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## SUNDAY, MAY 5

**Worship will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 5** as we welcome St. Paul's new members. Join us **following worship for a congregational potluck.** Meat and drinks will be provided, but please bring a dish to share. Come, meet and celebrate our newest members!

### Cemetery Clean-up

Cemetery clean-up will be done on **May 1.** Please pick up any items you wish to save before that date.

## VBS—Camp Firelight



VBS returns to St. Paul UCC from **Tuesday, May 28 through Friday, May 31** this year. The program will run each day from 9:00 a.m. until noon and is open to all children who will be in

kindergarten through 5th grade this fall. The cost of the program is \$15 per child, which includes a t-shirt, snacks and all supplies. If cost poses an issue, scholarship money is available.



If you'd like to register your child, you can find the registration link in the *Midweek* email, on the church website or by simply scanning this code.

## Renovation SCHEDULE

MAY 06	Fellowship Hall bathrooms renovation begins	With 86 members voting in favor and 4 opposed, the motion to approve the Consistory's recommendation to proceed with the renovation project utilizing the lowest bid from Mittendorf & Reuss Construction, funded by the Gummersheimer and Endowment funds not to exceed \$300,000, was passed.	JULY 08	Entryway area renovation begins
JUNE 21	Fellowship Hall bathrooms completed		AUG 28	Entryway area completed

*\*This is a projected timeline. Dates are subject to change.*

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# HELP WITH VBS NEEDED!

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*Help us turn our VBS into a summer camp adventure for our children to remember!* An army of volunteers is needed to make VBS possible. Adult as well as youth, grades 6th through 12th this fall, volunteers are needed. If you'd be interested and willing to help, please let Jill know.

If you're unable to volunteer but would like to help ensure another successful year of VBS, consider

donating some of the necessary supplies. You can check out our Amazon Wish List by scanning the QR code or take an item from the VBS donation board in the administrative entryway this May.



## Summer Mission at St. Paul

There are 2 summer mission opportunities on the books for this summer! Please let Jill know if you'd be interested in participating in either one.

### Amen STL

The Amen STL mission is open to **ALL** (5 years and older)! It will take place from the afternoon of **Wednesday, June 5 through Saturday, June 8**. During our time in St. Louis, we'll have the opportunity to work with multiple service organizations, such as Isaiah 58 Ministries, New Roots Urban Farm and the STL Food Bank.

### Overnight Option

The cost for staying overnight at the Amen STL house is \$50 per night (\$150 total) for the half-week.

### Service Project Only Option

While participants are able to spend the nights at the Amen STL house, those desiring to participate solely in the mission projects each day are invited to do so. The church bus will depart each morning from Waterloo and return each evening for those electing to participate in this way.

### Henderson Settlement

A group of youth (high school age) and adults will be serving at the Henderson Settlement from **Sunday, June 16 through Saturday, June 22**. During our time in Henderson, our group will be working alongside a delegation to install flooring, paint ceilings and walls, build a ramp, install vinyl siding and more for impoverished members of the Henderson community.

The cost of this trip (not including project costs) is \$450 per person. If you're unable to participate but would like to assist our group in making a huge impact in Henderson, please consider donating to the Youth Scholarship or Missions Fund.

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## Women of St. Paul Luncheon

The Women of St. Paul have been invited to Zion Evangelical Church in Millstadt for their Spring Luncheon on **Wednesday, May 8 at noon**. Reservations and a \$15 payment (checks payable to "Sisters in Faith") are due by **Sunday, April 28**. Please indicate if you need a ride. We will be departing from the parking lot at 11:00 a.m. Contact Kathi Emery at 618-458-7186 for more information. Please join us!

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## Confirmation 2024

We will be celebrating the confirmation of 9 youth on **Pentecost, May 19**, during worship. We hope you can join us as we celebrate this milestone in their faith journey and their official entrance into our church family.



