

Greetings!

Halloween is fast approaching as I write this letter, and it really is starting to feel like Fall.

Soon we will begin all the planning and preparation for Advent and Christmas. Of course, Advent is the beginning of the year on the Christian calendar. So before we begin the New Year it is appropriate that we pause at the end of the current year to count our blessings. As the old song goes, "Count your blessings. Name them one by one. Count your many blessings, see what God has done." That hymn is not in our hymnal but I wish it were.

That is why we have a day called Thanksgiving Day near the end of November. Our United Church of Christ forebears, the Congregationalists of the Plymouth Colony, thought it was important to take the time to thank God who created all things and from whom all things come. An important part of the day was the sharing. The pilgrims shared with the Indians and the Indians shared with the pilgrims. Giving and sharing is an important part of our gratitude. It puts substance to our thankfulness. This year in the United Church of Christ, Stewardship Sunday is November 8th, the same day as our annual congregational budget meeting this year. It is important that we recognize what the church is doing, and how we are using our resources, and how important it is for us all to have the opportunity to join in the work of the church through our offerings. It is appropriate that we celebrate Stewardship Sunday so near to Thanksgiving. It is a time when we remember all that God has given to us and done for us, and in that spirit of Thanksgiving, think prayerfully on how we will respond to God for those many blessings.

And I think one of those blessings, for me certainly, and for many of you as well, is being part of this church. The opportunity to gather together to worship in such a generous community is a tremendous blessing. We all have much to be thankful about for being a part of this "Church that dares to care."

And so as we come closer to Stewardship Sunday and Thanksgiving Day let's not forget that the God who provided for us in 2026 will provide for us in 2027. Because of this, those of us who believe in giving to the church and tithing can consider increasing our giving. And those among us who may not have given this past year can choose to give in this coming year. When we step out in faith God will not let us down.

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

Pastor Jim

Our Church Family



Food Pantry News

During the month of September, 89 people visited the Food Pantry with a total of 261 people being helped.



Please plan to attend the Congregational Budget meeting on Sunday, November 8th immediately following worship.

Consider Council

St. Paul will need two new church council members in 2027 to replace retiring members. The Council makes decisions and addresses the concerns of members. It meets once a month for about an hour.

Rules say that the Council should not have members from the same household. Members can be related. Please think about serving.

Consider Committees

Are you interested in serving on a committee or maybe you have served for many years in one area and are interested in trying something new?

Chairpersons of committees, does your group need more members? Please start thinking about which committees you would like to stay with and/or change to.

This week we added Lynn D.'s cousin's wife and her family to our prayer list.

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., Mary and Jerry, David, Rick L., Bob S., Billy, Tara, Mike, Michelle, Pam, Nick G., Kenneth G., Jane, Marilyn and Bill, Miriam, Jerry A., and the family of Randy M.

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

TOTENFEST

Sunday, November 22nd is Totenfest. If you would like a candle lit for someone who has passed away in the last year, please give the name to the Church office by November 15th.

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: 32
October: 22
November:
December:

September Attendance:

September 27: 22

October Attendance:

October 4: 21
October 11: 21
October 18: 20
October 25: 26

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>
Sept 27	\$ 570.00	\$ 40.00
Oct 4	\$ 1465.00	\$ 25.00
Oct 11	\$ 1250.00	\$ 50.00
Oct 18	\$ 980.00	\$ 95.00
Oct 25	\$ 615.00	\$ 0.00

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:	\$ 1200.50
October Average:	\$ 1077.50
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

November 1 Ann & Stan Rolf
 November 8 Phyllis & Darryl Freese
 November 15 Rick Kincer & Mary Anne Lee
 November 22 Karol & Norma Keeteman
 November 29 Richard Warren & Bobby
 Roskowske

Marla Stewart 3
 Ernie Meyer 11
 Mike Tiesing 16
 David Kendrick 24
 Cory Hyde 25
 Annalee Rolf 30

