

# The Visitor

December 2009

St. Paul United Church of Christ

## WELCOME ADVENT!

Advent is the wonderful season of the church year that helps persons remember and celebrate the time of watching and waiting for the Messiah to come. It is a season of anticipation, preparation and longing that calls modern-day Christians into their own time of waiting—experiencing God's hope, peace, joy and love until the day when the Messiah, Jesus, returns and God's Kingdom is fully revealed on earth. It is a time of great promise and a time of exuberant joy!

Advent Season begins in worship on Sunday, November 29, with the Advent Sermon series, *Through the Eyes of a Child*. Throughout the season Pastors Jeanne and Jana will help worshippers to explore the traditional Advent themes of hope, peace, joy and love by crafting sermons each week that incorporate very thought-provoking children's books.

Many other activities are scheduled for the season including the annual Bensenville Life-link Gift Program and the Mitten Tree warm wear collection. Please see related articles throughout *The Visitor* for more details on each activity.

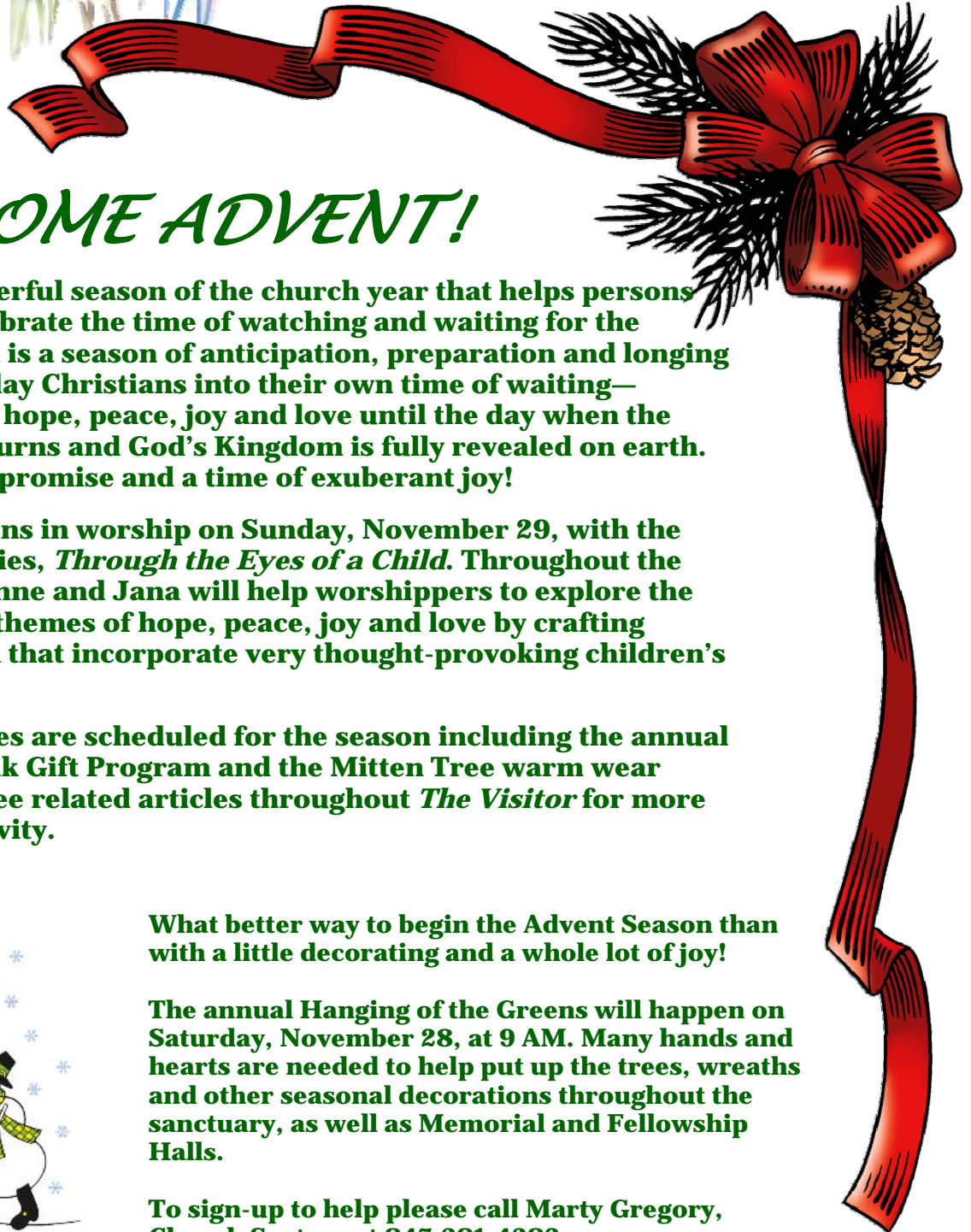


Hanging of the Greens

What better way to begin the Advent Season than with a little decorating and a whole lot of joy!

The annual Hanging of the Greens will happen on Saturday, November 28, at 9 AM. Many hands and hearts are needed to help put up the trees, wreaths and other seasonal decorations throughout the sanctuary, as well as Memorial and Fellowship Halls.

To sign-up to help please call Marty Gregory, Church Sexton, at 847-381-4382.



# Advent Activities



## Advent Devotional

On Sunday, November 29, members and friends will receive an Advent Devotional Booklet to use as a tool for spiritual growth during the Advent season.

Written by several persons from St. Paul, the booklet offers a daily reflection about a scripture verse and a daily prayer. If you would like to have one or more copies to share with family and friends, please contact the church office at 847- 381-0460.



## Bell Choir Concert

On Sunday, December 20, St. Paul will hold its Annual Christmas Bell Concert prior to the morning's worship service. The concert will begin at 9:15 AM.

This event has become one of the most beloved of holiday traditions at St. Paul. Held each year on the fourth Sunday of Advent, the bell concert provides a wonderful celebratory mood to take into the days right before Christmas.