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## Birthday Celebrations this Summer



We'll be continuing to celebrate the birthdays of our church family members on the last Sunday of each month (e.g., on May 26 we'll be honoring all those who have a birthday in June) with cake during Fellowship Time. We hope you can join us as we commemorate the special days of many beloved church members on **May 26, June 30 and July 28**.

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## Chain of Kindness

Sage Manning, who is one of St. Paul's youth, is working on her Girl Scout Bronze Award project. For this project, Sage has created a heartwarming kindness video, because she believes in the enduring need for kindness. Sage hopes her video will encourage you to start a kindness chain and spread love throughout the world. Click [here](#) to watch her video, or go to [\(1\) Chain of Kindness - YouTube](#).



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## St. Paul Youth Group

Another year has flown by, and we're just weeks away from closing out another school year! The final youth group meeting of the school year will take place on **Wednesday, May 8**. As in years past, the last meeting will take place at Konarcik Park from 5:30 to 7:30. During the last meeting, we'll eat and enjoy games at the park. All youth who will be in 6th through 12th grade this fall are invited to attend this fun event.

As another school year winds down, it's great to reflect on all the fun we've had these past 9ish months, including raising over \$3,500 to purchase



Andy Mayer

gifts for local families in need during the holiday season (We also had a blast shopping for the gifts at Walmart!), attending the ISC Frostbite Fun youth event, bowling and playing glow 9-square and lots of GaGa ball.

We're already looking forward to resuming regular youth group programming after school returns in August. In the meantime, plans are underway for fun activities and excursions for our youth over the summer, including a trip to SkyZone in Fenton on **Sunday, June 2**.

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## Notes from the Music Staff

Gary Humphrey

As I write this, I am looking out the window in my office at the wonders of spring—bright sunshine, birds singing, grass growing, flowers blooming and all the trees beginning to green up. It reminds me how lucky we are to live in a world that God provided for us, one of beauty and majesty.



sometimes wonder why we pick the hymns we do? It's because they help to illustrate the theme being discussed that particular day. If you look in the back of our hymnal, you will find songs listed by topic. These songs, written over the centuries by folks from

As I describe these things, I'm confident that I am painting a picture in your mind. Even if you look out at a storm or an insanely hot day, these words make a difference in your perception.

I say this because I want to make you aware how powerful words, and more importantly music, can be. The next time you watch a TV show, whether it be a drama series, reality show or even a soap opera, take a minute to listen carefully to what's going on in the background. Almost always there is music, which is helping to set the stage for what's being conveyed by the words and actions on the screen. It could be "FBI" as they close in on a criminal; it could be on "Grey's Anatomy," where the patient's heart stops. It could be on "Chicago Fire" as the firefighters enter a burning building to rescue someone. It could even be on "The Blacklist" as Raymond Reddington finally meets his maker. Music magnifies whatever emotion is being portrayed. Most often you don't even notice, but it's there. When Jeff Probst snuffs out the torch of a survivor contestant, it's there. When Julie Chen says to the big brother contestant, "You have been eliminated," it's there.

What does this have to do with anything? Well, it radiates into the church world as well. Do you

all walks of life, help to put us in the space to listen to what God has to say to us. We ask you to sing along so those thoughts permeate your inner self. When the Chancel Choir sings "Joyful, Joyful," it is done to help you understand why we are joyful. When the choir sings "Were You There," it is somber to help illustrate the sadness of that time. When they sing "Silent Night," it is to quietly celebrate the birth of Jesus and that time long ago in that stable.

There are also times when there are no words, just music. This can still be a very powerful tool that conveys emotion, such as with "Rhapsody in Blue" by Gershwin. Not a word is spoken, yet we as listeners have no choice but to be taken through the emotions the composer intended. When the Glenn Miller Orchestra plays "In the Mood," even though words exist, we don't think of the words, we think of the music.

As we move into spring and summer, I urge you to spend some time listening. See if what I am saying makes any sense. (It does to me!) Take time to smell the flowers, as the wise man said. Remember that words paint a picture, but music makes that picture a work of art! Thank God for each day and for the wonderful gift he has given us!

