

February 5, 2023

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.

PRELUDE

"Rain on Me"

Kecia Waldschmidt
with St. Arbucks Quartet

Original by Lady Gaga and Ariana Grande Adapted by Jana O'Brien

I didn't ask for a free ride
I only asked you to help me live
through this time
I never asked for the rainfall
But if it comes,
Then I'll try to live through it all

It's coming down on me Wash away misery It's coming down on me I'm ready, rain on me

I'd rather be dry, but at least I'm alive Rain on me, rain, rain, Rain on me, rain, rain

Livin' in a world where no one's innocent
Oh, but at least we try.
Gotta live God's truth, not keep it bottled in
So I don't lose my mind, baby, yeah I can feel it on my skin
(It's coming down on me)

Teardrops on my face
(Wash away misery)
Let it wash away my sins
(It's coming down on me)
Let it wash away, yeah

I'd rather be dry, but at least I'm alive Rain on me, rain, rain, Rain on me, rain rain

Hands up to the sky
I send a prayer to thee
I will not ask you why
Rain on me, tsunami
Hands up to the sky
I send a prayer to thee
I won't ask you why
Rain on me (Rain...on...me)

I'd rather be dry, but at least I'm alive Rain on me, rain, rain I hear the thunder coming down Won't you rain on me? Rain...on...me. WELCOME Matt Fitzgerald

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

All: AND GOD SAW THAT IT WAS GOOD!

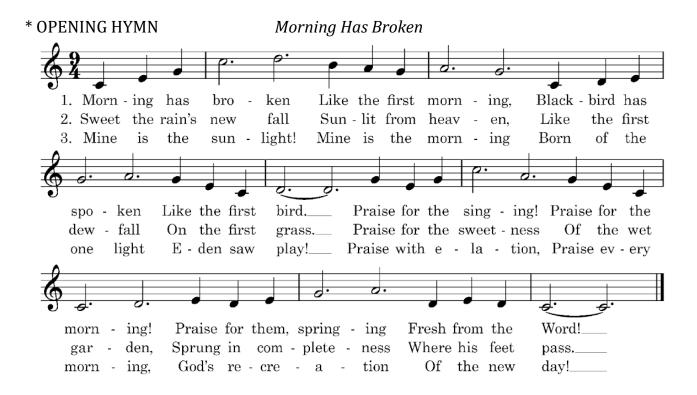
One: All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,

All: ALL THINGS WISE AND WONDERFUL,

THE LORD GOD MADE THEM ALL.

One: Let us worship the giver of life!

All: LET US WORSHIP THE SOURCE OF ALL THAT IS GOOD!



PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Liz Nickerson

^{*} Please stand if you are able.

Noah and the Ark

Introit: A Story Worth Telling

"The Arky Arky Song" ("Rise and Shine")

Traditional
St. Pauls Pre-K Children &
The Children of Moses and Zipporah

ACT I:

Noble Noah and His Family

"What a Man"

Original by Salt-N-Pepa New Lyrics by Jana O'Brien Emzara, Sadie, Nellie, & Ada

The Sins of the World

"Bad Guy/Girl" (based on "Bad Guy")

Original by Billie Eilish New Lyrics by Philip Smedley The Sins of the World ("Bad Guys & Girls")

The Command to Build the Ark

"Build an Ark, Noah's Ark" (based on "Build Me Up, Buttercup")

Original by The Foundations New Lyrics by Jana O'Brien God, Noah, Noah's Family, and the Construction Workers

The Animals Enter the Ark

"When the Ants Go Marching In" (based on "When the Saints Go Marching In")

Traditional; attr. to J.M. Black & K.E. Purvis

New Lyrics by Jeff Carlson

The Animals on the Ark

with Noah's Family

Fun Amongst the Flood

"Catch a Wave"

Original by The Beach Boys New Lyrics by Jana O'Brien Noah's Sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth with Noah's Wife Emzara & Daughters-in-Law Sadie, Nellie, & Ada and the Waves **INTERMISSION:**

