

# January 8, 2023

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

#### Please silence cell phones.

There is no Sunday School this week. The Nursery is open for children ages 0 to 4. Kids can join us in the Social Hall downstairs for B.O.B. practice! Bibles for use during worship are available at each entrance to the Sanctuary. Assisted listening devices and Bluetooth hearing aid guides are in the Narthex.

#### THOUGHTS FOR PREPARATION

"You don't think your way into a new kind of living. You live your way into a new kind of thinking." Henri J. M. Nouwen

"Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God." Col 1:15a

PRELUDE

*Let the Church Say Amen* St. Arbucks Quartet Andraé Crouch

INTROIT

*Ding, Dong, Merrily on High* Chancel Choir

CHIMES

WELCOME

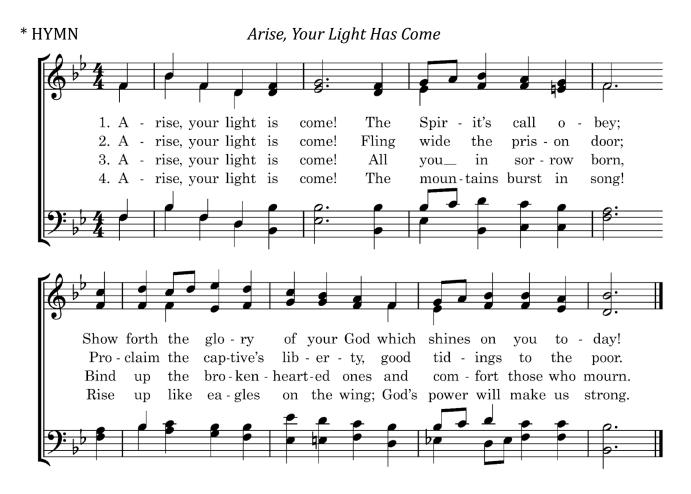
Matt Fitzgerald

#### \* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

- One: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
- All: Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- One: Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you.
- All: You shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

\* Please stand if you are able to do so.



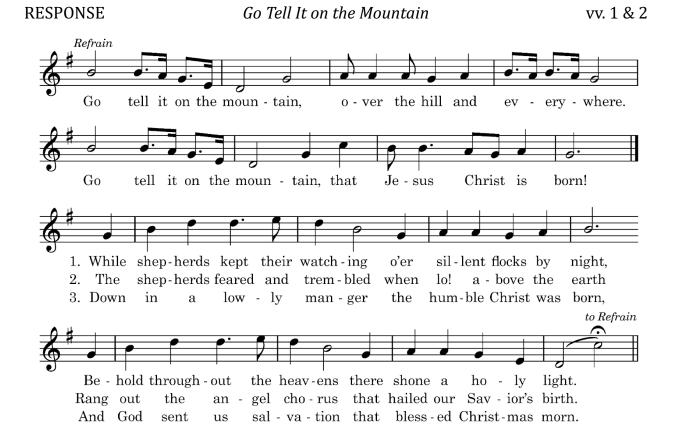
#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Matt Fitzgerald

Lord, though you should guide us, we guide ourselves; though you should fill us, we feed ourselves junk food. We think your truth too high, your way too hard, your power too remote, your love too free. But they are not! Without you, we endlessly search and we are lost. Heal our confused minds with your word, heal our divided wills with your way, heal our troubled consciences with your love, heal our anxious hearts with your presence, all for the sake of your Son, Jesus, who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE



#### SCRIPTURE

**Renae Bradshaw** 

Matthew 2:1-5, 7-12 CEB

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him." When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

#### \* 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	<i>Go Tell It on the Mountain</i> See previous hymn	v. 3
SERMON	"The Journey to Jesus"	Liz Nickerson



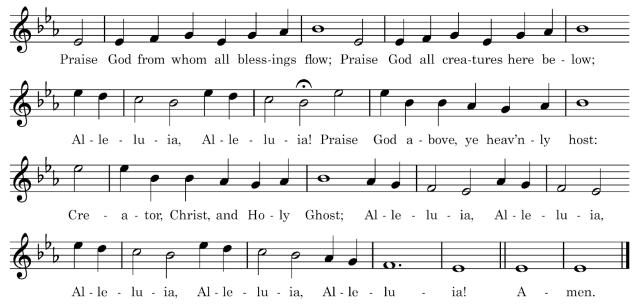
OFFERTORY

*Epiphany Alleluias* Chancel Choir John Weaver

Alleluia! We have seen His star in the East, And are come to worship Him. Arise, shine; for they light is come. And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. You can give to St. Pauls electronically by: Scanning this code with your cell phone camera, At spucc.churchcenter.com/giving, Or through Zelle or PayPal to giving@spucc.org.



