

March 7, 2021
Third Sunday in Lent
Communion
Virtual Worship

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

PRELUDE Beautiful Savior L. Wasson

Kevin Dzierzawski, piano

**CHIMES** 

INTROIT O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come Richard Gieseke

**Chancel Choir** 

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Benny VanDerburgh

One: We ask ourselves, "Who am I to be brilliant, talented, fabulous?"

All: Actually, who are you not to be?

One: We are children of God, redeemed by Christ! **All: Our playing small doesn't serve the world.** 

One: We are born to manifest the glory God has given us.

All: Saint Pauls exists to be Christ's body!



#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Sarah Garcia

Holy and Merciful God,
It is hard to believe that you love us;
and that you want to be loved.
But, you do.
So we lay all our burdens down before you.
Our cares, that you may care for them.
Our fears, that you may quiet them.
Our thoughts, that you may cleanse them.
Our sins that you may forgive them.
Our lives, that you may guide them.
Forgive us into resurrection Lord.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE Sally Fletcher

*Psalm 91* selections

The Lord will save you from the hunter's trap, and from the killing sickness; he will cover you with his feathers, you will find refuge under his wings; his faithfulness is your shield and armor. You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day, or the disease that stalks in darkness. or the destruction that erupts at high noon. Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, no harm will get through your door. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone. You will walk unharmed among lions and snakes, and kick young lions and serpents from the path.

#### *Luke 10:1-12 and 17-20*

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"

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The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

#### 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 "Kicking Lions, Stomping Snakes" Matt Fitzgerald

MEDITATION Lord, Don't Move the Mountain Doris Akers

Brendan Henry, piano

OFFERING INVITATION Jeff Carlson

OFFERTORY Love Divine, All Loves Excelling John Stainer

from <u>Daughter of Jairus</u>

Elisse Albian, soprano; and Kurt R. Hansen, tenor

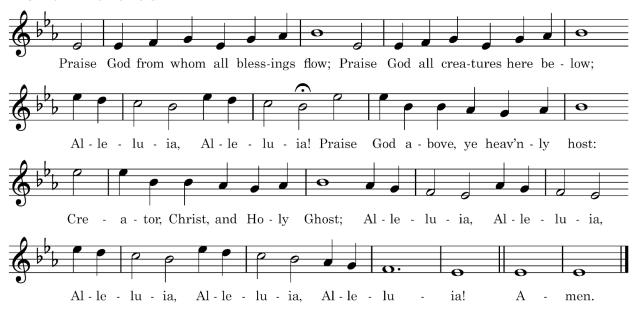
Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n to earth come down:
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

Love divine, all loves excelling, . . .

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

#### **FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY**



#### CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

**Jeff Carlson** 

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 ready your bread and wine or juice.
Wait to partake until all are invited. We will eat and drink together.

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN All Are Welcome



- 1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe-ly\_
- 2. Let us build a house where pro-phets speak, and words are strong and
- 3. Let us build a house where hands will reach be youd the wood and
- 4. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vis ions



place where saints and live. chil - dren tell how hearts learn where all God's chil - dren dare seek dream God's true,  $to_{-}$  $to_{-}$ to\_\_ heal and strength-en, and teach. and live stone serve and loved and treas - ured, taught and claimed as words withheard



to for - give.
reign a - new.
Word they've known.
-in the Word.

Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions, rock of Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness and as Here the out - cast and the strang - er bear the Built of tears and cries laugh - ter, prayers of and



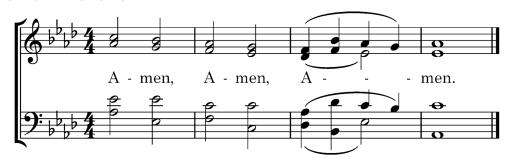
faith and vault of grace: here the love ofChrist shall end di-vi-sions: sym - bol of God's grace; here as claim the faith of Je - sus: one we im - age of God's face; fear and dan-ger: let us bring end to an faith and songs of let this house pro-claim from floor to raf-ter: grace,



All are wel-come, all are wel-come, all are wel-come in this place.

#### **BENEDICTION**

#### BENEDICTION RESPONSE



**POSTLUDE** 

Walk All Over God's Heaven
St. Arbucks Trio

Thomas A. Dorsey & Mahalia Jackson

#### The Annual Congregational Meeting is Today at 11:15 AM CT

We will vote on the 2021 budget, new members of the Church Council, including Officers and Ministry Chairs, and learn about the activities of 2020 and plans going into 2021. It is an important event in the life of St. Pauls. Members have voice and vote and Friends have voice.

Using a computer or smart device app, Meeting ID: **841 0916 1735**, Passcode: **SPUCC**Using a phone, dial **312-626-6799**, Meeting ID: **841 0916 1735**, Passcode: **052030** 

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, Meeting ID: 816 5093 8507, Passcode: 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

#### **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 7 Amy Barton, Rick Peterson
- Mar 8 Madeline Forman
- Mar 9 Beth Wiser, Greg Basil, Kimberly Carter
- Mar 10 Darlene Braun, Tiffany Jozwiak, Cate Gallemore
- Mar 11 Nancy Pifer, Lennon Fangman
- Mar 12 Penny Trowbridge
- Mer 13 Ron Banks

#### **LENT & EASTER**

View the Announcement section for information and registration for events.

#### **SERVICES**

Sundays of Lent | March 7, 14, 21

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

Palm Sunday | March 28

10:00 AM - Palm branches (Pickup March 27)

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 7, 14, 21

**Lenten Bible Study | Psalms for the Journey** 

12:00 PM, Zoom - Wednesdays: March 10, 17, 24, 31

Mid-Week Prayer Services

8:00 PM, Zoom - Thursdays: March 11, 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

#### **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 have yet to pledge your time, talents or treasures for 2021, you can fill out a pledge card at pledge.spucc.org.
- 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 10, 24, and April 7.** 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 7 - 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 will be *Crip Camp*. Email Pastor Matt for the link, mfitzgerald@spucc.org.

Next week's movie 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.

# MAR 10 - 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 11 - MID-WEEK PRAYER SERVICES - 8 p.m., Zoom

Join a pastor, members and friends for weekly Lenten prayer services. spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/733563

#### 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 24 - BOOK DISCUSSION: HOW TO FIGHT RACISM - 5pm, 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 4th Wednesday of the month at 5:00 pm. The one- hour sessions are:

- March 24 Focus on Awareness, pgs. 1-84
- April 28 Focus on Relationships, pgs. 85-140
- May 26 Focus on Commitment, pgs. 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 Luerssen at jenluerssen@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.

- Al Cerkan, hospitalized for tests.
- Family and friends of Gay Kelly's dad, who passed away last week.
- Juanita Barlow on March 1st having 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 Nitzsche 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

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
Tom Henry, Pastor Emeritus, emeritushenry@gmail.com
Benny VanDerburgh, Pastoral Intern, bvanderburgh@spucc.org
Karen E. Johnson, President of the Congregation, kejpiano@aol.com
Maddy Lockhart, Director of Operations, mlockhart@spucc.org
Melissa Miller Furgeson, Bookkeeper, bookkeeper@spucc.org
Kurt R. Hansen, Music Director, kurtsingsbach@gmail.com
Kevin Dzierzawski, Organist, kdzierza@att.net
Brendan Henry, Pianist, brendanhenrypiano@gmail.com
Nancy Voigts, Children's Choir Director, nvoigtsgod@att.net
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.