

Summer is a great season of the year. Hopefully we've all been able to take some time off, visit friends or family. Hopefully our gardens have been productive, and that we've been able to enjoy those things that we can usually only get this time of the year: corn on the cob, watermelon, tomatoes right off the vine, sweet cherries. A great season.

However, by the time you read this, it will almost be Labor Day, the kids or grandkids will be back in school, and on the 21st we will have the Equinox, and the days will be getting noticeably shorter. There was a time, not so long ago, when we looked forward to the days getting longer. That time passed by so quickly, so it seems. The Psalmist was right when he or she said, "A thousand years in God's sight is but as yesterday when it is past" (Psalm. 90:4).

That means that not only are the days getting shorter but our lives are getting short, too, with each passing day. With each passing day we get closer to whatever is ahead of us. Some of those things are things we look forward to, others we either dread or at least not look forward to. What really matters, however, is not the shortness of the day or life, but the day itself.

Several years ago, I heard a man talk about his upcoming retirement. He said it was not retirement that was so meaningful to him. Rather it was the journey that got him there. Isn't that so true? It's not the end but the journey that is so meaningful. And an important part of that journey is today.

Each day here in Old Monroe and at this church is an important and wonderful day of our journey, and Liza and I celebrate it with you.

One of the things I enjoy about September is Michaelmas, the Feast of St. Michael, the chief of all the archangels. In the Middle Ages, this was sort of the end of the fiscal year: debts were settled, contracts were issued, workers were hired for the next season, plans were made for the next year. I typically take a couple of days off around Michaelmas to plan out the year ahead: what do I want to accomplish? What books do I want to read? What tasks do I want to complete? What new skills do I want to acquire, or what skills do I want to improve?

I think this is an important process for the church as well. Last year, Glenda led a planning session to sketch out our plans for this year. Many of these plans (actually, I think ALL) have been carried out and been a great success: the picnic in May, the progressive dinner, Pasta With the Pastor, etc.

I encourage you to start thinking about what you would like to do in the upcoming year – new ideas welcome!

Pastor Jim

Our Church Family

To honor Laretta's memory, all contributions given in Laretta's memory will go to Camp MoVal. Laretta spent many years attending Camp MoVal and we are certain this is what Laretta would have wanted. The Camp MoVal community was faithful in visiting Laretta and providing moral support as her health declined.

Thanks to all who donated in Laretta's memory.

The Laretta Thomas Family

Food Pantry News

During the month of July, 94 people visited the Food Pantry with a total of 301 people being helped.

****Food Pantry is in need of plastic shopping bags.***

Thank you for again helping us through a hard time for the food pantry. Without your help some would be going hungry.

Caring and Sharing usually helps provide some help but they have had to move their location and could not be of help for a couple of months. They have moved to a new location and will start providing food the first of September.

It is good to know we can count on you for extra help when we need it.

Your food pantry staff

Correction:

**We wanted to make note that Darryl and Phyllis Freese were omitted for the list of donations for Laretta Thomas.*

Please join us to honor and say
goodbye to Joann
and welcome Casey on
September 13, 2026 after service.

We will have a carry in dinner to thank
Joann for her 20 years of service and
wish her a wonderful retirement and to
welcome and get to know Casey.



This week we added Michelle to our prayers.

We continue to keep in our prayers:

Lynn and Ron D., Ernie M., Eileen T., Lyle R., Jamie, Nor, Rick C., Carolyn M., Jackie, Belinda D., Linda M., Brittany and Edward, Mary and Jerry, Pat G., Randy M., David, Rick L., Bob S., Billy, Maura Tara, and Mike.

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

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH

2026 Monthly Attendance Average

January: 21
February: 24
March: 28
April: 27
May: 28
June: 20
July: 25
August:
September:
October:
November:
December:

July Attendance:

July 26: 25

August Attendance:

August 2: 26
August 9: 22
August 16: 34
August 23: 26
August 30:

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>
July 26	\$ 265.00	\$ 0.00
Aug 2	\$ 2165.00	\$ 95.00
Aug 9	\$ 810.00	\$ 50.00
Aug 16	\$ 688.00	\$ 328.00
Aug 23	\$ 880.00	\$ 190.00
Aug 30	\$	\$

Our giving in 2026...

