurs. due to holiday

OUTDOOR PLAY

HIKING

ELGIN
PARKS AND RECREATION

NATURE CRAFTS

Hawthorne Hill
NATURE CENTER

Visit Hawthorne Hill's Website at:

<https://elginil.gov/248/Hawthorne-Hill-Nature-Center>

Diaper Ministry

First Sunday Diaper Collection

Our next diaper collection is Sunday, March 1st and we will be collecting size 4 & 6 diapers. A huge thank you for your very generous February donations. We collected 1,375 size 6, 24 size 5, and 34 size 4. A total of 1,433 diapers and 12 packages of wipes! You truly answered the call to help us restock our size 6 diapers. Your commitment supporting families experiencing diaper insecurity is truly amazing.

Help Distribute at a Playgroup

We continue to bring diapers to the community playgroups twice a month. Diapers are ready for you to take on Sunday or pick-up from the church office. It's a super simple volunteer opportunity - pick-up diapers, go to the location, set out the sign, and distribute a pack of diapers to moms that ask for one. Sometimes no one at the play group needs diapers - and that's ok!

Thank you for representing St. Paul's and helping families keep their little ones dry, healthy, and happy.

Sign-up sheets are on the hall bulletin board.

Please consider helping at the following events:

Zion Lutheran Church (330 Griswold, Elgin)
Monday, March 23rd 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Izaak Walton (899 Jay St, Elgin)
Wednesday, March 25th 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Food & Diaper Distribution begins in April

The Diaper Ministry will be distributing diapers alongside the Northern Illinois Mobile Food Pantry at the old Sherman Hospital Parking Lot on Slade Avenue in Elgin, the second Tuesday of each month from 3-5 p.m.

Help distribute food or diapers. If it is your first time joining us at old Sherman, please see Karen Smith for a volunteer consent form. Sign-up coming soon.

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

Blessings, Karen Smith, Karen Snyder, Barb Kamp



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Worship with Pastor Traci Smith

What a gift it was to gather on Sunday, February 22nd for our church family to have the incredible privilege to host Traci Smith, ordained minister, author and leading voice in faith based family practices for our "Faithful Families" workshop. Our time together reminded us that faith formation is found in the "tiny practices" at home at every age and stage of life. It was a joy to have so many families gathered to explore simple, meaningful ways to practice faith at home. Whether you walked away with a new prayer practice, a ritual for mealtime, the free copy of Traci's book, or just a sense of connection, we hope the time spent together was a blessing to your family. This event was funded by the generous bequest of Linda Carrasco to the Christian Education Ministry.





Pancake Breakfast

The children are hosting a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 8th. All are welcome. A free will offering will be given to PADS. We will also celebrate our scouts and scout leaders in worship.



ART CONTEST: UCC 2026 Climate Hope

All children (18 years and younger) are invited to participate in the UCC 2026 Climate Hope Art Contest. The children can draw, paint or color works of art to bring the theme, "A Future with Hope" to life. Children are encouraged to convey their dreams for a world in which everyone can live in a safe and healthy environment free of pollution. One criteria for determining the winning art will be that it is suitable for the front of a postcard that easily communicates to others the message of hope.

The contest runs from January 30th - March 20th. Art work should be completed on 8.5x11 inch paper that uses this downloadable template.

Art contest leaders along with parents and guardians will be notified of the finalists by April 1st. There will be an awards ceremony later in April. At the ceremony, the winners for different age groups and an overall winner will receive an all-expense paid trip to visit Washington, DC with a parent or guardian.

Please contact Karen Smith, if your child is interested in creating an art piece, so that you receive the necessary paperwork for consent and submission. Art work needs to be completed and uploaded any time between February 6 - March 20.

Candy for Easter Egg Hunt Needed

Wrapped Candy Donations for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Easter morning following the 9:30 a.m. worship service will be collected on **Sunday, March 22nd and March 29th.**

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



Nursery Make Over



Nursery Makeover

Ideas for our nursery makeover are coming along. We've started dreaming up a space that will be safe and full of joy for our littlest members. Our next meeting will be Sunday, March 1st following worship.

