

May 21, 2023  
Ascension Sunday  
**R**-Renewal

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

Let all the world in every corner sing!

*My God and King.*

The church with psalms must shout,

No door can keep them out:

But above all, the heart

Must bear the longest part.

Let all the world in every corner sing!

*My God and King.*

from Antiphon I - George Herbert

PRELUDE

*Symphony No. 5—IV. Adagio*  
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

C. M. Widor

INTROIT

*By Gracious Powers*  
Chancel Choir

CHIMES

WELCOME

Kurt R. Hansen

\* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

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

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let us be a song of praise!

**All: We will be the Joyful Sound in the City!**

One: Let us shout psalms!

**All: We will be the Joyful Sound in the Nation!**

One: Because we celebrate Christ's Ascension, we say

**All: Glory to God in the highest!**

\* HYMN

*By Gracious Powers*



1. By gra - cious powers so won - der - ful - ly shel - tered,  
2. Yet is this heart by its old foe tor - ment - ed,  
3. And when this cup you give is filled to brim - ming  
4. Yet when a - gain in this same world you give us



and con - fi - dent - ly wait - ing, come what may,  
still e - vil days bring bur - dens hard to bear;  
with bit - ter sor - row, hard to un - der - stand,  
the joy we had, the bright - ness of your sun,



We know that God is with us night and morn - ing,  
O give our fright - ened souls the sure sal - va - tion  
We take it thank - ful - ly and with - out trem - bling,  
We shall re - mem - ber all the days we lived through,



and nev - er fails to greet us each new day.  
for which, O God, you taught us to pre - pare.  
out of so good and so be - loved a hand.  
and our whole life shall then be yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liz Nickerson

**Gracious Creator, we know you are with us night and morning,  
But we act like you are done creating new things.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Beloved Savior, we know you have ascended  
in order to be our advocate and then to come again,  
Yet we act like you are gone for good.**

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Active Holy Spirit, we know you are nearer to us than our own breath,  
And still we refuse to breathe deeply and let you in.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**We lay our fragile doubting souls in your loving  
Merciful hands.**

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.*

ANTHEM

*Mass of Renewal*

Joseph Thalken

Wind ensemble, piano, percussion, and organ  
Chancel Choir

*Kyrie*

Nancy Pifer, Terry Hansen & Evan Bravos, soloists

*Kyrie eleison.*

Lord have mercy, O my soul.

*Christe eleison.*

Christ have mercy, O my soul.

*Kyrie eleison.*

Lord have mercy, O my soul

SCRIPTURE

Henry Godinez

*Isaiah 43: 15-21*

I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King. Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert... for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

\* 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

*Gloria*

Thalken

Kecia Waldschmidt, Jen Kew, Terry Hansen, and Evan Bravos, soloists

Gloria in excelsis Deo  
Glory be to God on high.  
Glory to God in the highest.

O that I knew how all thy lights combine  
And configurations of their glory  
Seeing not only how each verse doth shine,  
But all the constellations of the story.

Stars are poor books, and of ten times do miss:  
This book of stars lights to eternal bliss.

O my soul.

*from **The Temple**, *The Holy Scriptures II**

*George Herbert (1633)*

Glory be to God ...

SERMON

“Renewal”

Liz Nickerson

\* RESPONSE

*A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing*

vv. 1 & 2



1. A hymn of glo - ry let us sing, new hymns through-  
2. You are a pres - ent joy, O Christ, tri - um - phant  
3. O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed now, to your\_\_ blessed



- out\_\_ the\_\_ world shall ring; By a new way\_\_ none  
love\_\_ once sac - ri - ficed, And great the light\_\_ in  
name\_\_ all\_\_ knees shall bow; You are, while end - less



ev - er trod Christ shares once more the throne of God.  
you we see to guide us to e - ter - ni - ty.  
a - ges run, in Tri - une God - head ev - er One.

