

Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 19, 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.  
Assisted listening devices and Bluetooth hearing aid guides are in the Narthex.  
The Nursery and Toddler Room are open for children ages 0-5, from 10 to 11 a.m.*

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"Know that the desire to be perfect is probably the veiled expression of another  
desire—to be loved, perhaps, or not to die." Ron Padgett

PRELUDE

*Be Thou My Vision*  
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

Noel Rawsthorne

CHIMES

WELCOME

Matt Fitzgerald

\* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We are here to meet God.

**All: We are here to learn to follow Jesus.**

One: Open our eyes, Lord, to get a fresh glimpse of you.

**All: Open our ears, to hear a fresh word from you.**

One: Let's lift our voices to heaven!

**All: Open up heaven, God, and let a torrent of grace pour out!**

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

\* HYMN

*Over My Head*

1. O - ver my head\_\_\_\_\_ I hear mu - sic in the air.\_\_\_\_\_  
2. O - ver my head\_\_\_\_\_ I hear sing-ing the in air.\_\_\_\_\_  
3. O - ver my head\_\_\_\_\_ I see trou-ble in the air.\_\_\_\_\_  
4. O - er my head\_\_\_\_\_ I see Je - sus in the air.\_\_\_\_\_

O - ver my head\_\_\_\_\_ I hear mu - sic in the air.\_\_\_\_\_  
O - ver my head\_\_\_\_\_ I hear sing-ing in the air.\_\_\_\_\_  
O - ver my head\_\_\_\_\_ I see trou-ble in the air.\_\_\_\_\_  
O - ver my head\_\_\_\_\_ I see Je - sus in the air.\_\_\_\_\_

O - ver my head\_\_\_\_\_ I hear mu - sic in the air,\_\_\_\_\_  
O - ver my head\_\_\_\_\_ I hear sing-ing in the air,\_\_\_\_\_  
O - ver my head\_\_\_\_\_ I see trou-ble in the air,\_\_\_\_\_  
O - ver my head\_\_\_\_\_ I see Je - sus in the air,\_\_\_\_\_

there must be a God some - where.\_\_\_\_\_

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jeff Carlson

**We confess, O God, that we do love to sin:**

**Old wounds feel good to scratch.**

**Sarcasm tastes sweet on the tongue.**

**Loving money is easier than loving neighbor.**

**And gossip delights.**

**Forgive us, O God, and help us, for we are weak.**

**Satisfy our lives and fill up our deepest longings**

**with the beauty of your love.**

**Give us new life in the strong name of Jesus. Amen.**

## MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Sunday School students are invited to go to their classrooms.  
If you would like to accompany your child(ren),  
you are welcome to drop them off and return to worship.*

### RESPONSE

### *Be Thou My Vision*

v. 1

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3. Rich - es I heed not, nor life's emp - ty praise,  
Nought be all else to me save that thou art,  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Moth - er and Fa - ther, thou art both to me,  
Thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
Wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
Thou in me dwell - ing, thy child I shall be.  
Rul - er of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.

*1 Samuel 16: 1-13*

GOD addressed Samuel: "So, how long are you going to mope over Saul? You know I've rejected him as king over Israel. Fill your flask with anointing oil and get going. I'm sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I've spotted the very king I want among his sons."

"I can't do that," said Samuel. "Saul will hear about it and kill me."

GOD said, "Take a heifer with you and announce, 'I've come to lead you in worship of GOD, with this heifer as a sacrifice.' Make sure Jesse gets invited. I'll let you know what to do next. I'll point out the one you are to anoint."

Samuel did what GOD told him. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the town fathers greeted him, but apprehensively. "Is there something wrong?"

"Nothing's wrong. I've come to sacrifice this heifer and lead you in the worship of GOD. Prepare yourselves, be consecrated, and join me in worship." He made sure Jesse and his sons were also consecrated and called to worship.

When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, "Here he is! GOD's anointed!"

But GOD told Samuel, "Looks aren't everything. Don't be impressed with his looks and stature. I've already eliminated him. GOD judges persons differently than humans do. Men and women look at the face; GOD looks into the heart."

