

THE PATHFINDER

And now these three
remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is

Love



1 CORINTHIANS 13:13



This Month, we welcome our newest members into our church family.

Sunday, February 5th - New Member Class

A class will be held in the third floor meeting room which is accessible from the elevator behind the sanctuary.

Sunday, February 12th - New Member Welcome and Reception

New members will be received during worship with a reception to follow in Fellowship Hall

Save
~~T.W.E~~
DATE

Sunday, February 26th

Please join us for our
4th Churchwide Conversation
with Pastor Shel after church.

WORSHIP TIMES AND SERVICES

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.

Seasonal Worship

Lent: Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday: 9:30 a.m.

Maudy Thursday Seder:

6:00 p.m. Service

Good Friday Tenebrae:

7:00 p.m. Service

Easter Sunrise Service:

Easter Sunday at 7:00 a.m. at
Evangelical St. Paul Cemetery

Easter Worship:

Easter Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Thanksgiving:

Community service on
Thanksgiving Eve, time and
place announced each year

Christmas:

Christmas Eve services

4:30 p.m. -Family Candlelight
Service

9:30 p.m. -Service of Lessons
and Carols

11:00 p.m. Silent Night
Candlelight and Meditation
Service.

What's It All About

BY PASTOR SHEL

Questions are always helpful, unless they come from a 4 year-old who continues to ask, "Why?" when you have long since run out of answers. I, myself, have always asked a lot of questions, and many produced no helpful answers. But one that has been central to my life and call to ministry is, "Why am I here? Why now...in this place and time?" It is both a question of purpose and of meaning. Perhaps you have asked this question at some point in your life. I have no doubt that Jesus did. How else would he have come to know what he was called to do in that time and place to which he was born?

One of my favorite verses in our hymnal is found in the hymn Dear God, Embracing Humankind #502, verse 3:

O sabbath rest by Galilee!

O calm of hills above!

There Jesus met you prayerfully:


the silence of eternity,

interpreted by love.

When I visited Israel in 1984, I could imagine this simple image of Jesus praying by the Sea of Galilee, which is surrounded on three sides by hills. Jesus had returned to Galilee after being tested by Satan for 40 days in the wilderness. It was during that period of testing that he grew to understand his calling and purpose as God's Beloved Son, and love was the heart of his mission.

As I looked over the shore at the Sea of Galilee, I could imagine Jesus taking time for rest and reflection in the calm between the storms of life that he encountered daily in his ministry. This amazing setting gently held Jesus when he met his God in prayer and prepared to call his first followers.

Every time I sing this hymn I am transported to that place and space, to the waves lapping gently on the lakeshore, to sunlight glinting off the water, to the vibrant reflections of that light dancing across the mountain ridges, in concert with the sea. And I see Jesus, sitting in sabbath quiet, communing with God, as this hymn depicts. But what touches me most are the two final lines because they, in seven small words, capture the essence of Jesus' mission, the assignment he received at his baptism, the answer to his question, "Why am I here?"



Now God has as many names as there are human experiences. The Church may refer to God as Immortal, Invisible, Eternal, Omniscient, Omnipotent, All Mighty, Creator. These names, and many more, attempt to capture something essential about the Holy One, but none of them are very approachable from a human point of view. These images for God are overwhelming and clearly point to something way beyond us. This is why the hymn speaks of the “silence of Eternity” as a reference to God. We are unable to hear that voice so far beyond anything we can know.

Jesus did hear God speaking to him. He experienced God as very present, and personally alive in his heart. When he prayed he communed directly with the Creator whose Word, through Jesus, is forever “interpreted by love”. Jesus discerned the answer to the question by listening to how the Word responded to him. The vast, unknowable, unnamable, essence of all creation, became an intimate and loving presence to Jesus, and this is his witness to humankind. This was the most revolutionary Word in human history. GOD IS LOVE! This is what God brings to earth in the birth of Jesus, this is God’s plan to reconcile and redeem all of creation.

As we ponder the question of meaning and purpose as Christians we realize that this is our assignment as followers today...TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS GOD HAS LOVED US! This is the love we know through Jesus the Christ.

Consistory Corner

BY DENNIS HOGUET

The Consistory is looking forward to 2023. With the additions of Pastor Julie and Amanda Stapf, the church is fully staffed for the first time since Pastor Keith left. The children and youth programs participation is rebounding and steadily increasing. The Boards and Committees are active and accomplishing many things to support St. Paul’s mission. Pastor Shel’s 4th church wide meeting will be held this month. A St. Paul’s adults only trip to Back Bay Mission is scheduled for June. These are just a few highlights of the things coming in 2023. Please reach out to a Consistory member or the Church Office to find out more information on the events for 2023 or to get more involved.

