

Communion Sunday  
January 28, 2018

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

*Worship begins with chimes.  
The Prelude is a time of reflection and preparation for the worship of God.  
**Please silence cell phones.**  
Bibles for use during worship are available at each entrance to the Sanctuary.*

#### THOUGHTS FOR PREPARATION

"If it please God, let less happen... Unlean against our hearts. Withdraw your grandeur from these parts."

Kay Ryan

#### PRELUDE

*Peace, Peace*  
St. Arbucks Trio

Bill Evans

#### CHIMES

#### INTROIT

*Deck Thyself, My Soul with Gladness*  
Chancel Choir

Johann Crüger

#### WELCOME

Jeff Carlson

#### \*WELCOMING EACH OTHER

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God of power, thank you for making us alive through your creation!

**All: Thank you for ice encrusted trees.**

One: They shine, they're giant diamonds.

**All: Thank you for the cold! It shocks us. Wakes us.**

One: Thank you for the cold! It makes us gather.

**All: Thank you for the love we find in you and one another.**

*\*Please stand if you are able*

\*HYMN

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

Black Hymnal No. 12

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,  
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.  
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;  
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of our God that filled the earth with food;  
God formed the creatures with a word, and then pronounced them good.  
Oh, how your wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye:  
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glory known.  
The clouds arise and spread their showers by order from your throne.  
All life is but a gift from you and ever in your care;  
Wherever people gather, you, O God, are present there.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, we confess that we find your unrelenting presence  
*tiresome.***

**It is hard to live caught between your expectation and our sin.  
Help us to see that our unworthiness is no match for your grace.  
We can't be perfect.  
Let us see that our imperfections can't stop your love.  
Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

\*RESPONSE

*There Are Angels Hovering 'Round*

Insert

Stanza 1 - Choir - There are angels hovering round.  
Stanza 2 - Congregation and Choir - To carry the tidings home.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

### 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.**

### SERVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

*Please come forward for communion. All are welcome!  
Take the bread and eat it. Then take the cup and drink.  
Deposit the cups in the baskets on the way back to your seat.  
The outer ring of cups contains grape juice. The inner rings contain wine.  
A gluten-free bread option is available, please ask the celebrant for it.  
Return to your seat by the side aisles.*

Music sung during communion is found at the end of the worship liturgy.

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Thank you God, for giving us more than we could ever think to ask for.  
Thank you for giving us more than we can even imagine.  
Thank you for stretching our imagination here at your table.**

### THE BIBLICAL WORD FOR THIS DAY

Steven Schwartzberg

Deuteronomy 18:15–20

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

\*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!**

\*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!

SERMON            "Sometimes the little muddler can't stand itself!"            Matt Fitzgerald

\*RESPONSE            *Praise the Lord, His Glories Show*            Red Hymnal, No. 26, v. 2 & 4

Earth to heav'n, and heav'n to earth, Alleluia!  
Tell his wonders, sing his worth, Alleluia!  
Age to age and shore to shore, Alleluia!  
All that see and share his love. Alleluia!

Strings and voices, hands and hearts, Alleluia!  
In the concert bear your parts; Alleluia!  
All that breathe, your Lord adore, Alleluia!  
Praise him, praise him ever more! Alleluia!



**Stanza 1 - Choir: Stanzas 2 - 8 - Congregation and Choir**

1. There are an - gels hov - 'ring 'round, There are an - gels hov - 'ring 'round,  
2. To\_\_ carry the tid - ings home, To\_\_ carry the tid - ings home,  
3. To the new Jer - u - sa - lem, To the new Jer - u - sa - lem,  
4. Poor sinners are com - ing home, Poor sinners are com - ing home,  
5. And Je - sus bids them come, And Je - sus bids them come,

There are an - - gels, an - - gels hov - 'ring 'round,  
To\_\_ car - - ry, car - - ry the tid - ings home,  
To the new, the new Jer - u - sa - - lem.  
Poor sin - - ners, sin - - ners are com - ing home;  
And Je - - sus, Je - - sus bids them come;

6. And children, too, may come, And children, too, may come,  
And children, children, too, may come;
7. For Jesus loves to save, For Jesus loves to save,  
For Jesus, Jesus loves to save.
8. There's glory all around, There's glory all around,  
There's glory, glory all around.