January Average:	\$ 1478.33
February Average:	\$ 1226.25
March Average:	\$ 1160.00
April Average:	\$ 1070.00
May Average:	\$ 1978.00
June Average:	\$ 1133.75
July Average:	\$ 1075.00
August Average:	\$
September Average:	\$
October Average:	\$
November Average:	\$
December Average:	\$

THANK YOU

In honor of Jerry & Pat's 66th Anniversary
\$150 was donated to the Food Pantry.

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



Jerry Gifford	01
Jane Meyer	03
Jeff Thomas	08
Alexis Schulte	09
Liam Gifford	18
Ron Dutton	20
Norma Keeteman	21
Doug Gifford	27

Ushers/Greeters

Sept 6	Joe Walker & Jerry Gifford
Sept 13	Sharon Brinkman & Robert Bothe
Sept 20	Rick Kincer & Mary Anne Lee
Sept 27	Linda Meier & Janet Drown

Acolytes

Sept 6	Janet Drown
Sept 13	Ann Rolf
Sept 20	Glenda Keeteman
Sept 27	Janet Drown



Jerry & Pat Gifford

*There was a misprint in last month's Messenger. Pat & Jerry have been married 66 years, not 65.

Fellowship Hour Servers

Sept 6	Stewardship
Sept 13	Worship
Sept 20	Christian Nurture
Sept 27	Council

Food Pantry Schedule

Sept 2	11am to 1pm 4 to 6pm	Phyllis & Norma Jane & Janet
Sept 9	11am to 1pm 4 to 6 pm	Karol & Norma Joyce & Richard
Sept 16	11am to 1pm 4 to 6pm	Georgia & Karol Liza & Jane
Sept 23	11am to 1pm 4 to 6pm	Steve & Norma Karol & Janet
Sept 30	11am to 1pm 4 to 6pm	Steve & Karol Georgia & Janet

St. Paul United Church of Christ

Council Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2026

Present: Jerry Gifford, Karol Keeteman, Christopher Dickmeyer, Rev. Jim Oleson, Glenda Keeteman, Joann Jungermann- treasurer (non-member) and Casey Black, administrative assistant candidate

Absent: Jennifer Schulte

Opening Prayer: Rev. Oleson

Quorum Count (Four (4) = ½ plus one total Council members) - Glenda – quorum present

Review of Agenda – Christopher made the motion to accept as written, seconded by Karol. No discussion, motion passed.

- * **Treasurers Report** – Glenda made the motion to accept as written, seconded by Karol. No discussion, motion passed.
- * **Secretary's Report** – Karol made the motion to accept, seconded by Christopher. No discussion, motion passed.
- * **Pastor's Report** – Glenda made the motion to accept Pastor's report, seconded by Karol. No discussion, motion passed.

Committee Reports:

1. **Worship** – Christopher, liaison – report that there is some wax on the vinyl floor. There will be an acolyte 'training' on two upcoming Sundays, with discussion/instruction as to prevent this from happening.
2. **Grounds Committee** – Jennifer, liaison – no report
3. **Christian Nurture** – Jennifer, liaison – Pasta with the Pastor is the next upcoming event Aug 2nd.
4. **Stewardship** – Glenda, liaison – nothing to report
5. **Finance Committee** – Joann – nothing to report
6. **Boy Scouts** – Jerry, liaison – nothing to report
7. **Food Pantry** – Karol, liaison – Caring and Sharing is bringing food to us one time a month during August and September. October we will resume food pick up at their new location.
8. **Bright Futures** – Glenda, liaison – some new restructuring of the board, not much new till school starts.

