



St. Paul's Scope

A Faithful and Welcoming Church

December 2024

Relationship Rebuild

By Pastor Andrew Lovins

As we head into the holiday season, a time for reflection and renewal, I'm excited to launch a series on **Relationship Rebuild**. Let's explore the essential elements of strong, healthy relationships:

1. **The Wisdom of Boundaries:** *"Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?" (2 Corinthians 6:14).* Setting healthy limits can protect our relationships and promote mutual respect.
2. **The Risk of Love:** *"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (1 Corinthians 13:7).* Vulnerability is the cornerstone of authentic relationships. By sharing our true selves, we deepen our bonds.
3. **The Magic of Empathy:** *"Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15).* Understanding and sharing the feelings of others creates empathy, which strengthens our connections.
4. **The Courage to Confront:** *"Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy" (Proverbs 7:6).* Addressing issues with honesty and love can lead to deeper understanding and resolution.
5. **The Art of Forgiveness:** *"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (Matthew 6:12).* Letting go of resentment and embracing understanding is key to healing and growth.
6. **The Power of Encouragement:** *"Encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11).* Positive words and actions can uplift and inspire those around us, fostering deeper connections.

Human beings are inherently relational. Our problems, at their core, are often relationship problems. Let's invest in our relationships and build the skills to flourish.

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The **deadline** for articles to be included in the January 2025 SCOPE is **December 23rd**.

Mark your calendar

December 8
Village Christmas Parade

December 14
Cookies and Cocoa
Neighborhood Outreach

December 14
Christmas Caroling

December 15
Children's Christmas
Program

December 22
Choir presentation of
"Come Worship the King"

December 24
Christmas Eve Service

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24th | 7:00pm





Attendance for the Month of November				
<u>Date</u>	<u>8:00am</u>	<u>10:15am</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Online Viewers</u>
11/03	84A / 2C	69A / 11C	19A / 30C	501
11/10	77A / 2C	77A / 12C	22A / 34C	511
11/17	71A / 3C	59A / 12C	22A / 31C	636
11/24	76A / 4C	70A / 15C	7A / 35C	430

Sunday Volunteer Schedule					
Time	Date	Council Ushers	Greeters	Acolyte	Lector
8:00	December 1	Kathy Lickenbrock April Nail	Scott Weber Julie Weber	Tenley Heppermann	Scott Weber
	December 8	Debbie Ross Kim Borja	Pat Smoker Donna Smoker	Logan Smith	Lynn Gibson
	December 15	April Beisiegel Brian Rippelmeyer	Marg Rhutasel Larry Rhutasel	Eli Amann	Jeanie Stumpf
	December 22	Kathy Lickenbrock April Nail	Angela Kurburski Matthew Kurburski	Ryleigh Ribes	Tami Hughes
	December 29	Debbie Ross Kim Borja	Dale Lickenbrock Kathy Lickenbrock	Tara Beisiegel	Donna Smoker
10:15	December 1	Vicki Helms Lauren Borger	Jim Kaiser Lori Kaiser	Dahlia Payne	Vicki Channer
	December 8	Chad Lindauer Amy Walton	Brittany Kaiser Sharon Klann	Dean Shaw	Amy Walton
	December 15	David Mitchell Lee Hartmann	Tom Heiken Robin Heiken	Anthony Amann	Julie Rickert
	December 22	Vicki Helms Lauren Borger	Shirley Kuhn Harry Kuhn	Emily Kuhn	Donna Asbridge
	December 29	Chad Lindauer Amy Walton	Harry Dapron Shere Dapron	Audrey Lawson	Teresa Huston

If you are scheduled to serve, please remember that we are counting on you!
 If you cannot attend, switch with another volunteer and let the office know. Thank you!

... VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES ...

Acolyte Schedule		
Date	8:00 a.m.	10:15 a.m.
December 1	Tenley Heppermann	Dahlia Payne
December 8	Logan Smith	Dean Shaw
December 15	Eli Amann	Anthony Amann
December 22	Ryleigh Ribes	Emily Kuhn
December 29	Tara Beisiegel	Audrey Lawson
January 5	Ryleigh Ribes	Emily Kuhn
January 12	Dahlia Payne	Logan Smith
January 19	Alise Freebairn	Dean Shaw
January 26	Eli Amann	Anthony Amann
February 2	Blyss Payne	Anthony Amann
February 9	Logan Smith	Anthony Amann
February 16	Tara Beisiegel	Blyss Payne
February 23	Tenley Heppermann	Dean Shaw
March 2	Owen Inselmann	Dahlia Payne
March 9	Tenley Heppermann	Emily Kuhn
March 16	Owen Inselmann	Audrey Lawson
March 23	Camden Junge	Alise Freebairn
March 30	Blyss Payne	Alise Freebairn
April 6	Camden Junge	Dean Shaw
April 13	Owen Inselmann	Blyss Payne
April 20	Camden Junge	Emily Kuhn
April 27	Owen Inselmann	Audrey Lawson
May 4	Camden Junge	Dean Shaw
May 11	Alise Freebairn	Audrey Lawson
May 18	Camden Junge	Emily Kuhn
May 25	Tara Beisiegel	Ryleigh Ribes
June 1	Tara Beisiegel	Ryleigh Ribes
June 8 Confirmation	Tenley Heppermann	Owen Inselmann