Jesse then called up Abinadab and presented him to Samuel. Samuel said, "This man isn't GOD's choice either."

Next Jesse presented Shammah. Samuel said, "No, this man isn't either."

Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel. Samuel was blunt with Jesse, "GOD hasn't chosen any of these."

Then he asked Jesse, "Is this it? Are there no more sons?"

"Well, yes, there's the runt. But he's out tending the sheep."

Samuel ordered Jesse, "Go get him. We're not moving from this spot until he's here."

Jesse sent for him. He was brought in, the very picture of health—bright-eyed, good-looking.

GOD said, "Up on your feet! Anoint him! This is the one."

Samuel took his flask of oil and anointed him, with his brothers standing around watching. The Spirit of GOD entered David like a rush of wind, God vitally empowering him for the rest of his life. Samuel left and went home to Ramah.

**\* 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**

*Be Thou My Vision*  
See previous hymn

vv. 3-4

**SERMON**

**"Stony Hearts Will Bleed"**

**Matt Fitzgerald**

\* HYMN

*Just as I Am*

1. Just\_ as I am,\_\_\_ with - out\_\_\_ one plea But  
2. Just\_ as I am,\_\_\_ though tossed a - bout With  
3. Just\_ as I am,\_\_\_ poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight,  
4. Just\_ as I am,\_\_\_ thou wilt\_\_\_ re - ceive, Wilt

that\_ thy blood was shed for me, And that thou bidd'st me  
man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears\_ with -  
rich - es, heal - ing of the mind; Yea, all I need\_ in  
wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve; Be - cause thy prom - ise

come to thee,\_\_\_ O Lamb of God,\_\_\_ I come, I come!\_\_\_  
- in, with - out,\_\_\_ O Lamb of God,\_\_\_ I come, I come!\_\_\_  
thee to find,\_\_\_ O Lamb of God,\_\_\_ I come, I come!\_\_\_  
I be - lieve,\_\_\_ O Lamb of God,\_\_\_ I come, I come!\_\_\_

OFFERTORY

*I Don't Feel No Ways Tired* Reverend James Cleveland  
St. Arbucks Quartet African American traditional

I don't feel no ways tired,  
I've come too far from where I started from  
Nobody told me that the road would be easy  
I don't believe he brought me this far to leave me

I've come too far from where I started from  
Nobody told me that the road would be easy.  
Well I don't believe He'd bring me this far,  
and just leave me

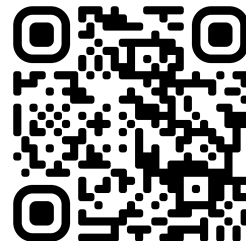
I don't believe He brought me this far  
I don't believe He brought me this far  
I don't believe He brought me this far  
To leave me

*You can give to St. Pauls electronically by:*

*Scanning this code with your cell phone camera,*

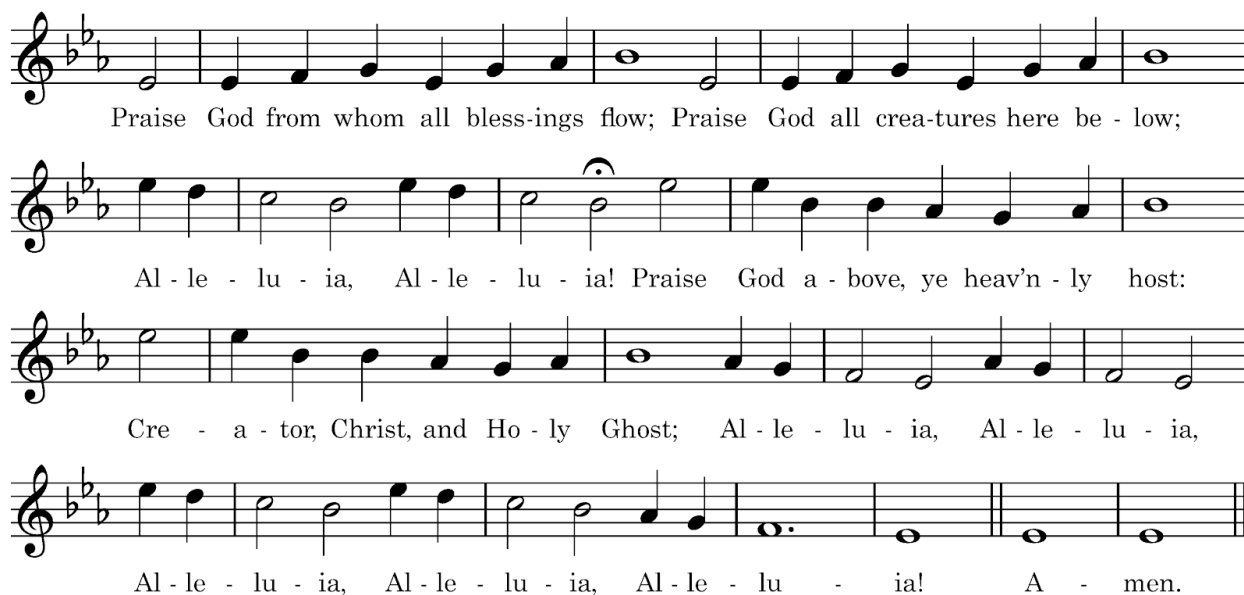
*At [spucc.churchcenter.com/giving](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/giving),*

