



Greetings!

I recently was reading in the book of Hebrews (I feel a sermon coming on – be expecting one soon) and was struck by how closely the biblical author mirrored the FISH! philosophy. The FISH! Philosophy is something I learned in a personal leadership conference when I was working for the State of South Dakota. It is quite simple, but it has really stuck with me and has served me in good stead. The FISH! Philosophy is made up of four simple keys used to create a great work culture and environment: Be there. Play. Make their day. Choose your attitude.

I will get to the first two keys, "be there" and "play" at the end of the article, but I would like to focus first on the last two: "Make their day" and "choose your attitude."

As I approach my second Thanksgiving as your pastor, I want to say that you all have not only "made my day", you have "made my" almost two years here. Being able to do the work of ministry in this congregation has been an amazing experience. This has been a time of growth and adjustment for me, and your support and nurture, as well as the challenges I have faced here, have made it possible for me to grow in confidence as your pastor.

Also, "Choose your attitude." I have seen you choose your attitude. I have seen you choose to be faithful in supporting a part-time pastor, and have allowed me the space and time for slowing down as I grow closer to retirement. I have seen you choose to invest in the church and the community through the Food Pantry and our various missions throughout the year.

You have also chosen the attitude of serving the church in so many ways. It is amazing to see that nearly every single one of you is actively serving the church in some way.

You have also chosen the attitude of staying together and tackling the hard questions, the difficult financial issues, not shying away, but going forward as a community, investing in one another.

Which brings me back to the first point of the FISH! Philosophy, being there. You have been there for one another. You have been there for Liza and me.

And I can't close without visiting the second point of the FISH! Philosophy, Play. This is a sacred space and a sacred community. But God created us with a wonderful sense of humor, which God shares (I mean, look who God called into ministry at age 50? God has a terrific sense of humor!) God doesn't want carbon copies of a generic "perfect Christian." God wants us to be the best you and the best me that we can be. And to praise God with all of our gifts, including our senses of humor.

I don't know about you, but that almost makes me want to go out and play.

May you be blessed with all the rich blessings of our God.

Pastor Jim

Our Church Family

Food Pantry News

During the month of August, 81 people visited the Food Pantry with a total of 222 people being helped.



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 sincere wishes. Thank you to Pastor Michael and Linda for sending the beautiful peace lily. I will always be a part of this congregation.

Joann



This week we added Kenneth G., Jane, and the Bauer family 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, Nick G., and the family of Dennis B. 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.

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH

2026 Monthly Attendance Average

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

August Attendance:

August 30: 28

September Attendance:

September 6: 31
September 13: 44
September 20: 32
September 27:

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>
Aug 30	\$ 410.00	\$ 50.00
Sept 6	\$ 2165.00	\$ 295.00
Sept 13	\$ 1701.00	\$ 100.00
Sept 20	\$ 366.00	\$ 0.00
Sept 27	\$	\$

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:	\$ 990.60
September Average:	\$
October Average:	\$
November Average:	\$
December Average:	\$

Please remember to invite our inactive members, as well as your family and friends, to worship. Evangelism and hospitality go hand in hand!



Ushers/Greeters

October 4 Joyce Noble & Janet Drown
 October 11 Richard Warren & Glenda Keeteman
 October 18 Ann Rolf & Mary Anne Lee
 October 25 Bob Bothe & Jennifer Schulte

Mary Anne Lee 27
 Noah Thomas 28



Acolytes

October 4 Connor Rolf
 October 11 Kaelyn Keeteman
 October 18 Cameron Rolf
 October 25 Jennifer Schulte

Jennifer & Jerry Schulte – October 2
 Christopher Dickmeyer & Robert Roskowske
 October 9

Pastor Jim & Liza Oleson – October 11

Fellowship Hour Servers

October 4 Finance
 October 11 Grounds
 October 18 PPR
 October 25 Food Pantry

Food Pantry Schedule

Oct 7	11am to 1pm 4 to 6pm	Phyllis & Norma Jane & Janet
Oct 14	11am to 1pm 4 to 6 pm	Karol & Norma Joyce & Karol
Oct 21	11am to 1pm 4 to 6pm	Steve & Norma Liza & Jane
Oct 28	11am to 1pm 4 to 6pm	Georgia & Karol Liza & Janet