Let us break bread together on our knees.  
Let us break bread together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees.  
Let us drink wine together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees.  
Let us praise God together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

*Blandeur*

If it please God,  
let less happen.  
Even out Earth's  
rondure, flatten  
Eiger, blanden  
the Grand Canyon.  
Make valleys  
slightly higher,  
widen fissures  
to arable land,  
remand your  
terrible glaciers  
and silence  
their calving,  
halving or doubling  
all geographical features  
toward the mean.  
Unlean against our hearts.  
Withdraw your grandeur  
from these parts.

*Kay Ryan*

*Child's Song*

My cheap toy lamp  
gives little light  
all night, all night,  
when my muscles cramp.

Sometimes I touch your hand  
across my cot,  
and our fingers knot,  
but there's no hand

to take me home -  
no Caribbean  
island, where even  
the shark is at home.

It must be heaven.  
there on that island  
the white sand shines  
like a birchwood fire.

Help, saw me in two,  
put me on the shelf!  
sometimes the little muddler  
can't stand itself!

*Robert Lowell*

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

**Head Usher:** Beatrice Jaji

**Ushers:** Brian Haffner, Bruce Voice, Lauren Vega, Layne Lebahn

**Communion Coordinators:** Jana O'Brien, Kevin O'Brien

**Communion Servers:** Annie Johnson, Charlie Johnson

*Communion bread baked by Marcia Knudson*

**Head Greeter:** Greg Mooney

**Gatekeeper:** Dodd Brown

**Consider the Lilies:** Maureen Grunst

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are from Barbara Arsenault in memory of Del Arsenault from the Arsenault family.

BORN THIS WEEK IN JANUARY

**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.*

Jan. 28 Candace Huber, Dennis Kmetz, Koren Corbett

Jan. 30 Carrie Gleason, George Stoops, Jana O'Brien, Marty Turner,  
Stephen Winters

Jan. 31 Vanya Weglarz

Feb. 1 Rick Sensenbrenner

Feb. 2 Brianna Gist, Elysa Bond, Karen Spivey, Rod Sippy, Sharon Phillips

Feb. 3 Alexis Miller, Christie DeForest, Niels Peterson

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**Worship on Sunday, February 4th is at 11 a.m. for Bible Story Theatre**

**The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on March 4th immediately following our 10 a.m. worship. Please plan to attend.**

***New Giving Option - Text: 773-825-6816***

You can now text your offering to 773-825-6816. The Vanco-based system will ask you to enter your dollar amount (example: 100 -- no dollar sign needed). You'll then be sent a link. Click on the link to complete your gift and receive a receipt. Thank you for your generous support of St. Pauls!

## TODAY

### **NEW MEMBER CLASS from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Chapel.**

Curious about Saint Pauls? Come to today's New Member class. Our next round of classes will be held April 15th and April 22nd. Contact Pastor Matt to register at [mfitzgerald@spucc.org](mailto:mfitzgerald@spucc.org)

### **THE LAST BIBLE STORY THEATRE WORKSHOP IS TODAY FROM 10-11:30 A.M.**

Parents can collect their kids at 11:30 a.m. from the Social Hall.

**HELP NEEDED SETTING UP BST STAGE** - Please stay after worship today to help us assemble the stage for next week's performance.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BST SATURDAY REHEARSAL** is on February 3 between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. All actors in grades 3 through High School are asked to attend. The specific time each group will be scheduled to rehearse will be announced next week.

**BST DRESS REHEARSAL** is on February 4. All actors report to the Social Hall at 8:00 a.m. for Costume Call. Dress Rehearsal begins in the Sanctuary at 8:30 a.m.