*Or through Zelle or PayPal to [giving@spucc.org](mailto:giving@spucc.org).*





\* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be - low;  
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:  
Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost; Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,  
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

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.**

\* HYMN

*Here I Am, Lord*



1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in deep - est sin my hand will save.  
 I have wept for love of them, they turn a - way.  
 I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.



I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.  
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?\_\_\_\_\_  
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?\_\_\_\_\_  
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?\_\_\_\_\_



Here I am, Lord.\_\_\_\_ Is it I, Lord?\_\_\_\_ I have heard you



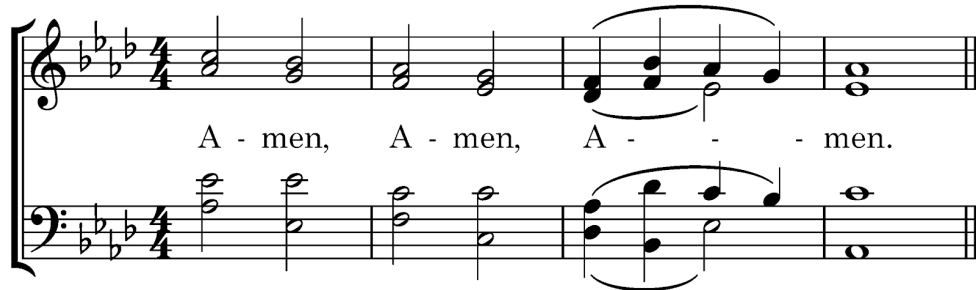
call - ing in the night.\_\_\_\_ I will go, Lord,\_\_\_\_ if you lead me.\_



\_\_\_\_ I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

\* BENEDICTION

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

*Balm In Gilead*  
St. Arbucks Quartet

Spiritual  
arr. Brendan Henry

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

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

**WHY PINK?** - This is *Laetare* (Rejoice) Sunday, the Fourth Sunday in Lent. Both Advent and Lent are considered penitential seasons, but the early church leaders decided that each of those seasons need an uplifting break. That is why on *Laetare* Sunday the liturgical color changes from purple to pink or rose.

## TODAY'S MUSIC

***Over My Head*** is another text and melody from the great wealth of spirituals. Its present version was arranged in 1981 by Verolga Nix (1933-2014), a world class pianist and graduate of Oberlin Conservatory; and J. Jefferson Cleveland (1937-1986), one of the most important scholars of African American spirituals. Cleveland and Nix collaborated on a seminal work about African American music, *Songs of Zion*. It is actually a shortened version, including only the very catchy refrain of a longer song.