Karen Smith, Heather Heinrich, Ashley Young and Kylie Smith, Melissa Wiggins

Missions Ministry



Lenten Mission Project: Blessing Bags

We are supporting the Well Child food pantry by assembling kid-friendly, shelf stable non-perishable ingredient bags. Take a recipe card from the tree and purchase all of the ingredients on the recipe card.

For example:

1 cup of flour = Purchase 1 small sealed bag of flour

2 tbs of cocoa = Purchase 1 small can of cocoa powder

Please return the recipe card and ingredients in the draw string bag provided (available from the tree table) by Sunday March 29th. Plan to stay after worship on March 29th to write friendly notes for each bag.

Well Child Center of Elgin serves parents, children and families in our community with an emergency food pantry, a dental clinic, WIC services and more.

Please reach out to Karen Snyder, Alison Smith, Anne Heinrich or Barb Kamp with any questions.

What's Happening at the UCC Camps

Check out this Spring's offerings! Pilgrim Park Camp and Retreat Center is only 2 hours away.

Crafter Retreat April 20-23

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 there website for more information or to register by going to this link:

<https://pilgrimpark.campbrainregistration.com/>



Puzzle!

HOW'S THE WEATHER?

Use the code below to fill in these forecasts in places where Jesus traveled:

CODE:

A = ☺	D = ❄️	H = ☁️	M = ☆	P = ◆	T = ■	W = ☁️
B = ☀️	E = +	I = *	N = ↑	R = ●	U = □	Y = 🌬️
C = ☁️	G = 🌧️	L = ★	O = ↓	S = ○	V = ☒	Z = 🌬️

Mt. Hermon ○ ↑ ↓ ☒

Jericho ❄️ ↓ ■

Jerusalem ☆ * ★ ❄️

Dead Sea Area ■ ● ↓ ◆ * ☀️ ★ ❄️ + ☺️ ■

Sea of Galilee * □ ○ ■ 🌬️ ☒ * ↑ ❄️ ○

Mediterranean Coast ● + + 🌬️ 🌬️



Answers: snow, hot, mild, tropical heat, gusty winds, breezy

PUZZLE

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

It's time to tune up your Bible brain!

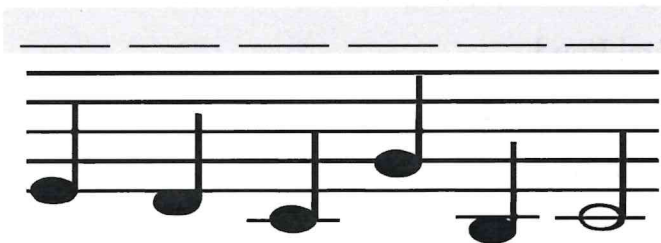
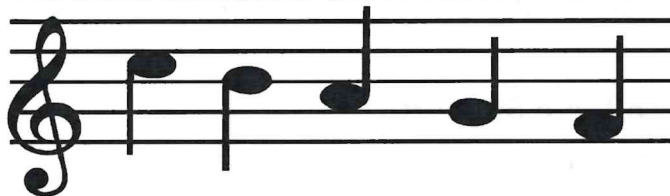
Decode the notes to discover a verse that sings with joy.

Using the musical note code, write the words of Psalm 100:2 (NIV) in the correct order below.

CODE: before come gladness him joyful LORD songs the with Worship

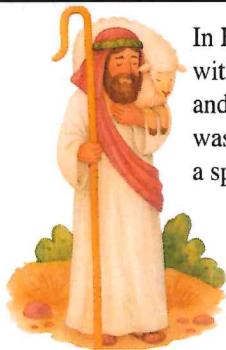


_____ the _____ ;



Answer: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Bible Quiz



In Bible times, shepherds spent most of their days with their sheep—guiding them to food and water and guarding them from danger. When a sheep was injured, the shepherd treated the wound with a special liquid. What was it?

