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## Rally Day/Blessing of the Backpacks—August 11

We'll be focusing on the transition into a new program/school year on **Sunday, August 11** as we celebrate another Rally Day/backpack blessing. That day will be doubly exciting as it will also mark the return to Sunday school! The fun, faith-building opportunity that is Sunday school will begin at **8:45 a.m.** Children who will be attending can be dropped off in the theater anytime from 8:45 until 9:00 a.m.

Parents are encouraged to use the Fellowship Hall as a place to relax and/or connect while their children/youth are engaged in Sunday school activities.

We're really excited for the completion of the administrative entryway renovations and the space this will provide for both Sunday school parents and early churchgoers looking for time to connect with each other.



## Family Olympics—August 18

This annual event will take place after worship (around 10:30 a.m.) on **Sunday, August 18** and will include numerous games for children/youth and those young at heart. All are welcome to participate, spectate (you may want to bring a lawn chair) and enjoy a sweet treat or two.

## Wednesday, September 6

Mark your calendars and get your kids enrolled in SPLASH today. The after-school program begins Wednesday, September 6. In addition, the first Messy Church of the program year will be at 5:30 p.m. on September 6.



As the warmth of summer begins to wane (hopefully, anyway!) and the crisp breeze of autumn fills the air, our church

community is buzzing with anticipation for the exciting events planned for the upcoming season. This period of transition marks not only the change of leaves but also the return to school for many of our members. From back-to-school blessings to festive fall gatherings, our calendar is brimming with opportunities for fellowship, learning and celebration in the months ahead. We really hope that you can join us as we embrace the beauty of this new season and the fresh beginnings it brings. Here's a look at what's in store in the coming months:

## August

- ◆ **Sunday, August 11**—Rally Day/Blessing of the Backpacks/Return to Sunday School
- ◆ **Sunday, August 18**—the annual Family Olympics
- ◆ **Sunday, August 18 & Sunday, August 25**—The 1st and 4th graders of St. Paul will celebrate one of the greatest gifts God has given us, the Bible, during the upcoming Bible workshops. On Sunday, August 18, all 1st graders are invited to the beginner Bible workshop in the Parish Hall at 8:45 a.m. The 4th grade class is invited to attend the student Bible workshop in the Parish Hall at 8:45 a.m. Please let Jill know if your 1st or 4th grader would like to attend.

## September

- ◆ **Wednesday, September 6**—We will mark the return of two vital programs at St. Paul on Wednesday, September 6. First up is the return of SPLASH. Our after-school program, which takes place each Wednesday from September through April, will welcome 50+ students from the school district. During their time at SPLASH, students will have snacks, music, arts & crafts, STEM, Bible

story and recreation—creating opportunities for them to connect with the volunteers, each other and God. Registration is currently open to this program, although there are limited spaces available. Check the *Midweek* email for a link to sign up or send an email to check for availability.

Following our first SPLASH of the school year, we'll have our first Messy Church! Beginning at 5:30 p.m., we'll be having a Messy Carnival as we learn about Joseph after enjoying a delicious fair-themed meal. You won't want to miss this program that will have all the fun of a carnival but none of the long lines or heat!

- ◆ **Saturday, September 14**—On top of the return of SPLASH and Messy Church, September will also bring the return of St. Paul All Ages Bingo! Make plans to join us on **Saturday, September 14** for a fun evening beginning at **6:00 p.m.** (Doors open at 5:45 p.m.) in Fellowship Hall. As always, all are welcome for an evening of fun. Light snacks will be provided but you're welcome to bring your own or some to share!
- ◆ **Sunday, September 15**—All families are invited to participate in a family mission workshop (that includes brunch!). During the workshop, which will begin after worship (around 10:30 a.m.), we'll review what a family mission statement is and have time to create one (or revise an already created one). If time allows, we'll create visual representations of the mission statements to display in family homes.
- ◆ **Sunday, September 22**—LIFT (Living in Faith Together) will return on Sunday, September 22. This intergenerational program is open to all and is designed to offer all ages the opportunity to grow their faith while forming connections with their church family. Each LIFT program begins at **8:30 a.m.** with a light breakfast.
- ◆ Also in September, a new confirmation class will be forming with the primary goal of helping youth explore their relationship with God and find meaningful ways to worship. The program, which

is open to youth in 7th or 8th grade (or older), is a hybrid program. There will be an informal confirmation Q&A session following worship on **Sunday, September 8 (around 10:30 a.m.)**. All youth enrolled in the confirmation program are encouraged to participate in the Illinois South Conference Confirmation Retreat that will be held at Camp Wartburg on **Saturday, September 28**. The first confirmation class of the program year will be offered before worship **(8:45 a.m.) on Sunday, October 20** in Fellowship Hall.