The St. Paul Bell Choir appreciates your dedication to and praise for the music we play, and we hope that you look forward to attending this year's concert!

Celebrate LOVE on the 4th Sunday of Advent by sharing in an Advent potluck after worship, Sunday, December 20. This will be a wonderful time of fellowship, sharing and preparing our hearts for Christmas!

Please sign-up on the bulletin board in Memorial Hall with the dish you will bring to share, the number of persons attending from your family and to help with set-up and clean-up. For more information please call the church office at 847-381-0460.



## Women's Fellowship Christmas Sing

Women's Fellowship will meet on Thursday, December 3, at 12:30 PM, to share a delicious dessert time and to sing in the Holiday Season! Pastor Jana will provide a musical program and sing along with us in some good 'ole Christmas caroling!

All women (gents too!) of St. Paul and their friends are invited to join in the fun of this day. Bring a gift to exchange—please stay within a \$5 limit. For more information, please call Marion Miller at 847-381-1647.



## ADVENT POTLUCK

# Advent Missions

Each year St. Paul participates in a gift-giving program for Bensenville Life-link, a non-profit human services agency. The program provides toys and warm clothes for children and youth who are clients of Life-link. The names of 50 kids for whom gifts are needed are available in Memorial Hall after worship service.



Life-link Gift Giving

You choose one or more names of children, and then shop for the items that are listed with their name. Please make sure to include at least one piece of warm clothing (sweater, sweat shirt, jeans, coat, etc) for each child. Gifts are to be returned (unwrapped) to St. Paul no later than Monday, December 14. Thanks!

Please contact Nancy Hamelberg at 847-381-5086, Sue Hempenius at 847-639-7480 or Margo Dunmore at 847-438-7805 for information about the program.

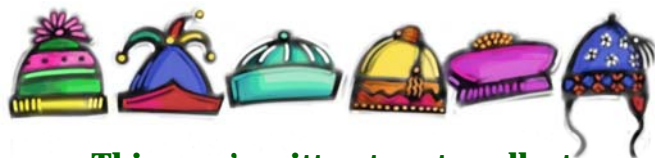
## Special Offering



Paul's Purse is the discretionary fund that is used by the pastors primarily to help persons in our congregation in times of need. In the current economic situation, this fund provides vital help if an emergency should arise.

You can help Paul's Purse with a one-time or an ongoing monetary donation by using the white envelopes provided in the pew racks. These envelopes are labeled "Paul's Purse" and can be placed in the offering plate on Sunday mornings. You may also bring a donation to the church office at any time during business hours.

