

It's hard to believe that we are almost at the close of the Christian year, and nearly into Advent!

The Season of Advent is associated with newness and expectation, as we await once again the birth of the Christ Child. While a baby King being born in a stable and laid in a manger was certainly a surprise to many, I'm sharing a bit with you about what to expect this Advent and Christmas season, so you (hopefully) will not be surprised and won't miss any of the worship and fun opportunities this season.

The preaching themes for each of the four Sundays in Advent will be the same theme as the Advent candles in the Advent wreath: On the first Sunday in Advent, we celebrate Hope; on the second, Peace; on the third, Joy, on the fourth, Love, and finally we celebrate the gift of Christ on Christmas Eve.

This year we'll be having two Christmas Eve services, one at 6:00 PM and one at 11 PM. The services will be the same at both times. I know that many of you share the same excitement I have about welcoming Christmas Day as the clock turns from 11:59 PM to 12 Midnight, and I also know that many of you (like me, most days of the year) may be "early to bed" types, so we are so pleased to be able to have services at times that are good for both these subsets of our congregation.

Another opportunity this year is our "Blue Christmas" or Longest Night service. Held on the longest night of the year, just before Christmas, this service is for anyone who has suffered a loss, or is facing a loss. So many times, the grieving, the lonely, the hopeless dread the approach of the holiday season, and find it hard to participate in the revelry around them. This service is a way for the church to say that we know that there are those who feel sad during the holidays, and the church is here for them every bit as much as it is for anyone else. It is a simple, meditative service of readings and litanies. It will be held at 6 PM Sunday, December 21st.

As we begin our first Advent together, I hope you are a gift in the newness of the season and the newness of our journey together.

May God bless you richly this holiday season.

Pastor Jim

Our Church Family



Worship News...

Blue Christmas Service, Sunday, December 21st at 6:00pm.

Christmas Eve Services, 6:00pm and 11:00pm.

Food Pantry News

During the month of October, 139 people visited the Food Pantry with a total of 424 people being helped.



The Food Pantry needs the following items: fruit, pork & beans, soup, chili, pasta sauce, cereal, pancake mix, syrup & Hamburger Helper. Also, shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes & toilet paper.

PLEASE, NO: mac & cheese or diced tomatoes,

We really appreciate all those who have been donating to the pantry.

Holiday office schedule... Joann will be in the office on Monday, December 22nd and Tuesday, December 23rd. The following week the office will be open Tuesday, December 30th and Wednesday, December 31st until Noon.

We continue to keep in our prayers: Lauretta, Lynn and Ron D., Glenda K., Ernie M., Eileen T.

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

The Worship Committee is looking for a volunteer to be the Communion Stewart. This is the person who prepares Communion on the first Sunday of the month and for special services. Also requires cleaning up and putting away the Communion ware. If there are any questions, please see a Worship Committee member.

If you need offering envelopes for January 2026, please see Joann before the end of the year.

If you will be making a monetary donation for tax year 2025, please have it to the church office no later than December 26. Thank you.

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH

2025 Monthly Attendance Average

January: 21
February: 29
March: 23
April: 38
May: 21
June: 31
July: 19
August: 24
September: 28
October: 24
November:
December:

October Attendance:

October 19: 24
October 26: 22

November Attendance:

November 2: 31
November 9: 28
November 16: 19
November 23: 27
November 30:

Our giving in 2025...

Based on our budget for 2025 our offering each week needs to average \$2317.02

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Stewardship</u>
October 19	\$ 390.00	\$ 0.00
October 26	\$ 165.00	\$ 0.00
November 2	\$ 4185.00	\$ 615.00
November 9	\$ 1480.00	\$ 50.00
November 16	\$ 80.00	\$ 1000.00
November 23	\$ 340.00	\$ 40.00
November 30	\$	\$

Our giving in 2025...

January Average:	\$ 1,251.80
February Average:	\$ 797.64
March Average:	\$ 1,827.60
April Average:	\$ 1,777.50
May Average:	\$ 1,078.75
June Average:	\$ 870.60
July Average:	\$ 1,237.25
August Average:	\$ 1,285.00
September Average:	\$ 1,015.00
October Average:	\$ 1,091.44
November Average:	
December Average:	

Please remember to invite our inactive members, as well as your family and friends, to worship. Evangelism and hospitality go hand in hand!