Pastoral Search Committee

BY MYRON HANNA

The Search Committee is continuing to meet on a regular basis. As of January 24, we have received pastoral profiles from a total of 27 candidates. As previously reported, some of the candidates have withdrawn themselves from our consideration. With some candidates we reached a consensus that, for various reasons, he or she would not be a good choice for the senior pastor of our church. We have conducted initial interviews with multiple candidates in whom we have particular interest. These candidates are still under consideration while we continue to receive additional profiles.

Please continue to support us with your prayers.

Free Mindfulness Meditation Course

A Mindfulness Meditation course, for beginners and experienced meditators, is being offered on a complimentary basis to St. Paul United Church of Christ members.

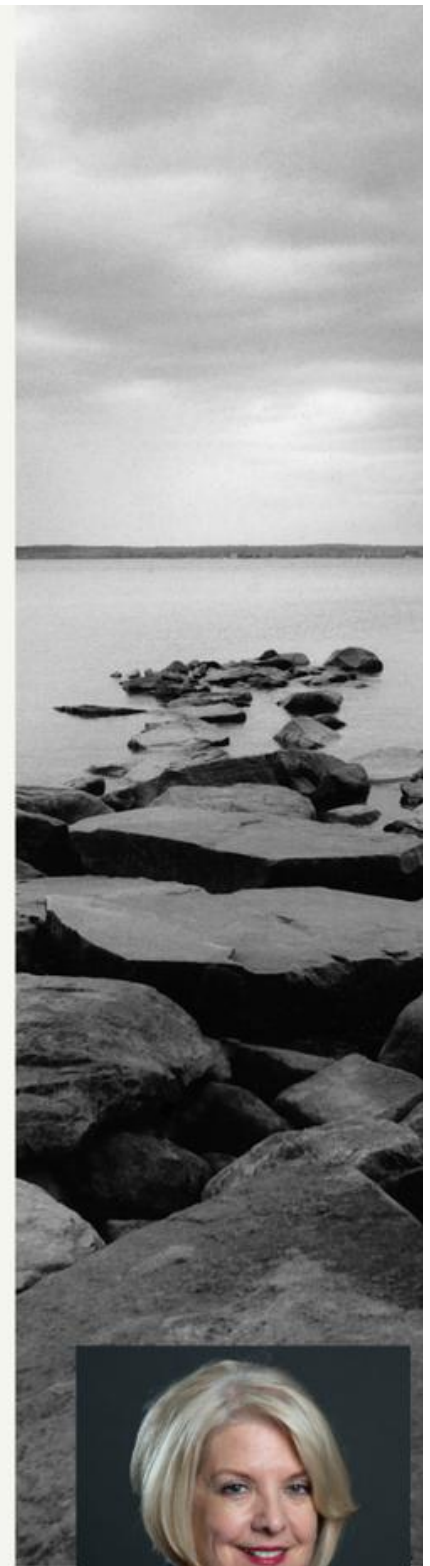
Sundays from March 5-April 2
10:45 am-11:45 am

Mindfulness Meditation is secular and appropriate for people from all cultures and religious traditions. Students will be in a comfortable seated position for this course. The maximum class size is 12 students, on a first come, first served basis.

Why Meditate?

- Increased Compassion for Self and Others
- Loving-Kindness
- Reduced Stress and Anxiety
- Emotional Balance
- Reduced Reactivity
- Increased Focus, Creativity, Productivity and Joy
- Lower Blood Pressure
- Increased Immune Functioning

The Mindfulness Meditation Facilitator is Joan Gibbs, a retired international hotel sales executive who has been meditating since 1996, and has recently graduated from a two year Mindfulness Meditation Teachers Training Program certified by the Greater Good Science Center at the University of California-Berkeley and The Awareness Training Institute.



Sign up in the Welcome Center or email Pastor Shel
srpastor@stpaulcolumbia.org by 2/19/23

Director of Christian Ed Denise Johnson

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Last year's Nationwide Souper Bowl of Caring had 1,842 groups across the country and collected \$1,686,568 worth of cash and food to fight hunger. St. Paul raised \$801.41 which fed people in our area. Our Youth Group will be taking orders for their sub sandwiches to fight hunger. Order forms will be handed out in church on January 22, 29 and February 5. You may also call the office to place your order. Deadline is Wednesday, February 8. The Youth will make the subs on Sunday, February 12 and they will be ready for pick up in Fellowship Hall between 10:30 a.m. -11:30a.m.