Communion Set-up/Clean-up			
Date	Set-Up	After 8:00 am	After 10:15am
Dec. 1	Lisa McDonald Jill Kettler	Jeanie Stumpf Sandy Dickens	Jim and Char Jacobs
Jan. 5, 2025	Karen Neff	Debbie Ross	Lauren Borger

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS
are done between church services in the parlor.

December 8	Phyllis Ellerbusch
January 12	Donna Asbridge

Benevolence Offering

The Benevolence offerings that you mark on your envelopes each month are Second Mile offerings for special mission projects.

Our November offering for Hitz Memorial Home was \$390.

December benevolence offerings will be for Hoyleton Children's Home.

Thank You!

Notes of Appreciation

From UniPress Kindercottage for St. Paul's contributions.

From the Lewis & Clark Habitat for Humanity for the donation of \$595

... Ways to Donate & Love Your Neighbors ...

Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry needs for December are:

Bath Tissue	Deodorant
Kleenex	Dish Detergent
Shampoo	Oatmeal

Thank you for helping those in need.

Freeburg Terrace Christmas Party

Freeburg Terrace is a 16-bed non-profit corporate intermediate care facility for individuals with developmental disabilities.

We will be taking the residents to Dairy Queen for lunch again this year. They really enjoy it!

If you would like to donate a gift for the residents, we suggest gift cards to Domino's, McDonald's, Dairy Queen, Dollar Tree, or cash.

Please give your gift to Jeanne and Lee Hartmann, the Church office, or in the offering plate marked "Freeburg Terrace."

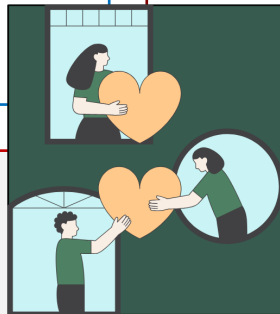
Please have your donation turned in by Sunday, December 8th. We will be taking them to Dairy Queen on Wednesday, **December 11th**.

Thank you!
Jeanne & Lee

HOSPITALIZED OR NEEDING MEDICAL CARE LAST MONTH



Rita Baker
Pat Groth
Sarah Becker



For the Youth at Hoyleton

The Hoyleton Giving Tree is in the foyer and decorated with ornaments full of Christmas wishes. Please take an ornament or two, sign the list with the corresponding number, and then shop for the gift listed. All instructions are on the back of the ornament as well. Please return the wrapped gifts to church or the office by **December 8th**. Thanks for all your support for Hoyleton!

Lending Closet

St. Paul's accepts and loans out clean, gently used medical equipment. If you have clean medical equipment in good working condition (walkers, wheelchairs, rollators, canes, etc.) that you are no longer using, please consider donating it to St. Paul's for this loaner program. If you or a loved one are in need of some type of medical equipment, contact the church office to check on availability.



NEED AN EASIER WAY TO GIVE?

Simply text "GIVE" to (618) 552-9327 or scan this QR code!



Silent Night Oh Holy Night.

... Committee Reports ...

Building & Grounds

The following projects have been addressed, and are either pending, in progress, or been completed:

1. Boxwood bushes replacement completed.
2. Church roof replacement completed.
3. Repair of concrete on the outside ramp completed.
4. Broken window above the entrance doors at the Ministry Center will be replaced by Freeburg Glass. Estimated cost \$1,800.
5. Floor squeaking, moving at the sanctuary entrance. Pending.
6. Dandy Lawn treated weeds and aerated/overseeded the church property for \$465.
7. Clean the concrete seams and install SL1 to prevent weeds around the church entrance. Pending.
8. Food & Clothing Bank parking lot needs resealed in 2025. Two bids were received: \$3,000 Sonnenberg and \$2,250 Rooters. F&C Board may help pay for this project.
9. List of possible end of the year projects:
 - Replace the lower level of the breezeway floor.
 - Replace parsonage driveway. Estimated cost \$5,500.
 - Install radon system in the Parsonage. Estimated cost \$1,500.

