

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

St. Paul

August 30 2026

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
Christopher Dickmeyer, Musician
Janet Drown, Liturgist

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Please rise in body or spirit*

Ringin of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

We welcome you today in the name of the One who frees us from every burden, renews our spirits and inspires hope and joy in our living. May this time of worship encourage and lift you up.

Prelude and Lighting of the Candles

***Call to Worship (Responsive)**

One: Give thanks to the Lord, proclaim his greatness; tell the nations what God has done; sing praise to the Lord.

Many: We are glad that we belong to God; let all who worship rejoice and go to the Lord for help.

One: We are descendants of God's servant Abraham, of Jacob, and all the ones he has chosen.

Many: We remember the miracles that God performed and the judgments that he gave.

One: He is the Lord our God; his judgments are over all the earth.

Many: Let us remember the everlasting covenant that God has made with Abraham and his descendants for a thousand generations. Let us praise the Lord!

***Invocation**

Most loving God, as the life of summertime we see around us that is so soon to depart, even as the summer fades, by your Holy Spirit awaken us to brighter hopes and livelier faith. While bird and beast and flower praise you by fulfilling what they are created to do, help us to lift up our hearts with the wonder and praise for which we were made. Stir the music in our hearts, so that songs may be on our lips. Arouse the neglected melody in our souls until our prayers and creeds turn a glad commitment. Through Christ Jesus, the joy of loving hearts.

Amen!

***Hymn of Praise #455 New Century**

I Am Yours, O Lord

*** Prayer for Transformation and New Life** (Unison)

O Lord God, we confess that far too often we compare our financial accomplishments to those of other people – sometimes being proud that we have done better than they have, AND sometimes being jealous and unhappy because they have purchased things

we can't afford. Too often we see ourselves as in some kind of economic race with our neighbors, friends, and other members of our family. Forgive our misplaced values, deliver us from the greed that warps our minds, help us to seek first those things which really count, and enable us to restore our relationships. Challenge us with the discipleship our Lord requires, that we may not only be effective in service to him, but also find the life that is most satisfying and whole. Amen.

<pause for silent reflection >

Words of Grace

One: It is written: "By love you are saved through faith; and even your faith is not your achievement but is a gift from God."

Many: We take up this precious gift of salvation, and live boldly as the children of God.

One: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ is with you all.

***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.

Written Word

Exodus 3:1-15

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

Hymn #436 New Century

God of Grace and God of Glory

Message

Watch Out for That First Step

Rev. Jim Oleson

Matthew 16:21-28

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**

O Gracious God, we offer You our praise, we offer You our hearts, we offer You prayers, and now we offer You our gifts and ourselves. All this we do in the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

***Closing Hymn #403 New Century**

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

***Commission and Benediction**

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

***Congregational Response #531 New Century**

**God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak
(Verse 1)**

***Ring of the Bell and Postlude**

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OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Jim – Monday & Tuesday 8:00am to Noon

Church Office

Wednesday: 9:00am – 3:00pm

Friday: 9:00am - Noon

It Happens

Here



St. Paul UCC

Weekly Calendar

August 30th – September 6th

August 30th ***Fourteenth Sunday after
Pentecost***

10:30am Worship
11:30am Fellowship Hour

Sept 1st
5:30pm Worship Committee Meeting

Sept 6th ***Fifteenth Sunday after
Pentecost***
10:30am Worship
11:30am Fellowship Hour

Looking Ahead

Sept 21st
5:15pm Council Meeting

OUR GIVING IN 2026

Needed weekly to meet our commitments	\$2190.29		\$ 2190.29
General Fund Offering August 23 rd	\$ 880.00	July Average	\$ 1075.00
Stewardship Offering August 23 rd	\$ 190.00	June Average	\$ 1133.75

HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Sunday, September 20: St. Paul's UCC Annual Chicken Dinner & Country Store. Dine in or carry out from 11am to 5pm.

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.

Thank you to all our volunteers!

Greeters/Ushers

Linda Meier & Bobby Roskowske

Acolyte

Bobby Roskowske

Liturgist

Janet Drown

Fellowship Hour

PPR

A decorative graphic with the words "Thank You" in a highly stylized, cursive script. The letters are intertwined and have a soft, glowing effect, giving it a warm and elegant appearance.

In our prayers ...

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., Mary and Jerry, Pat G., Randy M., David, Rick L., Bob S., Billy, Tara, and Mike.

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