



Greetings!

Whatever you are doing for Lent, I hope God has been blessing your effort. Even if you have been doing nothing different at all, I hope that you are more aware of what God is doing in your life, more open to God's leading, more grateful for the people and things with which your life has been blessed.

To my mind, Lent is an even better time than the New Year to make and keep resolutions. They say that it takes doing something for twenty-one days in order for it to become a habit. Lent has 40 days and 6 Sundays, so it is a great time to make those changes in your prayer life, your Bible study habits, or changes in the ways of taking care of yourself in order to better live into the "abundant life" which Jesus promises.

It's not all about the changes, however. It is about the journey. In practicing a Lenten discipline, we remind ourselves each day that we are journeying with Christ and each other to Easter.

I believe this is a blessing. In the church, the Lenten season is traditionally a time marked by prayer, introspection, and self-denial. During the season of Lent, we prepare our hearts for the dramatic and sacred events of Jesus' crucifixion, death, and resurrection. The somber aspect of the cold temperatures and the gray skies, interspersed by days of sun and warmth seem to me a fitting context for this season. While the 40 days represent the "season of ashes", the 6 Sundays are mini-Easters. We anticipate with joy the newness of Spring in the same way we anticipate the joy of the resurrection.

We began Lent with a service of Imposition of Ashes on February 18th, and we have made the jump from Epiphany to Lent through this formal recognition of the beginning of the season.

This year, rather than give up something, I would like to challenge you to add something during this Lenten season that will nurture your faith. It may be adding connections to the wider church through participation in the Eastern Association or the Missouri Mid-South Conference. It may be to commit to attending the worship services in person rather than online. It may be a commitment to reading a book of the Bible, or praying every day. I encourage you to make this a journey, one in which your faith will be stronger as a result.

In closing, I wanted to let you know that we are making preparations (at long last – communicating between two Conferences and two Committee on Ministry slowed things down, then it was Christmas, now Lent/Easter) for my service of Installation. We have the main players lined up, but a final date has not yet been determined, but it will be coming within the next couple of months. We will keep you posted.

May God amaze you this Lenten Season as we journey toward Easter.

Pastor Jim

Our Church Family



We continue to keep in our prayers Laretta, 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, the family of Amy G and the family of Mike S.

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

Food Pantry News

During the month of January, 89 people visited the Food Pantry with a total of 263 people being helped.

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.

SNEAK PEEK!
2026
SUMMER

June	6/21 - 6/26/26 High School Camp (Completed 8 th - 12 th grade) 6/29 - 7/3/25 Family Camp (all ages)
July	7/5 - 7/10/26 All Ages Camp #1 (grades 3-9) 7/12 - 7/17/26 All Ages Camp #2 (grades 3-9) 7/19 - 7/23/26 Adventures in Community (ages 18+)

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH

2026 Monthly Attendance Average

January: 21
February: 24
March:
April:
May:
June:
July:
August:
September:
October:
November:
December:

January Attendance:

January 25: 0 (Snow)

February Attendance:

February 1: 22
February 8: 25
February 15: 22
February 22: 25

Our giving in 2026...

Based on our budget for 2026 our offering each week needs to average \$2190.29

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Stewardship</u>
January 25	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
February 1	\$ 2005.00	\$ 25.00
February 8	\$ 1805.00	\$ 50.00
February 15	\$ 240.00	\$ 50.00
February 22	\$ 855.00	\$ 5.00

Our giving in 2025...

January Average:	\$ 1478.33
February Average:	\$ 1226.25
March Average:	\$
April Average:	\$
May Average:	\$
June Average:	\$
July Average:	\$
August Average:	\$
September Average:	\$
October Average:	\$
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



Ushers/Greeters

March 1 Bob Bothe & Joyce Noble
 March 8 Linda Meier & Mary Anne Lee
 March 15 Sharon Brinkman & Janet Drown
 March 22 Norma & Karol Keeteman
 March 29 Glenda & Karter Keeteman

Bob Bothe 17
 Janet Morris 19
 Pastor Jim 31

Acolytes

March 1 Joyce Noble
 March 8 Bobby Roskowske
 March 15 Janet Drown
 March 22 Joyce Noble
 March 29 Glenda Keeteman



Jeff & Mandy Thomas March 10

Fellowship Hour Servers

March 1 Messenger
 March 8 Council
 March 15 PPR
 March 22 Stewardship
 March 29 Worship

Food Pantry Schedule

March 4	11am to 1pm 4 to 6pm	Phyllis & Norma Jane & Janet
March 11	11am to 1pm 4 to 6 pm	Karol & Marla Joyce & Richard
March 18	11am to 1pm 4 to 6pm	Steve & Norma Liza & Marla
March 25	11am to 1pm 4 to 6pm	Steve & Karol Liza & Janet

ST. PAUL UCC COUNCIL MINUTES

January 5, 2026

PRESENT: Jerry Gifford, Glenda Keeteman, Jennifer Schulte, Chris Dickmeyer, Karol Keeteman, Rev., Joann Jungermann, Treasurer (non-member)

ABSENT: Jim Oleson

Opening Prayer – Karol

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

Review of Agenda – Chris made motion to accept with changes; seconded by Glenda. Add discussion of trees to New Business, motion passed.