***Be Thou My Vision*** is a lovely Irish folk tune, SLANE. The translation was made in 1905 from the original Gaelic by Mary E. Byrne (1880-1931), who was born in Ireland. She was a respected university level academic in Dublin. This melody is also the theme for our **Prelude** composed by Noel Rawsthorne (1929-2019). Rawsthorne was a well known British concert organist and composer of music for choirs and also organ. He began his lifelong commitment to liturgical music at age 8 when he became a chorister in the choir of the Liverpool Cathedral. He went on to become organist of the cathedral in 1955. Among his teachers was Marcel Dupré.

***Just as I Am*** is set to the tune WOODWORTH, which was composed by American William B. Bradbury (1816–1868) in 1849. He also composed the children's hymn *Jesus Loves Me, This I Know*. The text is by Charlotte Elliot (1789–1871), who was British. Sadly, she was frail and sickly most of her life, which makes her text especially poignant and personal. It is a hymn that many of us associate with the crusades of Billy Graham (1918–2018).

***I Don't Feel No Ways Tired*** was composed in 1980 by the Reverend James Cleveland (1931-1991). He was inspired by the exclamation of an elderly woman in his congregation. She'd had a hard life with pain, disappointment, and mistreatment "just because of who she was." She found strength in her faith, redemption in Christ, and liberation in the Holy Spirit. Her words and fortitude inspired Reverend Cleveland. He also carried on the tradition started by Thomas A. Dorsey fusing the spirit filled music of gospel with the energy and drive of jazz. Muzette Morgan, our longtime alto section leader and member of St. Pauls, introduced this song to us.

***Here I Am Lord/I the Lord of Sea And Sky***, tune HERE I AM LORD, does not appear in either of our hymnals but has become a favorite of ours over the years. The composer and author, Daniel Schutte (b. 1947), wrote this hymn in 1981. He has composed more than 150 hymns, this one being his most popular, for Catholic worship services. He was born in Elm Grove, Wisconsin, and is a Jesuit priest.

***There Is A Balm In Gilead*** is a Black Spiritual. In the Hebrew Bible, Gilead was the name of the mountainous region east of the Jordan River. This region was known for having skillful physicians and an ointment made from the gum of a tree particular to that area. Many believed that this balm had miraculous powers to heal the body. In the book of Jeremiah, God tells the people of Israel that though many believe in the mysterious healing power of this balm, they can't trust in those powers for spiritual healing or as a relief of their oppression. For slaves in our country, crossing the Jordan River was code for escaping their bondage by escaping to the north going over rivers like the Potomac and Ohio.

## **TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

**Clergy:** Matt Fitzgerald, Jeff Carlson

**Music Director:** Kurt R. Hansen

**Organist:** Kevin Dzierzawski

**St. Arbucks Quartet:** Brendan Henry, piano; Alex Austin, bass; Matt Plaskota, drums; Kris Hansen, trumpet & vocals

**Scripture Reader:** Marti Pechnyo

**Lay Liturgical Administrator:** Kevin O'Brien

**Head Usher:** Beatrice Jaji

**Ushers:** David Baker, Tim Reed

**Gatekeeper:** Dodd Brown

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

**Custodian:** Fernando Diaz

## **BORN THIS WEEK IN MARCH**

*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.*

Mar 19 Samer Bashiti

Mar 20 Andrew Winking, Ben Johnson, David Campbell, Elena Cata

Mar 21 Joe Kornick, Laura Grosshans

Mar 22 Robert Colosi-McCann, Scott Lawrence, Brooks Beeson

Mar 23 Marti Pechnyo, Mike Vahey, MJ Rogers

Mar 24 Kristen Lightfoot

## LENT & EASTER AT ST. PAULS

- TUES, MAR 21 THE GOD OF TELEVISION: *LEANING TOWARD THE LIGHT* - 6:30 p.m.  
Soup, TV, conversation, please RSVP
- TUES, MAR 28 LENTEN TAIZÉ - 7 p.m.  
Service of meditation and prayer
- SUN, APRIL 2 PALM SUNDAY - 10 a.m.  
Palm branches, songs
- THU, APRIL 6 MAUNDY THURSDAY - 7 p.m.  
Dinner Church, please RSVP
- FRI, APRIL 7 GOOD FRIDAY - 7:30 p.m.  
Communion, Tenebrae with choir
- SUN, APRIL 9 EASTER SUNDAY - 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.  
Communion, choir, brass

Scan here  
for Lent Info:



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

See our full event calendar online at [spucc.churchcenter.com/calendar](https://spucc.churchcenter.com/calendar).

