



July 29, 2018

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

Please silence cell phones.

Bibles for use during worship are available at each entrance to the Sanctuary.

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"I did not know what love was until I encountered one that kept opening, and opening, and opening."
Christian Wiman

PRELUDE

Prelude Modal

J. Langlais
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

WELCOME

Jeff Carlson

*WELCOMING EACH OTHER

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In the beginning was the Word.

All: God, speak a new beginning into our world!

One: In the beginning, God said, "Let there be light!"

All: God, shine your light upon us!

One: In the beginning God said, "Let there be life!"

All: God, breathe new life into our bones!

One: And God saw that it was good.

All: It is good to sing praise to the Giver of life!

**Please stand if you are able*

*HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Black Hymnal No. 1

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, your great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Not wanting, not wasting, but ruling in might;
Your justice like mountains high soaring above,
Your clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Your life is life-giving to both great and small;
In all life you're living, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves and as flowers,
Then wither and perish but naught dims your powers.

So perfect your glory, so brilliant your light,
Your angels adore you, all veiling their sight;
All praise we now render as your angels do:
In awe at the splendor of light hiding you.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Marti Pechnyo

**O God, maker of heaven and earth,
You love us with unfailing, boundless mercy.
You place us in your creation and command us to care for it,
but we do not listen.
You ask us to love, but we walk away from neighbors in need,
wrapped in our own concerns.
We have become estranged from all creatures
with whom we share this planet.
You have so inseparably woven us all together,
and yet we act as though we do not need each other.
God of grace, we are so very sorry.
We admit our sins and, for the sake of all creation,
we gratefully receive your forgiveness through Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RESPONSE

Black Hymnal No. 454, v. 1

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

THE BIBLICAL WORD FOR THIS DAY

Mary Brown

Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

*A 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)

*RESPONSE

Black Hymnal No. 454, v. 2

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

*HYMN

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

How wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. Ephesians 3:18

1. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, Vast, un - mea - sured, bound - less, free,
 2. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus - Spread His praise from shore to shore!
 3. O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, Love of ev - ery love the best;

Roll - ing as a might - y o - cean In its full - ness o - ver me.
 How He lov - eth, ev - er lov - eth, Chang - eth nev - er, nev - er - more;
 'Tis an o - cean vast of bless - ing, 'Tis a ha - ven sweet of rest.

Un - der - neath me, all a - round me, Is the cur - rent of Thy love;
 How He watch - es o'er His loved ones, Died to call them all His own;
 O the deep, deep love of Je - sus, 'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;

Lead - ing on - ward, lead - ing home - ward To my glo - rious rest a - bove.
 How for them He in - ter - ced - eth, Watch - eth o'er them from the throne.
 And it lifts me up to glo - ry, For it lifts me up to Thee.

TEXT: Samuel Trevor Francis
 MUSIC: Thomas J. Williams

EBENEZER
 8.7.8.7.D.

OFFERTORY

The Time for Turning
The Altos of the Chancel Choir

Tune: Salley Gardens
arr. Craig Courtney

To ev'rything a season, to ev'rything a time;
a moment to move forward and leave the past behind.
As summer turns to autumn and bids farewell to spring,
there comes a time for turning to ev'ry living thing.
The breezes change direction, the geese turn homeward bound.
The leaf turns from its clinging and falls upon the ground.
The flower turns from blooming to slumber in the snow.
And so to all a season, a time for letting go.
Now is the time for turning and this the place to start;
for yielding to the yearning, for changing of the heart;
a moment to surrender the things we should release,
forgive and find forgiveness, and in forgiveness, peace.

Text by Pamela Martin, inspired by Ecclesiastes 3:1-7

*FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Rick Peterson

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.**

*HYMN

Praise to the Living God

Black Hymnal No. 8

Praise to the living God, the God of love and light,
Whose word brought forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight;
Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,
Pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.

Praise to the living God, from whom all things derive,
Whose Spirit formed upon this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
Who caused them to evolve, unwitting toward God's goal,
Till humankind stood on the earth, as living, thinking souls.

Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain,
Who shares with us our common life, the sacred and profane.
God toils where'er we toil, in home and mart and mill;
And deep within the human heart God leads us forward still.