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## Memorials/Gifts

**DuBois Center (scholarships)** in loving memory of Harold Hirstein, Bruce Yarbrough and Craig Yarbrough

**Community Meal Fund (MKMH)** in loving memory of Roger Wild

**Music/Choirs & Instruments Fund** in loving memory of Lorena Gleiber

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# Child's World News

Theresa May-Harwell & Jamie Brown

Can you believe it is the end of April already? My how the school year has whizzed by! Our school year will be ending before we know it. It truly has been another phenomenal year of learning and growth at Child's World Preschool. Our pre-k students are gearing up for the "big kid school." We will hold a graduation ceremony on May 17 in the church sanctuary for 25 hard-working, kind, smart and amazing kiddos.



families in need, and with your help we can provide students a great start to their first educational experience. We also plan to have our Amazon wish

The end of our school year is always bittersweet. We love to see our students go on and do amazing things, but saying "see you later" is always much harder than anticipated. Before we know it, it will be time to prepare for our 2024–2025 school year. Registration is open NOW! Our preschool and pre-k programs still have openings! If you or someone you know is looking for a preschool program, please contact us at 618-939-7125 or [childsworld@stpaulonline.org](mailto:childsworld@stpaulonline.org). We would love to give more information to anyone interested or to schedule a tour to learn about our preschool and to view our classrooms! Check out our Facebook and share our posts. Social media and word of mouth are the best ways to help our preschool grow.

list posted in the administrative entryway with materials that are needed for the classroom. The need for new curriculum, materials and toys has been increasing over the years due to the ever-changing needs of our students. Child's World Preschool is so thankful for any donations, as it benefits our students' need to learn, work and play to be kindergarten ready.

Looking ahead to summer, Child's World will be the mission of the month for July. This year all monetary donations will go to our Improvement/Scholarship Fund. Our scholarship offers tuition assistance to

Once again, Child's World staff would like to thank each one of you who help make Child's World so successful. The support who we receive from staff, committees and the congregation of St. Paul UCC is greatly appreciated. We are continually blown away with how great our fundraisers do because of YOU! Our Papa John's fundraiser is always a huge hit! Our most recent one with Oh! Sugar in Waterloo might be the best one yet. Oh! Sugar sold the most delicious ice cream cupcakes and donated 20% right back to Child's World Preschool. We have not received our final total, but the last we heard is that we sold OVER 130 orders. A huge thank you to Mrs. Jill for leading this fundraiser. I think it is safe to say that our Child's World and church families have a sweet tooth.

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## Thank You, Women of St. Paul!



Thank you to Women of St. Paul for their generous donations of food items. They were shared with Monroe County House of Neighborly service for their Free Summer Lunch Program, which is a program providing school families in Waterloo, Valmeyer, Prairie du Rocher and Hecker with groceries during the summer months. Your kindness is a blessing!

Pictured: (L-R) Luanne Ragland, Louise Gremmels, Kathi Emery, Pearl Hirsch, Karen Kimme, Imogene Yarbrough and Barb Eckrich.

# Mission News

**May Mission :** Strengthen the Church  
**June Mission:** Kindercottage  
**July Mission:** Child's World Preschool



**Our mission for May is Strengthen the Church,** part of our

commitment to 5 for 5. The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

**June's mission has been designated for Uni-Pres Kindercottage.**

Kindercottage is a joint mission of the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church, and it provides



daycare and preschool for low income families in East St. Louis. Kindercottage's mission is to provide an environment in which all ages—infants through adults—have opportunities for growth and enrichment through educational and social programs, developed in a community setting, resulting in healthy and stable families. Your donations to Kindercottage will help support the economic and social well-being of children, families and their community.



