

March 14, 2021
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Virtual Worship

No matter who you are,
No matter where you are
On life's journey,
You are welcome here.

PRELUDE

Gaelic Air
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

arr. Keith Chapman

CHIMES

INTROIT

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
Chancel Choir

William B. Bradbury

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Matt Fitzgerald

One: Jesus, our Immanuel;

All: You reveal God to us.

One: Jesus, our Gate of Righteousness;

All: You open your door for us.

One: Jesus, our Cornerstone;

All: You build our lives.


One: Jesus, our Light;

All: You shine through us.


HYMN

There Is a Balm in Gilead
Led by Kurt R. Hansen


Refrain



There is a balm in Gil - e - ad To make the wound - ed whole,
There is a balm in Gil - e - ad to heal the sin - sick soul.



1. Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged And think my work's in vain,
2. If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, If you can - not pray like Paul,
3. Don't ev - er feel dis - cour - aged, For_ Je - sus is your friend;



But_ then the Ho - ly Spir - it Re - vives my soul a - gain.
you can tell the love of Je - sus, And say, "He died for all!"
And_ if you lack for knowl - edge He'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Jeff Carlson

**O God, we long to rest in you,
to trust in your goodness, in your care for us,
in your abundant life.
But we don't know how to rest
And we have forgotten how to trust:
We seek things that we don't really need.
We befriend people not always out of love.
We ask questions of you like the Sadducees did of Jesus,
questions that try only to prove our point,
not to grow in understanding of your desires for us.
Slow us down, Holy One.
Attend to us, Holy One,
Help us to embrace you as our salvation and our resting place.
Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Angi Miller

Psalm 118, selection

O give thanks to God, for God is good;
her steadfast love endures forever!
With God on my side I do not fear.
What can mortals do to me?
The Lord is on my side to help me.
It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to put confidence in mortals.
Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them.
I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it

Luke 20:9-19

Jesus began to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard, and leased it to tenants, and went to another country for a long time. In time he sent a servant back to the tenants so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard, but they beat him up and sent him off empty-handed. The landowner decided to try again and sent another servant. That one they beat also and treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. He tried a third time. And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. "Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'I know what I'll do: I'll send my beloved son. They're bound to respect my son.'

But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.' And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others." When they heard this, they said, "Surely not!" But he looked directly at them and said, "What then is this that is written:

"'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'?

The scribes and the chief priests sought to lay hands on him at that very hour, for they perceived that he had told this parable against them, but they feared the people.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

**We believe in God who has created and is creating,
who has come to us in Jesus Christ to reconcile and make us new,
who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.**

**We trust God. God calls us to be the Church,
to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to care for creation,
to seek justice and to resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

In life and death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

(adapted from the United Church of Canada)

