



The Scribe



St. Paul UCC

144 E Palatine Road, Palatine IL 60067

(847) 358-0399 www.stpaul-ucc.org

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Pastor's Pen...

Foreign visitors to the United States have noticed the propensity toward extremities often exhibited by Americans. From extreme sports to extreme adventures to extreme energy drinks, U.S. culture eschews the boring and the average. Not surprisingly, our collective appetite for pizzazz is never satisfied. We're always looking for the "next big thing" that's going to provide us with the thrill we crave.

We do national holidays in much the same way. On Independence Day we burn more gunpowder than what was used at Bunker Hill; on Veterans Day we hail some mess kit repair specialist who never left Fort Belvoir as a "hero;" we turn Thanksgiving into a glorification of gluttony; and at Christmas we decorate our lawns to the point where they could cause nighttime confusion with O'Hare. For us, going half-way on anything just won't do.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I'm going to say what I say every year. Namely: *Christmas means that God refuses to leave us alone in the universe.* That's it. That's really the whole point of what Christmas is about, and it doesn't require our usual trappings and family gatherings in order to observe it. I can understand the longing of the human heart for companionship and the desire to see the grand-kids; we're each one wired for that. But when we find that such joys are going to fall beyond our grasp this year, we need something bigger to stand on. That's when one goes back to square one and rediscovers the original meaning of the holiday: ***"Joseph, Son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."*** (Matthew 1:20b-21)

God's intervention into human history doesn't have to be celebrated with a lot of hoopla or sentimentality. Those things are great if you have them, but they aren't what make up the substance of the season. The core of Christmas, rather, is as I'll say once more: *God refuses to leave us alone in the universe.*

Immanuel -- God with us!

Pastor David



St. Paul UCC Executive Board Members: Sharon Altergott (Spiritual Life Board Rep.), Kim Cichon, Randy Everett (Admin. Board Rep.), Kim Ferris, David Freeman, Arlene Kraus (Spiritual Life Board Rep.), David Mercer (Staff Rep), Chuck Oberly (Admin. Board Rep), and Karen Wagner.



Pastoral visitation is available to those who are hospitalized, temporarily laid up at home, or going through rehab at a facility. Because hospitals and other institutions do not notify the church when a patient is admitted, we need for you or your family member to notify us. We will be more than happy to accommodate your request for pastoral care. Please note also that the pastor may be reached for emergencies at (224) 386-6285 (cell phone). Pastor David's procedure in visiting St. Paul's shut-

ins, as well as, those members who have a difficult time getting to church is to offer support, bring Holy Communion (their option) and to let them know we journey together in worship. Pastor David understands that scheduling may depend on frequency of doctor's appointments or the church member's schedule. Visitation is always available, however, as the shut-in member's health and life situation may change and more extensive pastoral care is needed. Any church member or their family member desiring more frequent pastoral visitation, or to be placed on the visitation list in the first place should contact the church office at (847)-358-0399 to make arrangements.

"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." (James 5:14)



The Pastoral Relations Committee Is Available To You!

Do you have an idea, a question, a comment, or a concern that you would like for Pastor David to know about? You have a couple of options available to you. First, you may speak directly with the pastor. Our pastor is here for ALL of St. Paul's members and he welcomes communication from ALL members. If you aren't comfortable in speaking directly with the pastor, however, then your second option is to go through the Pastoral Relations Committee. Their purpose is to foster good relations between pastor and parish through open and thoughtful communication.

St. Paul's Pastoral Relations Committee members are: Debbie Everett (Chair); Dolly Chamberlin, Tom Donat, Jim Frost. Bob Kolze, and Joyce Mah,



From the Treasurer...St. Paul at a Glance

	October 2019	YTD	BUDGET
Revenue	19,777.00	224,229.69	273,100.00
Expenditure	27,692.35	235,065.96	287,913.00
Net Income	-7,915.35	-10,836.27	-14,813.00

2020 Stewardship Summary

The Stewardship Committee wants to gratefully thank the congregation of St. Paul for the excellent response to the recent Stewardship Campaign. A few more pledges were received after Stewardship Sunday and the delicious brunch. As a result, a total of 47 pledges have been received to date amounting to \$148,161. This is an increase over last year of 4 pledges and an increased total pledge of \$23,870 or 19.2%.

From the Archives



The following were two greetings in the Bulletins from December 1967 -- 52 years ago this month.

A BLESSED CHRISTMAS to you and your household, and may the peace and joy of Christmas continue through the coming year.