Offertory "Endless Rain" (based on "Purple Rain")

Original by Prince
New Lyrics by Jana O'Brien

St. Arbucks Quartet, Kris Hansen, Soloist

ACT II:

The Flood Takes Its Toll "40 Days, 40 Nights" (based on "Lonely Days, Lonely Nights")

Original by The Bee Gees New Lyrics by Jana O'Brien

Noah's Family and The Ark Animals

Are We There Yet? "Sunroof"

Original by Nicky Youre & dazy New Lyrics by Jana O'Brien Noah, Emzara, Sadie, Nellie, & Ada, Shem, Ham, & Japheth

Sending Out the Raven and the Dove

"It's a Branch!" (based on "It's Corn!")

Original by Recess Therapy, Tariq, and The Gregory Brothers New Lyrics by Breanna Coe The Raven, The Dove, The Branch, and The Birds

The Rain Ceases at Last "It's About God's Time (based on "It's About D@#n Time")

Original by Lizzo New Lyrics by Philip Smedley and Jana O'Brien The Cool Cats

The Symbol of God's Promise

"Over the Rainbow"

Original by Harold Arlen & Yip Harburg New Lyrics by Kecia Waldschmidt Sadie, Nellie, & Ada Finale: A Fresh Start for Humankind

"We Can See Clearly Now"
Original by Johnny Nash
New Lyrics by Kecia Waldschmidt
God, Noah, Emzara, and Family,
and the Entire Cast & Crew

BENEDICTION Jeff Carlson

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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND DEDICATION

This year's production of *Noah and the Ark* marks the return of Bible Off Broadway in the live, noisy, and laugh-out-loud full incarnation that Saint Pauls members have come to expect for more than four decades. We all have sorely missed "the real BOB" since the 2020 outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are thrilled to bring it back to our sanctuary.

Indeed, the whole world truly has been through something that has felt as sweeping and overwhelming as Noah's Flood, and that is why our team chose to present Noah's story for Bible Off Broadway's return in 2023. We hope that, in witnessing the joy and enthusiasm in our children's faces as they retell one of the Bible's most famous Old Testament stories, you will feel the depth of God's love and be inspired by the promise that we are still protected and nourished by the power of our faith in our eternal Redeemer.

None of today's presentation would have happened without the vision and creativity of the founders of Bible Story Theatre, now Bible Off Broadway: our late Saint Pauls Emeritus Pastor Tom Henry and former Director of Youth Education Sharon Phillips, both of whom passed away in 2022. Their belief that children should be an integral part of the Saint Pauls worship experience, coupled with their love of music and theater, served as the foundations of this beloved Saint Pauls tradition. It is for these reasons that we dedicate this year's performance to them with deep love and gratitude. We will never forget them.





DIRECTOR'S NOTE FROM JANA O'BRIEN

Think about the best team you've ever been on. Perhaps the team was formed at work, in sports, in choir, orchestra, a play or musical, at school, on a board or committee, in a club, at a big event, or at home within your family. Truly great teams make their individual and common tasks seem worthy, fun, and rarely tedious, inspiring every member of the team to do what they do best and deliver with more excellence than they thought possible. They build on each other's ideas and contributions to make the final product even better.

That is what working with the 2023 Bible Off Broadway team has been like: a truly great team of talented, dedicated, enthusiastic, faithful, and – dare I say? – "cool" people who have come together to make our kids the stars and help them learn about God in a fun and memorable way. What a joy and privilege it has been to partner with every member of this team to bring you this year's *Noah and the Ark* worship experience.

I am grateful for the partnership of these amazing people. And I am grateful for the children who have chosen to be our storytellers today. God bless them, every one!

Please be sure to review the names of the contributors to this year's Bible Off Broadway presentation that are listed in the insert inside this worship bulletin. Make it a point to thank them for their creativity and dedication when you next see them. Bible Off Broadway truly exemplifies and personifies the meaning of "*United* Church of Christ."