SERMON "Cornerstones" Sarah Garcia

MEDITATION *Simple Song* Leonard Bernstein
from Mass
Margot Frank

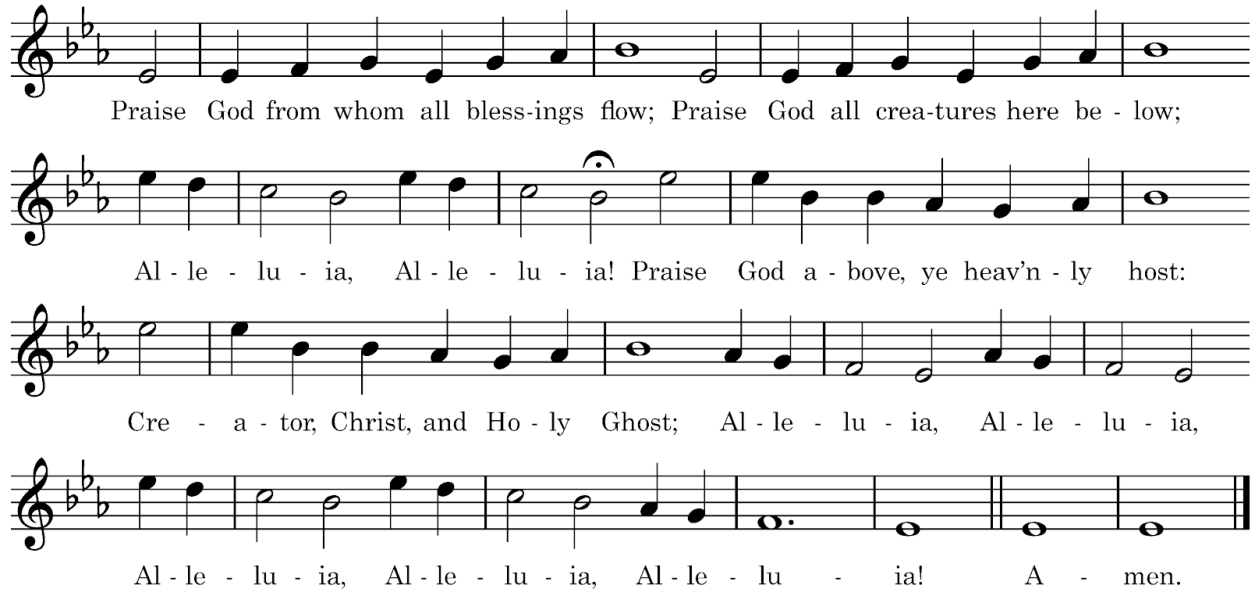
OFFERING INVITATION Benny VanDerburgh

OFFERTORY *Crucifixus* Antonio Lotti
Chancel Choir

He was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered, and was buried.

Give to St. Pauls at spucc.churchcenter.com or with Zelle to giving@spucc.org

FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here be - low;
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:
Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost; Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Benny VanDerburgh

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

TRIO

You Are the New Day

John David

Jennifer Kew, Christie DeForest and Shannon Banjavcic

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE



A - men, A - men, A - - - men.

POSTLUDE

Just a Closer Walk With Thee
Brendan Henry, piano

African-American
arr. Brendan Henry

Coffee Hour is on Zoom!

*Using a computer or smartphone app, use Meeting ID: **882 5733 7213**, Pswd: **Coffee**
By phone, dial **(312) 626-6799**, Meeting ID: **882 5733 7213**, Password: **530750**.*

To help contain the spread of COVID-19, worship at Saint Pauls will be streamed online until further notice. Worship services are streamed on Sundays at 10 a.m. Central, and re-streamed every day at 10 a.m., 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Central, on Saint Pauls website, spucc.org/streaming.

*You can also call in to listen to our services at **(312) 626-6799** at 10 a.m. Central on Sundays and use Meeting ID: **816 5093 8507**, Password: **459359***

If you would like someone to pray with you this week, Clergy and Stephen Ministers are available for phone calls.

PARAMENTS pictured in this week's virtual worship are the beautiful work of Deborah Grant Rose.

VIRTUAL WORSHIP PRODUCTION TEAM

Chuck Kent

Mary Beth Hughes, Big Thinking By The Hour

Jim Courtright, Big Thinking By The Hour

VIRTUAL MUSIC PRODUCTION TEAM

Kevin Dzierzawski

Breanna Coe

Kristofer Hansen

Matt Plaskota

A Gift has been made in memory of Larry Butcher by Mark Clark.

BORN THIS WEEK IN MARCH

We celebrate and give thanks for your life at St. Pauls.

A perfect way to celebrate is by giving one dollar for each year of your life to our Birthday Fund, which supports A Just Harvest.

Mar 14 Juanita Barlow

Mar 15 Breanna Coe, Eve Davis, Gail Renfrow, Lee Ballard, Mila Mussatt

Mar 16 Kesner Bienvenu, Muzette Morgan

Mar 17 Julia Spainhour, Louise Brach-Spivey, Isla Bartels

Mar 18 Ross Penniman

Mar 19 Samer Bashiti

Mar 20 Andrew Winking, Ben Johnson, David Campbell, Elena Cata

LENT & EASTER

View the Announcement section for information and registration for events.

SERVICES

Sundays of Lent | March 14, 21

10:00 AM - Virtual Worship, Sing the Psalms with Jesus

Palm Sunday | March 28

10:00 AM - Palm branches ([Pickup March 20](#))

Maundy Thursday | April 1

7:00 PM, Zoom - Dinner Church: eat, sing, pray

Good Friday | April 2

7:30 PM - Communion, Tenebrae with choir

Easter Sunday | April 4

10:00 AM - Communion, choir, brass

ACTIVITIES

Lenten Movie Group

7:00 PM, Zoom - Sundays: March 14, 21

Lenten Bible Study | Psalms for the Journey

12:00 PM, Zoom - Wednesdays: March 17, 24, 31

Mid-Week Prayer Services

8:00 PM, Zoom - Thursday: March 18

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS

Celebrate or remember a loved one by ordering a flowering plant for the Easter Festival Altar. You can either order a flower for pickup, or donate flowers to be delivered to our senior members and local charities.

