



Greetings! February. The holidays are long gone, along with the company. The long nights, the short gray days conspire to keep us indoors and at home, without opportunity for us to do all those warm weather things we love so well. We begin the month with the Feast of the Presentation (also known as Candlemas) on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. This feast day celebrates the Purification of the Virgin Mary and the presentation of Jesus at the Temple (see Luke 2:22-40, which was the sermon text just a few weeks ago). It is also known as Groundhog Day, which, if you think about it, is actually kind of a win-win for us, even here in Missouri. Even if there is six more weeks of winter, that's still a pretty early Spring. But actually, that's not all we have to look forward to in February.

Ash Wednesday, the day on which the season of Lent begins, is February 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be having a service and the imposition of ashes that evening at 7 PM. Ashes have been used in Christian churches to mark the beginning of Lent since at least the 10th Century, and ashes are mentioned in scripture as a symbol of purification and repentance. They are a physical reminder of our mortality and sin; more importantly, they are an assurance of God's forgiveness and salvation.

We will spend the following 40 days journeying with Jesus toward the cross; toward the death that ultimately brings resurrection life. Many of us will spend these coming days practicing a new spiritual discipline or giving up something that seems to be getting in the way of the life we long to live.

The book study group is starting a new Bible Study series on the first six chapters of the book of Acts, which we began January 25. The group meets in the library at 9:15 on Sunday mornings, and new members (and seekers – come check us out!) are always welcome

On January 18th, I was privileged to join you in our annual congregational meeting. This is always a great time to look back and consider all we have accomplished in the past year, and to look ahead and plan the ways that we will live into our identity as Christ's body here on earth. This is also a great time to express our thanks to all of those people who have led and participated in the ministries and administrative functions of the church. When I consider their many hours of service, the prayers, the meetings, and the generous outpouring of their creative energies, I stand in awe, and am deeply appreciative that you all have answered God's call to serve.

A huge thank you to all who have served and are serving the church. You are truly a blessing to me and to the entire congregation!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

*Pastor Jim*

# Our Church Family



**Ash Wednesday service,  
February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.**

## Food Pantry News

During the month of November, 75 people visited the Food Pantry with a total of 222 people being helped.

This week we added Bob R. and Sandy R. to our prayer list. We were asked for continued prayers for Clifford P., who has been on our prayer list but who is experiencing additional medical issues.

We continue to keep in our prayers Laurretta, Lynn and Ron D., Ernie M., Eileen T., Chuck and Marlene, Lyle R., Mike S., Jamie, Nor, Clifford P., and Rick C.

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

**SNEAK PEEK! 2026 SUMMER**

June	6/21 - 6/26/26 High School Camp (Completed 8 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> 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+)

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.

# WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH

## Our giving in 2026...

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

### 2026 Monthly Attendance Average

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

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Stewardship</u>
January 4	\$ 2795.00	\$ 95.00
January 11	\$ 1450.00	\$ 170.00
January 18	\$ 190.00	\$ 0.00
January 25	\$	\$ 0.00

## Our giving in 2025...

January Average:	\$
February Average:	\$
March Average:	\$
April Average:	\$
May Average:	\$
June Average:	\$
July Average:	\$
August Average:	\$
September Average:	\$
October Average:	\$
November Average:	\$
December Average:	\$

### January Attendance:

January 4: 20  
January 11: 22  
January 18: 22  
January 25:

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

- Feb. 1 Jerry & Pat Gifford
- Feb. 8 Darryl & Phyllis Freese
- Feb. 15 Linda Meier & Janet Drown
- Feb. 22 Rick Kincer & Marla Stewart



- Connor Rolf 02
- Chris Rolf 06
- Lynn Duttohn 15
- Stan Rolf 17

Acolytes

- Feb. 1 Marla Stewart
- Feb. 8 Janet Drown
- Feb. 15 Janet Drown
- Feb. 22 Janet Morris