### **MAR 21 - RETIREMENT GROUP** - 10 a.m., Parlor\*

The Retirement Group meets on the third Tuesday of the month. Think retirement is all grandkids and travel? It's not all Hallmark. Please join us to discuss our transition paths, ways we found ourselves here, what's meaningful, what's next with or without planned health, funds or companionship. For more info contact Marcia Knudson at (773) 480-4189 or [marciaknudson@gmail.com](mailto:marciaknudson@gmail.com).

*\* The Parlor is currently not wheelchair accessible. If this inhibits your participation, please contact Marcia.*

### **MAR 22 - 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, [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org).

**MAR 26, APR 16 - EXPAND OUR OPENNESS INFO MEETINGS** - 11 a.m., Sanctuary  
The Church Council is pleased to announce the formation of the Building Accessibility Task Force with the purpose of solidifying the extraordinary progress of the Expanding our Openness and Accessibility work over the last several years. COVID disrupted this project and with the time that has passed, it has become necessary to review the overall timeline and building needs. Two informational sessions will be held with this task force on Sundays, March 26 and April 16. Please plan to join if you have questions about the next steps as we prayerfully discern Phase II of this critical project to ensure that SPUCC remains a welcoming church to all who worship and lean into God's call for each of us in our beloved space.

**MAR 31 - BE A KID AGAIN GAME NIGHT** - 7 p.m., Parlor\*

Ever wonder what it would be like to play hide and seek at St. Pauls? Adults of all ages are welcome to join St. Pauls Social and hosts Jen Luerssen and Wendy Love for a "Be a Kid Again Game Night." Games include Hide and Seek, Sardines and others. Playing the games will be fun, but is not mandatory for those looking to have a more low-key evening of fellowship. Bring a snack and drink to share. Please RSVP, [spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1666817](https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1666817)

*\* The Parlor is currently not wheelchair accessible. If this inhibits your participation, please contact Jen, [jenluerssen@yahoo.com](mailto:jenluerssen@yahoo.com).*

**APR 2 - PALM SUNDAY MINISTRY FAIR** - 11 a.m., Gym

There are many ways to get involved at St. Pauls, make connections and use your God-given gifts, but you might not know where to start or might like to try something new. After worship on Palm Sunday, come to our ministry fair, meet representatives from the varied groups and committees within our church, and find out more about how to get involved. There's a place for everyone at St. Pauls!

**APR 11 - CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM: THREAT TO CHRISTIANITY & DEMOCRACY** - 7:30 p.m., Elmhurst University, Hammerschmidt Chapel.

Join with Rev. John Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the UCC in a public lecture/conversation on this growing reality in our nation, Christian Nationalism-what it is and what it is not. The evening is open to all and free of charge. Information and encouraging information here, [tinyurl.com/2a9n2bdv](https://tinyurl.com/2a9n2bdv).

**APR 23 - NEW MEMBER CLASS** - 11 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room

Join pastors, members, and others curious about St. Pauls for our Spring 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 your registration). Register here: [spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1688047](https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1688047)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ST. PAULS SOFTBALL

Join St. Pauls Young Adults and friends for our 10th season of Sunday 16" softball in Oz Park - just a short walk from St. Pauls! Games are Sunday afternoons from April 16 to June 25, starting between 1 and 3 p.m. For more information, contact Todd Coe at [toddsingstenor@gmail.com](mailto:toddsingstenor@gmail.com). **Signup deadline is today.**

### EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS

Celebrate or remember a loved one by ordering a flowering plant for the Easter Festival Altar. Flowers may be picked up after the 11 a.m. Easter Sunday service. Remaining flowers will be donated to our senior members and neighbors. Registrations must be completed **by April 3** for inclusion in the Easter Bulletin. Register here: [spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1648145](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1648145), or fill out and return the paper form at the end of the bulletin.