Registrations must be completed **by March 30** for inclusion in the Easter Bulletin. spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/752085

OUTREACH AND BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE GRANT UPDATE

St. Pauls and First Congregational of Western Springs teamed up and made a \$10,000 donation to RIP Medical Debt. Their mission is to abolish medical debt for low income families. As a result of our contribution, they were able to purchase and forgive \$1,558,269 of medical debt. This represented 1,119 recipients in Cook County who are so grateful for our help. Just another example of how members of St. Pauls are making a difference in the lives of so many.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM (CEP)

Do you miss serving CEP meals? Team up with fellow St. Pauls members to provide *part of* a lasagna supper for 35 shelter guests at LPCS, 1521 N. Sedgwick. We need volunteers to provide 3 more lasagnas and dessert for drop-off **Sunday, March 28**. If you are interested in participating, or are looking for other ways to help our neighbors experiencing homelessness, please contact Jennifer Kew at CEPsupper@gmail.com.

2021 PLEDGE & GIVING INFORMATION

Thank you to everyone who has filled out a pledge card for 2021! Your pledges help us plan and budget for the upcoming year, and your generous support of Saint Pauls is greatly needed and much appreciated.

- If you were using our previous giving portal to send Saint Pauls a recurring donation towards your pledge, you will need to cancel it and set up a new recurring donation in Church Center **by the end of March**, at spucc.churchcenter.com. Email bookkeeper@spucc.org for help.

LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SERVICES NEEDS YOUR HELP!

This St. Pauls founded organization provides comprehensive social services to our neighbors experiencing homelessness. LPCS is looking for volunteers to provide meals during this time. Open dates are: **March 24, April 14, 21**. Please contact Sally Fletcher to sign up at sfletcher1443@gmail.com, or (312) 848-5400. Needed are 35 lunches, including 3 vegetarian, at the 600 W. Fullerton location on each of these days. For other LPCS volunteer opportunities, visit their website at lpcschicago.org to get involved, or contact volunteer coordinator Jameela Chaudhry at volunteer@lpcschicago.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MAR 14 - LENT MOVIE GROUP - 7 p.m., Zoom

Discussion each Sunday thru March 21. We will watch the movies on our own and then discuss together on Zoom. Our movie tonight is *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* (2018), the Mr. Rogers documentary, which is available on Amazon Prime and Youtube for a small fee. Discussion will be led by Pastoral Intern Benny VanDerburgh. Email Pastor Matt for the link, mfitzgerald@spucc.org.

MAR 16 - WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - 7:30 p.m., Zoom

Please join us as we read *The Time is Now: A Call to Uncommon Courage* by Joan Chittister. We will discuss the first half of the book on this day. All are welcome. Email Corie Gallemore for more information: corie.gallemore@gmail.com.

MAR 17 - LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: PSALMS FOR THE JOURNEY - 12 p.m., Zoom

Email Pastor Jeff for more information, jcarlson@spucc.org.

Register at spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/761734.

MAR 18 - MID-WEEK PRAYER SERVICES - 8 p.m., Zoom

Join a pastor, members and friends for weekly Lenten prayer services.

Get the Zoom link at spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/733563

MAR 20 - PALM PICKUP - 10-11:30 a.m., Parking Lot

Pick up palm fronds and crosses on Saturday, March 20, in the Church Parking Lot and have your picture taken waving palms for the virtual Palm Sunday service.

MAR 24 - BOOK DISCUSSION: HOW TO FIGHT RACISM - 5 p.m., Zoom

How can you individually, or we as a church, act to promote racial justice? Join our three-part exploration, using Jemar Tisby's *How to Fight Racism: Courageous Christianity and the Journey toward Racial Justice*. This timely book attempts to move beyond talking about racism to equipping people with practical tools to fight against it. Cindy Ball will lead the series. We will meet the fourth Wednesday of the month at 5 p.m. The one-hour sessions are:

- March 24 - Focus on Awareness, pp. 1-84
- April 28 - Focus on Relationships, pp. 85-140
- May 26 - Focus on Commitment, pp. 141-206

We encourage those purchasing books to consider independent Black, Indigenous or People of Color (BIPOC)-owned bookstores. For additional information and to register, contact Cindy Ball, cindyzinn11@gmail.com.

MAR 29 - BOOK DISCUSSION: THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME - 7 p.m., Zoom

The Long, Classic Novels Reading Group's first book for 2021 is Victor Hugo's work that had for its original title *Notre Dame de Paris*, indicating that the cathedral in the heart of Paris is the main character of this novel. Hugo wrote this book in part to make his contemporaries aware of the value of preserving the beautiful Gothic architecture falling apart around them. The cathedral is the stage for a story about good and evil and the nature of true beauty and ugliness. Coming up:

The Once and Future King - June Discussion

The Count of Monte Cristo - September and December Discussions.