World Communion Sunday. We'll also be commissioning our newest confirmation class during worship that Sunday.

◆ **Saturday, October 19**— Everyone is invited to participate in

an all-ages game night at **6:00 p.m.** There will be games on hand for all ages and ability levels. Feel free to bring your own or use one provided! Light snacks will be on hand, but you're welcome to bring your own favorite game snacks.

◆ **Sunday, October 20**—Our first SPLASH Sunday of the year. During worship, we'll get to see firsthand just what goes on each week at SPLASH.

◆ **Sunday, October 27**—LIFT at 8:30 a.m.

### October

◆ **Wednesday, October 2**—We'll kick off the month of October with a fun *Inside Out*-themed Messy Church on Wednesday, October 2 at 5:30 p.m.

◆ **October 6**—On the first Sunday of the month a communion workshop before worship at **8:45 a.m.** will be offered for 6th grade students or any youth interested in learning more about communion in preparation for the celebration of

I hope you can join us for many of the fun, faith-building events coming up in the next few months. As always, don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about any of the children's/youth/family programming.

## St. Paul Youth Group

Andy Mayer



It was a summer full of service for many of the youth of St. Paul and the Waterloo community.

Twelve youth participated in

Youth Group meetings of the new school year will begin on **Wednesday, August 21**. Each Wednesday youth group meeting will take place from **5:30 to 7:30**. As always, all youth in 6th through 12th grade are invited to attend. Here's the lineup of youth group meetings for the next few months: August 21 and 28, September 11, 18 and 25 and October 9, 16, 23 and 30.

the Amen STL service project and 6 in the Henderson Settlement mission trip. The youth group was responsible for emptying trash and cleaning up the fairgrounds on both Mondays of the Monroe County Fair and did an exemplary job. A huge thank you to the youth and parents who got up early to help take care of their community!

**On October 6** we'll have our first Sunday youth group meeting. We'll be experimenting with offering junior and senior high school students their own time to meet at Sunday youth groups. The schedule for Sunday youth groups will be: 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.—Junior High Youth, 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.—Shared JH/SH Meal and 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.—Senior High Youth.

In celebration for all the good work the youth group did over the summer and to mark the end of summer/beginning of a new year, they'll be headed to River Rapids Water Park in St. Genevieve on **Friday, August 9**.

Plans are in the works for a few special events over the coming months for the youth of St. Paul, so make sure to check the *Midweek* email for dates and details as they become available.

# Welcome Neighbor STL Supper Club



St. Paul is again hosting the Welcome Neighbor STL Supper Club on **Saturday, October 5, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** The Supper Club supports refugee families recently settled in St. Louis. Your meal will be prepared by our new refugee neighbors, who will share their

cooking skills by providing a table of traditional food from their countries of origin. Guests have an opportunity to hear their story and learn about their culture. These meals present an opportunity for people who have been defined for too long as victims to share knowledge and skills unique to them. It is an opportunity for recipients to become partners in fundraising efforts to support the cooks in their catering business and to set the refugee cooks on a path of greater independence and confidence in their new lives here in the USA. A menu featuring foods from Morocco and Afghanistan will delight your senses. The cost is \$40/person. Online registration is required by **October 1, 2024**. Register here: <https://welcomeneighborstl.org/events/moroccan-dinner-at-st-paul-united-church-of-christ/>.

Welcome Neighbor STL is a multi-faceted organization with over 3,000 supporters. Welcome Neighbor currently helps 300 refugees from 11 countries. They pair volunteers with new American families, teach English, organize supper clubs, teach driving lessons, offer citizenship classes, host family outings and holiday gatherings and schedule COVID-10 vaccine appointments. The new families also make thousands of meals for unhoused persons.