**MAKE-UP ARTISTS NEEDED** for BST to help kids get in costume before the performance. If you would like to help, please contact Sharon at [sphillips.7340@gmail.com](mailto:sphillips.7340@gmail.com)

**POLAR PEACE MARCH RAISES MORE THAN \$51,500 FOR UCAN!** Thank you to all of the planners, volunteers, marchers, supporters, chefs and bakers for helping us raise awareness and funds for UCAN's violence prevention programs. The weather helped us live up to our name as it was POLAR outside, but inside our hearts and our Sanctuary we could feel the love as we celebrated Dr. King's legacy of peace.

**YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO PUERTO RICO FOR HURRICANE RELIEF** - The youth, parents and group leaders have voted and chosen to do hurricane disaster relief work in Puerto Rico this June. The trip is open to youth in 8th through 12th grade. If you have a youth who is interested, please contact Pastor Sarah for more information at [sgarcia@spucc.org](mailto:sgarcia@spucc.org)

**ST. PAULS NOMINATING COMMITTEE** is currently working to identify and nominate members of St. Pauls who wish to serve on our Church Council. Open 2018 Council positions include: Vice President, Treasurer, Giving Committee Chair,

Outreach & Benevolence Committee Chair, Faith Formation Committee Chair, Youth and Children's Ministry Committee Chair, and one At-Large Council Member position. The Nominating Committee's first meeting is scheduled for January 28th.

**SUPPORT OUR HAITI TRIP** - St. Pauls will be working with Three Angels Orphanage and School in Port-au-Prince, Haiti Feb 17-24. We'll be working in the clinic and installing a new water system. You can donate to our work project with a designated check in the offering or on the donations page on our website using "Haiti Mission Trip Fund" in the dropdown menu.  
More information: [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org)

**SUNDAYS 9-9:45 a.m. Conference Room.** - THE WORD OF THE DAY - In this class, we take a dive into the Bible passages that our pastors will preach on each Sunday, because reflecting on scripture with a group enriches our worship and understanding. No Bible experience necessary. Your questions are welcome. Childcare is provided. Contact: [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org)

**JANUARY 27 - BIBLE STUDY: EZEKIEL.** One of the strangest books of the Bible is oddly encouraging; this month we enter the Valley of Dry Bones as the prophet speaks a word of new life to people whose hope is all dried up. 10-11:45 a.m. Newcomers welcome. RSVP Pastor Jeff: [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org)

**FEBRUARY 4** - BST 2018 PRESENTATION of "FORTY SOMETHING" will take place on February 4 during the Sunday morning worship service. Please note that this service will begin at **11:00 a.m.**

**FEBRUARY 4** - SUPER BOWL BAKE SALE, 11:30 a.m. Gym. To support the youth mission trip to do hurricane relief work in Puerto Rico.

**FEBRUARY 7** - CHRISTIANITY 101, 7:30 p.m. Parlor. Join Pastor Jeff and 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. Please contact Hannah Basil at [youngadults@spucc.org](mailto:youngadults@spucc.org) with questions and to RSVP.

**FEBRUARY 7** - FIRST WEDNESDAY, 12-1:30 p.m. Parlor. Join Rev. Neil Ellingson, co-founder of Root and Branch, a church serving mostly young adults in Chicago for a conversation about "the future church and religious innovators." Cost is \$10/person. Please contact Anna Sardar at [asardar@spucc.org](mailto:asardar@spucc.org) with questions and to RSVP.

**FEBRUARY 11 - FAITH AND PUBLIC ISSUES ROUNDTABLE:** “A Christian Guide to a New Drug Policy” 11:15 a.m. Parlor. What would our faith have to say to us about a new drug policy? Indeed, what would our faith have to say about the *old* drug policy, with its inherent racism, mass incarceration, and mandatory minimum sentences? Rev. Al Sharp, Executive Director of Clergy for a New Drug Policy, will tell us of his experiences organizing clergy and creating new programs around the country that offer the promise of compassion and healing. Come find out about the fight for medical marijuana, especially in the context of current federal attempts to prosecute these efforts. Advocacy opportunity available. Sign up today at coffee hour.