A BLESSED CHRISTMAS to you and your family. Welcome to this Sacred Festival of Christmas. May the meaning of the coming of Christ challenge us to keep Christmas always, and may we share the deep and sincere meanings of Christmas with others.

REQUEST FROM THE ARCHIVES

I need help with a photo on the archives Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall. It appears to be a very large picnic. Can you tell me anything about this wonderful photo. Please make any notes on the paper below the photo. Thank You - Archives Margie



2020 Offering Envelopes

The 2020 Offering envelopes are still available for pick up in the Narthex during most of December. If you know of someone who is unable to attend worship, please feel free to take them with you and drop them off. **Thank you!**



Altar Flower Chart

A new 2020 flower chart is up in Fellowship Hall this month. We welcome you to sign up to have flowers placed on the altar for special Sundays of significance to you and your family. Having flowers on the church altar is a wonderful way to honor, celebrate or remember special persons or events in your life. We are hoping to have the chart filled for each week of the year, so that fresh flowers remain a part of our weekly service. The cost is \$27.00, please make checks payable to St. Paul UCC. (envelopes are provided on the tray in front of the chart) Thank you!



Calling all Boards and Committees!! The deadline for the 2018/19 Annual Reports is Monday, January 13, 2020. Please have them turned in to the church office by the 13th. If you need a copy of last year's report, please request via email and I will send it to you. Thank you! Mary

Feed My Starving Children

"FMSC's heartbeat and call is to feed God's kids hungry in body and spirit. Our work not only impacts children and communities in desperate need but it impacts the hearts and lives of FMSC volunteers and donors." (from the FMSC website)

St Paul sent 15 adults and kids to the Feed My Starving Children packing event in Schaumburg on November 9th.
We packed 140 boxes which was 30,240 meals. This will feed 82 children for a year!

Our next packing event is on Saturday March 21, 2020 at 9-11 am. Please save the date and join us! Signup sheets will be posted in January.



Caring for the Caregiver

Thinking and honoring all Caregivers—We would like to raise awareness of family caregiver issues, celebrate their efforts, and increase support for them. Congregations can play a role in supporting family caregivers. According to a recent study, “Called to Care: Honoring Elders & the Family Care Journey,” congregations can provide a volunteer support network for care recipients and caregivers, employ a faith community nurse or spiritual caregiver who focuses on the care needs of the elderly and sick in the congregation, and offer respite for caregivers.

Respite, or a short period of rest or relief, plays an especially important role in caregivers’ health and well-being. According to Dr. William Rhoades, geriatrician with Advocate Medical Group in Park Ridge, Ill., there are many things caregivers can do to reduce stress. First and foremost, he says, is finding time to get away and take time for yourself. “The less stressed caregivers are, the better care they’re likely to provide,” he said. “Reducing your stress levels by focusing some time on yourself will benefit the person you are caring for, as well. It’s a win-win.”



December Birthdays

7 Bruce Kerlin	17 Cherrie Wickstorm
10 Susan Gould	19 Gary Guenther
12 Larry Ingram	30 Jori Mally
16 Brian Lech	

If there is anyone I missed, please call the church office, so we can update our records.
Thank you!



*Birthdays
of the Month*

Charlotte Mally in memory of Jeffrey B. Johnson

memorials
& gifts



The Community Outreach Committee would like to thank the congregation for your support by providing candy, trinkets or your monetary donations for candy for us to distribute during the Trunk or Treat event at Falcon Park in the north section of Palatine. It was estimated that over 400 children participated in the event. We would also like to thank Pastor David and his son David for joining us and helping to distribute goodies to the children. -The Community Outreach Committee: Karen Connor, Mary Doktor, Sue Lech, Lisa Arthur, Karen Wagner

Thanks to all of our St. Paul friends who have sent cards to Jean as she deals with her illness. I am also very appreciative of the birthday cards and good wishes sent to me. We miss not being able to attend Sunday Services. However, Rev. Mercer, Mary, and staff, keep in touch with us. Again, we appreciate all of your thoughts and prayers. -Dick Kolze

St. Paul Garden Committee, A.K.A. Garden Girls, thanks Jerry Cole of Yardworks for his generous fall donation. His contribution surely aids us in our gardening endeavors.

-Garden Committee-: Nancy Perry, Barb Oberly, Sharon Altergott, Jan Degner, Shay Storm, & Gloria Helms



Christian Education Corner

December

STAR-GIVING

By Ann Weems

What I'd really like to give you for Christmas is a Star...