Fellowship Hour Servers

- Feb. 1 Christian Nurture
- Feb. 8 Council
- Feb. 15 Finance
- Feb. 22 Grounds



Food Pantry Schedule

- Feb. 4 11am to 1pm Phyllis & Norma  
4 to 6pm Jane & Janet
- Feb. 11 11am to 1pm Karol & Marla  
4 to 6 pm Joyce & Richard
- Feb. 18 11am to 1pm Steve & Norma  
4 to 6pm Liza & Marla
- Feb. 28 11am to 1pm Steve & Karol  
4 to 6pm Liza & Janet

## **ST. PAUL UCC COUNCIL MINUTES**

**December 15, 2025**

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

**Opening Prayer** – Glenda

**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** – Glenda 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 Glenda. 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** – new, shorter candle lighters have been purchased.
2. **Grounds Committee – Jennifer** – meeting is scheduled on 12/30, at 10am
3. **Christian Nurture – Jennifer** – Bingo was held on December 7th, low attendance
4. **Stewardship – Glenda** – January is offering for Bridge of Hope. They will meet later to determine offerings for the year. Carol Jean will be here for Christmas & a gift has been purchased.
5. **Finance – Joann** – nothing to report
6. **Boy Scouts – Jerry** – food collecting. Held a Court of Honor which was held in the Fellowship Hall.
7. **Food Pantry – Karol** – Boy Scouts, school and monetary donations have been received. Also, they are waiting for the new flooring in January.
8. **Bright Futures – Glenda** – served over 100 families at school for Christmas in the Community event. Also shared the remaining items with other non-profit organizations.

### **OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Signs – sign should be ready the week of December 11<sup>th</sup>. Also, they are coming to take final measurements for front sign. Also requesting a bid to see if they can build frames for the signs at 47 & Meier as well as Highway C & Meier.
- Painting hallway in Christian Ed Building – still in progress
- Lights – still in progress
- Sanctuary Thermostat – still in progress. Joann is going to put up a sign up to not adjust thermostat as it is programmed.
- Sanctuary Flooring – scheduled for January 19-23 for installation in both the Sanctuary & Food Pantry.
- Church Insurance – we are covered by Church Mutual Insurance as we have completed all the requirements as requested.
- Painting Schoolhouse – still in progress
- Gift Acceptance Policies/Undesignated Fund – still in progress
- Walkers during service – still in progress

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Set date for the Annual Meeting in January – set for January 18, with a make-up date of January 25. There will be a Carry In dinner.
- Cleaning of Fellowship Hall – discussed cleaning the Fellowship Hall floors. Also, the committee that host Fellowship is responsible for sweeping as well as cleaning up afterwards.

**Next Meeting:**

- **Date & Time** – January 12 @ 5:15pm (date was changed via email on December 19th, to January 5<sup>th</sup>, due to deadlines for committee reports)
- **Opening Prayer** – Karol

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

**CLOSING PRAYER** – Lord's Prayer

Respectively submitted,  
Jennifer Schulte, Council Secretary

# February Stewardship

## One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

There are many in need in our world. Some are hit by national disasters and it is almost impossible to imagine how they feel.

The plight of refugees is also extremely serious now, with the number of people who have had to leave their homes due to dangerous circumstances rivaling the amount of displaced people in World War II.

Throw in the lack of clean water, lack of schools, war, and disease, and it can be overwhelming.

But we are Christians. We know there is always hope and that we are expected to help.

By giving to One Great Hour of Sharing, you know you helped the United Church of Christ be in these places of sorrow with food, medical care, materials, water, guidance and comforting words.

This fund supports disaster, refugee and development ministries and sends aid to these broken places. We can help bring hope and the word of God to those who are struggling.

Our little church, The Church that Dares to Care, can have an impact in places of suffering through our contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing.

The Stewardship Committee

# February 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	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	18  Food Pantry 11:00am – 1:00pm & 4-6pm  Ash Wednesday Service 7pm	19	20	21
22	23  Scouts 7:00pm	24  Cub Scouts 7pm	25  Food Pantry 11:00am – 1:00pm & 4-6pm	26	27	28

## St. Paul United Church of Christ

903 Meier Road, Old Monroe, MO 63369

Pastor.....Rev. James Oleson

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

Email.....stpaulucom@gmail.com

Website.....stpaulucom.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.....636-383-2079

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

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

**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
First Day of Lent

