

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

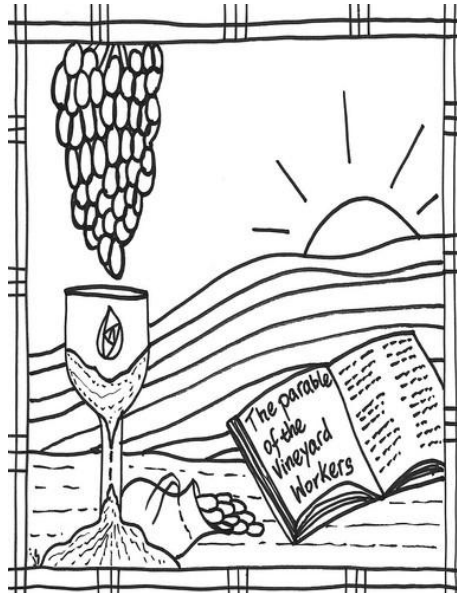
St. Paul

September 20, 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

Seventeenth 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: Watch and listen for the wonders of our God.

Many: Our God is among us.

One: Watch and listen for the goodness of our God.

Many: Our God moves among us.

One: Watch and listen, for God is here.

Many: Our God dwells among us.

***Invocation**

Lord God - as you rescued your people from bondage in Egypt and provided them with all that they needed - so you deliver us from bondage to sin and provide us with those things we need. We thank and praise you. Grant to us, O God, that in our time here today we might hear afresh your life-giving word and discern anew what your will is for us. Forgive us for those things we have done amiss, and bless our songs and our prayers and our every thought and every action as we worship you - that they may bring you glory and honor and praise, both now and always. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen

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

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

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

Just God, we acknowledge that accountability is both a gift and a necessary step toward healing and repair. We also know that we do not sin against you alone. Forgive us for only seeking absolution from you for our benefit. Help us to reconcile with siblings, neighbors, friends, and enemies through recognition of harmful outcomes and committed actions toward repair. Amen.

<pause for silent reflection >

Words of Grace

One: The Holy One is faithful to forgive and extends grace and mercy lavishly. At the same time, God wants us all to be well and whole.

Many: The Holy One will strengthen us to be accountable to both God and one another as well as to do the work of restoration and repair.

***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 16:2-15
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

Hymn #379 New Century

Come, We Who Love God's Name

Message

The Unfairness of God's Generosity

Rev. Jim Oleson

Matthew 20:1-16

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**

Loving God, thank you for the opportunity to participate in spreading the good news through the impact of the resources we offer today. Bless these gifts, magnify them, and sanctify them for your glory. Amen.

***Closing Hymn #42** New Century

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

***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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stpauluccom@gmail.com

Website: stpauluccom.com

636-665-5329

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 20th – September 27th

Sept 20th

**Seventeenth Sunday after
Pentecost**

9:15am Book Study/Bible Study
10:30am Worship
11:30am Fellowship Hour

Sept 21st

5:15pm Council Meeting

Sept 23rd

9:30am Finance Committee

Sept 26th

4:00pm Church Family Picnic

Sept 27th

**Eighteenth Sunday after
Pentecost**

9:15am Book Study/Bible Study
10:30am Worship
11:30am Fellowship Hour

Looking Ahead

OUR GIVING IN 2026

Needed weekly to meet our commitments	\$2190.29		\$ 2190.29
General Fund Offering September 13 th	\$ 1701.00	Aug Average	\$ 990.60
Stewardship Offering September 13 th	\$ 100.00	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.

Thank you to all our volunteers!

Greeters/Ushers

Rick Kincer & Mary Anne Lee

Acolyte

Glenda Keeteman

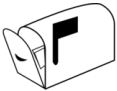
Liturgist

Janet Drown

Fellowship Hour

Christian Nurture

*Thank
You*



NOTE!
ADDRESS CHANGE

Carol Jean Pheleps
919 Vegas Dr
St. Louis, MO 63125
314-932-7335

In our prayers ...

This week we added Nick G., and the family of Dennis B. 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, Michelle, Pam, the people of Pampanga, Philippines, the family of Michael W., and the family of Todd. We also pray for the homeless and people without shelter in this extreme heat.

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



It has been a pleasure to serve this congregation for the last 20 years. Thank you for the generous monetary gift, the delicious lunch and all your warm wishes. Thank you to Pastor Michael and Linda for sending the beautiful peace lily. I will always be a part of this congregation.

Joann