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

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: Doug Clark, Jeff Matthews

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

Camera Operators: Jim Alrutz, Marie Ankenman, Bob Ball, Jose Cruz, Brian Hafner

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

BORN THIS WEEK IN FEBRUARY

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.

- Feb 5 Emma Peterson, Kathleen Truskey
- Feb 6 Ivy Sanz, James Weimer, José Cruz Rivera, Rebecca Sandoval, Sarah Leeper
- Feb 7 Aaron Fangman, Nolan Tavas, Kilian Zindel

for a night of gaiety, friends, music, and great food!

- Feb 8 Sherrie Myers, Ethan Frisch
- Feb 9 Bruce Reider
- Feb 10 Becky Kornick, Jan Bail, Melinda Schrimpf, Cameron Rogers, Jack Sancya
- Feb 11 Joshua Badanes

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

FEB 8 - WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY PHILIPPIANS - 12 p.m., Zoom

The Apostle Paul wrote this letter while chained in a foul Roman prison, yet it is surprisingly full of joy. Written to a church that was founded and led mostly by women, Philippians gives us a glimpse of how the early Christians were forming a counter-cultural community grounded in the compassion and justice of Jesus in the heart of the Roman Empire. Meets weekly. RSVP to Jeff, jearlson@spucc.org.

FEB 17 - MUSICAL POTLUCK PARTY - 6:30-9 p.m., Oscar Mayer Room Join St. Pauls Social and host Breanna Coe for a potluck and evening of music in the Oscar Mayer Room. Please bring a dish and drink to share. In the tradition of a French salon, attendees are invited to prepare a musical number or dramatic reading to share with everyone, but it is not required. There will also be a show tunes sing-along portion of the evening. Please RSVP to Breanna at breannacoe@gmail.com and let her know if you are planning to perform a number and what dish you are bringing. Join us

Known as the text that Martin Luther King Jr. sought inspiration from in the days leading up to the Montgomery bus boycott, Howard Thurman's *Jesus and the Disinherited* helped shape the civil rights movement and changed our nation's history. In this classic theological treatise, the theologian and leader Howard Thurman (1900-1981) demonstrates how the gospel may be read as a manual of resistance for the poor and disenfranchised. Jesus is a partner in the pain of the oppressed and the example of His life offers a solution to ending the descent into moral nihilism. Only through self-love and love of one another can God's justice prevail. Join Pastor Jeff for a discussion over Zoom. Register for the Zoom link here: tinyurl.com/yckb53cb.

MAR 3 - WINDY CITY WINDS "AN EVENING WITH JIM STEPHENSON" - 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary.

Acclaimed composer James Stephenson will guest conduct Windy City Winds in four of his works in concert on Friday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. Bands and orchestras worldwide perform Stephenson's music, including the Chicago Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, and the U.S. Marine Band. The Lake Forest Symphony's recording of his *Symphony #3* is nominated for three Grammys. Learn more about Jim at composerjim.com. There will also be an audience raffle during the concert and a reception after so audience members can meet Jim. Admission is free, and it will be live streamed at spucc.org/streaming. Learn more about WCW and this concert at windycitywinds.org.

MAR 5 - ORGAN TOUR - After Worship, Sanctuary

We are blessed with an exceptional organist, Kevin Dzierzawski, and an equally wonderful instrument. With more than 5,000 pipes, 98 ranks and four manuals and pedals, our Aeolian-Skinner Pipe Organ imbues worship with a sense of wonder. Join Kevin after worship for a behind-the-scenes look at how our organ works, including a visit to the pipes and the blower. Due to space constraints, the tour is limited to the first ten participants. If spots have filled up or you'd be available another date, please register for the waitlist to be notified about future tours. Register here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1625229.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU to Ninon Freeman for preparing food for the Bible Off Broadway rehearsal weekend.

CHICAGO ELECTION WATCH 2023

The 2023 Chicago elections will take place in two rounds on February 28 and April 4. Elections will be held for Chicago's mayor, city clerk, city treasurer, all 50 members of the City Council, and 66 members of the newly-created Police District Councils. There are currently nine candidates for Chicago mayor; if no mayoral candidate receives a majority of the vote on February 28, there will be a runoff election between the top two candidates on April 4. Early voting in two downtown locations has begun, and early voting in all 50 wards begins February 13. A full list of early voting sites can be found here: chicagoelections.gov/en/early-voting.html. The next mayoral term begins May 15.