**FEBRUARY 24 - BIBLE STUDY: JOHN.** Belief, faith, a full life, hope - the Gospel of John overflows with an invitation to life. 10-11:45 a.m. Newcomers welcome. RSVP Pastor Jeff: [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org)

**FEBRUARY 24 - IMPROV COMEDY NIGHT,** 8:30 p.m. Share a burger and a belly laugh at Young Adults improv night! We'll meet at Big & Little's at 8:30, then walk to ComedySportz for the 10 p.m. show. Tickets are \$25 and both dinner and the show are just off the Belmont Red Line. RSVP to the Punchbowl invitation. Email Derek ([derekjaydiemer@gmail.com](mailto:derekjaydiemer@gmail.com)) or AJ ([ajs92780@yahoo.com](mailto:ajs92780@yahoo.com)) with Q's.

**FEBRUARY 25 - WINTER SOUP TASTING,** 6:00 p.m. You're invited to join St. Pauls Social for a Winter Soup Tasting hosted by Jan and Joe Womack, Scott Jones, and Jen Pope. We'll provide several types of soup (including vegetarian) and bread; please bring an appetizer, salad, dessert, or beverages to share. Please contact [jenniferEpope@outlook.com](mailto:jenniferEpope@outlook.com) to RSVP. Due to space limitation we can accommodate the first 20 people to RSVP.

**LAST WEEK IN FEBRUARY:** Book discussion for St. Pauls members with Lincoln Park High School teachers and tutors from the Colleen Henry Writing Center. If you would like to participate in this church-community partnership event, you can buy a copy of “A Thousand Splendid Suns” in the office (\$12). To read more about what this program is and the second book discussion scheduled for later in the spring around the book “Persepolis,” a graphic novel, please see the Friday newsletter.

### **OPPORTUNITIES**

**JOIN OUR ORCHESTRA** - The St. Pauls Intergenerational Orchestra will perform in worship on Sunday, March 18. Orchestra members include junior high and high school students as well as adults of all ages and abilities. We will rehearse after church in the chapel from 11:15 to 12:15 on 2/18, 2/25 and 3/11. If you're

interested, please contact our conductor Mark Mosley at 773-732-0625 or [mwmosley@gmail.com](mailto:mwmosley@gmail.com).

**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** - Use <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2179808> if you would like to support St. Pauls when buying Amazon products. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from eligible purchases to St. Pauls.

**BIBLE STUDY** - Meets one Saturday a month. This in-depth study explores a book of the Bible from start to finish, looking at its original context as well as its meaning for us as Christians today. No December study. Next Study: January 27. Contact Pastor Jeff at [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org)

#### **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 once a week, Monday through Thursday. Training and mentoring are available. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Nancy Brandt, [nhbrandt@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](mailto: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@aol.com](mailto:mvgrunst@aol.com). Join us!

**FAITH IN ACTION/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](mailto:toby@rogers-home.com) for more information.

**FEED THE HUNGRY** - Each week St. Pauls welcomes homeless and hungry people to Sunday dinner. To volunteer to prepare and serve dinner to guests of the Lincoln Park Community Shelter, contact Brent Carstensen at [bcarstensen@ameritech.net](mailto:bcarstensen@ameritech.net)

**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](mailto:vberry@spucc.org)

**LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SHELTER NEEDS OVERNIGHT VOLUNTEERS**  
- To sign up: [volunteer@lpcsonline.org](mailto:volunteer@lpcsonline.org) 773-549-6111

**LITTLE LIGHTS** is a St. Pauls early childhood program with classes for 2 and 3-year-olds. Classes are 2 or 3 mornings per week. Now accepting applications for 2018-2019. Check out [www.littlelightslp.org](http://www.littlelightslp.org) If you are interested or email Virgie Berry at [vberry@spucc.org](mailto:vberry@spucc.org)