Praise to the living God, around, within, above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love.
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Amen, amen, amen

POSTLUDE

Antiphon V

M. Dupré
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

***If you would like someone to pray with you today, Stephen Ministers are present
after the postlude at the right front of the Sanctuary.***

***Following Worship, all are invited for coffee and snacks
downstairs in the Social Hall.***

TODAY'S OFFERTORY is based on an English folksong, Salley Gardens, and was first mentioned by William Butler Yeats. It takes its tune name from his poem of the same title. It has been set many times as a hymn and also as a folk song arrangement by composers like Vaughan Williams, Britten, Ireland, and Gurney. We thank the Altos of the Chancel Choir for providing our Offertory anthem.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, Fred Pearson, Peg Wander, Bev Petrunich

Head Greeter: Greg Mooney

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

Leading in worship today are some of our Stephen Ministers. Stephen Ministers are compassionate listeners who are here for support in a time of crisis or change. If you'd like to know more please contact Pastor Jeff.

Pastor Matt is on vacation until August 23rd. Pastor Sarah is leading worship today at the church retreat in Michigan.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are in celebration of Christine Weible-Cruz's birthday from her loving parents, and her husband José.

BORN THIS WEEK IN JULY

Donations to the Birthday Fund support A Just Harvest

We celebrate and give thanks for your life at St. Pauls. A perfect way to celebrate and help St. Pauls: give one dollar for each year of your life to our Birthday Fund.

July 29 Ann Hansen, Gerald Wilk

July 30 Bob Kuba, Diane Biegert, Emma Braband, Shirley Rieck

July 31 Evan O'Brien, Kathryn Abercrombie

Aug 1 Becky Burton, Cheryl Kennedy, Kevin Dzierzawski

Aug 2 Lydia Busker, Rory Palm, Shannon Banjavcic

Aug 3 Jensen Rohlfs

Aug 4 Brianna Love, Marah Marshall, Nicole Miller, Zoe Lawrence

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EPHESIANS SUMMER SERMON SERIES - This summer's sermon texts are from the book of Ephesians. This letter invites an incredibly diverse group of Christians to expand our imaginations. Our lives are part of something vast, hopeful and wonderful that God is up to in the universe and we're invited to grow together into God's dream for the world.

LINCOLN AVENUE PARKING GARAGE CONSTRUCTION - Starting Friday, August 17, the main north entrance of the Lincoln Avenue parking garage will be closed for construction for approximately three months. The parking lot will be accessible via the south entrance of the garage also located on Lincoln Avenue. Visit LincolnCommon.com for additional project details.

CHURCH GRANDPARENTS - We will pair Saint Pauls "grand members" with church families who have infants and young children. As these new friendships form, each will take its own shape. Activities could include praying for each other, reading stories, visiting, etc. Saint Pauls older members are incredible people! Saint Pauls young families are remarkable, as well. Let's get to know each other. You can still sign up by emailing Pastor Sarah at sgarcia@spucc.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED FOR NEXT YEAR - If you enjoy being with children and are interested and willing to explore the Christian faith with them, you should consider being a Sunday School teacher. We have teaching teams so you do not have to teach every Sunday. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Sarah sgarcia@spucc.org.

FEED THE HUNGRY - Open dates in July, August, and September for Community Engagement Program (CEP) meals. Each week St. Pauls welcomes homeless and hungry people to Sunday dinner. Volunteers prepare and serve dinner. To find available dates and to sign up, contact Brent Carstensen at bcarsten959@yahoo.com.

ST. PAULS SUMMER CAMP FOR KIDS, July 5 - August 3.

We're offering half-day camp for 2 and 3-year-olds and full day camp for 4 to 12-year-olds. Also, we're offering before and after-care. Campers play in the local parks, go to the zoo, beach, museums, pool, and have tons of fun! Email Sarah Garcia at sgarcia@spucc.org for more information.

AUGUST 6 - CHRISTIANITY 101, 7:30 p.m., Parlor.

Join Pastor Jeff and fellow young adults for a lively discussion of the real-life questions we face in our daily lives. There is no need to prepare in advance. Email Hannah at youngadults@spucc.org with RSVP or questions.

OPPORTUNITIES

ST. PAULS SOCIAL - Get better acquainted with other adults at St. Pauls. If interested in hosting, please contact Jen Luerssen at jenluerssen@yahoo.com and stay tuned for future events.

ALTAR FLOWER SIGN UP - Providing flowers for the altar is a great way to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or honor someone special in your life. You can sign up in the Social Hall or online at <http://tinyurl.com/h55pl82>. There are many Sundays available, but be sure to sign up early so you can bring flowers on your preferred date. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

AMAZON SMILE - Support St. Pauls when buying Amazon products, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from eligible purchases to St. Pauls. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/2179808>.

