

Church on the Go!

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations! Matthew 28:19

Summer is a time when our pace changes. Some of us travel or go camping. Some of us spend more time outside, while some of us spend more time inside. With the different pace of summer, we have the chance to experience God in new ways.

Sometimes summer plans mean that we miss church on Sundays. Even if we are not in church, we can still stay connected to God.

If you are away on a Sunday:

-Attend worship at a different church: Learn how other churches do things and report back to us;

-Have home or family worship time: Read scripture, sing a song, say a prayer; and

-Serve in a special way: Write a note, invite someone to share a meal, clean up God's creation.

Even if you are not away in the summer, maybe you have more time and would like to spend more time with God. Here are some good apps for your phone or tablet:

-YouVersion: Look up bible passages, set up reading plans or get a verse of the day (free);

-United Church of Christ: Read the daily devotional, see updates about other churches, find a UCC church when on vacation (free); and

-The Jesus Calling Devotional by Sarah Young: Contains a daily reflection on a bible verse (\$9.99).



Apps for Kids:

- Adventure Bible: Play memory games to learn bible verses (available for free in a lite version or \$1.99 for a full version);
- The Jesus Calling for Kids: Child and family appropriate reflections on bible verses (\$9.99); and
- The Beginners Bible: Read stories, play games, color pictures (free for iPad only).

Wherever you find yourself this summer, may you grow closer to God.

Journeying with you,

Pastor Jill

Religion in the News

Well-known Atheist author and evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins is willing to see the light, but that may take some convincing.

In a recent interview, Dawkins, who wrote “The Selfish Gene” and the 2006 antireligion bestseller “The God Delusion”, said he is willing to listen to anyone who has evidence of a God. That “moment of enlightenment” has not happened yet.

“I have never seen a compelling argument for religion,” Dawkins told Reddit. “If I ever saw one I would convert.

Visioning

At our May council meeting, Russ Graunke was present to speak with us about “Souls in Pews”. This is a pilot program he has developed to help congregations determine their vision and assist with an increase in attendance.

The first phase in this process would be to speak with several church members to see what people think is St. Paul’s vision and future. The second phase is an assessment of our Sunday worship and preparation. Recommendations for changes that could lead to a better experience for visitors would be presented. These recommendations would be reviewed, prioritized and choices selected to be implemented. This implementation is the third phase.

Helping to state a vision, assessment and recommendations would take five to 10 weeks. After this, for about 12 months, the church would have support with monthly consultations. As a pilot program, the church receives a 50% discount that would bring the fee to \$4,000.

The council discussed this proposal and then voted to hire Graunke to help through the “Souls in Pews” program. We look forward to having this energetic Christian not only help us state a clear vision, but also help us increase church membership and attendance.

Happenings at St. Paul’s



The women of St. Paul’s show off their Mother’s Day hats while singing “Love is a Special Thing”.



Members of St. Paul’s place flowers during the dedication of the church sign.



Pastor Jill welcomes new members Jay and JoAnn Shircliff (left) and Rebecca Mace from Food for Greater Elgin (right).

June Council Meeting

Council will be meeting at church on Thursday, June 16, at 7 p.m. We will continue our discussions on visioning, safety procedures and summer activities.

Our new website should be active in early June. Thank you to Liz Patz for putting information and photos together for the site.

Stewardship Ministry

It's that time of year again. Vacation and fun times are here. However, the church expenses still go on for the maintenance of two buildings, utilities and staff.

Remember that it is important to keep up our pledges and contributions, as we have a budget of \$160,685 to meet. Enjoy your summer, but also do not forget St. Paul's.

If you are interested in being a part of the Stewardship Ministry, please let us know.

UCC Summer Camp

Do you want your child or grandchild to have a camping experience where they can learn about their faith while having fun? Outdoor Ministries of Illinois Conference of the UCC sponsors summer camps at Pilgrim Park in Princeton, Ill., and Tower Hill in Sawyer, Mich.

There are camps for children as young as 4 to attend with an adult and independent overnight camps from Kindergarten-high school.

For more information go to: <http://www.il-outdoorministries.org/assets/2016poster-layout.pdf>

Vacation Bible School

This year St. Paul's UCC will be teaming up with Cornerstone UMC on Russell Road in Elgin for Vacation Bible School, which will be held June 20-24 at Goebbert's in Hampshire (42W813 Reinking Road) from 5:30-8 p.m.

The theme will be Cave Quest, which will be an over-the-top underground adventure where the kids will walk away understanding what it means to follow Jesus and shine His light.

Summer PrayerGround

For six weeks this summer (July 3-Aug. 7) we are going to try something new. In place of Sunday School, we will have a special area set up in the sanctuary called a PrayerGround. This will be a special place just for kids filled with quiet activities that fit with the theme for the day. Children will stay in worship for the entire service and nursery will still be available for our littlest worshippers.

Our focus for the summer will be the life of Moses. We will use parts of the animated movie Prince of Egypt to guide us. It will be a fun summer for our whole church family!

Feed My Starving Children

St Paul's will be volunteering at Feed My Starving Children in Schaumburg on June 27 at 6 p.m. To join the fun, go to <http://fmsc.org/Schaumburg> and register. St Paul's code is 871675.

We need 25 people to volunteer. Please see Karen Westerman if you have any questions.

Financially Speaking

The total receipts for the month of April were \$12,421. Our spendable income came to \$12,421.99 including our OCWM income of \$264. We had no charitable income for the month of April.

June Greeters

June 5: Bob and Mary Wilms

June 19: Dan and Anne Heinrich

June 12: Arnie and Hildy Lauber

June 26: Mike and Ginny Mursewick

We want your pictures

If you take pictures at a church event please email them to Linda at stpauls4me@yahoo.com. Please include any descriptions. Your photos could appear in the digital edition of The Chimes.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ Staff

Jill Terpstra – Pastor

Jon Kobel – Choir Director

Bill Wilson – Newsletter Editor

Linda Becker – Secretary

Gay Bouwmeester – Piano Accompanist

Dale Volkening - Janitor

St. Paul's United Church of Christ Council

Anne Heinrich – President

Karen Westerman – Vice President

Sandy Volkening – Financial Secretary

Myron Meglin/Dave Thompson -Treasurer

Cindy Heinrich – Recording Secretary

Christian Education – Karen Smith

Evangelism – Polly Russell

Fellowship/Hospitality – Janet Werner

Mission – Barb Kamp

Calling & Caring – Ginny Mursewick

Properties – Dan Heinrich

Stewardship – JoAnn Pate

Worship – Vernon Knaak