In the past year Paul's Purse has helped 3 individuals and friends. If you are in need of help from Paul's Purse please do not hesitate to call one of the pastors at 847-381-0460.



This year's mitten tree to collect hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for clients of Bensenville Life-link will be up and ready to be filled on Sunday, November 22. The tree will be located in Memorial Hall.

Let's cover the tree completely this year! Items will be collected through the Holiday Season and then sent to Life-link after the New Year.

For more information about Bensenville Life-link please visit their website at: <http://www.lifelink.org>



# Special Services

**Thursday December 24**



**5:30 PM**

## **Children & Family Christmas Eve Service**

Children of all ages are invited to join Pastor Jana in this child-friendly service which features a reading of the Nativity story, a time for children's participation, caroling and a blessing of the children. Kids will be provided with special glow sticks for the singing of *Silent Night*.

**10:30 PM**

## **Traditional Christmas Eve Service**

Bring in the light of Christmas Day in this traditional candlelight service which features an uplifting Christmas message from Pastor Jeanne, the sacrament of Holy Communion and the lighting of candles as we sing the beloved *Silent Night* together.

Please help share the Good News of Jesus by inviting your family and friends to the Christmas Eve services!

## **Burning Bowl Service**

The Annual Burning Bowl Service will be held on Thursday, December 31, 7 PM. During the service we remember all those who have passed during 2009, we release the burdens of the passing year and look expectantly toward the hope-filled New Year.

Names of those departed in 2009 will be read as their nametags (or names on paper) are symbolically released into the flame of the Holy Spirit. Please invite those who have lost loved ones this year, or anyone who wants to start off the New Year refreshed and renewed, to join in this meaningful service.

After the service, we will celebrate the coming 2010 with a fun and festive fellowship hour in Memorial Hall. For more information about the service, please call Pastor Jeanne at 847-381-0460.



# Grown-up Christmas Lists



Each year the popular Christmas tune, *Grown-up Christmas List*, offers an opportunity for persons to reflect upon those things that we would wish for our world to receive as gifts. The chorus proposes these as some of the most important:

*...No more lives torn apart, that wars would never start, and time would heal all hearts;  
Everyone would have a friend, that right would always win, and love would never end...*

The following are some items we would list as we wish you the merriest of Christmases and the happiest of New Years! Please add your thoughts to our Grown-up Christmas List for this year.

*Pastor Joanne*

*That my church family can welcome everyone including those who are physically challenged, that differences would be appreciated and a deep connection felt in our common humanity, that my future grandchildren could grow up in a world of peace and that Christ's healing love would be felt by all*

*Pastor Jana*

*That worry would cease, that loneliness would end, that a cure for cancer would be found, that no child would ever be abandoned, that we would laugh and smile more, that we could burst into dance and song without worrying about what people would say, that joy would abound and that fear would be no more*

*Marty*

*That people could have all their children and grandchildren safely at their sides*

*Gene*

*To appreciate the precious value of a human life, to understand diversity and embrace it, to appreciate our natural resources and strive to maintain them, all encompassing peace and love for the world*

*Susan*

*That people make sure the world shapes up for the coming generations, that people listen to the call of God in them, that more people discover the heart St. Paul UCC has for them*





# Prayer List

We are grateful for health and joy restored through God's abundant grace and powerful love. Please keep these people in your thoughts and prayers this month as they go through challenging times.

## Concerns:

Nancy Klehm	Bob Ludovice	Joan Greenwood
Esther Wendt	Marlene Ficenec	Grace Kampert
Marge Gilly	Sue Schick	Tom Rylatt
Amy Bachmann	Audrey Hartz	Don Smith
Barbara Whistle, Sally Price's sister		Emery Cole, Joan Greenwood's son-in-law
Africa Rainey, Karen Harding's wife		Theresa Summers, Dawn Hamelberg's mother
Bill Shugg, Renee Kruper's father		Gail, Kathleen Bolger's cousin
Linda, friend of Linda Leyden		Ann, friend Linda Leyden
Kathy Pells, Barb Nester's friend		Dr. John, Kirby Drayer's friend
Kay, Kirby Drayer's friend		Kim Hanson, Ruth & Virgil Hanson's daughter
Lorraine, Mat Olejniczak's grandmother		Rita, Margo Dunmore's sister
Families of Ft. Hood Victims		Agnes Berghorn, Dick Price's mother
Those involved in war		Those serving their country in the military
Family traveling abroad		Annie & Jonathan, relatives of Sue & Fred Schick
Those who are seeking employment		Those without health care
Gil Murdock, Kirk Murdock's father		
Capt. Keith Katzenberger, Marion Miller's grandson in Iraq		
The Family of Rudi Geissler	The Family of Chuck Foy	
The Family of Michael Breslin	The Family of Jean Ziebell, friend of Barb Nester	
The Family of Norm Hilliard, Mat Olejniczak's uncle		
The Family of Wayne Kocinski, friend of Mike Vorel		
The Family of Buddy Brown, Linda Immel's nephew		
The Family of Mary Harrold, Dan & Linda Baron's relative		