To join RSVP to - jcarlson@spucc.org.

OPPORTUNITIES

CHURCH CENTER is our new portal for the Saint Pauls community! If you haven't yet, get started on a computer or smart device at spucc.churchcenter.com, or by downloading the "Church Center App" and using "60614" in the manual search during app setup. You'll see our Saint Pauls logo in the top results. On Church Center, you can see our calendar, register for events, update your contact information, join and view our photo directory, manage your online donations and see your giving history, and more!

CONNECTORS reach out providing networking and support for members and friends of St. Pauls. Membership is open to all who have the time and the inclination to help. Contact Marcia Volk at marcia@volkonline.com.

EMAIL LIST SIGN-UP - Are you new to St. Pauls and want to get more connected, or have you been a longtime friend and missed signing up for our email? Either way, you can go here: spucc.org/connect-learn/signups to fill out our virtual fellowship card to begin receiving our weekly email and special congregational emails, introduce yourself and receive a call from a pastor, request more information about Children and Youth Programming, and more!

FAITH IN ACTION – Some people call it showing up for a protest. Others call it public witness for the values inherent in our faith. Most of us appreciate being able to do both with like-minded congregational members. We are continually building a Faith-in-Action list of people who wish to receive notice of such protests and gatherings – frequently on short notice due to swift governmental action. Please join this email list by contacting Claire Higgins at chiggins@spucc.org.

FAITH AND PUBLIC ISSUES – Help us connect our faith to critical public issues. Do you wish you knew more from a faith perspective about current issues that are important to our public life? Racism, climate change, immigration, to name a few? FPI programs provide opportunities to ask questions, help us understand issues in depth, and discuss possible action. The FPI Task Force plans these programs and we could use your ideas. Contact Toby Rogers at toby@rogers-home.com for information about meetings.

GIFTS, PASSIONS, SKILLS – If you have not already completed our GPS Survey, please go to forms.gle/jK54YezLs8Ea27uW8 to fill it out. This is an important component of our overall member engagement initiative, as mentioned in the November 10, 2019 congregational meeting. If you prefer to complete a paper document, they are available on the front counter of the office next to the labeled return box. Thank you in advance for your participation.

GREEN TEAM Help us as a congregation live out what we say in our Statement of Faith: God calls us to care for creation. This is the perfect time to plan, as we prepare to reenter and reimagine our common bodily life together. Joe Womack and Jan Fraccaro have volunteered to co-chair our efforts, both bringing a great deal of experience and ideas. To attend, or to be in the email list for future meetings, email Jan at jan.fraccaro@gmail.com.

LITTLE LIGHTS is a St. Pauls early childhood program with classes for 2, 3, and 4-year olds. We are now accepting applications for 2021. Check out www.littlelightslp.org. Email Little Lights Director Erin Fitzgerald at littlelights@spucc.org.

NEW OR EXPECTING PARENTS – If you have a new baby or are expecting a baby, please let Corie Gallemore know so that we can find ways to support you (meals, prayer, etc.). Email Corie at corie.gallemore@gmail.com.

OUTREACH AND BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE – Do you have a passion for reaching out to others? The St. Pauls O&B Committee would love to have you join us in keeping our church engaged in community outreach. For more information contact Pauline Taylor, paulinetaylor933@gmail.com, or Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org.

PARENTS OF LITTLE ONES (POLO) has play dates, Moms night out, Dads night out, family pizza parties, prayer groups, and more activities to support families with little ones between the ages of 0 and 5. If you have young children and would like to get involved, please contact Joanne Tong at jctong@yahoo.com.

PASTORS' VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

Want to talk? We are here for you! You can always reach out to one of our pastors, but we are also offering regularly scheduled virtual office hours. To “drop in” during virtual office hours, contact a pastor to make an appointment.

Pastor Sarah: Mondays 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Benny, Pastoral Intern: Mondays, 3-5 p.m.

Pastor Matt: Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Pastor Jeff: Fridays, 3-5 p.m.

SAINT PAULS SOCIAL – Get better acquainted with other adults at St. Pauls. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Jen Luerksen at jenluerksen@yahoo.com. Subscribe to the distribution list at eepurl.com/gQ4Eg1, or look out for future events announced in the bulletin calendar.

SAINT PAULS TOGETHER – Our Facebook Group, “Saint Pauls Together,” is for St. Pauls Members and Friends to connect and share uplifting thoughts and stories. Check out our Facebook Page to request an invitation if you’re a member or friend!