Brilliance in a package, something you could keep in the pocket of your jeans or in the pocket of your being, something to take out in times of darkness, something that would never snuff out or tarnish, something you could hold in your hand, something for wonderment, something for pondering, something that would remind you of what Christmas has always meant: God's Advent Light into the Darkness of this world. But Stars are only God's for giving, and I must be content to give you words and wishes and packages without Stars. But I can wish you Life as radiant as the Star that announced the Christ Child's coming, and as filled with awe as the Shepherds who stood beneath its Light, and I can pass on to you the Love that has been given to me, ignited countless times by others who have knelt in Bethlehem's Light. Perhaps, if you ask, God will give you a Star.

Every child deserves a star in their heart. I hope this holiday season will find it possible for everyone to find a child to give a star to. Maybe a few adults as well.

Schedule for children for December:

December 1st – Hanging of the Greens

December 7th – Child Care at church from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

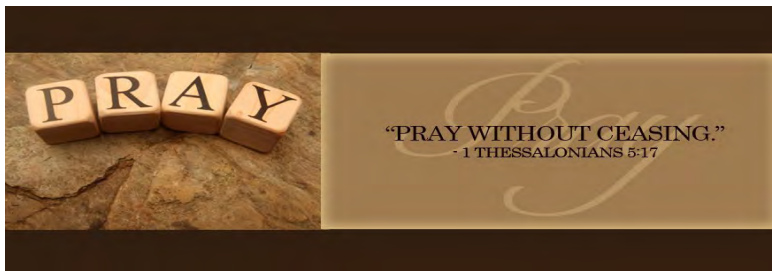
December 15th – Christmas Pageant

December 22nd – Cantata with choir singing *Silent Night*

December 24th – Christmas Eve family service at 5:00 p.m.

May each of you have a blessed Holiday Season,
Bonnie





PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Dorothy Altergott
 Lynn & Phil Arnold
 Rick Bartells, friend of Kim Cichon
 Ed Bartelt, friend of Charlotte Mally
 Ben Belmonte, nephew of Shirley and Ken Kolze
 Barb Burget, daughter of Agnes Warren
 Flo Dailey, friend of Charlotte Mally
 Russ Drost
 Kendall Eich
 Brian Gavin, son-in-law of Gary & Sharon Altergott
 Kyra Graham
 Judy Haimbaugh, sister of Gloria Helms
 Hasselmann, brother of Shirley Schimka
 chael Hayford
 Orrin Helms
 Carol Hennings, sister of Pat Kolze
 Larry Herron, friend of Bob & Pat Kolze
 Bill Houldsworth, husband of Laurie Houldsworth
 Larry & Marlene Ingram
 Barb Kerlin, mother of Bruce Kerlin
 Jean Kolze
 Laura Krause, daughter of Sharon Krause
 Charles Leseberg, brother of Mary Ann Leseberg
 Tracy Mack, sister-in-law of Ellen Graham
 Jack Martin, friend of Amanda Doktor
 Cathy McMillion, friend of Karen Wagner
 Dorothy Mende & Bernice Skach, sisters of Charlotte Mally
 Ron & Paulette Mohr, uncle & aunt of Kim Ferris & Karen
 Wagner
 Maryann Ostrem, friend of Arlene Kraus
 Marilyn Paolisso, aunt of Bruce Kerlin
 Jerry Parsons, friend of Sandy & Dave Gumm
 Jody Peterson, daughter of Lynn & Phil Arnold
 Geri Rogers, sister of Pat Kolze
 Blanche Schug
 Sherry Stephens, sister of Shirley Ann Kolze
 Fran Werner, sister-in-law of Sharon Florey

Rick
Mi-

SERVING CHRIST IN WORSHIP

Greeters for December:

1: Jim & Shirley Schimka
8: Shay Storm
15: Bill & Roseann Stenzel
22: Arlene Kraus
24 5pm: Melissa Gumm & Nancy Perry
24 11pm: Janet Olsen
29: Dee Langguth

Nursery Attendant for December: Holly Chvoy

Usher Captain for December: Randy Everett

Lectionary for December:

1: Isa 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Rom 13:11-14; Matt 24:36-44.
8: Isa 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7,18-19; Rom 15:4-13; Matt 3:1-12.
15: Isa 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matt 11:2-11.
22: Isa 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7,18-19; Rom 1:1-7; Matt 1:18-25.
24: Isa 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14-20.
25: Isa 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Heb 1:1-12; John 1:1-14.
29: Isa 63:7-9; Psalm 148; He 2:10-18; Matt 2:13-23.
31: Eccl 3:1-13; Psalm 8; Rev 21:1-6a; Matt 25:31-46.