## Joys:

Bud & Gloria Goodmonson's 63rd anniversary	Starla, Georgianne Harms' new grandniece
Job Interviews	Tiffany France's new job
Friends' birthdays	Family visiting
Pastor Jeannie's & Dorrit's safe return	Successful surgeries

Please remember our members who are home-bound. Prayers, visits, calls and cards are appreciated so much.

Betty Bielke	Gladys Johnson	Helen Kalland
Grace Kampert	Pauline Lahti	Ruth Lindbergh
Walter Moeller	Esther Wendt	Henrietta Sturm

Arlene Krabbe	12/1	Judy Randle	12/11
Margaret Orbesen		Ed Merritt	
Cody Hamelberg	12/3	Nancy Klehm	12/13
Nancy Hamelberg	12/4	Lillian Stangl	12/19
Barb Rubino	12/6	Susan Kottke	12/20
Alli Salituro	12/9	Heikki Hartikainen	12/21
Ruth Gregory	12/10	Lauri Ducharme	
Rose Chen		Robert Detlefsen	12/23
Susan Kampert		Ervin Rogers	12/25

This  
Month's  
Birthdays



If you would like to arrange a cake to celebrate a birthday during coffee fellowship, please notify Sally Price at 847-359-1358 by the Wednesday prior to the celebration. Thanks!

# St. Paul Ministry Support

## Ushers & Greeters



### Greeters

December 6  
December 13  
December 20  
December 27

Dorothy Lange  
Sally & Dick Price  
Betty Henriksson  
Marion Miller

### Ushers

December 6      Marion Miller  
December 13     Mary Krabbe  
December 20     Dick Price  
December 27     Rick Jurs

Dorothy Lange  
Ralph Gaulke  
Rose Chen  
Hudson Motley

Burt Wendt      Susan Robertson  
David Holtermann      Dee McCarthy  
Marty Gregory      Bonnie Smith  
Bill Bishop      Phil Harvey

### Coffee Hosts

December 6      George & Mary Krabbe  
December 13     Your Name Here  
December 20     Ruth & Marty Gregory  
December 27     Your Name Here

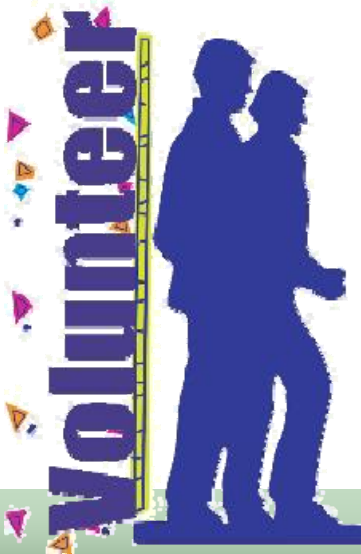


Coffee Fellowship

Help is always needed for Sunday Servers. Please call:

Martha Duke for ushering      847-381-9096  
Marion Miller for greeting      847-381-1647  
Sally & Dick Price for coffee hosting      847-359-1358

**Looking to become involved in a ministry? Here's some ways to help!**



After many years as the dedicated chair of St. Paul's CROP Walk, Rick Jurs is feeling the tug of other obligations and commitments. He is more than willing to sit down with his successor and explain what the job entails, which is primarily going to monthly meetings that begin in May to organize the churches, and then enlisting walkers and sponsors from St. Paul to participate in the October event. If you're interested in taking the lead on this Mission Ministry event, please contact Rick at 847-394-2547 or Pastor Jeanne at 847-381-0460.

