



# The Scribe

St. Paul UCC

144 E Palatine Road, Palatine IL 60067

(847) 358-0399 [www.stpaul-ucc.org](http://www.stpaul-ucc.org)

December 2025

## *Pastor's Pen.....*

Emmanuel....God with us.....this is the essential message of the seasons of Advent and Christmas. The Creator of the heavens and the earth took all of the initiative to come down here, be clothed in human flesh, to walk among us, and then to redeem us from the consequences of sin and death. This is a central witness of the scriptures, and it has been affirmed by the church councils and hymn writers throughout the ages:

*True God of true God, Light from Light E-ternal,  
lo, he shuns not the Vir-gin's womb;  
Son of the Fa-ther, be-got-ten, not created;  
O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-dore him,  
O come, let us a-dore him, Christ the Lord*

his particular stanza doesn't appear in our Blue Hymnal Supplement, but it is part of the whole Christmas carol, *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, which is in many other church hymnals elsewhere. Either way, the main point of that carol is the overall spirit of Christmas -- God with us.

You and I are not alone in this vast universe. The Creator of it refuses to leave us alone. That is the message of Advent and Christmas, and it is why we decorate the church and sing as we do. There are four Sundays in Advent -- **November 30th.....December 7th .....December 14th** (*Featuring a program by our choir*).....and **December 21st** (*Sunday School pageant during worship*). And then we will have one Christmas Eve service at **4:00pm** on **December 24th**, complete with communion, carols, and candlelight.

O, come, all ye faithful! O, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

*David*



Pastoral visitation is available to those who are hospitalized, temporarily laid up at home, or going through rehab at a facility. Because hospitals and other institutions do not notify the church when a patient is admitted, we need for you or your family member to notify us. We will be more than happy to accommodate your request for pastoral care. Please note also that the pastor may be reached for emergencies at [\(224\) 386-6285](tel:2243866285) (cell phone).

Pastor David's procedure in visiting St. Paul's shut-ins, as well as, those members who have a difficult time getting to church is to offer support, bring Holy Communion (their option) and to let them know we journey together in worship. Pastor David understands that scheduling may depend on frequency of doctor's appointments or the church member's schedule. Visitation is always available, however, as the shut-in member's health and life situation may change and more extensive pastoral care is needed. Any church member or their family member desiring more frequent pastoral visitation, or to be placed on the visitation list in the first place should contact the church office at [\(847\)-358-0399](tel:8473580399) to make arrangements.

*"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." (James 5:14)*



Do you have an idea, a question, a comment, or a concern that you would like for Pastor David to know about? You have a couple of options available to you.

First, you may speak directly with the pastor. Our pastor is here for ALL of St. Paul's members and he welcomes communication from ALL members. If you aren't comfortable in speaking directly with the pastor, however, then your second option is to go through the Pastoral Relations Committee.

Their purpose is to foster good relations between pastor and parish through open and thoughtful communication.

St. Paul's Pastoral Relations Committee members are: Debbie Everett (Chair); Tom Donat, Jim Frost, and Bob Kolze.



If you want the congregation to be aware of any joys, concerns (such as procedures) or prayers....please contact

**Debbie Brennan at the church office or Pastor David .**

If you call out of office hours or there is no answer, please leave a message & phone number where you can be reached, and one of us will return your call.

*Thank you so much...*



## MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

Bruce Kerlin

Larry Ingram



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS	
Bruce Kerlin	12/7
Susan Gould	12/10
Storm Stanciu	12/10
Larry Ingram	12/12
Brian Lech	12/16
Cherrie Wickstrom	12/17
Gary Guenther	12/19



### The Train Station Carolers

A snowstorm stranded dozens of travelers in a small-town train station on Christmas Eve. The mood was tense—until a young woman began singing a carol softly. One by one, others joined in, harmonizing until the whole station was filled with music. Strangers shared snacks, stories, and laughter until the trains ran again. Many later said it was the most magical Christmas they’d ever had.

### The Forgotten Stocking

Mr. Harris, the elderly neighbor, lived alone and rarely decorated for the holidays. One year, a group of neighborhood kids decided to hang a stocking on his door, filling it with cookies, tea, and handwritten cards. When he opened it, his eyes welled up. “I haven’t had a stocking since I was a boy,” he whispered. From then on, Mr. Harris became the first to hang lights on his porch each December.

### The Snowman’s Gift

On Christmas Eve, little Emma built a snowman in her front yard and placed her favorite red scarf around its neck. The next morning, the scarf was gone—but in its place was a small box with a note: “*Thank you for keeping me warm. Merry Christmas.*” Inside was a handmade wooden ornament shaped like a snowflake. Emma never found out who left it, but every year she hangs it on the tree, remembering that kindness often comes back in unexpected ways.