#### \* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

#### Jeff Carlson

#### 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.

Crown Him with Many Crowns



#### \* BENEDICTION

#### Liz Nickerson



#### \* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

*Vom Himmel Hoch da komm ich her* Kevin Dzierzawski, organ J. Pachelbel

## *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 in the Gym.

#### **TODAY'S MUSIC**

Andraé Crouch (1942 - 2015) wrote both the text and tune for *Let the Church Say Amen* in 2010. Crouch is among the greatest gospel composers and performers. Both his mother and father were pastors. He first began playing service for his father's church at age 11.

*Ding, Dong, Merrily on High* employs a text by George Radcliff Woodward (1848-1934). He was an ordained Anglican clergy who served six parishes in his lifetime. He was also responsible for the translation of many Greek, Latin and German hymn texts. The joyful tune, BRANLE DE L'OFFICIAL, was composed in 1588 by Thoinot Arbeau (1520-1595). His real name was Jehan Tabourot, which was actually his more well-known pen name. He wrote a famous book about 16th century French dance styles.

The text for *Arise, Your Light Is Come* was written in 1974 by Ruth Duck (b. 1947), one of the most influential hymn composers of our time, having penned more than 150 hymn texts. She is also an ordained pastor in the United Church of Christ and retired professor of worship at Garrett-Evangelical Seminary in Evanston, IL. The tune, FESTAL SONG, was composed in 1872 by William H. Walter (1825-1893). He became a public school music teacher and was also the organist at Trinity Church in New Your City. He composed more than 40 hymn tunes.

*Go Tell It on the Mountain* is not attributed to any composer; however, John W. Work (1872-1925) "curated" this and many other Black American spirituals and folk songs. Work was a graduate of the Historically Black College, Fisk University in Nashville. He returned to his alma mater to direct the world famous Fisk Jubilee Singers. This arrangement was inspired and sung for many years by St. Pauls member and Chancel Choir alto section leader, Muzette Morgan.

*We Three Kings of Orient Are* employs a text and music composed in 1857 by John H. Hopkins (1820-1891). Hopkins was one of 12 children of immigrant parents. He helped his father manage the Vermont Espiscopalian Institute.

John Weaver (1937-2021) composed the *Epiphany Alleluias* in 1968. He was also the Chair of the Organ Department at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia from 1972 to 2003, the same position at The Juilliard School from 1987 to 2004, and was also Organist and Director of Music at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City from 1970-2005. The text comes from the Propers for the Epiphany Sunday. **Crown Him with Many Crowns** was a text composed in 1851 by Matthew Bridges (1800-1894). He was born in England, lived in Quebec, and wrote many hymn texts in both English and German. This hymn also has an "alterer," Godfrey Thring (1823-1903), who altered Bridges original text slightly in 1871 to the familiar text we know. The tune, DIADEMATA, was composed in 1868 by George P. Elvey (1816-1893) specifically for this text. He became the organist for St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle.

*Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her*, is one of the most recognised German Christmas hymns. The original music and text are both by Martin Luther (1483-1546), the founder of the Lutheran Church and the cause of the Reformation. The hymn had 15 stanzas (!), and Luther used it as a "game hymn" about the birth of Christ. Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706) is known for the popularity of his *Canon*, which is often requested at weddings as a processional. He is a very worthy predecessor to Bach. He composed for choir, organ and instruments.

#### **TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

Clergy: Matt Fitzgerald, Liz Nickerson, Jeff Carlson Music Director: Kurt R. Hansen St. Arbucks Quartet: Brendan Henry, piano; Alex Austin, bass; Matt Plaskota, drums; Kris Hansen, trumpet & vocals Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien Scripture Reader: Renae Bradshaw Ushers: David Baker, Doug Clark, Fred Pearson Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown Camera Operators: Jim Alrutz, Marie Ankenman, Bob Ball, Jose Cruz, Brian Hafner Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

#### **BORN THIS WEEK IN JANUARY**

We 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.