## Renovation Update

The Fellowship Hall restrooms remodel is now essentially complete. The administrative entry project is in full swing after a small delay to work through some HVAC issues. As you read this, the tile, painting and flooring work in the Heritage Room restroom is being done. Rough electrical work has been completed, the tray ceilings have been framed out and fireproofing material has been applied to the ceilings. It is anticipated that the Heritage Room wall will be taken out during the last week in July, and the painting and flooring are scheduled to also be done in the two front offices during this time. Painting, flooring, lighting and finishes in the rest of the entry and hallways will be done in the coming weeks.

The general contractor feels we are still on target for a completion date around the first week in September. Oh, and the main parking lot is getting patched, sealed and striped the last week of July as well.

Steve Crook, Facilities Coordinator

## Consistory Report—2nd Quarter Review



Consistory met on Wednesdays during the summer so that members could attend the Waterloo Municipal Band concerts on Tuesdays. Following are some of the topics discussed this past quarter.

- OK'd budgeting and planning for a successful new member service and potluck.
- OK'd budgeting for the upcoming church picnic on August 11.
- Discussed the parameters and effects of the new Paid Leave for All Workers Act.
- Continued working with the Personnel Committee to clarify and define items in the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual.

It is a busy time, and it will only get busier as all our programs start up in the fall. I would like to thank our staff and our committees who have stepped up to help keep us going.

Tony Mayer, President

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# Notes from the Music Staff

Gary Humphrey



St. Paul is different this summer! In most years, summer is a time where everything slows down, people take vacations

and staff does a lot of planning and preparation for the coming program year. All those things are still happening, but there is a different feeling in the air.

Every day is filled with wonder when we come in to see what's happened in the entryway or downstairs. I personally am filled with anticipation for what the new space will look like. Because I travel to other churches often, I have seen how welcoming open spaces with nice furniture can be. It just sends a different kind of vibe to visitors as well as members.

If that weren't enough, it seems as if this version of a Pastoral Search Committee is doing great work and moving as quickly as is prudent to find our next pastor. One thing we have learned with the vacancies we have had is how to work and get things done. However, we are full of anticipation for the next spiritual leader of our church!

In the meantime, time marches on and there is always a lot to get done. With that in mind, August brings us near the routine and order of the program year. In the music program, that means all the

groups get back to work starting in September. As I move into August, that means I need to finalize all the plans for our choirs and other musical groups. As usual, the choirs begin meeting right after Labor Day.

- **The Bell Choir meets at 8:00 a.m. beginning Tuesday, September 3.**
- **The Chamber Choir meets at 6:30 p.m. beginning Wednesday, September 4.**
- **The Chancel Choir meets at 7:15 p.m. beginning Wednesday, September 4.**
- **The Children's Choir, under the direction of Joe Kurtz, meets at 4:30 p.m. beginning Monday, September 9.**

If you or your child would like to participate in any of these groups, please let us know. We would love to have you!

This year I am working on some interesting things for our Fine Arts Concert Series. I can't share anything yet because it's all still in the works, but rest assured it will be an interesting year with something for everyone!

As I write this, the Church Picnic is just around the corner. We are trying a lot of new things this year, and we would love your feedback to see if we are on the right track. We are hoping it's a wonderful success, but only time will tell. Hope to see you there!

Happiness and Peace to you and yours!

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## Memorials/Gifts

**Building & Equipment Fund** in loving memory of Harold Hirstein, Linda Hern and Judy Maurer

**Child's World Improvement/Scholarship Fund** in appreciation and honor of Andy Dahlem, who graciously volunteers his time to help with Robert Sliment's lawn (mowing, trimming, etc.)

**Community Meal Fund** in honor and celebration of Dale Reuss's 90 birthday, in loving memory of Judy Maurer, Donald Reifschneider and Annabelle Hoffarth

**Hoyleton Youth & Family Services** in loving memory of Linda Hern

**Music/Choirs & Instruments Fund** in loving memory of Linda Hern and Bill Schmidt and in honor and celebration of Pearl Hirsch's 93rd birthday

**Youth Scholarship Fund** in honor and celebration of Katherine Grace Otten's confirmation

# Mission News

**August Mission: MKMH**

**September Mission: ISC Annual Meeting Offering**

**October Mission: Neighbors in Need**

Our August mission has been designated for St. Paul's Martha's Kitchen/Mary's Heart (MKMH)—



a free community meal, which started in February 2012. Over 12 years later MKMH is still providing meals to its guests on Monday nights. All are always welcome. Our guests come to share this meal and share their smiles and love with all in their midst. This mission project will continue with your financial support.