COLLEEN HENRY WRITING CENTER - Tutors Needed

This program at Lincoln Park High School was initiated by St. Pauls and developed in connection with the English and Social Studies Departments. Tutors volunteer two hours once a week, Monday through Thursday. Training and mentoring are available. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Nancy Brandt, nhbrandt@sbcglobal.net.

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.

CONSIDER THE LILIES - Deliver our Sunday altar flowers to members and friends who need to know St. Pauls is thinking of them. If you would like to be part of this initiative, please contact Maureen Grunst at mvgrunst@gmail.com.

FAITH IN ACTION - Saint Pauls Strategic Plan calls us to be “Increasingly bold and active as we try to live out our faith in an age of rising injustice.” If you would like to receive advance notice of protests and actions that call for our faithful witness, join the Faith in Action email list by contacting Anna Sardar at asardar@spucc.org.

FAITH AND PUBLIC ISSUES - Whether you're interested in supporting women or LGBTQ persons or immigrants and refugees, or interested in planning programs on critical issues, you can find St. Pauls people involved and join them now. Contact Toby Rogers at toby@rogers-home.com for more information.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT - Visit our Food for Thought blog
<http://www.spucc.org/blogs/food-for-thought>.

GET YOUR NEW NAME TAG! - Email Virgie at vberry@spucc.org.

LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SHELTER NEEDS OVERNIGHT VOLUNTEERS

- To sign up: volunteer@lpcsonline.org or call 773-549-6111.

LITTLE LIGHTS is a St. Pauls early childhood program with classes for 2, 3, and 4-year-olds. We are now accepting applications for 2018-2019. Check out www.littlelightslp.org. Email Virgie Berry at vberry@spucc.org.

LONG, CLASSIC NOVEL READING GROUP - Summer/Fall book is Victor Hugo's classic "Les Miserables." First half discussion: Sept. 17, 7 p.m., Parlor. New members are always welcome. For more information or to RSVP: Jeff Carlson at jcarlson@spucc.org.

NEW OR EXPECTING PARENTS - If you have a new baby or are expecting a baby, please let Corie know so that we can find ways to support you (meals, prayer, etc.) and so that we can inform you of opportunities in our Parents of Little Ones (POLO) group. Also, let her know if you have small children and are new to the church. Contact Corie Gallemore at corie.gallemore@gmail.com.

SARAH'S SISTERS gather every Wednesday morning to make 40 bag lunches to be distributed to homeless people. Come to the church kitchen at 9:30 a.m.

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).

SAINT PAULS BASKETBALL WEDNESDAYS - 7 p.m. Our weekly pickup game is co-ed. Ages range widely and skill levels go from from enthusiastic to "I think she played in college, you guard her." All are welcome! pastormatt@spucc.org.

ST. PAULS PLAYGROUP for children from birth to 3 years old in the church Nursery. Drop in anytime from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Wednesdays.
Corie Gallemore at corie.gallemore@gmail.com.

WANT MORE VARIETY AT COFFEE HOUR? - Sign up to bring it at
<http://www.signupgenius.com/index.cfm?go=w.ProcessDateWindow>.

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.

YOUTH GROUP for kids in 4th-8th grade. Meets each Tuesday from 4-6 p.m. in the gym. Pizza dinner, fun, and Christian fellowship. Contact Pastor Sarah for more details at sgarcia@spucc.org.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send any announcements you would like in the following week's Friday email to announcements@spucc.org no later than 10 a.m. on Tuesday. Please limit announcements to 70 words. Thank you.

SAINT PAULS PRAYS

Please clip this page, take it home and pray for those who are named below. We only print requests we receive. To make a request, simply ask a pastor in person, on the phone or by email. Our new 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.

- Bruce Voice's sister Valerie facing several health problems.
- Wayne Bradley dealing with health problems.
- Darlene Braun in the hospital recovering from surgery.
- Larry Howell undergoing chemo with complications.
- Rob Castle's mother, Kathie, in hospice care for Alzheimer's.
- Larry Howell, recovering from kidney stone surgery and suffering from lymphoma.
- Ivy's brother and his wife, who are going through serious financial difficulty.
- Don Vossburg, former St. Pauls member.
- Maryn, 6-year-old friend of the Ashley family, with a rare brain tumor.
- Betty Voice, recovering from knee surgery.
- Marti Pechnyo's friend, Jane, being treated for ovarian cancer.
- Dorothy, in hospice care.
- For real change to dramatically reduce gun violence.
- Dede Koldyke, beating cancer.
- Bobbi Gannello, diagnosed with lymphoma.
- Amy Newman's sister, Linda, being treated for cancer.
- Carole Crowley, recovering from a stroke.
- All those struggling to conceive.
- All those struggling with eating disorders.