Lectionary Readers for December:

1: Sandy Gumm
8: Roseann Stenzel
15: Sandy Gumm
29: Tom Donat





Thank you to St. Paul UCC for your support.

Because of you, in October 2019 we were able to complete construction on this home on Edison in Elgin, giving one more deserving family a chance to buy their family's dream home.

In Elgin, this is the 16th home built by Spring of Life Partnership.



Sarah, our newest partner homeowner, worked many hours alongside our construction crew in helping make her dream of home ownership a reality.

As is our tradition, we held a house blessing for Sarah and her two sons on October 5, 2019. Over 25 volunteers joined Sarah and her family as Pastor Dave Mercer of St. Paul United Church of Christ led the group in prayer. Thanks to the many volunteers who contributed time and lunches to the effort. Congratulations to Sarah and her family.



In addition to our weekend volunteers, pictured here at a thank you lunch held for them, are members of our Wednesday crew who did an outstanding job in completing this project. A special thank you to John Wise of Holy Family, our Construction Manager and his fabulous Wing Man Dave Gumm of St. Paul United Church of Christ.

No One Gets a Free Home

A common myth is that we give homes away. This is not the case. Habitat for Humanity of Northern Fox Valley provides interest free loans and Spring of Life provides the sweat equity. All homeowners must qualify for a mortgage by meeting stringent qualifications, which include the following. Being able to make the monthly mortgage payments, including property taxes, on the interest-free, no profit loan provided by Habitat. Show need for affordable housing. Put in at least 250 hours of sweat equity per adult. This includes working on the construction site with our Spring of Life volunteers.

If you are interested in learning more about Habitat or volunteering with us, please contact (name of representative.)

For more, visit us at <https://springoflifehabitat.org/>



4th Annual Cookie Exchange & Lunch Saturday December 14th - 11am

St. Paul's Women's Fellowship will hold a cookie exchange and lunch on Saturday December 14th starting at 11 a.m. This is your opportunity to share a favorite cookie recipe or try a new one and take home a delicious variety of cookies.

To participate in the cookie exchange, please plan to provide 3 (prebagged) cookies for each cookie exchange participant. For example, if 12 individuals plan to exchange cookies, you'll need to bring 12 baggies (3 cookies per bag) of cookies. That is 36 cookies or 3 dozen. We're asking for the cookies to be prebagged due to peanut/tree nut allergies. Additionally, please label your cookie bags if the cookies contain nuts. Dee will provide the number of cookie exchange participants after sign up closes on Sunday, December 8th. You may also want to bring cookies to share during lunch. If you know what cookie you're going to bring, please include the name of it when you sign up. The more variety of cookies, the better the assortment. Also, please bring several copies of your cookie recipe to share.

The Cookie Exchange will begin at 11AM. Please sign up to bring a casserole, appetizer, salad, fruit or veggies to share with the group. Remember you don't have to bring cookies to attend. Come join your friends for conversation and fellowship during this festive and sacred season. **Sign up in Fellowship Hall.** Questions? Please contact Dee Langguth.



St. Paul will again be holding Hanging of the Greens during the December 1st 10am worship service. Please join us in adorning the Sanctuary with festive decorations.



The St. Paul Christmas Eve Worship Services this year are Tuesday, December 24th at 5:00 pm and 11:00pm.



Christmas Word Scramble

Unscramble the letters to find words which have to do with Christmas.
Some of the words have religious meanings, others are secular in nature.

1. Groceos _____
2. Naclorig _____
3. Rats _____
4. Scunttshe _____
5. Porduhl _____
6. Naast _____
7. Skagceap _____
8. Dressephh _____
9. Gramen _____
10. Galen _____
11. Limesotte _____
12. Vaniyitt _____
13. Gotscink _____
14. Virasou _____
15. Traweh _____
16. Gisehl _____
17. Wamsonn _____
18. Ejuss _____
19. Stranneom _____
20. Scamsthir _____

We Need a Little Christmas



*Dr. Yukiko Fujimura
Christmas Piano Recital
Featuring Adam Hendrickson, Baritone
Works by Bach & Tchaikovsky & Christmas Song Sing-along*

*St. Paul United Church of Christ
Saturday, December 7, 2019
Wine & Light Appetizers 4:00 pm Concert 5:00 p.m.
Free Will Donation*



*St. Paul Annual Christmas Cantata
"Lessons in Carols"
Sunday, December 22nd
At 10:00am*

*We will be accepting canned good donations
for the Palatine Food Pantry this day as well.*