**LONG, CLASSIC NOVEL READING GROUP** Read and discuss George Eliot's "Middlemarch" this spring. Discussions March 20th (parts 1-4) and June 19th. "Les Miserables" is coming in Fall 2018. RSVP [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto: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 us her know if you have small children and are new to the church. Contact Corie Gallemore at [corie.gallemore@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org), Marti Pechnyo [mpechnyo@gmail.com](mailto:mpechnyo@gmail.com), or Diana Laskaris [dianaminlead@gmail.com](mailto:dianaminlead@gmail.com)

**SAINT PAULS BASKETBALL WEDNESDAYS** - 7 p.m. Our weekly pickup game is co-ed. Ages range from young and fast to old and not as fast. Skill levels range from enthusiastic to "I think he played in college, you guard him." All are welcome! Contact [pastormatt@spucc.org](mailto:pastormatt@spucc.org)

**ST. PAULS PLAY GROUP** for children from birth to 3 years old in the church Nursery. Drop in anytime from 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m. Wednesdays. Corie Gallemore at [corie.gallemore@gmail.com](mailto:corie.gallemore@gmail.com)

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

**UCC DAILY DEVOTIONAL** - To register: [http://www.ucc.org/daily\\_devotional](http://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional)

**WANT MORE VARIETY AT COFFEE HOUR?** - Sign up to bring it at <http://bit.ly/1RtSUuh>

**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 [youngadults@spucc.org](mailto:youngadults@spucc.org)

**YOUTH GROUP** for kids in 4th-8th grade meets each Tuesday from 4-6 p.m. with pizza dinner, fun and Christian fellowship. Meet in the gym. Contact [sgarcia@spucc.org](mailto:sgarcia@spucc.org)

### **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please send any announcements you would like in the following week's Friday email to [announcements@spucc.org](mailto:announcements@spucc.org) no later than 10 a.m. on Tuesday . Please limit announcements to 80 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.*

- Kim recently diagnosed with cancer.
- Jack Hogan in treatment for cancer.
- Students of Marshall County High School including Rachel Adam's nephew Seth who were traumatized by a school shooting this past week in Kentucky.
- Wade who is in treatment for both cancer and leukemia.
- The family of Steve Warsh, wife Ellen, daughter Annie, and friends, at his death.
- Rob Castle's mother, Kathie, entering hospice care for Alzheimer's disease.
- Rachel Adams' grandmother Virginia struggling with health problems.
- Rodney Higginbotham's father following a seizure and possible stroke.
- For Stacie B., sister of Mark P., following a difficult diagnosis.
- For Aylmer Gifford's friend, Mario, facing difficult health challenges.
- For Robin Scott's friend, Michelle, for her physical health and mental well-being.
- Jan Bail's friend, Genel, beginning a second round of chemotherapy.
- Dale Martin and his family.
- Bobbi Gannello, diagnosed with lymphoma.
- Amy Newman's sister Linda, being treated for cancer.
- Carole Knuti undergoing treatment for cancer.
- Carole Crowley recovering from a stroke.
- All those struggling to conceive.
- Grieving family of Jim who died at age 43.
- Anthony Martin with an injury from a bicycle accident.

NEARLY 1 IN 5 ADULTS STRUGGLE WITH A MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE. 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.

### **Short Version of Last Sunday's Sermon "It's like a tap dance or a new pink dress." Matt Fitzgerald**

Jesus calls Simon and Andrew with two words. "Follow me." It comes as a question, echoing off the Galilean sea. Simon and Andrew have a decision to make. Will they go? Or will they stay? Consider the last major decision that you made. Did it result in action? If not, it wasn't a decision at all. It was an intention. A promise. Kierkegaard says that when you make a promise you can very easily deceive yourself and others, as if you'd already done what you've promised to do, "as if the promise itself were something of value." A promise is not a decision. "Follow me." It's either yes or no. Now.