ST. PAUL UCC COUNCIL MINUTES

August 17 ,2026

PRESENT: Jerry Gifford, Jennifer Schulte, Karol Keeteman, Christopher Dickmeyer, Rev. Jim Oleson, Joann Jungermann, Treasurer (non-member), Casey Black, (non-member)

ABSENT:

Opening Prayer – Chris

Quorum Count (Four (4) = ½ plus one total Council members) – Jennifer, Quorum present

Review of Agenda – Chris made motion to accept as written; seconded by Glenda. No discussion, motion passed.

- **Treasurers Report** – Karol made motion to accept as written, seconded Jennifer. No discussion, motion passed.
- **Secretary's Report** – Karol made motion to accept as written, seconded by Chris. 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** – Meeting in September to plan out the rest of the year
2. **Grounds Committee – Jennifer** – trying to set meeting in October to do their safety walk through
3. **Christian Nurture – Jennifer** – planning a carry in dinner to welcome Casey & for Joann's retirement.
4. **Stewardship – Glenda** – nothing to report
5. **Finance – Joann** – nothing to report.
6. **Boy Scouts – Jerry** – nothing to report
7. **Food Pantry – Karol** – Caring and Sharing location has re-opened and should be getting food from there by September.
8. **Bright Futures – Glenda** – hosting a Back-to-School event to promote Bright Futures.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Signs – sign is ready. Waiting on communication from sign company on when we will have it.
- Painting hallway in Christian Ed Building – still in progress
- Lights – still in progress
- Painting Schoolhouse – still in progress
- Gift Acceptance Policies/Undesignated Fund – still in progress
- Pulpit Supply for November – still being handled by the Worship Committee

NEW BUSINESS:

- Pastor requesting Sunday September 27th off – Glenda made motion to approved requested vacation, seconded by Jennifer. No discussion, motion passed.
- Stove in Parsonage – burners are on the brink and Jerry is going to talk to maintenance about replacing.

Next Meeting

- **Date & Time – September 21st @ 5:15pm**
- **Opening Prayer – Jennifer**

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

CLOSING PRAYER – Lord's Prayer

Respectively submit

Jennifer Schulte, Council Secretary

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**

October Stewardship

Neighbors In Need

The United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need fund is the special mission offering for the month of October. Two-thirds of donations fund the UCC's Justice and Local Church Ministries programs while one-third of Neighbors in Need donations support the Council for American Indian Ministry. Through the Justice and Local Church Ministries program, grants are awarded based on criteria established by delegates attending bi-annual UCC conferences.

One grant awarded in recent years supported Hands on Hartford, an organization founded more than fifty years ago, which works in the fight to end homelessness. This grant helped to fund their more recent Faces on Homelessness program, where former homeless community members share powerful stories of the realities of living as a homeless person or family.

Faces on Homelessness helps develop leadership and speaking skills in Hands on Hartford clients, which not only benefits them personally as they rebuild their lives, but has broadened the awareness of the need. By sharing their stories with faith communities, schools and other community organizations, they learn skills which empower them as they seek employment and independent housing while being housed by the Hands-on Hartford organization.

Nearly 100% of funds collected fund the UCC's Neighbors in Need mission projects and programs. Please consider extending a helping hand beyond our own community to assist others as they seek help in rebuilding their lives and independence.

The Stewardship Committee

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 Scouts 7:00 pm	6 Cub Scouts 7pm	7 Food Pantry 11:00am – 1:00pm & 4-6pm	8	9	10
11	12 Scouts 7:00 pm	13 Cub Scouts 7pm	14 Food Pantry 11:00am – 1:00pm & 4-6pm	15	16	17
18	19 Council Meeting 5:15pm Scouts 7:00pm	20 Cub Scouts 7pm	21 Food Pantry 11:00am – 1:00pm & 4-6pm	22	23	24 Trunk or Treat 5:00pm – 8:00pm
25	26 Scouts 7:00pm	27 Cub Scouts 7pm	29 Food Pantry 11:00am – 1:00pm & 4-6pm	29	30	31

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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Email.....stpauluccom@gmail.com

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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)