PARENTS NIGHT OUT

*"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus,
so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."*

Ephesians 2:10

This Parents Night Out is a winter themed evening of fun, games, and includes a short lesson based on Ephesians 2:10. This verse tells us that we are God's masterpieces, His beautiful works of art. Just like snowflakes, God made each of us unique and beautiful. Go to our website to register. www.stpaulcolumbia.org. Free will donations for this event will go to fight hunger in our community.



LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

The Board of Christian Education and Kids' Crew will be making grilled cheese sandwiches for our Lenten Soup suppers. Soups will be provided by the Church. Various Boards and Committees will provide desserts.

MESSY CHURCH TRAINING WORKSHOP

Pam Erickson, Carrie Clayton, Becky Trexler, Deb Notter, Joan Daab, Pastor Julie and I are attending a "Messy Church" training event on January 21 at St. Paul, Waterloo. What is Messy Church? "A way of being church for all-ages to join in experiencing fun and faith formative activities. Based on values of all-ages together- celebration, creativity, hospitality, and centering ourselves in Christ." Prayerfully, God will inspire and guide us as we plan for this workshop at St. Paul.

Youth Ministry News



Calling all youth! We have several service opportunities this month.

We look forward to your enthusiasm and leadership for our February **Parent Night Out fundraiser** on Saturday, February 4. Volunteers, please arrive by 5:30 p.m. to review the crafts activities and prepare for our guests. Proceeds will benefit Hunger Action missions in the community. The confirmands will guide the decisions about which organizations we will support, as these are related to their spring mission project.

February 12 is the Souper Bowl of Caring.

We are committed to “Tackling Hunger” in this annual event. Youth and helpers will be assembling sub sandwiches to fulfill orders for the big game. These proceeds will also be dedicated to local food missions to help hungry people access much needed food. Please arrive early Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m. for this project.

We have one additional volunteer opportunity on Superbowl Sunday. The Saint Louis Winter Outreach works with the homeless population across the river. Each year **St. Louis Winter Outreach and Americorps St. Louis host a Superbowl party for unhoused (homeless) folks on game day.** We are invited to help with set-up and/or clean-up and to socialize with the guests at the party. This event is held at the Americorps office and warming shelter at 1315 Ann Ave in Soulard. Please indicate your interest on the clipboard in the welcome center and Pastor Julie will contact volunteers and families about the details. (We may customize the time based on your interest.) Plan to leave St Paul UCC at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday the 12th. Winter Outreach is currently in need of men’s socks and handwarmers for their clients.



NEWS

Confirmands are developing a mission project to learn more about and address issues around poverty and hunger in their community. We have connected with guidance counselors, school teachers and local non-profit agencies to better understand the needs and the support that exists. Our youth are engaged directly with these issues through this month’s fundraisers and we appreciate your support of these missions.

Fun Events



Saturday, February 25

All youth are invited for ice skating at the Kennedy Recreation Complex (South St. Louis County). We will meet at church at 1:45 p.m. The afternoon session starts at 2:15 p.m.

Please RSVP for events to assocpastor@stpaulcolumbia.org christianed@stpaulcolumbia.org or via text to 303-263-7874 or 618-340-2952.



Sunday, February 26 at 5:00 p.m.

Senior youth and Confirmands, let’s gather to paint and assemble the patterned cross for the prayer room. If we have more pallets by that time, we can work on the lounging furniture or play some board games together. A meal will be provided.

FIELD TRIP

Our trip scheduled to the St. Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum was rescheduled for February in order to have a guided tour with a museum docent. There is so much information to take in that having a knowledgeable guide will help us make the most of our visit. The trip date is now February 18. If you are joining confirmands for this event, please meet at St. Paul’s back entrance at 11:30 a.m. The guided portion of our tour will be from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.



February 22nd
7:00 p.m.
Worship Service and
Communion



Lenten Soup Suppers in Fellowship Hall



Please consider bringing your whole family for a delicious meal and then give yourself the gift of a quiet, reflective time in worship each Wednesday evening during Lent.

The dates of the Lenten Soup Suppers are March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6 and 13.

The evenings begin at 5:00 p.m., with Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Desserts will be provided by:

March 1
Consistory

March 8
Board of Evangelism

March 15
Board of Mission and Stewardship

March 22
Board of Worship

March 29
Safe Sanctuary Committee

SOLAR PANEL UPDATE

By Mark Thompson

In last month's Pathfinder, we reviewed St. Paul UCC overall solar production (kWh and MWh) from its inception (Jan. 20, 2021). The generation of solar has a direct impact on reducing the monthly electricity bill we receive from Ameren. Production of solar, for obvious reasons, will have higher production values on long, sunny days, however, it does continue throughout the year on less sunny days. Shorter days will decrease production, but did you know? During extreme hot temperatures, production can actually decrease. Solar panels do not perform as well when their internal temperature exceeds 150f. The array of hardware that make up the solar panels, inverters, and metering can mostly be found on the Bohm building's roof. Not visible from the ground, they are well designed to provide production, but not display themselves to the neighborhood.

