



One of the readings that occurs in the lectionary after Easter is a passage from John 21, where Jesus forgives Peter for denying him, and sets him up once again by challenging Peter to “Feed my sheep.” Without Jesus forgiving Peter, the church as we know it might not exist.

I think this is a good way to think about the power of forgiveness, and the consequences of refusing to forgive. When we refuse to forgive, we are in effect nurturing and empowering the hatred, the anger, the bitterness, the discontent brought on by another’s action or another’s sin. When we nurture those feelings, there is no room for joy. Often times we don’t want justice, we want revenge, we want to see that offender ground down, punished, put in their place. Yet even when or if this happens, the punishment often brings no joy. A sense of triumph, perhaps, or of right conquering over might, but still, no joy.

We tend to think a lot about forgiveness being about swallowing our pride, doing the “Christian” thing, getting ourselves right with the offending individual, even if the offending individual is not interested in reconciliation. It is, indeed, a commandment from God, yet often it seems an onerous and difficult one. Often, there seems to be no joy in that, either.

Yet we can also see forgiveness, that is, our own ability to forgive, as a gift from God. Not just a commandment but a gift. A gift which allows us to let go, to go back into *shalom*, into wholeness – in short, to forgive the other person so that we ourselves can be healed.

The Greek word most often used in the New Testament for forgiveness is *aphiemi*. Here are some of the other definitions of *aphiemi*: let go, send away, leave, give up, abandon. Through forgiving, we give up/abandon/send away/let go of the hatred, the anger, the bitterness, the discontent that is holding us back from *shalom*, from the well-being God intends for us to have.

While indicating that we are to still pursue justice, as our God is a God of justice and righteousness, I can’t help but think as well of the story of Joseph’s forgiveness of his brothers who had sold him into slavery. It doesn’t seem that the brothers were ever brought to justice, ever punished for their act – they may not have even felt remorse. While Joseph’s forgiveness of them didn’t affect them (at the time, anyway – it did eventually save them from punishment), it truly affected Joseph and allowed him to live the life that God had planned for him. If Joseph instead had chosen to nurture his anger and plot revenge, perhaps no one would have been around to save Egypt (and his Father and brothers) from the seven years famine.

Now, as always, perhaps it is proper to focus, even just a little bit, on our own capacity for and opportunities to forgive.

Look for opportunities in your life to forgive. Do it for yourself, and God will bless it.

Pastor Jim

Our Church Family

The following people have made a donation in memory of Laretta Thomas:

Linda Delk
Chuck & Marleen Hearn
Steve Hecht
Walter & Janice Burkemper
Joyce Noble
Kathy Dunlap
Mary Anne Lee
Bob & Ava Bothe
James & Betty Taylor
Jerry Gifford
The Rolf Family
Marla Stewart
Janet Morris
Rev. Gary & Debby Schulte
Donna Slee



Thank you for the cards, flowers, phone calls and prayers while I was in the hospital and rehab. I appreciate it so much. – Linda Meier

Thanks for the sympathy cards, memorials, phone calls, visits, food, thoughts and prayers. Laretta loved her church family and we appreciate your thoughtfulness.

– The family of Laretta Thomas



This week we added Billy to our prayers.

Lynn and Ron D., Ernie M., Eileen T., Lyle R., Jamie, Nor, Rick C., Carolyn M., Jackie, Ray C., Belinda D., Linda M., Brittany and Edward, Mary and Jerry, Pat G., Jack B., Randy M., David, Rick L., Bob S., the Family of Carol S., the Family of Margret D., and the Family of Angie T.

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

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH

2026 Monthly Attendance Average

January: 21
February: 24
March: 28
April: 27
May: 28
June: 20
July:
August:
September:
October:
November:
December:

June Attendance:

June 28: 20

July Attendance:

July 5: 21
July 12: 32
July 19: 20
July 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>
June 28	\$ 1250.00	\$ 300.00
July 5	\$ 2110.00	\$ 715.00
July 12	\$ 1515.00	\$ 0.00
July 19	\$ 410.00	\$ 25.00
July 26		

Our giving in 2025...

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:	\$
August Average:	\$
September Average:	\$
October Average:	\$
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!

Our Guests



Ushers/Greeters

Aug 2	Bobby Roskowske & Joyce Noble	
Aug 9	Norma & Karol Keeteman	F
Aug 16	Sharron Brinkman & Mary Anne Lee	
Aug 23	Darryl & Phyllis Freese	
Aug 30	Linda Meier & Janet Drown	

Pat Gifford	02
Linda Delk	13
Glenda Keeteman	19
Jane Windish	19
Jennifer Schulte	29

Acolytes

Aug 2	Bobby Roskowske
Aug 9	Glenda Keeteman
Aug 16	Christopher Dickmeyer
Aug 23	Bobby Roskowske
Aug 30	Janet Drown