Old/Unfinished Business

- * Signs – still in progress
- * Painting hallway in Christian Ed Building – still in progress
- * Lights – still in progress
- * Painting School House – nothing new
- * Gift Acceptance Policies/Undesignated Fund – still in progress
- * New Administrative Assistant – Casey Black has been shadowing Joann and learning responsibilities since mid-June and doing well. Casey is interested in the position.
A motion was made by Christopher and seconded by Glenda - all in favor, no one opposed, to hire Casey Black as our new Administrative Assistant.
A motion was made by Karol to add Casey Black to the church's General Fund bank account, seconded by Christopher - all in favor, no one opposed.

Discussion was had that Joann will remain training her until Casey is comfortable with the tasks.
We thank Joann for her nearly (Aug 15) 20 years of dedicated service.

New Business:

- * Hall Rental – a request to rent the fellowship hall on August 8th. A rental contract will be sent. All approved.
- * Pastoral Supply – Pastor will be on vacation on November 15. Council and Worship Committee will begin planning.

Next Meeting

- * August 17 at 5:15 pm
- * Opening Prayer – Jennifer

Entertain motion to close – Motion made by Glenda and seconded by Christopher. No discussion, motion passed.

Closing Prayer – Lord's Prayer

Respectively submitted,
Glenda Keeteman, Council Vice President (filling in for Jennifer in her absence)

Order your Christmas Poinsettias!

The Worship Committee again plans to decorate our sanctuary with poinsettias for Christmas Eve. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone, please complete the form below. The cost is \$10.50 per plant, and the deadline for orders is Sunday, October 11th. You may also make a contribution to the General fund in lieu of a poinsettia. Please put your order form and payment in an envelope (marked “Christmas Poinsettias”) and drop in the offering plate or mail it to the Church Office.

Number of poinsettias ordered: _____ **All poinsettias will be red this year.**

_____ This poinsettia is given by _____
in memory of _____

_____ This poinsettia is given by _____
in honor of _____

_____ Please accept this contribution to the General Fund, given by _____
in memory of _____
or in honor of _____



**Remember – Poinsettias are \$10.50 each,
and the deadline for placing orders is Sunday, October 11th**

September Stewardship

The Key Youth Center

The Key Youth Center, a long-term residential facility aiding homeless and at-risk youth in Lincoln County, is September's special mission offering. The Key has been 100% community funded since opening their doors in 2019, helping youth from all four county school districts (Troy, Winfield, Elsberry and Silex).

The Key is equipped to house and provide support services, with room for seven male and seven female residents housed on separate floors. Youth, who are at risk of or meet the criteria for homelessness, can benefit from the Key's residential program or drop-in services when escaping or dealing with an unhealthy or abusive home environment.

To be eligible for The Key's residential program youth must:

- have resided in Lincoln County for at least 60 days
- be enrolled in a Lincoln County school and in good academic standing and meet residential eligibility requirements
- or be a high school graduate who has utilized one month of The Key's drop-in services and meet residential eligibility requirements

We ask that you prayerfully consider supporting The Key's mission in housing, mentoring and counseling these youth. Help these at-risk youth, as they strive to overcome difficult situations, complete or continue their education and/or job skills training, and work to better themselves.

The Stewardship Committee

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Worship Committee Meeting – 5:30pm	2 Food Pantry 11:00am – 1:00pm & 4-6pm	3	4	5
6	7 Scouts 7:00 pm	8 Cub Scouts 7pm	9 Food Pantry 11:00am – 1:00pm & 4-6pm	10	11	12
13	14 Scouts 7:00 pm	15 Cub Scouts 7pm	16 Food Pantry 11:00am – 1:00pm & 4-6pm	17	18	19
20	21 Council Meeting 5:15pm Scouts 7:00pm	22 Cub Scouts 7pm	23 Food Pantry 11:00am – 1:00pm & 4-6pm	24	25	26
27	28 Scouts 7:00pm	29 Cub Scouts 7pm	30 Food Pantry 11:00am – 1:00pm & 4-6pm			

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.....636-383-2079

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

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