When's the last time you said "No" to someone? A good "No" builds muscle, heart, you get a stronger sense of self. But, we're imperfect creatures, and we also say "No" to things that should evoke a "Yes." "No, I'm not gonna roll down my window and give you a dollar. No I can't put my phone down to play leggos. No I can't leave the office early. No I can't possibly help you move.

"No, I won't attend your father's funeral." That sounds bad, but Kierkegaard says that even a sinful "no" is better than a promise. "The man who says no becomes almost afraid of himself." When my uncle died I told my cousin, "I hope to be there" but really, if I'd been honest, I knew I wasn't going. What if I'd been honest, instead of issuing a promise? "No. He was a great guy. He taught me how to fish. But, I'm too busy. I won't be there." "What kind of person am I? What's wrong with me?" An honest sinful "no" can stimulate repentance.

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"Follow me." He doesn't sound threatening at all, but his unrelenting presence is intense. Follow me. Yes or no? Walk with God or stay in the boat?

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You know who says yes immediately? Just flat out yes? Little kids. The phone rings, a child answers, here's a question answers "YES" and is out the door to her friend's house. Saying yes as an adult ... it's not so easy. We've been let down, disappointed. I'd love to, but let me check my calendar first. Every "Yes" you've ever said has risk built into it. You've got to open your heart. Good God, some nights I can't say "yes" to any one of the 10,000 movies on Netflix. I just don't want to take the risk. Saying yes is a bit much, right? Better just to scroll through the titles for an hour. Better to spend a lifetime on the sidelines.

Kierkegaard says "There's nothing more harmful for your soul than to hold back and not get moving." But a decision gets us on our way. A decision joins us to the eternal. A decision is always eager to change its clothes and get down to work. A decision raises us with a shock from the slumber of monotony. We'll always find a way to say, "Not today, but tomorrow." But Christ stands on the shoreline, speaking the eternal refrain of decision, "Today. Today. Do it today. Now is the day of salvation."

The poet Nina Cassain speaks for Jesus as he stands on the beach saying "Follow me." *"You call yourself alive? Look, I promise you that for the first time you'll feel your pores opening like fish mouths, and you'll actually be able to hear your blood surging through all those lanes, and you'll feel light gliding across the cornea like the train of a dress. For the first time you'll be aware of gravity like a thorn in your heel, your shoulder blades will begin to feel like wings and every memory you have will begin at Genesis. Call yourself alive?" Follow me straight into paradise.*

Simon and Andrew were far from perfect. Almost every time they're mentioned in the Gospel they're doing something stupid. James and John were known as, "The Sons of Thunder." That's not a nickname you earn volunteering at Saint Pauls House. Picture greasy beards and homemade tattoos. Jesus didn't call perfect people. Follow me, utterly and unconditionally, weakness, fear and all. Bring your true self. Everyone who has ever followed him has been a broken sinner.

They've all had one other thing in common. They know how to make a decision. Mary Magdalene, Simon, Peter, James, John. Wizened, roughneck workers, their hands have been calloused, their hearts have probably been broken. They make a decision nonetheless. Grown men. Grown women. Risking something like a tap-dance, or a new pink dress, it's a dumb naive feeling Saying Yes." But they do it. They risk it. Follow me. Yes! They look Christ straight in the eyes and they say "Yes."

"Follow me." He's calling you. Amen.

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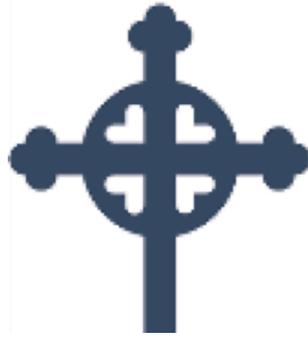
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Free Parking is available on Sundays from 9am-1pm at Children's Memorial Hospital  
2300 Block of North Lincoln Ave. – Vouchers Not Needed



## 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.