

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

BE joyful in hope,
patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer.

Romans 12:12, NIV



Sunday, July 27, 2025
202 E. Main St.
Carlinville, IL 62626
217-854-4046

Announcements For Sunday, July 27, 2025

Worship Attendance: July 20, 2025: 41

Mission Offering: Heifer

The Semi-annual Congregation Meeting is today after worship. We must meet a quorum of 21 active members to have the meeting.

July Book Club will be on Thursday, July 31. The book is “Men are from Mars; Women are from Venus. If you need a book, talk to Pastor Burton. If you have any other questions please contact Amy Ratcliff.

There are donation envelopes found by the office if anyone would like to send a monetary donation to the flood victims in Texas or North Carolina. Please make checks to St. Paul’s UCC and place in the memo Flood Victims.

Save the Dates:

If you have any information that you would like to post in the Sunday Bulletin Announcements, please send that information to the office no later than Tuesday at 9 a.m.

Please remember to check on our elderly this summer. Look for signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke, such as heavy sweating, dizziness, headache, nausea, or confusion. If you observe any of these symptoms, seek immediate medical attention.



Seventh Sunday after Pentecost - 10 a.m.

**Indicates all who are able, Please Stand*

TOWER BELLS

Glenn Hammann

PRELUDE

Elnor Ivers

WELCOME

Amy Ratcliff

***CALL TO WORSHIP (*Responsively*)**

Amy Ratcliff

Righteousness will go before our God; peace makes its path.

Restore us, O God, and stir anger within for the pain and injustices of the world.

Righteousness will go before our God; peace makes its path.

Revive us, O God, and bring joy to our hearts and a song of praise on our lips.

Righteousness will go before our God; peace makes its path.

Redeem us, O God, and call your people back to you in spirit and in truth.

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)**

Amy Ratcliff

One Who Is Holy, make us like new, show us your way, teach us to pray with our hearts and our hands. Give us the word today that we need to know you. Give us hope today to be a beacon in a world full of lost and confused. Give us joy today to make your name known. Give us peace today to respond with courage, fortitude, and conviction. Give us love today to love as you have loved us. Amen.

***MORNING HYMN**

“Alleluia! Gracious Jesus”

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***CALL TO CONFESSION (Unison)**

Amy Ratcliff

God Who Reigns in Glory and meets us in need, we seek your forgiveness and restoration. We drown in a system of debt rather than generosity and common good. May our obligations not burden us, and may we not burden others when compassion is abundantly available. We struggle not to encroach on our neighbor’s territory when boundaries are arbitrary and limiting rather than purposeful and expansive. Help us turn from sin and temptation as well as guilt and shame when we struggle to live fully in your kingdom.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor Eddie Burton Jr.

Offspring of the Living God, live in the grace of the kingdom. Receive the vision of restored creation: abundance, compassion, generosity, and inclusion. Live in your full humanity as image bearers of the Holy.

***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.

CHURCH AT PRAYER

Pastor Eddie Burton Jr.

Prayer List

Harold, Jim, Alice, Caitlyn, Jean, Nancy, Mary Jo, Celia, Virginia, Gerda, Doris, Kate, Wanda, Church Pastor, Church Council, ISC Minister: Rev. Shana Johnson.

Pastoral Prayer - Take This Time for Silent Prayer Time

Lord’s Prayer (debts/debtors)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

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

Amy Ratcliff

* HYMN

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

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1: I am weak, but thou art strong; Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
2. Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
3: When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;
Refrain: Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it, Je - sus, is my plea,

D. C. for Refrain

I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.
dai - ly walk - ing close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

WORDS and MUSIC: Anonymous CLOSER WALK
Irr. w. refrain

*SCRIPTURE

John 3: 22-32

P. 968

SERMON

"I Must Decrease"

Pastor Eddie Burton Jr.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Amy Ratcliff

The Holy One invites us to participate in meeting the needs of the day. Let us give generosity to the ministry of this faith community as we share good gifts through acts of compassion and mutual aid.

*OFFERTORY

Doxology

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Pastor Eddie Burton Jr.

Our God in Glory, may the good gifts we bring of time, talent, and treasure be used and magnified for the benefit of your beloved. Thank you, Holy One, for enabling us to join in your kingdom come on earth. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Eddie Burton Jr.

Go into the world. Proclaiming the many names of the Sovereign God. Living the lessons of Good News, sharing in support and solidarity, opening doors and giving good gifts.

***POSTLUDE**

Elnor Ivers

***EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES**



This Week's Calendar

Sunday, July 27-

Sunday Worship Service 10 a.m.
Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting 11 a.m.
Hall Use - Member

Monday, July 28-

Closet of Christ Workday 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Tuesday, July 29-

Coffee Group 8 a.m.

Thursday, July 31-

Book Club 6 p.m.

Sunday, August 3-

Sunday Worship Service 10 a.m.

Greeting and Usher Schedule

- 27 Farm Committee**
- 3 Finance Committee**
- 10 Church Council**
- 17 Membership Support**
- 24 Funeral Dinner Committee**
- 31 Memorial Gifts and Investments**

Please remember that you personally do not have to be an usher or greeter. Your committee is responsible for making sure that there are ushers and greeters for your week.

Liturgist Schedule

- 27 Amy Ratcliff**
- 3 Bill Klaus**
- 10 Jason Thoron**
- 17 Stephanie Pool**
- 24 Gretchen Killam**
- 31 Darlene Barkley**

If you would like to volunteer to be a Sunday Liturgist please contact the pastor, church president or call the office.

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

Church Council Officers

Douglas Eichen, President
Fran Goodman, Vice President
Leanne Gahr, Secretary

Ellen Eldred, Financial Secretary
Susie Loeschner, Custodian

Church Office Staff

Eddie Burton Jr., Pastor
Nicole Eichen, Church Secretary
Gail Sanson, Treasurer

Church Worship Staff

Debra Costello, Choir Director
Elner Ivers, Organist

Office Hours: Unless Otherwise Noted

Summer Hours: Monday – Thursday
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Office Phone: 217-854-4046 * Office Cell: 217-313-7688

Pastor's Hours: Please see the bulletin board by the Pastor's office
for this week's schedule.

Pastor Phone: 314-495-3949 Email: vismediallc@yahoo.com

Church office: stpaulucccarlinville@gmail.com

Don't forget we have Online Giving:

<https://stpaulucccarlinville.360unite.com/home>