**July's mission is Child's World Preschool.**

Child's World Preschool started in 1979 to provide quality early childhood education to young children in our community. Forty-five years later we continue to provide that quality education, not just in our community but also to families in the surrounding communities. Sometimes we have families who love the quality education we provide but have difficulty

affording the cost. Families who have utilized our scholarship program within the last few years have been grateful for having the opportunity to have their child attend our preschool. Besides funding our scholarship, the need for new curriculum, materials and toys has been increasing due to the ever-changing needs of our students. We are currently looking into a new social-emotional curriculum to utilize in our classrooms for next year. Your monetary donations will help offset the cost of some of those improvements as well. We will also have classroom items that we could use. Those items will be posted on our bulletin board in the administrative entryway during the month of July.

As always, we thank you, St. Paul, for your continued support of Child's World Preschool – where learning, working and playing is how our students become kindergarten ready.

## Our Members in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Centers

### Oak Hill

Marjorie Bottiaux  
 Laverne Hesterberg  
 Patsy Kopp  
 Margaret Lueking  
 Pattie Mehrrens  
 Rosalie Metzger  
 Marlene Salger  
 Paul Stiening  
 Sharon Sparwasser

### Magnolia Terrace

Margaret Kutterer  
 Arline Mehrrens  
 Virginia Mueller  
 Audrey Rodenberg  
  
**Garden Place Memory Care**  
 Merle Wischmeyer

### Garden Place

Dale Reuss  
 Marilyn Schaefer  
 Betty Wild  
 Imogene Yarbrough

### Garden Place-Columbia

Doris England  
  
**Cedarhurst**  
 Beverly Holmen  
 Fern Kinzinger  
 Fred Kinzinger  
 Sharon Olson  
 Judy Maurer

## **Consistory Report—1st Quarter Review** Tony Mayer, President

The year started with five new members coming onto the Consistory: Gayle North, Angela Most, Kary Eckrich, Amanda Chase and Ian Scherle.



With the absence of a pastor, staff has found pulpit supply as well as pastoral care for the year. The staff has gone above and beyond in getting the everyday jobs accomplished.

Consistory approved the Renovation Committee's recommendation for the updating of the Fellowship Hall bathrooms, as well as our entryway upgrade including new carpeting and painting. An April 7th congregational meeting approved the renovations.

Also during the first quarter, the Consistory approved:

- Anna Bulman's hiring as a nursery attendant.
- A telephone system upgrade to replace the current system in place since 2002.
- New windows to replace original wooden windows on the rental property at 211 N. Market.

The renovation will begin May 6 in the Fellowship Hall. The current plan is to begin the work upstairs after the renovation in the Fellowship Hall is complete. Every effort will be made to minimize or disruptions to daily activities. Thank you for your patience.

## **Annual Hike, Bike, & Fun Run**

### **May 11, 2024**

5 Mile Hike/Bike/Fun Run: Start anytime 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**Course begins & ends at St. John UCC, Maestown**

Course Route: North on Bushy Prairie Road, Continue on Altes Road to LL Road,  
Right on LL Road back to the church

#### **Registration Fees:**

**5 Mile Hike/Bike: \$25**

**T-Shirt Only: \$20**

#### **T-shirt & Mile Marker**

**Sponsorships available.**

Make checks payable to St. John Mission Team.

#### **For more information**

**or to Register, go to [maestownucc.org](http://maestownucc.org)**

T-shirts to be pick up at the event.

T-shirts can be mailed for an additional fee.

Event is sponsored by St. John UCC, Maestown, and Zion UCC, St. Joe.  
Proceeds benefit the youth of Hoyleton Youth and Family Services.



St. Paul United Church of Christ  
200 N. Main Street  
Waterloo, IL 62298

Office Phone: (618) 939-7123  
Office Fax: (618) 939-7144  
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.  
Monday thru Thursday  
Child's World Preschool: (618) 939-7125  
Website: [www.stpaulonline.org](http://www.stpaulonline.org)

**Worship Services**

9:30 a.m. (online on YouTube)

**Christian Education Time**

8:45 a.m.

All submissions for the next *Messenger* are due to the church office by **7/24/24**. We reserve the right to edit submissions for publication.

**Next Deadline: 7/24/24**

**Next Issue: 7/31/24**



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