Doug & Katrina Gifford August 7

Stan & Ann Rolf August 13

Jerry & Pat Gifford August 27 – 65 yrs

Fellowship Hour Servers

Aug 2	Council
Aug 9	Christian Nurture
Aug 16	Finance
Aug 23	Grounds
Aug 30	PPR

Food Pantry Schedule

Aug 5	11am to 1pm 4 to 6pm	Phyllis & Norma Jane & Janet
Aug 12	11am to 1pm 4 to 6 pm	Karol & Norma Joyce & Richard
Aug 19	11am to 1pm 4 to 6pm	Steve & Norma Liza & Jane
Aug 26	11am to 1pm 4 to 6pm	Steve & Karol Liza & Janet

ST. PAUL UCC COUNCIL MINUTES

June 15 ,2026

PRESENT: Jerry Gifford, Jennifer Schulte, Karol Keeteman, Rev. Jim Oleson, Joann Jungermann, Treasurer, (non-member)

ABSENT: Chris Dickmeyer

Opening Prayer – Glenda

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

Review of Agenda – Karol made motion to accept as written; seconded by Jennifer. No discussion, motion passed.

- **Treasurers Report** – Karol made motion to accept as written, seconded Jennifer. No discussion, motion passed.
- **Secretary's Report** – Glenda made motion to accept as written, seconded by Karol. No discussion, motion passed.
- **Pastor's Report** – Pastor Jim presented his report. Glenda made motion to accept as written, seconded by Jennifer. No discussion, motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Worship – Christopher** – Liza and Marla are going to be Communion Stewarts
2. **Grounds Committee – Jennifer** – Safety Brief was presented during Fellowship Hour on Sunday, 6/14
3. **Christian Nurture – Jennifer** – Progressive Dinner on June 27th
4. **Stewardship – Glenda** – nothing to report
5. **Finance – Joann** – nothing to report.
6. **Boy Scouts – Jerry** – left for a week of summer camp
7. **Food Pantry – Karol** – Caring and Sharing donations are temporarily stopped as they are moving. Hoping to resume 7/1. St. Louis Food Bank we are still waiting on when this will start up
8. **Bright Futures – Glenda** – nothing to report

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Signs – still in progress
- Painting hallway in Christian Ed Building – still in progress
- Lights – still in progress
- Sanctuary Thermostat – still in progress.
- Painting Schoolhouse – still in progress
- Gift Acceptance Policies/Undesignated Fund – still in progress

NEW BUSINESS:

- Propane Contract – contract is to be signed for a year with MFA. Motion made by Glenda; seconded by Jennife. No discussion, motion passed.
- Joann's Vacation – July 25 to July 30 – Council approved
- Home Visits – Pastor is going to attempt to make sure his availability for home visits
- New Hire – Casey Black – will shadow Joann on Wednesday, June 17th

Next Meeting

- **Date & Time – July 20th @ 5:15pm**
- **Opening Prayer – Jennifer**

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

CLOSING PRAYER – Lord's Prayer

Respectively submitted,
Jennifer Schulte, Council Secretary

August Stewardship

Food For All

Once again, Stewardship has designated the Winfield R-IV Food for All program as the special mission offering for August. As the beginning of a new school year rolls around, the need for donations to support the school's weekend food insecurity program is a priority. The number of families who face food insecurity has become all too common for many children and this program helps to supplement the free and reduced breakfast and lunch school programs offered during the school week.

You may wonder, how does the Food for All program differ from our own food pantry?

- 1) The food is distributed directly to students in all school buildings at the end of the week.
- 2) The items are kid friendly. Items distributed are individual servings with most items requiring no preparation. Those that do normally just require a quick warm up in the microwave.
- 3) The items in each bag are balanced between breakfast, dinner and snack items to help children think about spacing them out throughout the weekend as a meal replacement.

During August, Stewardship recommends monetary donations to St. Paul on Sunday morning or by mail in order to make dollars go further by purchasing in bulk. However, non-perishable, individually packaged food items will also be accepted. Help improve the lives of our youngest community members by joining in Winfield's Food for All program which is supported solely on the generosity of community members, churches and organizations.

The Stewardship Committee

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Pasta with the Pastor 11:30am	3 Scouts 7:00 pm	4 Cub Scouts 7pm	5 Food Pantry 11:00am – 1:00pm & 4-6pm	6	7	8
9	10 Scouts 7:00 pm	11 Cub Scouts 7pm	12 Food Pantry 11:00am – 1:00pm & 4-6pm	13	14	15
16	17 Council Meeting 5:15pm Scouts 7:00pm	18 Cub Scouts 7pm	19 Food Pantry 11:00am – 1:00pm & 4-6pm	20	21	22
23	24 Scouts 7:00pm	25 Cub Scouts 7pm	26 Food Pantry 11:00am – 1:00pm & 4-6pm	27	28	29
30	31 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

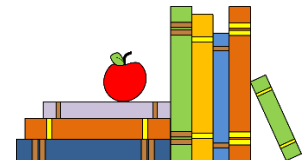
Vice President.... Glenda Keeteman.....636-661-5507

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)



Back To School