**St. Paul**

 **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**September 14, 2025 10:30am**

***Welcome!*** Whether you are a guest, friend or member, we are delighted that you are here. Large print bulletins are available at either door. Ask a greeter for any directions you may need.

*“Please note that this service will be live-streamed on Facebook. If you do not wish to be visible on camera, please let an usher know so we can take appropriate measures to ensure*

*your privacy."*



Rev. Jim Oleson, Pastor

Christopher Dickmeyer, Musician

Joyce Noble, Liturgist

***Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost***

*\*Please rise in body or spirit*

**Ringing of the Bell**

**Welcome & Announcements**

*In the last days, says God, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy. Your young people shall see visions, and your old people shall dream dreams. People of God, we have been baptized into one Spirit and one body through Jesus Christ. Let us worship today.*

 **Prelude and Lighting of the Candles**

**\*** **Call to Worship**

**Leader:** Come! Come, all you who are seeking God. Come! Enter in to this place of protection and comfort and discover that God is seeking us!

**People: We rejoice to have God find us here, as we come seeking God!**

**Leader:** Come! Come in and experience God’s joy when we come together.

**People: Here in this sanctuary, we worship, and meet God!**

**\*Invocation**

**Thank you, O Holy One for this opportunity to meet you in this place of worship. We come to this new day after a long week, carrying all kinds of feelings, emotions and expectations. But here, in your presence let your Holy Spirit move us to a place of rejoicing in which new hopes abound. We will celebrate the gift of your caring Spirit. Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Praise** #459New Century Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

**\*Prayer for Transformation** **and New Life**
**O Most Patient God, we recognize how much we need you for life itself. But how often have we behaved as if we did not know or even care about you? How often have we become the ones who do not carry out justice? How often have we tried to dominate others even as you stand with them? How often have we participated in the desolation of your creation by our treatment of the heavens, the earth and its waters?**

**Forgive us for these times when we have lost our way.**

**Know, All Loving God, that we want to be among those whom you seek. Shower your mercy upon us. Find us, and lead us safely home to faithfulness.**

 <pause for silent reflection >

**Words of Grace**
**Leader:** My friends, when we are lost, all is not lost. God is seeking us, ready to turn our lives around, gathering us in to the people of God.

**People:**  **Let us rejoice in God’s mercy! Amen.**

**\*Response of Praise**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen. Amen.**

**Written Word** Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

  I Timothy 1:12-17

 Luke 15:1-10

**Hymn** #547 New Century Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

**Message** A Lost One, or One of the Flock? Rev. Jim Oleson

 Luke 15:1-10

**Church in Prayer**

 **Pastoral Prayer**

 **Lord’s Prayer** (Debts, Debtors)

**Offertory**

 **Invitation to Generosity**

**\*Doxology** (Tune: Old Hundredth)

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Bless these gifts O God, and bless our desire to participate with you in the building of**

**your Kingdom among us. Accept these gifts as a sign of our love for you and for our neighbors. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn #**531New Century God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

 \***Commission and Benediction**

**\*Christ’s Light Leads Us into the World**

 **\*Congregational Response** #76 New Century Sent Forth by God’s Blessing

(Verse 1)

**\*Ringing of the Bell and Postlude**

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636-665-5329

**OFFICE HOURS**

Wednesday: 9:00am – 3:00pm

Friday: 9:00am - Noon

It Happens

Here St. Paul UCC

 Weekly Calendar

 September 14th - September 21st

**September 14th**  ***Fourteenth Sunday after***

 ***Pentecost***

10:30am Worship

11:30am Fellowship Hour

Noon Stewardship Committee

**September 21st**   ***Fifteenth Sunday after***

 ***Pentecost***

10:30am Worship

11:30am Fellowship Hour

***Looking Ahead***

September 22nd

5:15pm Council Meeting

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**OUR GIVING IN 2025**

 **Needed weekly to meet our commitments** $**2317.02 $ 2317.02**

General Fund Offering September 7th $ 2160.00 August Average $ 1285.00 Stewardship Offering September 7th $ 675.00 July Average $ 1237.25

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**HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY**

**Saturday, September 20:** Pasta with the Pastor at St. John’s UCC in Weldon Springs. Serving from 5:00 to 9:00pm.

**Sunday, September 21:** St. Paul’s UCC in Marthasville, Annual Chicken Dinner & Country Store. Dine in or carry-out from 11:00am to 5:00pm.

**Sunday, September 28**: St. Paul’s UCC in Defiance, Drive-thru Chicken Dinner. Inside seating available. Serving from 11:00am to 5:00pm.

**Saturday, November 1**: Holiday Bazaar & Silent Auction at St. John’s UCC in Weldon Springs. Fun for the whole family from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

World Communion Sunday is October 5th. Feel free to bring in your favorite bread and spread to share during Fellowship Hour. This is a way we can honor countries from around the world. If there are questions, please see a Worship Committee member.

 **Thank you to all our volunteers!**

 **Greeters/Ushers**

 Bob Bothe & Jennifer Schulte

 **Acolyte**

 Jennifer Schulte

 **Liturgist**

Joyce Noble

 **Fellowship Hour**

 Food Pantry

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In our prayers …

This week we added Bernadette, James C., Bonnie, and Mike S.

We continue to keep in our prayers: Lauretta, Rich M., Steve, Mark H., Larry (Sharon’s grandson), Rick, Lynn and Ron D., Bill D., Cheryl V., Tosha D., Pat, Kenneth G., Christian, Laurie S., Brittney, and Debbie & Tony. We also pray for the victims of the flooding in Elsberry.

We lift up in our prayers those who need prayers for their *long-term circumstances*: Carol Jean P.

on Sunday, September 28th following worship. The topics of discussion will be the new flooring in the Sanctuary and the replacing of the electrical panels.

Offering envelopes for the 4th quarter are available for pickup in the Fellowship Hall.

Emergency Planning is checking into a CPR/AED refresher course.  There are 2 options: refresher course without certification at no cost or a certification course at the cost of $40. Let Joyce Noble know if you are interested.