Next meeting: **Monday, December 2, at 7:00 pm.**

Church Council

Within the November meeting, one of the main topics of discussion was the search for new individuals to join our Church Council and various other committees. This is an exciting opportunity to actively participate in the vibrant life of our church. The Church Council, in particular, is more than just a monthly meeting group - it is a dedicated body that passionately guides our congregation and supports the growth and direction of the church.

Joining the Church Council or any other committee means becoming a vital part of a community that thrives on collaboration, faith, and service. If you have ever felt a calling to get more involved, now is a perfect time, and I encourage you to reach out to me directly (618-779-4091), as I would love to hear from anyone interested in learning more about these opportunities. Your unique talents and perspectives are what make our church family so special. Together, we can achieve wonderful things and continue to grow in faith and fellowship.

Chad Lindauer
Council Chair



Choir News from Andy Channer

The Chancel Choir will be presenting the Christmas cantata, "Come Worship the King!", **at the 8AM and 10:15AM services on December 22.** The cantata is filled with your favorite Christmas carols including "Mary, Did You Know?" by Mark Lowry and "Light of the World" by Lauren Daigle with a contemporary CD accompaniment and video.

We have 20 people who have been working very hard to share this Christmas gift with you. Please invite your family and friends to this uplifting and heart-warming Christmas Musical.



...Ministries ...

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS

Would your family like to light the Advent Candles during one of our Sunday services on December 1, 8, 15, or 22nd? Or even on Christmas Eve during our 7pm service? If so, please contact the church office or sign up in the narthex.

Church Mice

The Church Mice plan to meet at **9 a.m.** on Wednesday, **December 4th**, in the parlor to tend to odds & ends after the Christmas decorations have been hung.

Volunteers are always welcome to help with small tasks. Please talk to Char Jacobs for more information.

Women's Guild

The ladies of the Women's Guild made 32 wreaths to donate to Freeburg Care Center for the residents' room doors. An additional wreath was given to Duane Forcade as well.

Our next Guild meeting will be held on Tuesday, **December 10th**. Lunch at **12 noon** Followed by Christmas Bingo*

Hostesses for the Day:
Shirley Kuhn, Sandy Dickens, and
Cindy Owens

*Please bring a \$5-\$10 wrapped gift for the bingo prizes.

Christmas Cookie Cookbook

Have a favorite cookie recipe? Email it to Sandi at sandi@stpaulsfreeburg.org or drop it by the office by **December 5th** to include in our special Christmas Cookie Cookbook!

Cookies & Cocoa

Bake your favorite Christmas cookies (or any cookies), bring them to church, and help us package them with hot cocoa mix to deliver to the neighbors surrounding St. Paul's! What a great way to invite them to visit this holiday season!

DECEMBER 14TH — 10AM



...Ministries ...

Christmas Caroling

It's that time of year, and back by popular demand we will be Christmas caroling again on Saturday evening, **December 14th, from 6-8pm**. We will meet at the church and then take Opal, the bus, to the various venues for Christmas caroling. The last 3 years we have had a great time with a large group of carolers. Even if you don't think you can sing, the older shut-ins just enjoy the company of carolers singing Christmas songs, especially the excitement and energy of the younger carolers. Music and flashlights will be provided. After caroling, we will meet back at the church for hot chocolate and cookies. Please sign up in the Narthex or call Andy Channer at 618-398-7042 if you'd like to participate.

Children & Youth Ministries Christmas Program

The pre-k through 12th grade students will present their Christmas Program on Sunday, **December 15th, at 6pm**. Everyone is invited to hear about the true meaning of Christmas through the voices of our children and youth!

Family Fun Night

We had a blast at the Family Fun Night last month. Missed it? Make plans to join us at our next family event!



Youth Group

St. Paul's Youth Group is having a fundraiser!

Wall calendars and Christmas cards are available for purchase on Sundays after each service.

The calendars and a variety of card packs are \$10 each.

Youth Meals

Please consider providing a meal for our youth! No one has signed up yet to provide meals in December or January.

<https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/ykzm4k>

Please also consider donating cans of soda, mini water bottles, Gatorade, juice boxes, etc.

Visit the Turkeys!

The youth group created pumpkin turkeys which are located in the Baltz Parlor. Vote for your favorite by putting cash/change into the corresponding container. All proceeds support our mission trip to North Carolina next summer. We will be helping clean up and rebuild after the mass destruction of the recent floods.