- Jan 8 Don Curtis, Oscar Schrimpf, Caleb Patton
- Jan 9 Gisele Jozwiak, Grayson Colosi-McCann
- Jan 10 Adrienne Lundquist, Bethany Grachan, Matt Crowley
- Jan 11 Julianne Prangley
- Jan 12 Lauren Fangman, Petrine Ashley, Susie Rodriguez, Charlie Coe
- Jan 13 Ginger Hecht, Molly McGrath, Phil Canfield, Sune Millard, Max Waldschmidt
- Jan 14 Katie Huber, Harper Braun, Hunter Braun

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

See our full event calendar online at spucc.churchcenter.com/calendar.

#### **TODAY - OFFICE OF GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION "TEACH-IN" -**

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Oscar Mayer Room

Staff from Live Free Chicago will be with us to talk about an opportunity for the City of Chicago to create a long-term plan to address and reduce gun violence through a proposed Office of Gun Violence. Join us as we learn how to advocate for a policy that brings investment and healing to communities. Some of the topics we will cover include: what violence looks like across the country and in Chicago; current cost of violence in the city of Chicago; gun violence as a public health issue; the Office of Gun Violence Prevention as a solution.

**TODAY - ST. PAULS HANDWORK MEET-UP** - After Worship, Social Hall If you enjoy handwork, you're invited to continue our time with each other by sitting together at a drop-in handwork group. We will gather in a corner of the Social Hall for one hour after the worship service. Bring along a sandwich if you wish. New to handwork? We have expert knitters, crocheters, embroiderers, and sewers to help you get started with a project.

**JAN 11 - WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY "PHILIPPIANS"** - 12 p.m., Zoom We're beginning 2023 with a letter from Paul that invites the reader into a life full of joy. Meets every Wednesday. Newcomers are welcome. RSVP to Jeff Carlson for the weekly reflection guide and the Zoom link, <u>jcarlson@spucc.org</u>.

## JAN 14 - CARE PLANNING RETREAT - 11 am-4 pm, Chapel

Lighthouse Foundation invites us to join in planning for the future of CARE, "The Coalition of Accomplices for Racial Equity," at the 2023 CARE Planning Retreat. This event includes free lunch, bonding opportunities, and presentations from some of our CARE clergy. This planning retreat is a great way to pursue intersectional justice in the new year. Confirm your spot by registering at this link <u>bit.ly/LFCARE</u>. For questions, please contact Lighthouse Foundation's Manager of Organizing, Marcus Payne II, at mpayne@lightfoundchi.org.

## JAN 16 - CRS MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY FAITH IN ACTION ASSEMBLY,

1 p.m., St. Mark UMC, 8441 S. Saint Lawrence Avenue, Chicago, IL 60619. Community Renewal Society responds to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s call to put our faith in action by hosting an annual assembly on the holiday commemorating his life and work. This year, CRS will be holding a Chicago Community Conversation to voice your concerns. Join members of our St. Pauls Anti-Racism Cluster and other member churches of CRS to hear from district council and aldermanic candidates and learn about Chicago's 2023 elections. To join the St. Pauls group, with carpool possibility, RSVP here: tinyurl.com/yeyvarmc.

## JAN 22 - NEW MEMBER CLASS - 11 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room

Join pastors, members, and others curious about Saint Pauls for our Winter 2023 New Member Class. Together we'll talk about faith and our community, and we'd love you to be part of the conversation! We'll meet in the Oscar Mayer Room after worship, and childcare will be provided as needed (please let us know in the signup). Register here, <u>spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1557307</u>, or contact Pastor Matt for more information at mfitzgerald@spucc.org.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **BIBLE OFF BROADWAY IS BACK!**

**Rehearsals begin today** for this year's production of *Noah and the Ark*, and we need to fill the ark! We're hoping for all of our children and youth to participate and there is something for every interest - singing, dancing, acting, as well as behind the scenes. The production will be in worship on February 5. Questions? Contact Pastor Jeff at <u>icarlson@spucc.org</u>.