Acolytes

November 1 Janet Drown
 November 8 Joyce Noble
 November 15 Janet Drown
 November 22 Glenda Keeteman
 November 29 Bobby Roskowske



Fellowship Hour Servers

November 1 Stewardship
 November 8 Worship
 November 15 Council
 November 22 Christian Nurture
 November 29 Finance

Food Pantry Schedule

Nov 4	11am to 1pm 4 to 6pm	Norma & Phyllis Janet & Liza
Nov 11	11am to 1pm 4 to 6 pm	Norma & Karol Joyce & Karol
Nov 18	11am to 1pm 4 to 6pm	Steve & Karol Rich & Georgia
Nov 25	11am to 1pm 4 to 6pm	Steve & Norma Janet

ST. PAUL UCC COUNCIL MINUTES

September 21 ,2026

PRESENT: Jerry Gifford, Jennifer Schulte, Karol Keeteman, Glenda Keeteman, Rev. Jim Oleson, Joann Jungermann, non-member, Casey Black, non-member

ABSENT: Christopher Dickmeyer

Opening Prayer – Jennifer

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

Review of Agenda – Glenda made motion to accept with changes; seconded by Jennifer. No discussion, motion passed.

- **Treasurers Report** – Karol made motion to accept as written, seconded by Glenda. No discussion, motion passed.
- **Secretary's Report** – Karol made motion to accept as written, seconded by Glenda. 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 October to finalize services for the rest of the year. Met on 9/1, to discuss Pulpit Supply for when Pastor Jim is on vacation.
2. **Grounds Committee – Jennifer** – water in Ed Building has been restored. There was a toilet in the lower level that was slowing leaking water. Also, the stove in the Parsonage has been replaced.
3. **Christian Nurture – Jennifer** – Dinner on 9/13, went well except we came up short on chicken, which they learned from that & will have a better count on the next time. There is a Church picnic on Saturday, 9/26, at 4pm. Halloween Truck or Treat is set for October 24, from 5-8.
4. **Stewardship – Glenda** – nothing to report
5. **Finance – Joann** – meeting 9/23, to plan 2027 budget
6. **Boy Scouts – Jerry** – went on a float trip on the Current River
7. **Food Pantry – Karol** – nothing to report
8. **Bright Futures – Glenda** – Coat Giveaway in mid-October, all sizes. Also, can be warm weather attire: gloves, hats, sweatshirts, etc.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Signs – still in progress
- 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 – Doug will be standing in on 11/15

NEW BUSINESS:

- Transition from Joann to Casey – hoping that Casey will be taking over in October. She has been added to the bank account. Also, the Sam's Membership & credit card are in the process to of being changed over to Casey's name.
- Camper in the parking lot – a member has asked if they could park their camper in the parking lot as they do not have the space at their residence. Council approved.
- Outdoor Cameras – they have been purchased just need to be installed. Jerry is going to check with Daryl.

Next Meeting

- **Date & Time – October 19th @ 5:15pm**
- **Opening Prayer – Jerry**

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

CLOSING PRAYER – Lord's Prayer

Respectively submit

Jennifer Schulte, Council Secretary

November Stewardship

Being a Neighbor

Stewardship's special offering for the month of November is St. Paul's Being a Neighbor fund. Through St. Paul's Being a Neighbor fund, we assist community members in need with delinquent utility payments.

When community members contact St. Paul and qualify for assistance, \$50 is paid directly to the utility company, for water or electricity, on behalf of the applicant. St. Paul limits applicants to applying twice per calendar year or \$100 per year.

Since the beginning of 2026, more than \$1,300 has been distributed to 23 applicants. This assistance was made possible due to the overwhelming generosity of St. Paul members and friends, as well as annual interest from the Undesignated Wills fund.

Many thanks to all who have supported Being a Neighbor in the past. Please consider contributing during November. As we head into the winter months, the need typically becomes greater.

The Stewardship Committee

November 2026

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

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)