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

Nancy Pifer, Terry Hansen & Evan Bravos, soloists

Choir 1. What won - drous love is this, O my soul! O my soul! What  
 Cong. 2. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to  
 Cong. 3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! \_\_\_\_\_ What won - drous love is  
 God and to the Lamb, I will sing; \_\_\_\_\_ To God and to the  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! \_\_\_\_\_ And when from death I'm

this! that Christ should come in bliss to bear the heav - y cross for my  
 Lamb who is the great I Am, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
 free, I'll sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the heav - y cross for my soul! \_\_\_\_\_  
 sing, I will sing; while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing. \_\_\_\_\_  
 on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on! \_\_\_\_\_



*Agnus Dei*

Jen Kew, Kecia Waldschmidt, Terry Hansen & Evan Bravos, soloists

Lamb of God,

You take away the sins of the world,

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,

You take away the sins of the world,

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,

You take away the sins of the world,

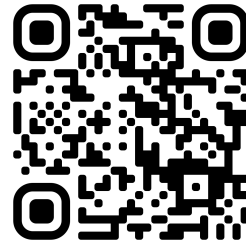
Grant us peace

*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).*



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Matt Fitzgerald

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.**

* RESPONSE	<i>A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing</i>	v. 3
	See previous hymn	
* BENEDICTION		Liz Nickerson
* BENEDICTION RESPONSE	<i>Grant Us Peace</i>	Thalken
POSTLUDE	<i>Improvisation on Themes from Mass of Renewal</i>	Joseph Thalken
	Joseph Thalken, piano	

***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 Social Hall, directly below the Sanctuary.***

### TODAY'S MUSIC

Yes, there are other beautiful movements in addition to the famous *Toccata*, which we hear on Christmas Eve, from *Symphony V in F Major, Op. 42, No 1*. The symphony was composed in 1879 by Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937). This reflective ***Adagio in C Major*** is the lyric movement that precedes the fiery *Toccata*. It also shows off the warmer tones available and the huge range of colors of larger instruments. Widor, along with Louis Vierne (1870-1937), were the great French Romantic symphonists for the organ. Vierne held the post of Organist at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, and Widor held the same position at St. Sulpice, also in Paris.

***By Gracious Powers*** is a translation of a 1944 Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945) text by Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000). Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran pastor and was one of the most influential theologians of the twentieth century. His anti-Nazi views caused his imprisonment and eventually his death in a concentration camp barely a month before the end of World War II. Green was one of the most prolific hymnodists as an author and translator, especially German hymns of his time. He was born in Liverpool, England, and was an ordained Methodist minister. The tune, BONHOEFFER, is an homage to the author of the text and was composed by American Herbert G. Hobbs (1934-2022). In addition to his musical training, he was also a minister in the United Methodist Church.

***Mass of Renewal*** was commissioned by St. Pauls before the pandemic and composed by Joseph Thalken (b. 1962) during and after the pandemic. As he and our Music Director talked about themes he might want to consider, the idea emerged to combine parts of the traditional Latin mass texts with poetry by George Herbert (1593-1633) and a great American hymn, *What Wondrous Love Is This*, tune WONDROUS LOVE, as a way to also involve the congregation; all these parts come together to make a whole. As they talked about a title for the new work, the celebration of the final **R**, for Renewal, in our **The 3 Rs** theme for 2022-2023, seemed an ideal answer, particularly in light of emerging from the pandemic. The repeated refrain in the hymn *I will sing* seems particularly relevant to a theme of Renewal. Thalken has composed anthems for our Chancel Choir in the past: *In the Beginning* (2006) dedicated to Kurt R. Hansen, *Go Forth in Peace* (2010) to celebrate Pastor Tom Henry's retirement, and *Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord* (2012) in celebration of 20 years of service of our Music Director, Kurt R. Hansen. Mr. Thalken has also written chamber and orchestral music as well as original musical theater works. He has conducted both in Europe and America, and has accompanied such artists as Julie Andrews, Patti LuPone, Bernadette Peters, and Joshua Bell. His music has been premiered and promoted by such well-known singers as Elizabeth Futral, an international opera singer and former member of St. Pauls. He has been a guest lecturer at Yale University. Joe and Terry Hansen were classmates at Northwestern and even were cast as romantic leads together in a production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Rudigore*.

The text for ***A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing*** is a free translation of poetry by The Venerable Bede (672/3- 735). He was an English monk and one of the greatest scholars and teachers of the Early Middle Ages. The translation dates from 1858 by Elizabeth Rundle Charles (1828-1896). In addition to writing many hymn texts, she also authored many books on the early Christian church in England and Germany. The tune, DEO GRACIAS, is also known as AGINCOURT. It is an English ballad that dates from the 15th century.