Raise Right makes all your gift shopping easy. Birthdays, baby and wedding showers, house warming gifts or for just for your personal use.

## \*\*\*Finish your Christmas shopping \*\*\* This also helps St. Paul help others!

There are so many choices of gift cards on [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com) and the website will show you how much the Community Outreach program will earn off of every card purchase.

You receive 100% of the gift card amount you purchase, and the VISA cards do not have an activation fee.

**Place your order by December 7th and  
get your cards December 14th!!**

If you have any questions, please see Sue Lech or email at [s.lech@comcast.net](mailto:s.lech@comcast.net)

Below is the Raise Right (Scrip) form , print it off and fill it out. If you go to [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com) you can see all of the gift cards that are available.

**\*\*\*There is no activation fee on the VISA gift cards\*\*\***

St Paul United Church of Christ/Palatine, IL			Date		
Name			email or phone		
Check #			Order total		
Common products	QTY	Total	Product	QTY	Total
Amazon \$10.00		\$			\$
Amazon \$100.00		\$			\$
Amazon \$25.00		\$			\$
Dairy Queen \$10.00		\$			\$
Jewel Osco \$100.00		\$			\$
Jewel Osco \$50.00		\$			\$
Mariano's (IL) \$100.00		\$			\$
Mariano's (IL) \$50.00		\$			\$
Starbucks \$25.00		\$			\$
Visa Gift Card - No Activation Fee		\$			\$
Visa Gift Card - No Activation Fee		\$			\$
Visa Gift Card - No Activation Fee		\$			\$
Walgreens \$100.00		\$			\$
Walgreens \$25.00		\$			\$
Walmart \$100.00		\$			\$
Walmart \$25.00		\$			\$
Walmart \$50.00		\$			\$





## THE CHRISTMAS FUND

On Sunday, December 21st, we will be collecting our annual Christmas Fund Offering. UCC's Christmas Fund benefits church's retired workers. The fund has helped to provide supplemental monies for pension and healthcare insurance premiums for low income church retirees, gift checks to hundreds of annuitants and emergency assistance to clergy, lay employees and their families throughout the year. Envelopes will be in the bulletins beginning Dec14th.

Thank you.  
Community Outreach



This year 2025 will be the last year of giving statements.

Due to income tax laws where the majority of people take the standard deduction, and no longer itemize, most people do not need these statements.

If you have any questions regarding this please contact the office or an Administrative Board Member.

We appreciate your understanding with this matter.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF OCTOBER 2025

	2025 BUDGET (ANNUAL)	ACTUALS	
		Month of October	Year to Date
INCOME	\$249,825.00	\$27,336.73	\$190,640.83
EXPENSES	\$288,528.00	\$21,866.46	\$209,062.65
NET	<b>-\$38,703.00</b>	\$5,470.27	<b>-\$18,421.82</b>



**Calling all Boards and Committees!!**

The deadline for the 2025 Annual Reports is  
**Wednesday January 7, 2026**

Please have them turned in to the church office by  
**December 29, 2025**

If you need a copy of last year's report, please request via email and I will send it to you.  
Thank you! Debbie

## 2026 Offering Envelopes

The 2026 Offering envelopes are available for pick up in the Narthex through **December**.

Please note some envelope numbers have changed due to consolidation. If you know of someone who is unable to attend worship, please feel free to take them with you and drop them off.

**Thank you!**





# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Grief Share “Surviving the Holidays”**  
**December 4th 6:00 P. M. to 8:00 P. M.**  
**Cost \$10 Light snacks and coffee**



**Holiday Family Craft Workshop**  
**December 6th 10:30 A. M. to 2:00 P. M.**

**All Congregation Meeting December 7th**  
**after service to discuss budget.**

**Christmas Music Program**  
**December 14th at 10:00 A. M.**

**Christmas Pageant**  
**December 21st at 10:00 A. M.**

**Christmas Fund Offering December 21st**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 4:00 P. M.**

**Christmas Day**  
**Office Closed Christmas Day**  
**Office Closed Day after Christmas**



**Zelle**

**Zelle is now  
 ACTIVE!!**  
**Scan the QR code or**  
**on your Zelle**  
**account enter in the**  
**email for**  
**giving.**

**Zelle:**  
**giving@st-paul.org**

**Due to the musician and vocalist guests as well as the**  
**community awareness of the upcoming Christmas Music**  
**Program to be held on**  
**Sunday, December 14th, we could have an**  
**increased church attendance.**

**Spiritual Life would like to make sure that we have a nice**  
**coffee hour after the program.**

**We are looking for donations of the following:**

**4 coffee cakes**  
**4 dozen donuts**  
**4 dozen mini muffins**

**If you are interested in donating an item, please contact**  
**Debbie Brennan no later than Friday, December 5th.**

**Thank you in advance,**  
**Spiritual Life Board**



## Advent Readers and Candle Lighters

November 30–	Executive Board
December 7–	Tom Donat
December 14–	Gary Altergott and David Mercer
December 21–	Sunday School
Christmas Eve–	Kim Cichon and Melissa Gumm

**Thank you so much to everyone that**  
**volunteered to help!!**



# **Holiday Craft Family Workshop**

***You are Invited***

The holidays are a wonderful time to display your creativity by crafting.

