

# **St. Paul's United Church of Christ**



**202 East Main St.  
Carlinville, IL 62626  
217 -854-4046**

***Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024***

*\*Indicates all who are able, Please Stand*

**TOWER BELLS**

**Douglas Eichen/Glenn Hammann**

**PRELUDE**

**Elner Ivers**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (*Responsive*)**

**Amy Ratcliff**

Leader: This is the day of Resurrection.

***Congregation: The stone has been rolled away.  
The tomb is empty.***

Leader: Come, let us worship our Risen Lord.

***Congregation: In spirit and in truth.***

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (*Unison*)**

**Amy Ratcliff**

***The angel of the lord said to the women, "Do not be afraid. For I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."***

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN    "*Christ the Lord is Risen Today*"    233**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Unison*)**

**Amy Ratcliff**

***Merciful Father, Almighty God, I come before you in this hour of worship to acknowledge in Your presence that I have sinned, by word or deed, against others and that I have brought pain and hurt into their life. Father may those I have sinned against find it within themselves to forgive me of my sins. I also acknowledge, O Lord that in my heart I hold bitterness and anger against those who have sinned against me. Father may the Holy Spirit empower me to let go of the bitterness in my own heart and forgive those who have sinned against me. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.***

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**Amy Ratcliff**

Ask and keep on asking and it will be given to you: seek and keep on seeking and you will find, knock and keep on knocking and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks and keeps on asking receives, he who seeks and keeps on seeking finds and he who knocks and keeps on knocking, the door will be opened.

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

*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.*

**ANTHEM**

*“He Is Alive”*

**Chancel Choir**

**THE CHURCH AT PRAYER**

**Pastor Louis Fluck**

**Pastoral Prayer—Silent Prayer—Lord’s Prayer (debts/debtors)**

**Prayer List:** *Tabitha Eichen, Mandy Warford (Nicole Eichen’s Cousin), Elsa Weimerslage, Kennah Hiestand (Friend of the Costello’s). Doris Gahr, Alice McGeachy, Jean Beal, Mary Jo Oye, Gerda Strobe. Those who are privately struggling with health & mental health issues. Those in leadership positions, the Church Council, the Search Committee, and the IL South Conference & ISC Minister: Rev. Shana Johnson. Also to all the volunteers that put in countless hours to do God’s work.*

**Prayer Response**

*Hear our prayer, O God; hear our prayer, O God;  
Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*“He is Risen”*

**Amy Ratcliff**

**SCRIPTURE**     *John 20; 1 - 10*

**Pastor Louis Fluck**

**SERMON**        *“The Day of the New Beginning”*

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**Amy Ratcliff**

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse. That there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”

**\*The Doxology**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**

**Pastor Louis Fluck**

*On this joyful resurrection morning, O’Lord we bring our tithes and offerings. Multiply what we give our Lord to minister to the heartfelt needs of our congregation as we continue your work in our community. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.*

**\* HYMN**

*“Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One”*

**253**

**\*THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**Welcome: An Invitation to the Table**

**THE PROCLAMATION**

**Pastor Louis Fluck**

Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit. *Psalm 32:1-2*

**THE WITNESS (*Responsive*)****Amy Ratcliff**

Leader: When Jesus sat at the table sharing a meal with tax collectors and sinners, he proclaimed by his example, that God's love and concern knows no boundaries. We proclaim again the comfort and joy of that witness as once again we are invited to share at the table of our Lord, and to be nourished by the Bread of Life. God be with you.

***Congregation: And also with you.***

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

***Congregation: We lift them up unto our God.***

**THE INVITATION****Pastor Louis Fluck**

We, at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, celebrate "Open Communion." We invite anyone who confesses Christ as Lord and Savior to share with us, this Resurrection Morning, in the joyful celebration we find in the Breaking of the Bread and Drinking of the Cup. We celebrate in remembrance of our Savior who was crucified on Calvary's Cross, yet rose again from the dead.

"Come for all things are now ready"

**THE SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS****COMMUNION ANTHEM***"In Remembrance of Me"***Chancel Choir****\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (*Unison*)** **Pastor Louis Fluck**

***We give thanks for this bread and fruit of the vine which has been given to us and shared among us. Now let us go bearing the bread, carrying the cup, and setting the table for others within a hungry world so that they may come and receive the goodness of God. Amen.***

**\* CLOSING HYMN***"The Day of Resurrection"***245**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**Pastor Louis Fluck**

Our hour of worship is now over.

***Congregation: We depart going to tell others that Jesus has risen from the grave.***

May the Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord makes his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; The Lord turns his face towards you and gives you peace.

***Congregation: Amen.***

**\*CHORAL BENEDICTION**

***“Easter Song”***

**Chancel Choir**

**\*EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES**

**\*POSTLUDE**

**Elnor Ivers**

**Scattering to Serve Christ in the World**



**Announcements For Sunday, March 24, 2024**

**Worship Attendance: March 24 : 71**

**Mission Offering: OGHS**

- ❖ **CALLING ALL STRONG PEOPLE:** The mission and outreach committee will be switching the closet clothing from fall/winter to spring/summer. Anyone that can help carry boxes up or down the stairs is asked to help on **Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm.**
- ❖ There will be an important **mandatory** meeting on **April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall** for **all** committee chair members and church council members. If you have any questions please contact Douglas Eichen or the office.