Our Guests

John & Karen Polizzi



Ushers/Greeters

Dec. 7 Richard Warren & Joyce Noble
 Dec. 14 Mary Anne Lee & Rick Kincer
 Dec. 21 Marla Stewart & Joe Walker
 Dec. 24 6:00pm Joyce Noble & Janet Drown
 11:00pm ?
 Dec. 28 Linda Meier & Norma Keeteman

Acolytes

Dec. 7 Joyce Noble
 Dec. 14 Bobby Roskowske
 Dec. 21 Marla Stewart
 Dec. 24 6:00pm Janet Drown & Joyce Noble
 11:00pm ?
 Dec. 28 Joyce Noble

Fellowship Hour Servers

Dec. 7 Council
 Dec. 14 Finance
 Dec. 21 Grounds Committee
 Dec. 28 Messenger



Lisa Gifford	03
Mary Aubuchon	10
Joe Walker	10
Gerald Hackman	11
Joyce Noble	21
Ann Rolf	24
Tara Kelly	27
Janet Drown	29



Mike & Eileen Tiesing December 12

Food Pantry Schedule

Dec. 1	11am to 1pm	Phyllis & Norma
	4 to 6pm	Jane & Liza
Dec. 10	11am to 1pm	Karol & Jane
	4 to 6 pm	Joyce & Liza
Dec. 17	11am to 1pm	Karol & Norma
	4 to 6pm	Richard & Janet
Dec. 23	11am to 1pm	Georgia & Karol
	4 to 6pm	Marla & Janet
Dec. 30	11am to 1pm	Georgia & Karol
	4 to 6pm	Janet & Karol

ST. PAUL UCC COUNCIL MINUTES

October 20, 2025

PRESENT: Jerry Gifford, Jennifer Schulte, Chris Dickmeyer, Karol Keeteman, Rev. Jim Oleson

ABSENT: Glenda Keeteman, Joann Jungermann, Treasurer (non-member)

Opening Prayer – Jennifer

Quorum Count (Four (4) = ½ plus one total Council members) – Jennifer, Quorum present

Review of Agenda – Jennifer made motion to accept with changes; seconded by Chris. No discussion, motion passed.

- **Treasurers Report** – Chris made motion to accept as written, seconded by Karol. No discussion, motion passed.
- **Secretary's Report** – Chris made motion to accept as written, seconded by Karol. No discussion, motion passed.
- **Pastor's Report** – Pastor Jim presented his report. Chris made motion to accept as written, seconded by Jennifer. No discussion, motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Worship – Christopher** – nothing to report.
2. **Grounds Committee – Jennifer** – camera problem has been resolved. They will be scheduling a meeting for yearly plan reviews.
3. **Christian Nurture – Jennifer** – we cancelled the Trunk or Treat which was to be held on October 11th, due to lack of trunks that were able to participate. October 12th, a Planning Meeting and carry in dinner was held, see Fellowship Hall for all of the suggested event ideas. We are hosting Holiday Bingo on Sunday December 7th, doors open at 4:30 and will start at 5pm.
4. **Stewardship – Glenda** – nothing to report
5. **Finance – Joann** – nothing to report
6. **Boy Scouts – Jerry** – nothing to report
7. **Food Pantry – Karol** – nothing to report
8. **Bright Futures – Glenda** – they are hosting Christmas in the Community on December 6th. They need volunteers to help with preparing, assisting and clean up for the upcoming events. If you would like to help, please see Glenda.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Signs – Glenda is working with company to finalize the proof to create sign.
- Painting hallway in Christian Ed Building – still in progress
- Lights – still in progress
- Sanctuary Thermostat – still working on this
- Sanctuary Flooring – still in progress
- Church Insurance – still in progress
- Painting Schoolhouse – Boy Scouts are going to paint the schoolhouse, and when they are ready Jerry Gifford will select the paint.
- Gift Acceptance Policies/Undesignated Fund – still in progress
- Internet/Wi-Fi – this has been resolved.
- Electrical panels – this has been complete.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Schedule Congregational Budget Meeting for November – meeting set for November 16th, after service
- 2026 Proposed Budget – Joann was not available at this meeting to address questions, will move this to November meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

- **Date & Time** – November 9, 2025,
- after service
- **Opening Prayer** – Glenda
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ENTERTAIN MOTION TO CLOSE – Motion made by Jennifer, seconded by Chris. Motion passed.

CLOSING PRAYER – Lord's Prayer

Respectively submitted:

Jennifer Schulte, Council Secretary

Winfield Bright Futures has a couple events coming up.