- A. Water
- B. Honey
- C. A Salt Solution
- D. Olive oil

Answer: D (See Psalm 23:5, ESV)



Financially Speaking

The total January expenses were \$20,733.18. The January receipts were \$34,453.00 which includes giving for fixed expenses as well as charitable giving. See below:

	January	Year-to-Date
Offering		
Pledged Offering	\$29,609.00	\$29,609.00
Contributions (Non-Pledged)	\$2,300.00	\$2,300.00
Loose Offering	\$143.00	\$143.00
Denominational Support		
OCWM (Illinois Conference)	\$975.00	\$975.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$0.00	\$0.00
Neighborhoods in Need	\$0.00	\$0.00
Strengthen the Church	\$0.00	\$0.00
Christmas Fund/Veterans of the Cross	\$0.00	\$0.00
Church Fund Support		
Land, Building and Equipment Fund	\$1,075.00	\$1,075.00
Coffee Hour donations	\$60.00	\$60.00
General Fund	\$32.00	\$32.00
Scholarship Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00
“J” Dollars	\$117.00	\$117.00
Members Out Reach Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00
Specific Ministry Support		
Music Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mission Projects	\$0.00	\$0.00
Diaper Ministry (Including May Community Drive)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship and Hospitality	\$0.00	\$0.00
Seasonal Giving		
Easter Breakfast	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lent/Easter Offering	\$0.00	\$0.00
Heritage Fest	\$0.00	\$0.00
Christmas Offering	\$0.00	\$0.00

	January	Year-to-Date
Church Project Support		
Member Donation Toward Sanctuary Sound Equipment	\$0.00	\$0.00
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	\$0.00
Memorial Giving	\$0.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00
Christmas Flowers	\$0.00	\$0.00
Easter Memorial Flowers	\$0.00	\$0.00
Initial Offering (Related to Giving Envelope)	\$42.00	\$42.00
150th Celebration Dinner	\$0.00	\$0.00
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 Pumpkin Sale	\$0.00	\$0.00
Craft Fair	\$0.00	\$0.00
Living Nativity Free Will Offering	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total:	\$34,453.00	\$34,453.00

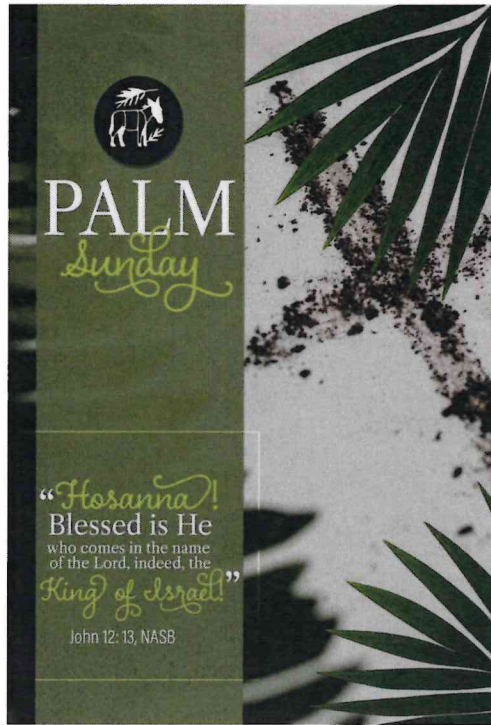
Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this report or on your statements.

Karen Westerman
 Financial Secretary
 847-727-9973

MARCH Birthdays

- 3/2 Nichole Thielke
- 3/6 Gay Bouwmeester
- 3/8 Justine Ackmann
- 3/13 Christopher Heinrich
- 3/18 Faith Bryson
- 3/20 Pastor Liz Patz
- 3/20 Ainsley Wilson
- 3/22 Dorothy LeVault
- 3/22 Colman Smith
- 3/23 Ramona Volkening
- 3/24 Polly Russell
- 3/25 Ethan Heinrich
- 3/27 Kylie Smith
- 3/29 Benjamin Cowan
- 3/29 Debbie Wodrich

****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.



April Newsletter Deadline: **March 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!