### JOIN OUR ORCHESTRA

For the first time since 2020, the St. Pauls Intergenerational Orchestra will again perform in worship on Sunday, March 12, with an all-Brahms program. Orchestra members include pre-teens, teenagers and adults of all ages and abilities! Rehearsals are immediately after church for about an hour in the Oscar Mayer Room on 2/19, 2/26 and 3/5. If you are interested, please contact our conductor Mark Mosley at (773) 732-0625 or mwmosley@gmail.com. If you play an orchestral string, woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument, please join us as together we "Make a Joyful Sound in the City!"

### **2023 YOUTH MISSION TRIP - BE THE NEIGHBOR IN TUCSON!**

Youth who this year are in 8-12 grades are invited to a Tucson Immigration and Welcome Week, June 10-17. We'll spend the week in education, collaboration, cultural exchange, and hands-on service. We'll learn about immigration in our borderlands. We'll learn to put our faith into service through desert walks, humanitarian aid, preparing and serving meals, building projects, learning about the immigration process, activism and advocacy. Our hope is that this trip will help us apply what we learn in new ways with immigrants when we return home. Cost is \$500, plus we'll do fundraising for the extra expenses and airfare. You can find out more and sign up here: <u>spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1508128</u>

## JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

Join the Community Renewal Society in continuing the work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Jemar Tisby reminds us that fostering justice involves empowering local residents to be part of the transformation of their own communities, and this begins by making their concerns our concerns. This year, CRS will host a Chicago Community Conversation on January 16, 1-3:30 p.m., to provide space for sharing community concerns, hearing from district council and aldermanic candidates, and learning about the 2023 municipal election. Learn more and register to attend live or virtually at <u>tinyurl.com/mrxnump9</u>.

## **CREATION CORNER - provided by the Green Team**

**REFLECT** ON CREATION JUSTICE

Dear Lord, we renew our covenant to be good stewards of your Earth.

Forgive us for abuse of your creation.

Lead us to abandon practices that harm.

Help us to joyfully and justly enrich your world.

Give us strength for lovingly tending your garden, O God.

## **2023 PLEDGE & GIVING INFORMATION**

Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge for 2023! Your generous support of St. Pauls is greatly needed and much appreciated. If you have yet to pledge your time, talents or treasures for 2023, you can fill out a paper pledge form and put it in the offering tray or return it to the office. You can also pledge online at spucc.org/pledge or by scanning this QR code.



Note: Making a pledge shares with us your intention to donate your time, talents and financial support. This information helps us plan and budget for the upcoming year. Your pledge does not enable St. Pauls to change a recurring donation you have set up through any of our giving methods.

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

**ACTIVISM & ADVOCACY MINISTRY –** Do you have a passion for reaching out to others? The St. Pauls Activism & Advocacy Ministry would love you to join us in keeping our church engaged in community outreach. For more information, contact Jennifer Kew, <u>JenniferLKew@gmail.com</u>, or Pastor Jeff, <u>jcarlson@spucc.org</u>.

**ALTAR FLOWERS –** Providing flowers for the altar is an excellent way to celebrate a special event in your life: an anniversary, a birthday, a holiday, or just because you like flowers. There are still many dates available this year! Sign up for 2023 dates at <u>spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1517246</u>.

**THE BOOK NOOK** – Find your next good read or drop off books to share on the north side of the Social Hal. Donations are welcome – just add them to the shelf for "New Arrivals" or leave them on the floor next to the bookcase. We appreciate all genres, including books for kids. Questions or comments, contact Linda Nitzsche at lindanitz@yahoo.com.

**CHURCH CENTER** – spucc.churchcenter.com is our portal for the Saint Pauls community. See our calendar, register for events, update your information, join our photo directory, manage your online donations, 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 <u>marcia@volkonline.com</u>.

**EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM & CARDS –** Follow this link for additional information: <u>spucc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/178271</u>.

**GREEN TEAM –** As people of faith, members of St. Pauls are called to "Care for Creation." To that end, the Green Team is seeking new members, particularly young adults and youth, as we become a Creation Justice church, recognized by the UCC. We would love to have you! If you are interested, please contact either of the new interim Green Team co-chairs, Ninon Freeman at nlanda05@yahoo.com or Rick Peterson at rnpeterson2017@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 the 2022/23 school year. Check out <u>www.littlelightslp.org</u>. If you would like to schedule a tour or have additional questions, contact Little Lights Director Erin Fitzgerald at <u>littlelights@spucc.org</u>.