Or...you may be interested in joining one of the ministry teams. Contact the following Chairpersons to join a team: Building—Walt Hempenius at 847-639-7480; Grounds & HR—Dorrit Bern at 215-378-1581; Care of Members—Dee McCarthy at 847-381-4406; Christian Education—Lauri Ducharme at 847-526-4307; Finance—Faye Sinnott at 847-382-3288; Missions—Ed Merritt at 224-629-1249; Outreach—Bill Bishop at 847-381-4443; and Worship—Diane France at 847-359-5257.

**ONE MORNING IN BETHLEHEM**



*Children's Nativity*

Camp Christmas 2009 is on its way! This wonderful day of learning and fun for kids ages 4 yrs– 5th grade will be held on Saturday, December 12, 9 AM–1 PM.

This year's theme is One Morning in Bethlehem. The kids will take a journey to the ancient city of Jesus' birth to learn about some of the things that may have been happening in the town. We will make cookies, create lots of crafts, hear the Nativity story and play all kinds of great games!

There is still time to register kids for this great day! Fee for the day is \$20 per child; \$40 family maximum. To help with Camp Christmas please call Lauri Ducharme at 847-526-4307 or Pastor Jana at 847-381-0460.

During the Advent Season, the St. Paul Kids will be learning about the birth of Jesus in their *Journeys* classes. *Journeys* is the Sunday morning Christian education program for kids ages pre-school through 5th grade.

Throughout the month, the kids will be working on a special project to share with their families for Christmas. Please send the kids to class in clothes that can get messy– we will be using paint and glitter!

For more information about *Journeys* please call Lauri Ducharme at 847-526-4307 or Pastor Jana at 847-381-0460.



*Journeys* will be on Christmas Break on Sunday, December 27, and Sunday, January 3. Children are encouraged to attend worship service with their family.

*Did You Know...*



On Sunday, December 27, kids (and parents) are encouraged to bring their favorite Christmas gift to church for the morning. There will be a special "Blessing of the Gifts" service, in which we offer thanks for all of the gifts we receive each day. Gifts of pets are welcomed in their carriers!



**Living the Questions is a video discussion group that meets every month at either St. Paul UCC or Community Church of Barrington. Participants listen to current theologians talk about a current issue in our world and then talk about their thoughts and feelings about the issue.**

**The next class will meet at St. Paul on Sunday, November 29, at noon, in the Tent Shop of the Education Wing. All adults and their friends are invited. For information about the class please call Pastor Jeanne at 847-381-0460.**

**There's something for you...**



**Did you know that you may grant permission for a hospital chaplain to call the church**

**and inform Pastors Jeanne and Jana that you or a loved has been hospitalized?**

**Please use this vital service so that the pastors will know of your need quickly. Thanks!**



**Meet  
for  
Breakfast**

**Women's Breakfast Bunch will meet for a delicious Christmas breakfast on Saturday, December 5, at 9 AM, in Memorial Hall. Hostesses for the day are Ruth Hanson and Marion Hubbard.**

**All women of St. Paul and their friends are invited and encouraged to attend. An offering for the Elevator Fund will be gathered that day. For more information please call Martha Duke at 847-381-9096.**

**Spiritually Speaking**

**You are invited to join in Spiritually Speaking, a new Bible Study that happens once a month at The Garlands. The study is led by Pastor Jeanne or Pastor Zina from Community Church.**

**The next class will be held on Tuesday, December 15, 1:30 PM. Pastor Jeanne will lead an Advent-focused discussion based on our sermon series, *Through the Eyes of a Child*. For information please call Pastor Jeanne at 847-381-0460.**





## Church Council News

The Church Council met on Tuesday, October 27. The following are highlights of the meeting:

- \*Pastor Jeanne reported on the CROP Walk and Community Meal. She also noted St. Paul's involvement in community projects.
- \*Pastor Jana reported on the steady growth of the children's programs.
- \*Kirby Drayer reported about the ongoing work with the village regarding the elevator project.
- \*Fate Sinnott reported on the proposed 2010 budget. The budget was reviewed by all present for updates and corrections. Budget will be presented at Congregational Meeting, November 22.