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS – If you’re in need of support through a tough time and would like to be matched with someone who would support you with companionship and prayer, or you’re feeling called to offer support, speak to Pastor Jeff Carlson (jcarlson@spucc.org), Marti Pechnyo (mpechnyo@gmail.com), or Barb Kaiser (bkaiser2213@gmail.com).

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY – Now meeting every Wednesday at noon via Zoom. Newcomers are always welcome. Increase your faith and your knowledge of the Bible. RSVP: Pastor Jeff at jcarlson@spucc.org to get the Zoom link.

YOUNG ADULTS – A group for fun and fellowship for folks in their twenties and thirties. All are welcome! Volunteers needed! Any ideas for future events? Email them at youngadults@spucc.org.

ZOOM MEETINGS – The St. Pauls Zoom account is available to start or continue groups. Email Claire Higgins at chiggins@spucc.org to schedule your meeting.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send any announcements you would like in the following week's bulletin or Friday email to chiggins@spucc.org no later than 10 a.m. on Tuesday.

Verbal announcements are due by Wednesdays at noon.

Please limit announcements to 100 words. Thank you!

SAINT PAULS PRAYS

Please clip this page and pray for those who are named below. To have your prayer request included, simply ask a pastor in person, on the phone or by email.

Our practice is to run each prayer request for four weeks and then remove it. If you would like to continue a prayer request after four weeks, let a pastor know.

- The Johnson/Fayhee family. Micki Fayhee's godmother and aunt, Janice C. Snow, died last week in Florida.
- Friends of Larry Butcher, who died last Wednesday.
- Al Cerkan, hospitalized for tests.
- Family and friends of Gay Kelly's dad, who passed away.
- Juanita Barlow, recovering from a procedure on a blood vessel.
- Gloria Joseph and sons John and Adam at the death of her husband, Nial.
- Rod Sippy, recovering from a heart procedure.
- Phill, brother of Bob Ball, diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia and beginning many medical treatments.
- Loved ones of Amy Newman at her death, especially her children Alyssa and Miles Van Denburg.
- Young adults trying to find their place in the world.
- Couples navigating pregnancy in a covid world.
- Juggling working from home, Zoom school and family life.
- Marci, Gloria Joseph's friend, who recently suffered a stroke.
- Greg Mooney and family at the death of Sheryl.
- Carrie Brugger's brother, Steve, and family at the death of his wife, Barb.
- Juanita Barlow's sister, Maria Dolores Guadalupe, recovering from a stroke.
- The Rieck family at the death of Shirley.
- The Nietzsche family at the tragic death of Dan.
- Jan Bail's sister, Marty, diagnosed with cancer.
- Michael VanZeyl's Aunt Betty, hospitalized, and Laura VanZeyl's parents, Lionel and Donna, coping with isolation.
- Carole Crowley, recovering from a stroke.
- Karl Wirsum, receiving care at home.

Prayer, Support, Mental Health Resources

Even when you walk through the valley of shadows, God is with you. If you or someone you love is feeling completely alone or like life doesn't matter, reach out for help. Help is available for every kind of issue. Contact one of the pastors today for support, referrals, and information that can help you and your loved ones.

ABOUT ST. PAULS
Making a Joyful Sound in the City!

Saint Pauls UCC has a vibrant history in the city of Chicago. Founded in 1843, we are one of the city's oldest churches. In 1989, we became one of America's first congregations to declare ourselves "Open and Affirming" of LGBTQ women and men.

From founding Chicago's largest provider of social services to at-risk children to starting a home for the elderly, from housing protestors at the 1968 Democratic Convention to hosting Lincoln Park's first MLK day march against violence on Chicago's streets, we are proud to make a joyful sound in the city.

Most important, over the past 177 years we are glad to have introduced thousands of children and adults to the amazing, inclusive, life changing, uplifting love of God. We do so in worship that is traditional, but far from conventional.

St. Pauls United Church of Christ
2335 North Orchard Street Chicago, Illinois 60614
(773) 348-3829 FAX (773) 348-3858
www.spucc.org

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Kecia Waldschmidt, *Youth Choir Director*, keciagerman@hotmail.com
Mark Mosley, *Intergenerational Orchestra Director*, mwmosley@gmail.com
Kevin O'Brien, *Lay Liturgical Administrator*, kkobrien48@hotmail.com



WELCOME TO SAINT PAULS UCC!

Welcome to those whose hearts are on fire with faith,
and to those who bring their doubt inside our doors.

Welcome to our first time guests and
our longtime members.

Welcome to single people, tiny children,
grandparents and families of all configurations.

Welcome to those who rejoice and to those who grieve.

Welcome to each and to everyone.

We are an Open and Affirming church.

We welcome all.

We are blessed by your presence and
we are glad you are here.