Crafts for all ages will be available, and all supplies will be provided.

We would love for you to join us for a fun filled day.

Lunch will also be provided.

**December 6th**

**10:30A.M. – 2:00P.M.**

**St. Paul United Church of Christ**

**144 E. Palatine Rd.**

**847-358-0399**







# ***Musical Christmas***

## ***Program***

*Featuring St. Paul's Chancel Choir, guest singers and musicians, a variety of songs of the season, and lighting of the Advent candles.*

**Sunday, December 14th**  
**10:00A.M.**

**St. Paul United Church of Christ**  
**144 E. Palatine Rd. Palatine, IL**  
**847-358-0399**







*Pray without ceasing.*

**PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF  
FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

**PRAYERS OF PETITION**

This week please pray for...

Ed Bartelt, friend of Charlotte Mally  
Doris Brztowski  
Karen and Carol Douglas  
Ed, cousin of Jackie Schultze  
Elena, daughter-in-law of Mary Carlisle  
Jeff Florey  
Matthew & Michael Hayford  
Carol Hennings, sister of Pat Kolze  
The Hernandez Family, neighbors of Melissa Gumm  
Larry Ingram  
Bruce & Barb Kerlin, parents of Bruce Kerlin  
Jay Kolze, nephew of Bob & Pat Kolze  
Brian Altergott, Gary Altergott's brother  
Larry Layman, brother of Shirley Kolze  
Mary Schultz, neighbor of Nancy Perry  
Sharon, neighbor of Bob & Pat Kolze  
Bonnie Stallone, daughter of Jim & Shirley Schimka  
Sherry Stephens, sister of Shirley Kolze  
Beverly Young  
Patrick, Nephew of Sharon Khan  
Maceo & Dolores Ellison  
Grace Hogaboom, friend of Pat Kolze and Aunt of Jim Frost  
Mary Rickert- friend of Sharon Khan  
John Connor- Karen Connor's former In-law  
Marjorie and Chuck Anderson  
Phil and Lynn Arnold  
Ashley White (Ruetsche), Debbie's Goddaughter  
Gretchen, neighbor of the Goulds  
Marcus Jones and Family  
Cindy Smith, friend of Janet Olsen