December 6 - Christmas in the Community - Collecting gently used household items, sheets, lamps, small furniture, small appliances, toys, bikes, etc. for the annual event. There will be a box in the fellowship hall closer to the date for your donations.

Bright Futures is always looking for volunteers. If you'd like to be on the committee or even if you'd just like help with events, they can always use help. The Christmas event is a really big event and open to all community members. Volunteers are needed to help sort items, set up items on Friday evening and help with event and clean up on the 6th. Even a couple hours are helpful. Bright Futures assists families in the Winfield School District by providing some basic needs for children and their families. Children have a difficult time learning when their basic needs aren't met.

Please see Glenda for more information or if you are interested in helping or have questions.

ROCK AND ROLL

BINGO

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH 2025

DOORS OPEN AT 4:30 PM

START AT 5 PM



PLEASE BRING A
CANNED/DRY
GOOD OR MORE
FOR THE FOOD
PANTRY!



NON-ALCOHOLIC
EVENT,
CHURCH WILL
PROVIDE
DRINKS



ST PAUL UCC - OLD MONROE,
903 MEIER ROAD, OLD MONROE

ITEM REQUEST

FOR FOOD PANTRY:

TOILET PAPER, SHAMPOO/CONDITIONER, SOAP,
SOUP, PB/JELLY, CEREAL, CANNED FRUIT, ANY
OTHER NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS

PLEASE NO: MAC & CHEESE, DICED TOMATOES,
CORN, OR GREEN BEANS!



BASKET RAFFLE
1 FOR \$1
6 FOR \$5



QR CODE FOR
MONEY
DONATIONS



ST PAUL UCC - OLD MONROE,
903 MEIER ROAD, OLD MONROE

December Stewardship

Emmaus Homes

The Emmaus Homes have been in our area helping people with developmental disabilities for over 100 years. They are a faith-based organization affiliated with the United Church of Christ. The Emmaus homes are dedicated to helping people live in the least restrictive environment they can function in, and to encouraging people to use their talents to the fullest.

Today, that means group homes all through the St Charles and St Louis area. A home where everyone contributes to the best of their ability by doing things like yard work or helping with meal preparation. Each resident is treated as an individual and given the support they need. Opportunities are offered for residents to volunteer, learn skills, and work. Spiritual well-being and social lives are also priorities for those served. For those who need help with basic living skills such as getting dressed and feeding themselves, that is given also.

“When a person is served by Emmaus, they will find a holistic and individualized support system rising around them. We form long-term relationships with the people we support. Emmaus has the privilege to be involved in almost every aspect of our clients’ lives. “—from Emmaus Homes

Supporting this organization is truly a way we can continue to be The Church that Dares to Care!

The Stewardship Committee

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Scouts 7:00 pm	2	3 Food Pantry 11:00am – 1:00pm & 4-6pm	4	5	6
7 Rock & Roll Bingo 4:30pm Peace	8 Scouts 7:00 pm	9	10 Food Pantry 11:00am – 1:00pm & 4-6pm	11	12	13
14 Joy	15 Scouts 7:00 pm	16	17 Food Pantry 11:00am – 1:00pm & 4-6pm	18	19	20
21 Blue Christmas Service 6:00pm Love	22 Scouts 7:00pm Joann in the office	23 Food Pantry 11:00am – 1:00pm & 4-6pm	24 Christmas Eve Services 6 & 11pm Christmas Eve	25 Church Office Closed Christmas Day	26	27
28	29 Scouts 7:00 pm	30 Food Pantry 11:00am – 1:00pm & 4-6pm Joann in the office	31 Joann in the office until Noon New Year's Eve			
30						

St. Paul United Church of Christ

903 Meier Road, Old Monroe, MO 63369

Pastor.....Rev. James Oleson

Church Phone.....636-665-5329

Email.....stpauluccom@gmail.com

Website.....stpauluccom.com



Administrative Assistant/Editor.....Joann Jungermann

Sunday

Book/Bible Study (Sept. thru May).....9:15am

Worship.....10:30am

Coffee and Fellowship.....11:30am

Church Council Members

President.....Jerry Gifford..... 636-668-8869

Vice President.... Glenda Keeteman.....636-661-5507

Secretary.....Jennifer Schulte.....636-566-8985

Member.....Chris Dickmeyer.....636-376-7043

Member.....Karol Keeteman.....636-667-5144

Treasurer.....Joann Jungermann.....636-665-5329
(Non-member)