### LUTHER IN A YEAR

Join Pastor Matt to go back in time more than 500 years for "Luther in a Year." We will read Martin Luther's most important works, and the work of his best modern critics. At the year's end, you will understand the beliefs Saint Pauls stands upon, you will be changed by thrilling ideas and great conversation, Christ's importance will be underlined, you will know one of history's most outrageous characters, and your faith will be strengthened. You might also be surprised by what a filthy vocabulary Martin Luther had. We will meet on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. via Zoom, **beginning April 10**. Reading list will be shared upon registration. Register here: [spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1656138](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1656138).

### ENROLL 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.

[spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1617569](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1617569)



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

### **REDUCE PARTY PLASTICS**

In your party invitations, announce that your party will be plastic free.

Use washable cups and utensils.

Decorate with tissue paper pom-poms and scrap paper garlands.

Use a hole punch and colorful paper to make confetti, instead of using glitter.

Use newspaper or brown paper for tablecloths, instead of plastic.

Send guests home with paper gift bags, instead of plastic.

Give your friends crayons, pencils, chalk, or books to take home.

Give your guests homemade cookies or cupcakes to take home, instead of plastic-wrapped candy.

ENJOY!

## **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](mailto:JenniferLKew@gmail.com), or Pastor Jeff, [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org).

**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 [spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1517246](https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1517246).

**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](mailto:lindanitz@yahoo.com).

**CHURCH CENTER** – [spucc.churchcenter.com](https://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 [marcia@volkonline.com](mailto:marcia@volkonline.com).

**EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM & CARDS** – Follow this link for additional information: [spucc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/178271](https://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](mailto:nlanda05@yahoo.com) or Rick Peterson at [rnpeterson2017@gmail.com](mailto: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 2023/24 school year. Check out [www.littlelightslp.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://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 a.m.-12:00 p.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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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 [cindyball11@gmail.com](mailto:cindyball11@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 ([jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org)), Marti Pechnyo ([mpechnyo@gmail.com](mailto:mpechnyo@gmail.com)), or Barb Kaiser ([bkaiser2213@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:danielle.mayfield@spucc.org). Register here: [spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1306755](https://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](mailto: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](mailto:youngadults@spucc.org).

#### **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. Please contact Erin Fitzgerald at [erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org](mailto:erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org) to be added to the list.

**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](mailto: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.*

- Pat Kirby's friend, Mike, for a surgery and recovery complicated by a chronic health condition.
- Cheryl Kuba's friend, Nancy, in a second journey through cancer.
- For Kim Brunssen, dear friend of Kurt Hansen, moving into hospice care.
- Comfort, strength & peace to those dealing with death of loved ones.
- Family and friends of Dolores Pifer at her death.
- Pat Ruch, Ashley and Heather Cerkan, and friends of Al Cerkan at his death.
- Family and friends of Sonja Rae at her death.
- Family and friends of Darlene Braun at her death.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

## EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS ORDER FORM

Celebrate or remember a loved one or friend by ordering a flowering plant for the Easter Festival Altar. Flowers may be picked up after the 11 a.m. Easter Sunday service. Remaining flowers will be donated to our senior members and neighbors. Please enclose \$30 or more per plant with this order form.

**Please print legibly.**

**In Celebration of** *(print name(s) as you wish to appear):*

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**In Memory of** *(print name(s) as you wish to appear):*

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**From** *(your name(s) as you wish to appear):*

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**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Tear out this form and drop it in the offering plate with your payment, or mail it to:  
St. Pauls UCC  
Attn: Easter Flowers  
2335 N. Orchard St., Chicago, IL 60614

Completed orders must arrive **by April 3** to appear in the Easter Bulletin.

ABOUT ST. PAULS  
*Making a Joyful Sound in the City!*

St. 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, [mfitzgerald@spucc.org](mailto:mfitzgerald@spucc.org)  
Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org)  
Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org)

For a complete list of St. Pauls Staff, Governance, and Lay Leadership  
Please visit [www.spucc.org/contact](http://www.spucc.org/contact)

**St. Pauls United Church of Christ**  
**2335 N Orchard St. | Chicago, IL 60614**  
**(773) 348-3829    [www.spucc.org](http://www.spucc.org)**

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.