

# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST St. Paul

**February 22, 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  
Janet Morris, Musician

## ***First Sunday in Lent***

*\*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**

**One:** Temptation surrounds us at every turn, inviting us to take just a little more:

**Many: More food, more money, more power, more life!**

**One:** “What could it hurt?” we hear, on television, from friends, in our own souls:

**Many: More suffering, more hunger, more need, more fear, more anger.**

**One:** So we gather today in worship to hear the consequences of “more”:

**Many: And to celebrate that we do not need “more” when we have everything in Christ.**

**One:** Beloved of God, let us drink deeply from the wellspring of God’s Spirit, which has all we need to live fully, love deeply, and serve faithfully.

**Many: Thanks be to God!**

##### **\*Invocation**

**Loving Jesus, You showed us the way into life. You resisted the temptations of the world to satisfy one’s own desires and instead looked to what God desired for you. You resisted the temptation to test God, to wait for God to act before acting in faithfulness; instead, You remained faithful to God. And You resisted the temptation for greed and power, instead living a life for others, serving the lost and the least, lifting up the poor and the oppressed, and welcoming the marginalized. May we look to You as the example for our lives. May we empty ourselves of the desires of the world and instead seek what our Creator desires for us. May we remember in You we are a new creation, and that Your intent for us is love and life. May we live into Your intention for us. In Your name we pray. Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Praise #252 New Century**

**Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us**

### **\*Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

**Creative, passionate God, you delight to shape the world in beauty and harmony. You invite us to participate in the balance of creation. We grow in wisdom as our experience unfolds; we take good learning out of difficult situations yet also find our well-meant endeavors leading to unintended consequences. Too often we give in to temptation that disrupts the joyous, chaotic order of the universe. We cannot undo all our mistakes, but we can turn once more to the living presence of Jesus and find new ways to live and love each other and the earth. Do not let our hearts be fearful, but let us in silence acknowledge our sin and seek the forgiveness that restores your peace.**

<pause for silent reflection >

### **Words of Grace**

**One:** We are not only broken and sinful humans. We are also children of God, joyfully created by God in God's image.

**People:** In Jesus Christ, God knows and receives us as we are. Listen, give thanks, and live.

### **\*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.**

### **Mission Moment**

#### **Written Word**

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

**Hymn #211** New Century

Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days

**Message**

Temptation

Rev. Jim Oleson

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7, Romans 5:12-19, & Matthew 4:1-11

### **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**

**Faithful God, let these gifts be like food and drink in the wilderness for those who have suffered and longed for your presence. May these offerings strengthen those who are resisting temptation and lead us to attend to all who need your healing touch.**

**This we pray in the name of Jesus, our example and savior. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn #49** New Century

Ask Me What Great Thing I Know

**\*Commission and Benediction**

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

**\*Congregational Response #207** New Century

Just As I Am  
(Verse 1)

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

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**OFFICE HOURS**

Wednesday: 9:00am – 3:00pm

Friday: 9:00am - Noon



It Happens

Here

*St. Paul UCC*



*Weekly Calendar*

February 22<sup>nd</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup>

**February 22<sup>nd</sup> *First Sunday in Lent***

9:15am	Bible/Book Study
10:30am	Worship
11:30am	Fellowship Hour
	Chili & Soup Cook Off

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**Looking Ahead**

**March 16<sup>th</sup>**

5:30pm Council Meeting

**OUR GIVING IN 2026**

<b>Needed weekly to meet our commitments</b>	<b>\$2190.29</b>		<b>\$ 2190.29</b>
General Fund Offering February 15 <sup>th</sup>	\$ 240.00	January Average	\$ 1478.33
Stewardship Offering February 15 <sup>th</sup>	\$ 50.00	December Average	\$ 1375.00

**HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY`**

**Sunday, February 22:** Whole Hog Pork Sausage and Sauerkraut Dinner at St. Paul's UCC in Marthasville. Cafeteria-style dining and carry-outs. Serving from 11:00am to 5:00pm. Pork Sausage, Ribs and Bones for sale

**Sunday, March 8:** Sausage Dinner at Femme Osage UCC in Augusta. Dine in or carry out. Serving 11:30am to 6:00pm.

## Thank you to all our volunteers!

### **Greeters/Ushers**

Rick Kincer & Marla Stewart

### **Acolyte**

Janet Morris

### **Liturgist**

### **Fellowship Hour**

Grounds Committee

The words "Thank You" are written in a large, elegant, black cursive font. The letters are connected and have a classic, flowing style.

## *In our prayers ...*

This week we added the family of Mike S. to our prayers.

We continue to keep in our prayers Lauretta, Lynn and Ron D., Ernie M., Eileen T., Chuck and Marlene, Lyle R., Jamie, Nor, Rick C., Bob R., Sandy R., Carolyn M., the family and friends of Marsha, Roy, and Donnie, and the family of Amy G.

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

REMINDER...Please DO NOT adjust the programmable thermostat in the Sanctuary.

The Worship Committee is looking for a volunteer to be the Communion Stewart. This is a 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.