

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

St. Paul

September 6 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
Carolyn Meier, Musician

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Please rise in body or spirit*

Ringling 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: Praise God!

Many: Sing to God a new song!

One: Give thanks to our Maker.

Many: We rejoice in our sovereign God.

One: Let us praise God with dancing and music.

Many: Let the faithful sing for joy as we praise God together!

***Invocation**

As we gather here in your name, O Christ, you are already among us.

Keep us open to your presence in us and around us that we may grow closer to you.

Amen.

***Hymn of Praise #304 New Century**

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

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

Merciful God, for some of us it is one of those days when we do not feel so much ashamed of our sins as trapped by them; when we are feeling more weary than worried and more frustrated than guilty.

In all honesty we must admit to you that this is truly how it often is with us.

Therefore, we pray for whatever form your saving love must take to rehabilitate us and put things right. Please give each of us that particular spiritual make-over which will restore the defaced divine likeness within us all.

We place ourselves at your mercy, praying for the forgiving and renewing and disciplining love of Christ Jesus to redeem us from all evil. Amen.

<pause for silent reflection >

Words of Grace

One: Fellow stumblers on the path of Christ, lift up your hearts.

Many: God is faithful and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

One: Get rid of every weight that hinders you, every fear that limits you, and embrace the new day of God's love, mercy and truth.

Many: Amen!

***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 12:1-14

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

Hymn #42 New Century

O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing

Message

A Gentile and a Tax Collector

Rev. Jim Oleson

Matthew 18:15-20

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.

The Lord's Supper

INVITATION TO CHRIST'S TABLE

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

(Please hold each of the elements as it is distributed so that we may partake each together. The inner ring of cups in each tray holds juice rather than wine.)

*** THANKSGIVING PRAYER (unison)**

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Closing Hymn #52 New Century**

There Is A Name I Love to Hear

***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)

***Ringing 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

September 6th – September 13th

Sept 6th

***Fifteenth Sunday after
Pentecost***

10:30am

Worship

11:30am

Fellowship Hour

Sept 13th

***Sixteenth 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 30th

\$ 410.00

Aug Average

\$ 990.60

Stewardship Offering August 30th

\$ 50.00

July Average

\$ 1075.00

HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY

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

Sunday, September 27: St. Paul's UCC in Defiance. Chicken Dinner. Drive thru or inside seating 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.

Cake will be provided. A couple sugar free desserts would be appreciated.

Thank you to all our volunteers!

Greeters/Ushers

Joe Walker & Jerry Gifford

Acolyte

Janet Drown

Liturgist

Fellowship Hour

Stewardship



In our prayers ...

This week we added the people of Pampanga, Philippines, the homeless and people without shelter in this extreme heat, the family of Michael W., and the family of Todd 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, Mike, and Michelle.

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