Our September mission has been designated for the Illinois South Conference's 60th anniversary celebration—Jubilee Joy. Offering for this mission will be shared at the ISC Annual



Meeting on October 19 at Evangelical UCC in Highland. One hundred percent of this offering will be retained in our conference so that they can continue offering programs, services and personnel when we need support, resources and guidance.

**Our October mission is Neighbors in Need.** The theme this year is Mental Health Justice For All, which focuses on mental health justice. In 2015 the General Synod of the United Church of Christ passed a resolution to become WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health. A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no

matter who they are or where they are on life's mental health journey. Please support this year's NIN "Mental Health is a Universal Human Right" campaign.

One-third of this offering also supports the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects.



## Child's World News



Just like that, we at Child's World Preschool are gearing up for another fun-filled school year. Summer is flying by, and soon we will welcome classrooms full of smiling students and staff.

We have VERY LIMITED spots available in our program. If you or someone you know is looking for a preschool, please don't hesitate to call Child's World staff at (618) 939-7125 or email us at [childsworld@stpaulonline.org](mailto:childsworld@stpaulonline.org).

We have been blessed with your continued support, prayers and being St. Paul's mission for

July. Thank you to our wonderful congregation for your generous donations of school supplies and monetary donations towards our Scholarship/Improvement Fund. We appreciate your support more than you know.

Theresa May-Harwell & Jamie Brown  
Child's World Directors/Teachers

## Adult Social Group

The **Adult Social Group** will meet **Thursday, September 12 at 5:30 p.m.** at Mr. BBQ at Mystic Oak Golf Course. All are welcome for an evening of food and fellowship.

# Messy Church

## 2024-2025 Calendar

<b>SEPTEMBER 4</b> 5:30 PM	We're kicking off a new year of Messy Church with a Carnival!
<b>OCTOBER 2</b> 5:30 PM	Join us for a "Joyful" evening as we go from "Outside In."
<b>NOVEMBER 6</b> 5:30 PM	We're going to see just how far we can go with God!
<b>DECEMBER 4</b> 5:30 PM	Let's grow our hearts 3 sizes at our Advent celebration.
<b>JANUARY 5</b> 8:30 AM	Our first gathering of 2025 will begin with a roaring good breakfast.
<b>FEBRUARY 5</b> 5:30 PM	Join us for a Soul-ful evening!
<b>MARCH 5</b> 5:30 PM	A super adventure awaits!
<b>APRIL 2</b> 5:30 PM	You won't want to miss this magical Lent experience!
<b>MAY 7</b> 5:30 PM	Let's building something great!
<b>All are welcome! Join us in the Fellowship Hall, St. Paul UCC, Waterloo for each Messy Church.</b>	

<u>Our Members in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Centers</u>			
<u>Oak Hill</u>	<u>Magnolia Terrace</u>	<u>Garden Place</u>	<u>Garden Place-Columbia</u>
Marjorie Bottiaux	Margaret Kutterer	Marcy Altschuh	Doris England
Laverne Hesterberg	Arline Mehrtens	Dale Reuss	
Patsy Kopp	Virginia Mueller	Marilynn Schaefer	<u>Cedarhurst</u>
Margaret Lueking	Audrey Rodenberg	Betty Wild	Beverly Holmen
Pattie Mehrtens		Imogene Yarbrough	Fern Kinzinger
Rosalie Metzger	<u>BRIA of Columbia</u>		Fred Kinzinger
Marlene Salger	Merle Wischmeyer		Sharon Olson
Sharon Sparwasser			
Paul Stiening			

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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

**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 **10/23/24**. We reserve the right to edit submissions for publication.

**Next Deadline: 10/23/24**

**Next Issue: 10/30/24**



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Fellowship Hall

Doors open at 5:45 pm

**BINGO NIGHT**

All welcome for an evening of BINGO fun. Light snacks will be provided but you're welcome to bring your own or some to share!

Sat. Sept 14 | 6:00 PM

Fun for ALL Ages!

ST. PAUL UCC

**GAME NIGHT**

SATURDAY **19**

6:00 PM  
FELLOWSHIP HALL

There will be games on hand for all ages and ability levels, Bring your own or use one provided! Light snacks will be on hand but you're welcome to bring your own favorite game snacks.