Thanks to Bob Habelmehl who has helped educate, and had given me the tour of the roof. Bob was instrumental in the church having a solar option, expending countless hours for a period of over two years prior to installation, organizing and planning with various contractors, and addressing the state supported resources.

Recently, I started the process of working with one of the representatives of Day and Night Solar. They had been contracted to provide the solar panel install, reporting platform (SolarEdge app), and ongoing consultation for our church. The goal is to establish exact production values that equate the monthly energy savings on the Ameren utility bill. As soon as I am finished with this process, I will communicate back to our congregation in next month's Pathfinder.

If you have additional questions or feedback, please feel free to discuss with me, Mark Thompson.



Care Connection: February Items of Interest

by Joanne Counce

February is known as the **Heart Month**—to address any issues and symptoms you may have with your heart. The color RED is the symbol for the month.

February 14th is **Valentine's Day** where hopefully each of us will offer and receive an act of love.

February 17th is **Randoms Acts of Kindness Day**. Each day as we live, we leave fingerprints on the world. No, it's not about the handprints we leave on the window or mirror, it's the impression we leave on the lives of others through our words and actions as well as the physical touch.



To combine February awareness items, leave your fingerprint by giving love this Valentine's Day. For a random act of kindness, reach out to others by donating blood (the color red), even if you may be weak the rest of the day. The ill person you may not even know will appreciate your act. If you have ever thought of donating your body or body organs to science, have that discussion with your family now so they will know your intentions. Body donation after death gives the donor and their family the chance to benefit others by contributing to life saving research, education, and the life of others.

Welcome Baby!

Congratulations to Kayla (Myers) and Dustin McCurdy on the birth of their precious daughter, Nora Marie on January 14, 2023.

Proud Grandparents are Donna and Keith Myers and Great Grandparents Shirley and Will Myers.



PRAYER

Lord, you have touched my heart with your love and changed me. Help me to touch others with your love so their lives will be changed as well.
Amen.

february

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

			<p>1</p> <p>8:45 am Region 2 Pastors 9am Preschool 10am Bells 3pm Kids Crew 6pm Confirmation 6pm Jr Girl Scouts 6pm Bells 7pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9am Preschool 3:30pm Personnel Committee 5pm Executive Committee 7 pm Search Committee</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8am Quilters</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6 pm Parents Night Out</p>
<p>5</p> <p>9:30 Worship and Communion 10:30 Social Time 10:45 New Member Meeting</p>	<p>6</p> <p>11am Staff Meeting 6pm Band 6:45pm Boy Scout Troup 357 7pm Stewardship Board 7pm Property Committee</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9am Preschool 12pm Columbia Clergy Association</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9am Preschool 10:00am Bells 3pm Kids Crew 6pm Confirmation 6pm Bells 7pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9am Preschool 7pm Search Committee 7pm Evangelism Board 7pm Cemetery Board</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8am Quilters</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7 pm Eppinger Concert</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 New Member Reception</p>	<p>13</p> <p>11 am Staff Meeting 6pm Band Practice 6:15pm Finance Committee 7pm Consistory</p>	<p>14</p> <p><i>HAPPY Valentine's Day</i> 9am Preschool 6:45pm Boy Scout Troup 357 7pm 4H</p>	<p>15</p> <p>:8:45 am Region 2 Pastors 9am Preschool 10am Bells 3pm Kids Crew 6pm Confirmation 6 pm Jr Girl Scouts 6pm Bells 7pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9am Preschool 7pm Search Committee</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8am Quilters</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:30 Worship and Baptism 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Social Time</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>Presidents' Day Office Closed 7:30 Board of Worship</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9am Preschool 6:45pm Boy Scout Troup 357</p>	<p>22</p> <p>ASH WEDNESDAY 9am Preschool 10am Bells 3pm Kids Crew 6pm Bells 7pm Service and Communion 8pm Choir</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9am Preschool 7pm Search Committee</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8am Quilters</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:30 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Social Time</p>	<p>27</p> <p>11am Staff Meeting 6pm Band Practice 7pm Book Club</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9am Preschool 6:45pm Boy Scout Troup 357</p>				