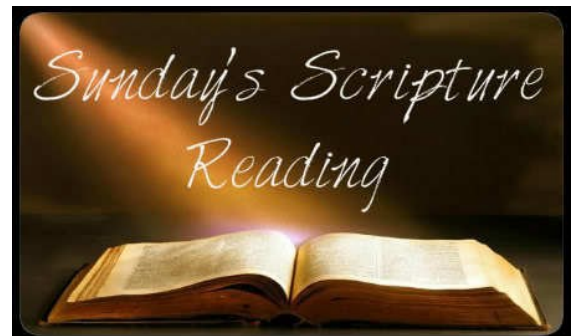
**SERVING CHRIST IN WORSHIP**

**December Usher Captain:**  
**Randy Everett**

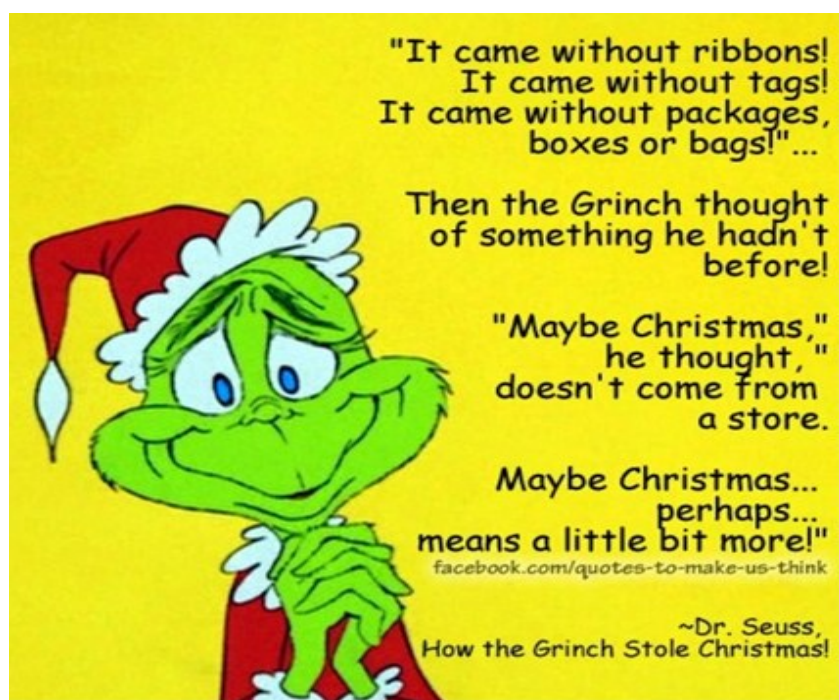
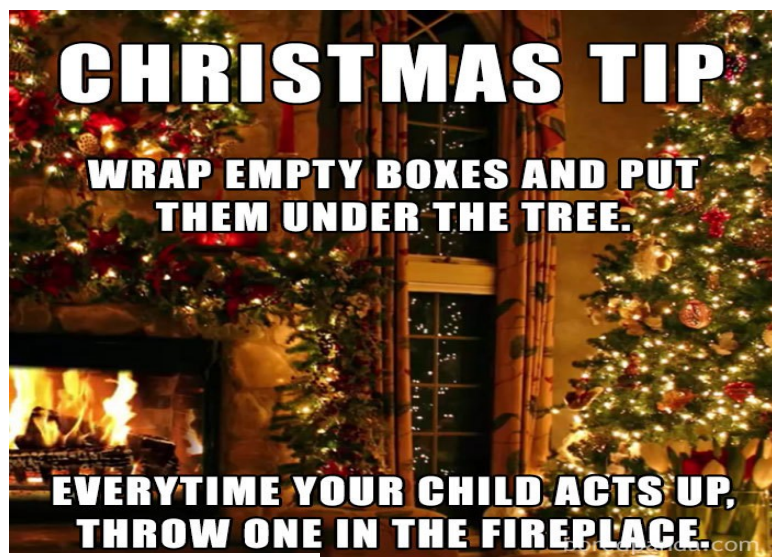
**December Readers:**  
**7: Tom Donat**  
**14: No Reader Needed**  
**21: Kim Cichon**  
**24: Melissa Gumm**  
**28: Kim Cichon**

**December Greeters:**  
**7: Shay Storm**  
**14 Jackie Schultze**  
**21: Janet Olsen**  
**24: Barb Oberly**  
**28: Nancy Perry**  
**Lectionary for December:**

**7: Psalm 72: 1-7, Romans 15:  
4-13, Matthew 3: 1-12**  
**14: Isaiah 35: 1-10, James 5:  
7-10, Matthew 11: 2-11**  
**21: Isaiah 7: 10-16, Romans 1:  
1-7, Matthew 1: 18-25**  
**24: Isaiah: 62-6-12, Psalm 97,  
Luke 2: 8-20**  
**28: Isaiah 63: 7-9, Hebrews 2:  
10-18, Matthew 2: 13-23**











# Christian Christmas Word Search

M	A	D	R	A	W	E	D	L	I	H	C	T	S	I	R	H	C
E	S	C	I	L	E	L	J	E	B	S	R	S	H	T	B	C	M
Y	O	A	H	A	E	B	O	L	Z	D	Y	P	T	N	F	R	E
D	P	R	P	R	V	A	K	C	F	R	T	O	R	E	R	H	H
O	E	P	I	M	I	T	E	A	X	E	R	O	I	V	A	S	E
H	M	C	G	D	W	S	M	R	I	H	X	Y	B	D	N	S	L
A	M	R	A	O	S	C	T	I	K	P	D	T	C	A	K	E	H
J	A	H	M	E	L	L	R	M	J	E	F	I	G	S	I	N	T
U	N	Y	Y	P	P	A	E	O	A	H	J	V	K	L	N	R	E
L	U	D	R	G	Y	F	S	G	L	S	M	I	M	O	C	E	B
E	E	R	R	U	O	R	O	N	N	C	D	T	P	R	E	H	P
L	L	O	H	R	H	L	D	E	Z	R	W	A	S	A	N	T	H
L	T	N	O	A	E	P	D	Q	C	O	O	N	Y	C	S	E	E
A	O	E	T	T	S	E	F	U	Y	N	S	D	B	Y	E	G	R
H	O	L	Y	S	P	I	R	I	T	K	I	F	D	A	T	O	T
I	P	Y	K	U	O	T	G	R	A	I	K	R	G	I	F	T	S
T	S	E	L	D	N	A	C	T	B	B	R	L	P	W	D	O	W

advent

angels

bethlehem

birth

candles

Carols

christ child

christmas day

emmanuel

frankincense

gifts

gold

hallelujah

holy spirit

magi

miracle

myrrh

nativity

prince of peace

savior

shepherds

stable

star

togetherness