**PICKLEBALL** – Have you tried the growing sport of Pickleball yet? We hold pick-up games in the St. Pauls gym every week. Sign up at the ChurchCenter link below and show up at one of the allotted times! We have spare paddles and balls. All skill levels are invited. If you have questions, call or text Steve Garrett at (312) 208-0636. Game Times: Tuesdays: 5:30-8:30 p.m; Fridays: 2-3 p.m. spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/pickleball

**POLO STAY & PLAY** – This is a friendly group for parents and caregivers with babies and small children (ages 0-4) and expectant parents, to meet together and enjoy playtime with your children. Our group will meet in the nursery downstairs by the Social Hall on Fridays from 10-11:30 a.m. *Please note, this is not a drop-off event.* Adult supervision is required.

**ST. PAULS SOCIAL –** Get better acquainted with other adults at St. Pauls. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Jen Luerssen at <u>stpaulssocial@spucc.org</u>. Subscribe to the distribution list below, or look out for future events in the bulletin calendar. <u>spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/st-pauls-social</u>

**SCRIPTURE READER VOLUNTEERS** – Volunteers are needed for the 10 a.m. in-person worship service each week to read the scripture passage of the day. Learn more and sign up here: <u>spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1508612</u>

**SPARC (St. Pauls Anti-Racism Cluster)** meets monthly to discern how we as a congregation can answer the call to live our faith in an age of injustice. We invite you to join us in identifying the educational opportunities, resources, and actions to take on our journey toward racial justice. To participate or share your ideas, contact Cindy Ball at cindyzinn11@gmail.com.

**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 (<u>icarlson@spucc.org</u>), Marti Pechnyo (<u>mpechnyo@gmail.com</u>), or Barb Kaiser (<u>bkaiser2213@gmail.com</u>).

**SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION –** Please register your kids for the 2022-23 Sunday School year at the link below. Sunday School is open to children 2-years-old to high school. Our Nursery is open for children under age 2. Email questions to Children's Program Coordinator Danielle Mayfield at <u>danielle.mayfield@spucc.org</u>. Register here: <u>spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1306755</u>

**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 <u>youngadults@spucc.org</u>.

**YOUTH CHOIRS –** If your child has any interest in music, please join us! Kecia Waldschmidt is leading Paul's People for 4th-8th graders. Breanna Coe and Karen Johnson are leading the Children's Choir for kids K-3rd grade. Rehearsals are at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. We can't wait to hear our youth choirs singing again!

#### **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please send any announcements you would like in the following week's bulletin or Friday email to <u>chiggins@spucc.org</u> no later than 10 a.m. on Wednesday. **Please limit announcements to** <u>100 words</u>. 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.

- A 17-year-old patient who is critically ill.
- Justin Hartanov and family at the death of his mother, Betsy.
- Benji Weizman, student of Kurt Hansen, at the death of his father, Gabriel.
- For the safety of Steve Schwartzberg's friend, Anthony.
- David, a 28-year-old recovering from an emergency operation.
- Gary Ashley, for improved strength.
- Susie Rodriguez at the death of her mother, Ruth.
- Annie, Jeff, and Charlie Johnson after the death of Annie's father.
- Doug Coe, recovering from an illness.
- Three Angels Haiti for the children, staff, community and all of Haiti, for big changes in the Haitian government, for the gangs to be overcome, and for the Haitian people to look to God daily.
- Al Cerkan on his continuing health journey.
- Kompare family, displaced from their home after a fire in their building.
- Michael Toomin, as he recovers from a back injury and is undergoing physical therapy.
- Carole Crowley, recovering from a stroke.

#### Prayer, Support, Mental Health Resources

Even when you walk through the valley of shadows, God is with you. 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 people.

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 179 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.

> Senior Pastor Matt Fitzgerald, <u>mfitzgerald@spucc.org</u> Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, <u>icarlson@spucc.org</u> Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, <u>lnickerson@spucc.org</u>

For a complete list of St. Pauls Staff, Governance, and Lay Leadership Please visit <u>www.spucc.org/contact</u>

## St. Pauls United Church of Christ 2335 N Orchard St. | Chicago, IL 60614 (773) 348-3829 <u>www.spucc.org</u>

Free Parking is available Sundays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Lincoln Common Parking Garage, 2300 block of North Lincoln Ave. Parking validation is available in the Narthex.



## 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.