- **Treasurers Report** – Glenda made motion to accept as written, seconded by Jennifer. No discussion, motion passed.
- **Secretary's Report** – Karol made motion to accept as written, seconded by Chris. No discussion, motion passed.
- **Pastor's Report** – Pastor Jim presented his report. No mileage at this time that needs to be approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Worship – Christopher** – nothing to report
2. **Grounds Committee – Jennifer** – met on December 30th. They reviewed the Disaster Kits, Disaster Plan and reviewed items needing attention.
3. **Christian Nurture – Jennifer** – nothing to report. Working on setting a meeting to discuss plans for the year.
4. **Stewardship – Glenda** – nothing to report. Still to meet on offerings for the year. Carol Jean to visit this month for her birthday.
5. **Finance – Joann** – nothing to report. Transfer month to cover lawnmowing.
6. **Boy Scouts – Jerry** – nothing to report
7. **Food Pantry – Karol** – nothing to report
8. **Bright Futures – Glenda** – nothing to report

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Signs – still in progress
- Painting hallway in Christian Ed Building – still in progress
- Lights – still in progress
- Sanctuary Thermostat – still in progress.
- Sanctuary Flooring – people are needed to come to church on Wednesday, 1/14, at 9am to move things that we can move easily. Glenda is to clarify if Troy Flooring are to move the pes, piano and organ.
- Painting Schoolhouse – still in progress
- Gift Acceptance Policies/Undesignated Fund – still in progress
- Walkers during service – once new flooring is installed; we will replace 2 of the longer pew in the center of Sanctuary with 2 smaller pews to accommodate wheelchairs and walkers.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Annual Meeting Agenda – set tasks for council members during Annual Meeting.
- Trees – Glenda made motion to accept the bid for tree removal, 2nd by Chris. Discussion was for bid to not to exceed \$2400.00. Motion passed.

Next Meeting

- **Date & Time** – February 16th @ 5:15pm
- **Opening Prayer** – Jerry

ENTERTAIN MOTION TO CLOSE – Motion made by Jennifer, seconded by Glenda. No discussion, motion passed.

CLOSING PRAYER – Lord's Prayer

Respectively submit
Jennifer Schulte, Council Secretary

March Stewardship

Oasis Resource Center

In March, the Stewardship offering will benefit the Oasis Resource Center in Troy. This is St. Paul's first time partnering with Oasis and supporting their mission of helping women and men facing parenthood, whether single, married, a first-time parent or already a parent.

A wide variety of services is offered by Oasis. Pregnancy testing, free ultrasound and initial pregnancy counseling is just a small piece of what they do. Parenting classes for future moms and dads, continued emotional and parenting support for parents and connecting future parents with other support services, such as housing and additional health services, are also offered.

Participation in various parenting and self-improvement classes helps prepare women and men for parenthood and offers the opportunity to earn credits at Oasis' Baby Boutique when purchasing a wide variety of new baby items. They also offer gently used items for purchase.

Please consider supporting Oasis as they help guide and educate future parents. Help give children the opportunity to grow and thrive with moms and dads who are better prepared for the challenges and joys of parenthood.

The Stewardship Committee

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Scouts 7:00 pm	3 Cub Scouts 7pm	4 Food Pantry 11:00am – 1:00pm & 4-6pm	5	6	7
8 <i>Daylight Savings Time starts</i>	9 Scouts 7:00 pm	10 Cub Scouts 7pm	11 Food Pantry 11:00am – 1:00pm & 4-6pm	12	13	14
15	16 Council Meeting 5:15pm Scouts 7:00 pm	17 Cub Scouts 7pm <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18 Food Pantry 11:00am – 1:00pm & 4-6pm	19	20 	21
22	23 Scouts 7:00pm	24 Cub Scouts 7pm	25 Food Pantry 11:00am – 1:00pm & 4-6pm	26	27	28
29 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	30	31				

St. Paul United Church of Christ

903 Meier Road, Old Monroe, MO 63369

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Email.....stpaulucom@gmail.com

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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.....636-383-2079

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

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

