**St. Paul**

 **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**July 13, 2025 10:30am**

Welcome! Whether you are a guest, friend or member, we are delighted that you are here. Large print bulletins are available at either door. Ask a greeter for any directions you may need.

*“Please note that this service will be live-streamed on Facebook. If you do not wish to be visible on camera, please let an usher know so we can take appropriate measures to ensure*

*your privacy."*



Rev. Jim Oleson, Pastor

Carolyn Meier, Musician

***Fifth Sunday after Pentecost***

*\*Please rise in body or spirit*

**Ringing of the Bell**

**Welcome & Announcements**

*In the last days, says God, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy. Your young people shall see visions, and your old people shall dream dreams. People of God, we have been baptized into one Spirit and one body through Jesus Christ. Let us worship today.*

 **Prelude and Lighting of the Candles**

**\*Call to Worship**

**\*One:** We come to worship this day, knowing deeply what it means to struggle.

**Many: We remember times in our lives when we’ve felt hopeless, yearning for someone to care for us.**

**One:** In this divided climate that might tempt us to ignore the neighbors in our midst, we need only tap into our own humanity.

**Many: Because we know what it means to struggle, we are challenged each day to show radical love to our neighbors.**

**One:** Even those who aren’t like us.

**Many: Especially those who aren’t like us.**

**One:** May our worship today help us remember times we have been helped…

**Many: …and how we can become the helpers, and the hope-bearers, in this world.**

**\*Invocation**

**Christ, who shows us how to be in community together, thank you for gathering us into community together, onsite and online. We give you thanks for the ways we have been held in love in this community of faith. We are comforted by memories of mercy shown to us in difficult times, both by our friends in this space, and by your gracious presence in our lives. Empower us to be Good Samaritans in our own ways. Embolden us to seek out those who are hopeless and in need, not out of pity, but out of a deep understanding of difficulty in our own lives. Guided by your example. may we lead with radical love and brave compassion. Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Praise** #25 New Century O God, Our Help in Ages Past

**Prayer for Transformation** **and New Life**
**God of the oppressed, we confess that it’s sometimes easier to ignore those in need than it is to help them. We confess that we sometimes ask ourselves, “what will it cost us?” “what will others think?”—rather than remembering your call to care for our neighbors, whether we think they “deserve it” or not. Forgive us. Help us repent of our embarrassment at those in need, and turn instead toward empathy and compassion. We pray this in the name of your son, who teaches us how to love all of our neighbors. Amen.**

 <pause for silent reflection >

**Words of Grace**
**One:** Friends, take comfort. None of us get this right all the time. We are utterly human—fallible people in need of redirection and second chances. This is the good news: we believe in a God who gives us a chance to start again. We are forgiven. May we respond to this grace with grateful hearts attuned to the pursuit of justice, mercy, and hope for all.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*Response of Praise**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen. Amen.**

**Written Word**

 Amos 7:1-17

 Colossians 1:1-14

 Luke 10:25-37

**Hymn** #573 New Century Lead On Eternal Sovereign

**Message** LittleBoxes, Neat and TidyRev. Jim Oleson

**Church in Prayer**

 **Pastoral Prayer**

 **Lord’s Prayer** (Debts, Debtor’s)

**Offertory**

 **Invitation to Generosity**

 **\*Doxology** (Tune: Old Hundredth)

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

 **God of love, we give these gifts back to you with humility, remembering times we’ve needed help in our own lives. Help us use the gifts we give to love others as we have been loved. Amen.**

 **Closing Hymn** #290 New Century Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

 \***Commission and Benediction**

**\*Christ’s Light Leads Us into the World**

 **\*Congregational Response** #76 New Century Sent Forth by God’s Blessing

(Verse 1)

**\*Ringing of the Bell and Postlude**

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**OFFICE HOURS**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00am – 3:00pm

It Happens

Here St. Paul UCC

 Weekly Calendar

 July 13th - July 20th

**July 13th *Fifth Sunday after***

 ***Pentecost***

10:30am Worship

11:30am Fellowship Hour

July 15th Messenger articles are due

**July 20th *Sixth Sunday after***

 ***Pentecost***

10:30am Worship

11:30am Fellowship Hour

***Looking Ahead***

July 21st

5:15pm Council Meeting

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**OUR GIVING IN 2025**

 **Needed weekly to meet our commitments** $**2317.02 $ 2317.02**

General Fund Offering July 6th  $3115.00 June Average $ 870.60 Stewardship Offering July 6th $ 65.00 May Average $ 1078.75 \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 **HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY**

 **Saturday, July 19:** Bar-B-Que at St. John’s UCC in Weldon Springs. Dinner and sandwiches. Dine

 in or carry out from 11:00am to 1:00pm or till gone.

 **Thank you to all our volunteers!**

 **Greeters/Ushers**

 Christopher Dickmeyer & Bobby Roskowske

 **Acolyte**

 Bobby Roskowske

 **Liturgist**

 **Fellowship Hour**

 Messenger

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In our prayers …

This week we added prayers for Kenneth G., Kaelynn K., and the families of the victims of the flooding in Texas.

We continue to keep in our prayers: Lauretta, Rich M., Steve, Mark H., Larry (Sharon’s grandson), Teresa, James T, Rick, Lynn and Ron D., Bill D., Cheryl V., Laurie S, Pat, and Tosha D.

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

The Food Pantry needs the following items:

 Toilet Paper, Shampoo/Conditioner, Soap, Soup,

 PB/Jelly, Cereal, Canned Fruit.

 **PLEASE, NO:** Mac & Cheese, Diced Tomatoes,

 Corn or Green Beans!