December BIRTHDAYS



12/01 Bill Menn, Jr.
 12/02 Scott Weber
 12/03 Kathy Kromat
 12/03 Cathy Lindauer
 12/04 Ryleigh Ribes
 12/05 Sandy Schaufler
 12/06 Margot Lindauer
 12/07 Kent Beisiegel
 12/08 Heather Adamson
 12/09 Roger Skaer
 12/11 Lori Kaiser
 12/11 Koleson Skaer
 12/11 Ethan Smith
 12/12 Janice Menn
 12/12 Jerry Ruhmann, Jr.

12/14 Alyson Kapp
 12/15 Sheldon Wiskamp
 12/16 Scott Mueth
 12/17 Phyllis Ellerbusch
 12/18 Ava Savage
 12/21 Amanda Ekstrand
 12/22 Jamie Shook
 12/24 Howie Oldehoeft
 12/25 **Jesus Christ**
 12/25 Charlotte Kuhl
 12/25 Nik Skaer
 12/26 Colton Ribes
 12/27 Madison Schanuel
 12/28 Brady Bird
 12/29 Sebastian Philo

12/30 Vanessa Main
 12/30 Anthony Tragesser
 12/30 Bonnie Watters
 12/31 Shea Bergkoetter
 12/31 Lauren Borger
 12/31 Bradley Clossen



MERRY CHRISTMAS



Suggested Readings from The Library Nook

THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS
by Debbie Macomber

A WREATH OF SNOW
by Liz Curtis Higgs

*GOD'S STORY: FINDING MEANING FOR YOUR LIFE IN
GENESIS* by Anne Graham Lotz

WHISPERS OF HOPE, A 10-WEEK DEVOTIONAL PRAYER
by Beth Moore

GOD CREATED ME (a Children's Book)
by Laurence Rittenhouse

*IDEALS—CHRISTMAS ISSUE, A COLLECTION OF STORIES
AND POEMS FOR CHILDREN*

The Church Calendar ~ DECEMBER 2024

Normal Sunday Schedule

8:00 am & 10:15 am Worship

9:05 am Sunday School

Children's Church 10:15 am

First Sunday of the Month—Communion at both services

December

1—Advent Begins / Communion Sunday
 1—Poinsettia Orders Due
 2—Christian Ed meeting, 6:15pm
 2—Building & Grounds meeting, 7pm
 3—Food pantry, 2-4pm
 4—Church Mice, 9am
 5—Painting, 9am
 5—Cedar Trails service, 1pm
 8—Food collection Sunday
 8—Blood pressure checks between services
 8—Happy Birthday, Jesus! Party for Children, 9:05am
 8—Freeburg Lighted Christmas Parade, 5pm
 10—Women's Guild, noon
 10—Food pantry, 2-4pm

December

14—Cookies and Cocoa, 10am
 14—Christmas Caroling, 6pm
 15—Children & Youth Christmas Program, 6pm
 17—Church Council, 7pm
 19—Painting, 9am
 19—Pantry, 5pm
 21—Choir Cantata Dress Rehearsal, 10am
 22—"Come Worship the King" presentation, 8 & 10:15am
 23—Scope Deadline
 24—Christmas Eve Service, 7pm
 24—25 **MERRY CHRISTMAS!** (Office Closed)
 27—Food & Clothing Bank Clothing Sale, 9am
 29—**NO** Confirmation Classes
 Jan 1, 2025—HAPPY NEW YEAR! (Office Closed)

Normal Weekly Schedule

7th & 8th Grade Confirmation: Sunday 9:15 am

Celebrate Recovery: Sunday 7:00 pm (Baltz Parlor)

C.S. Lewis Bible Study: Monday 7:15 pm

Bible Study: Sunday 9:05 am, Tuesday at 7:00 pm (zoom)

Quilting: Tuesday & Thursday at 8:30 am (Ministry Building)

Boy Scouts: Tuesday 7:00 pm (Basement)

Choir Rehearsal: Wednesday at 6:00 pm

The Outlet: Wednesday 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm (Youth Room)

Faith Journey Rehearsal: Wednesday at 7:00 pm

"Reconfirmation": Thursday at 7:00 pm (Ministry Building)



ST. PAUL'S SCOPE published by
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
210 West White Street
Freeburg, IL 62243

St. Paul's SCOPE ~ December 2024

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
7 North Belleville Street
Freeburg, Illinois 62243

Mailing address:
210 W. White Street
Freeburg, IL 62243



Rev. Andrew Lovins, Pastor
Office Phone: 618-539-3262
Church Phone: 618-539-3962
Email address: churchoffice@stpaulsfreeburg.org
Web address: www.stpaulsfreeburg.org

**Faithful and Welcoming
Church**

Worship Services:

Sunday 8:00 & 10:15 AM
Sunday School 9:05 AM
Children's Church 10:15 AM