IOIN 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, **2/12**, **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!"

ENROLL TODAY FOR ST. PAULS COMPASSION CAMP FOR KIDS!

Compassion Camp: What Every Living Thing Needs. Kids will explore what all living things need to live – shelter, food, water, air, and community. Using Psalm 104 as our guide, kids will learn compassion for each other and the earth. We will have group activities, play games, sing songs, and spend quality time outside.

Days: Monday-Thursday in two 2-week sessions:

Session 1: July 10-13 & July 17-20 **Session 2:** July 24-27 & July 31-August 3 Preschoolers age 2-4: 9 a.m. -12 p.m.

Elementary school age 5-12: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Register by March 15 to lock in Early Bird Pricing spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1617569

YOUTH & FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Make sure you stay in the know with youth events! A weekly email is sent to parents to share activities, including Sunday School lessons and other useful news. If you do not receive this email and would like to be added to the email list, please contact Erin Fitzgerald at erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org. If you would like to share information regarding youth-related events in an upcoming newsletter, please submit the paragraph or flier to Erin by Wednesday at noon.

PROVIDE FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR

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. Sign up here, spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1517246, or call the office at (773) 348-3829. Most 2023 dates are still available!

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: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1508128.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

Black History is UCC History. The predominantly white UCC, since its formation from several streams of tradition in 1957, has tended to regard Afro-Christian churches as merely a subset of one stream. What was invisible as a fifth stream in 1957, is fully visible and acknowledged by our Historical Council today. UCC Elder Rev. Yvonne Delk points out, "As we stop to examine who we are, we can learn much from this stream about faith, about spirit, about community, about justice, about freedom and liberation." Learn more about our history and our future here, tinyurl.com/yckntu9h.

CREATION CORNER - provided by the Green Team

REASSESS FOOD CHOICES/USE

Purchase organic food. The extra cents you pay support farmers who avoid using synthetic pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers that deplete soil and run into ground water. Organic farmers also refuse to subject their livestock to antibiotics and growth hormones. When you buy organic, you guarantee more farmers can grow healthy, safe food that benefits all creation. When you buy fair trade, you provide living wages and fight poverty.

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, JenniferLKew@gmail.com, or Pastor Jeff, jearlson@spucc.org.

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. We appreciate all genres, including books for kids. Questions or comments, contact Linda Nitzsche at lindanitz@yahoo.com.

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.

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

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 www.littlelightslp.org. If you would like to schedule a tour or have additional questions, contact Little Lights Director Erin Fitzgerald at littlelights@spucc.org.

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.

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: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1508612.

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

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 (bkaiser2213@gmail.com).

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 danielle.mayfield@spucc.org. Register here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1306755

THURSDAY BASKETBALL – Join us for a weekly pickup game! All skill levels are welcome. Email Pastor Matt to get on the updates list, mfitzgerald@spucc.org.

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 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 chiggins@spucc.org no later than 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

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.

- Family and friends of Sonja Rae at her death.
- Family and friends of Dolores Pifer at her death. A memorial service is being planned for February 19 at 11:30 a.m.
- Diane Massie's niece, Tara, recovering from surgery.
- Family and friends of Darlene Braun at her death. An informal service to remember and give thanks for her life will be held after worship on February 26.
- Friends of the Van Zeyls, Sarah, Timmy, and their daughter Grace, as their older daughter Hannah recovers from open heart surgery.
- Winnie Kearn's mother, Patti, for healing of a wound.
- Justin Hartanov and family at the death of his mother, Betsy.
- For the safety of Steve Schwartzberg's friend, Anthony.
- David, a 28-year-old recovering from an emergency operation.
- Gary and Petrine Ashley for improved strength.
- 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 www.spucc.org/contact

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.