\*Dorrit Bern reported on current staffing issues and ongoing Grounds contract negotiations.  
\*Nancy Hamelberg reported on the CROP Walk for the Missions Ministry. She encouraged an increase in the OCWM giving.

\*Walt Hempenius reported on recent building repairs. He also advised of the need for future large scale repairs.

\*Diane France made the motion to place a time limit on oral reporting. The proposal was compatible with a previous Council decision on protocol and expectations. Motion approved.

For more information about the Council meeting, or if you have questions about any Council matter, please call Kirby Drayer, Council Vice-President, at 847-776-7598 or Pastor Jeanne at 847-381-0460. Minutes are available in the church office.



At the time of this writing, the Stewardship Team has reported that 60 pledges have been received, for a total of \$145,000 in pledge dollars. There are more pledges to be counted. Please check the Sunday bulletin for further reports!

End-of-Year Giving



### YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

Please remember to make your year-end contributions to St. Paul dated by December 31, 2009, to have them reflected on your 2009 calendar year-end financial giving statement.

This also applies to any 401-K giving that you may be directing toward St. Paul. You can give a 401-K gift by December 31, 2009, and have that gift apply to your 2010 Operating Budget Pledge.

For more information on these or other financial questions, please call Fred Schick, Church Treasurer, at 847-496-4196, or Bill Roessler, Financial Secretary, at 847-526-7503.



### Operating Funds

**Total Actual Giving**  
Oct 25-Nov 15: \$22,726

**Average Weekly Giving:**  
\$5681

**FINANCE**

**FINANCE**



# December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 2:30 PM Bible Study LBW	2 Noon Bible Study 6 PM Bells Confirmation 7 PM Chancel Choir 8 PM Praise Team	3 12:30 PM Women's Fellowship 6 PM Judo Club 7 PM Disciple Class	4	5 9 AM Women's Breakfast Bunch 10:30 AM Judo Club
6 9:30 AM 2nd Sunday of Advent/ Communion/ Pastor Jeanne	7 6 PM Judo Club 7 PM Christian Believer Class	8 2:30 PM Bible Study LBW	9 Noon Bible Study 6 PM Bells 7 PM Chancel Choir 8 PM Praise Team	10 6 PM Judo Club 7 PM Disciple Class Finance Mtg	11 <i>Articles due for next issue of The Visitor.</i>	12 9 AM Camp Christmas
13 9:30 AM 3rd Sunday of Advent//Pastor Jana 11 AM Worship Team	14 6 PM Judo Club 7 PM Christian Believer Class	15 2:30 PM Bible Study LBW <i>Council at Pastor Jeanne's home</i>	16 Noon Bible Study 6 PM Bells Confirmation 7 PM Chancel Choir 8 PM Praise Team	17 6 PM Judo Club 7 PM Disciple Class	18 7 PM REEL People	19 10:30 AM Judo Club
20 9:15 AM 4th Sunday of Advent/ Bell Concert/ Pastor Jeanne 10:30 AM Advent Potluck	21 6 PM Judo Club	22	23 6 PM Bells 7 PM Chancel Choir 8 PM Praise Team	24 Christmas Eve 5:30 PM Family Service 10:30 PM Candlelight Service	25 Office Closed	26 10:30 AM Judo Club
27 9:30 AM Blessing of the Gifts/ Pastor Jana	28 6 PM Judo Club	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 7 PM Burning Bowl Service		

*Our Mission: Welcoming all people and transforming all of our lives through Christ's gospel.*

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## St. Paul UCC Visitor

Contact us anytime at:

St. Paul United Church of Christ  
Tel/847-381-0460  
Fax/847-381-0463  
[www.stpauluccbarrington.org](http://www.stpauluccbarrington.org)

Rev. Jeanne K. Hanson—Senior Pastor  
[jeanniehan@aol.com](mailto:jeanniehan@aol.com)

Rev. Jana Chwalisz—Associate Pastor  
[jchwalisz@aol.com](mailto:jchwalisz@aol.com)

Martin Gregory—Church Sexton

Renee Kruper—Music Director

Susan King—Office Manager

Tiffany France—Youth Director

Church email  
[stpauluccchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:stpauluccchurch@yahoo.com)

Worship/Church School 9:30 AM  
Every Sunday