- ❖ **Friday Free Movie night for April will be on Friday April 26<sup>h</sup>** at **7 pm**. We will be showing “Field of Dreams.” Popcorn and chips will be provided, please bring a drink. Feel free to bring other snacks, a comfortable chair or blanket.
- ❖ **Fellowship Hall rentals** that are not church events; You must now fill out a form and return to the office 7 days before the event. The forms are available in front of the office. Thank you.
- ❖ **The Member Support Committee** met for the first time on Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> . Members of the committee discussed our role in the life of the church. We decided it was important to reach out to shut ins with visits, keep in touch with students away at college, and provide help to members in need. The latter would include providing meals and doctor visit rides especially for those that have had surgery or any other health problem. In addition, it could be helping around their house with small jobs such as mowing the grass, cleaning the gutters, or other maintenance issues. We also plan to send birthdays, anniversaries, sympathy, and get well cards. We now have a sign up sheet for all willing to help with any of the above. We also ask for your help identifying those in need of assistance.

## **\*\*This Week's Upcoming Events\*\***

Sunday, March 31 - Easter Brunch 8:45 am  
No Sunday School - Easter Egg Hunt 9am  
Easter Sunday Choir and Communion Worship 10 am

Monday, April 1 - Office Closed

Tuesday, April 2 - Tuesday Morning Coffee 8 am

Wednesday, April 3 - Choir Practice 7 pm

Thursday, April 4 – Worship Committee Meeting 6 pm

Sunday, April 7 -                      Sunday School 9am - Worship Service 10 am

Help us keep our prayer list and calendar up to date. If someone needs to be added, removed or event added please contact the office.

Please remember that you personally do not have to be an usher, greeter or make an after worship snack. **It is the responsibility of your committee** to make sure that there **are** ushers, greeters and after worship snacks for your week. Please remember **whoever is providing snacks**, it is their responsibility to clean up the Friendship Room and unplug the coffee maker. The schedule & committee list are posted outside the office.

**If you are the last to leave the church during events or worship please be sure to always check the lights are turned off & doors are locked when leaving the building. Thank You.**

## Ushers & Greeters



**March 31** – Easter - Church Council

**April 7** – Stewardship Committee

**April 14** – Church Council

**April 22** – Worship Committee

**April 28** – Jr. Youth

**March 31** – Easter - Pastor Louis Fluck - Amy Ratcliff

**April 7** – Rev Eddie Burton – Darlene Barkley

**April 14** – Pastor Mary Beth Hartenstein – Linda Leefers (Von)

**April 21** – Pastor Josiah Accola – Joan Hammann

**April 28** – Rev Eddie Burton – Kristina Wise







The Easter Lilies that decorate the sanctuary were donated by the following people:

Todd & Martha Armour **in memory of** Wendell Armour, Paul and Sandy Lee, Dane and Karen Armour, Jay Powers & Joshua Anderson and **in Honor of** Geneva Armour.

Von and Linda Leefers **in Honor of** our grandchildren.

Dale Kasten **in memory of** Rosina Kasten and Archie and Mary Kasten.

Douglas & Nicole Eichen **in memory of** Harold & Marjorie Eichen, Lester Eichen, Otto Eichen, Tony and Gloria Pizzi, Jay & Julie Warford **and in honor of** Joel & Lola Warford and their daughters Kaitlyn Lawrence and Max Eichen.

Linda Schaefer **in memory of** Kathryn Adams.

Kathy Seigel **in memory of** Charlie Seigel.

Carl Kasten, Dale Kasten and Marilyn Snyder **in memory of** Archie and Mary Kasten, Rosina Kasten and Don Snyder.

John and Paula Lapp **in honor of** Berkeley Smith, Corey, Cameron and Ada May.

Virginia Griffith **in memory of** Richard Griffith, Charles and Hilda Pocklington, and Emma Pocklington.

Dave Hildebrand **in memory of** Karen Hildebrand, Edith and Charles Suhling, Alvin and Nellie Hildebrand.

Please take your lilies home with you after service. If you wish you may leave your lily in the sanctuary and it will be delivered to one of our shut-ins to enjoy.

## **Supporting the Ministry and Mission of St. Paul's UCC**

### **Church Council Officers**

Douglas Eichen, President  
Fran Goodman, Vice President  
Amy Ratcliff, Secretary

### **Church Office Staff**

Nicole Eichen, Church Secretary  
Gail Sanson, Treasurer  
Brian Mitchell, Financial Secretary  
Susie Loeschner, Custodian

### **Church Worship Staff**

Debra Costello, Choir Director  
Elner Ivers, Organist

### **Office Hours: 9 am – 1 pm**

Monday through Thursday

### **Church Emails:**

**Church office:** [stpaulucccarlinville@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulucccarlinville@gmail.com)

**Council President:** [stpauls.councilpresident@gmail.com](mailto:stpauls.councilpresident@gmail.com)

**Council Secretary:** [spucccs@gmail.com](mailto:spucccs@gmail.com)

**Online Giving:** <https://stpaulucccarlinville.360unite.com/home>