You are beloved - to others, to the world you live in, and most importantly, to God. God knows your struggles and failures, as well as your joys and triumphs. Even when you walk through the valley of shadows, God is with you. If you or someone you love has lost hope, is feeling completely alone or like life doesn't matter, reach out for help. Contact one of the pastors today for information about mental health care advocacy and resources that can help you and your loved ones. Contact information for the pastors is at the back of this bulletin.

St. Pauls UCC 20/20 Vision Implementation
July 1, 2018

Introduction

Over the past two months, we have shared the objectives and tactics of our Vision 20/20 plan with pastors, committees and task forces charged with implementation. Each committee/task force will develop over the summer a specific plan and timeline for implementation. Meanwhile see below for tasks that have been completed or are ongoing, and those that are in progress.

David Baker, Chair, 20/20 Vision Committee

Completed/Ongoing

God is calling us to grow toward each other...

- New “Lectio Divina” prayer groups led by St. Pauls members
- Revised membership process involving longtime members as “Shepherds.”
- On June 22nd, sent 50 St. Pauls adults and youth to Puerto Rico for a ten day work project to help rebuild the hurricane-ravaged island.

God is calling us to growing toward God together...

- Dinner church.
- Pancake Church
- Prayer groups.
- Continue Youth Education Opportunities and ways to fold youth into church life.

Increasing diversity in our partnerships and congregation...

- Ensure Sunday School curriculum and materials are diverse.
- Ensure hiring process is diverse.
- Expand church youth population.

Living our faith in an age of injustice

Initiated a petition to the Governor seeking his signature on gun trafficking legislation.

Formal church participation in the March for Our Lives, one other gun control rally, and the recent rally protesting the separation of families at the Mexican border.

Using our building for service and mission

- Established Building Task Force that met three times and initiated research to determine short term revenue generation and long term use strategies.

Tending our finances faithfully...

- 2018 pledges exceeded 2017 by 6% and grew 36% over 2015. When a \$50,000 special gift in 2017 is subtracted, total dollar change was 6% over 2017, and 25% over 2015. 2017 total giving exceeded \$1 million for the first time in St. Pauls history.
- Initiated "text giving" program for instant giving by visitors and new members.
- Began planning for 2018 capital campaign to be launched in fall, 2018.

In Progress

Increasing diversity in our partnerships and congregation...

- Invite partner ministries to regularly worship at St. Pauls.

Living our faith in an age of injustice...

- Social justice table.
- Social justice in sermons.
- Broaden visibility of existing social justice opportunities.

Using our building for service and mission...

Tending our finances faithfully...

- Educate new members on financial health of the church.
- Develop planned giving approach.

NOTES

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NOTES

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 to and Affirming of" LGBT 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 importantly, over the past 174 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.

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www.spucc.org

Matt Fitzgerald, *Senior Pastor*, mfitzgerald@spucc.org

Jeff Carlson, *Associate Pastor*, jcarlson@spucc.org

Sarah Garcia, *Associate Pastor for Children and Youth*, sgarcia@spucc.org

Karen E. Johnson, *President of the Congregation*, kejpliano@aol.com

Tom Henry, *Pastor Emeritus*, emeritushenry@gmail.com

Kurt R. Hansen, *Music Director*, kurtsingsbach@gmail.com

Kevin Dzierzawski, *Organist*, kdzierza@att.net

Brendan Henry, *Pianist*, brendanpherry@hotmail.com

Nancy Voigts, *Children's Choir Director*, nvoigtsgod@att.net

Kecia Waldschmidt, *Youth Choir Director*, keciagerman@hotmail.com

Kristofer Hansen, *Joyful Sounds Choir Co-Director*, TheBeatB0xer1995@gmail.com

Mark Mosley, *Intergenerational Orchestra Director*, mwmosley@gmail.com

Tom Vaitsas, *Pianist*, tomvaitsas@gmail.com

Kevin O'Brien, *Lay Liturgical Administrator*, kkobrien48@hotmail.com

Free Parking is available on Sundays from 9am-1pm at Children's Memorial Hospital
2300 Block of North Lincoln Ave. – Vouchers Not Needed



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.