Memorials

DECEMBER

Cemetery: David Berry Memorial Fund
In memory of Dave Berry, given by Lea Berry

Handbell Fund
In memory of Carol Giffhorn, given by Lucy Butterworth

Van Fund
In memory of Walter Byerley, given by Johanna Wayland

Kindercottage Fund
In honor of Luke and Kristy Row Family, given by Johanna Wayland

Capital Improvement
In memory of Carol Giffhorn, given by John and Sherry Montgomery

Labyrinth Fund
In honor of Edna Dell Weinel, given by James Weinel

Renovations Fund
In memory of Eleanora and Herman Faust, given by Carol Faust



Our Members in Senior Living

Garden Place
480 DD Rd.
Columbia, IL 62236
618-281-4200

Clarice Giffhorn Rm. 204
Ed Schutte Rm. Rm. 113
Grace Volkert Rm. 110

Dammert G.C.
The Esquiline
Betty Lou Carle
726 Community Dr.
Belleville, IL 62223

Garden Place
Gene Haller: Apt 15
735 Columbia Ave.
Waterloo, IL 62298
618-223-5834

Magnolia Terrace
Mary Fassel
623 Hamacher Apt
122
Waterloo, IL 62298

Our Members in Nursing Homes

Itegrity
Dorothy Klein
253 Bradington
Columbia, IL 62236

Eden Village
Nira Probstmeyer
400 S. Station Rd.
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Oak Hill Nursing Home
Gladys Ludwig
Don Naumann
Lucinda Smith
623 Hamacher St
Waterloo, IL 62298
618-939-3488

Financial Report

	December		Year to Date	
	2021	2022	2021	2022
Revenue				
Tithes & Offerings:				
Pledged & NonPledged	39,989.00	48,766.00	357,092.77	381,489.35
Misc. Contributions	631.00	379.00	6,666.00	6,946.75
Interest Income	767.45	743.81	4,756.29	4,667.49
Endowment Interest Income	0.00	0.00	52,617.51	55,004.19
Rental Income	600.00	250.00	2,300.00	1,150.00
Misc Income	518.00	287.00	18,830.33	29,146.76
Total Revenues	42,505.45	50,425.81	442,262.90	478,404.54
Expenses				
Personnel	23,494.31	33,250.63	295,891.72	343,366.80
General Expenses	18,602.52	18,960.91	115,122.03	142,641.35
* OCWM	3,682.48	3,870.07	22,778.00	24,885.97
Total Expenses	45,779.31	56,081.61	433,791.75	510,894.12
Net Receipts	(3,273.86)	(5,655.80)	8,471.15	(32,489.58)
RE SERVE S			122,390.63	89,901.05
*OCWM 10,000.00 out of St Paul Mission (833.33 monthly)				
Solar Loan Balance	36,277.68			

St. Paul United Church of Christ
127 St. Paul Street, Columbia, IL 62236



The Pathfinder

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Monthly Newsletter of St. Paul United Church of Christ
Phone - 618-281-5102 / FAX - 618-281-3032 /
E Mail - office@stpaulcolumbia.org
stpaulcolumbia.org

Does the church office have
your current contact information?

We don't want you to miss out on any information. If you haven't been receiving emails, chances are we don't have a current email address for you, or the email went to your spam.

If you are unsure, please contact Amanda in the office by email (see below) or call 618-281-5102.

Staff Contact Information:

Intentional Interim Senior Pastor
Rev. Sheldon Culver- srpastor@stpaulcolumbia.org

Interim Associate Pastor for Youth & Visitation
Rev. Julie Kies - assocpastor@stpaulcolumbia.org

Office and Communications Coordinator
Amanda Stapf office@stpaulcolumbia.org

Financial Administrator
Barb Gerstenecker- financial@stpaulcolumbia.org

Christian Education Director
Denise Johnson - christianed@stpaulcolumbia.org

Lead Custodian
Terry Schramm - custodian@stpaulcolumbia.org
Custodian, Janet Zinn

Music Coordinator/Organist
Lori Morton - music@stpaulcolumbia.org

Youth Bell /Inspire Band Director
Sue Phillips - band@stpaulcolumbia.org

Evening Bell/Choir Director
Emily Thoman- choir@stpaulcolumbia.org

Morning Bells Director, Patti French

Preschool Director
Jody Taake - preschool@stpaulcolumbia.org

Cemetery Treasurer, Robin MacLaughlin
cemetery@stpaulcolumbia.org

Consistory Members

President - Dennis Hoguet
Vice President - Shirley Bergmann
Secretary - Shirley Hoy
Shirley Asselmeier
Carrie Clayton
Gregg Giffhorn
Susan Hibbits
Mary Hillestad
Charles James
Susan Kuergeleis
Mark Thompson
Al Wolfe