## **Chancel Choir**

Kurt R. Hansen, Music Director

Kevin Dzierzawski, Organist

Karina Kontorovitch, Rehearsal pianist

### **Sopranos**

Katie Alrutz

Christie DeForest

Gay Kelly

Jennifer Kew

Karin Magnuson +

Nancy Pifer \*

Maire O'Brien

Ashley Saluga

Grace Stauskas

Meg Tazelaar

Kecia Waldschmidt

Pam Woll

### **Altos**

Cindy Ball

Amy Barton

Lois Basil

Carrie Bettler

Terry Brancaccio Hansen

Carrie Bruggers - Librarian

Breanna Coe \*

Micki Fayhee

Liana German

Karen Johnson

Winnie Kearns

Jana O'Brien +

Amy Petersen Beck

Pat Ruch

### **Tenors**

Todd Coe

Andy Davis

Alex Hansen

Kris Hansen

Doug Heyboer +

Joe JaQuay

Rick Peterson

Nathan Streeter \*

### **Basses**

Chris Bettler

Bill Borden

Jim Brandt +

Evan Bravos

Jeff Carlson

Allen Heineman

Graham Hicks

Mark Huddle

Julian Jarzebowski

Lee Lichamer \*

Jackson Pierzina

Mark Mosley

Mark Swanson

Doug Walters

\* Section leader

+ Advisory Committee

## **Instrumental Ensemble**

Flute - Monty Adams

Oboe - Julie Schneider

Clarinet - Michael Ippolito

Bassoon - Franny LeFevre

Horn - Liz Deitemyer

Trumpet - Tom Madeja

Trumpet - Leah Schuman

Trombone - Lorne Frank

Tuba - Chris Bettler

Timpani - Rebecca McDaniel

Percussion - Russ Knutson

Piano - Jeffrey Wagner

## **TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

**Clergy:** Liz Nickerson, Matt Fitzgerald

**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:** Todd Coe

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

**Head Ushers:** Beatrice Jaji

**Ushers:** Juanita Barlow, Jen Luerssen

**Gatekeeper:** Dodd Brown

**Greeters:** Madelyn Jansma, Jim Jansma

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

**Custodian:** Ramiro Gonzalez

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are in appreciation of the Connectors, from Char and Larry Damron.

## **BORN THIS WEEK IN MAY**

*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.*

May 21 Nate Combs, Scott Moehrke, Amelia Holland

May 22 Leslie Chamberlain, Julian Chaiken

May 23 Julie Walker

May 24 Josiah Smedley, David Wu

May 25 Carlos Cata, Karen Rieck, Becca Fayhee, Spencer Weldon, Spencer Ward

May 26 Karen Brach, Mary Kay Campbell

May 27 Libby Braband, Norman Beck, Graham Roark

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

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

*\* Events marked with an asterisk are in a non-wheelchair accessible location.*

*Contact the church office or group leader for more information.*

**MAY 23 - SACK LUNCH GROUP: FOOD FOR THE SOUL** - 12 -2 p.m., Oscar Mayer Room  
Adults of all ages are invited to join St. Pauls Social with hosts Jenny Benefield and Jan Fraccaro. Make new friends and connect with old ones with lunch (please bring your own), fellowship, fun, and faith. Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson will share a "Food for the Soul" reflection time after we eat. RSVP is appreciated here but coming at the last minute is fine, as well as needing to leave early!

[spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1746758](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1746758)

**JUNE 2 - JULY 7 - YOUNG ADULT FRIDAY BEACH VOLLEYBALL** - 6-8:30 p.m.

Make new friends and enjoy summer sunsets on North Avenue Beach! Join our Chicago Social recreational beach volleyball team. We'll gather on Fridays to have fun and support UCAN, the non-profit agency which St. Pauls founded to help kids in need. For more info and to sign-up, contact [youngadults@spucc.org](mailto:youngadults@spucc.org).

**JUNE 4 - NEW MEMBER CLASS** - 11 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room

Join pastors, members and others curious about St. Pauls for our next 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 child care will be provided as needed (please let us know in your registration). The new member joining date will be June 18.

Register here: [spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1754260](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1754260).

**JUNE 7 - WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - 12 p.m., Zoom**

We're studying a book we've never studied before - Leviticus! It can be off-putting with its rituals and animal sacrifices, but it's also the book from which Jesus got "love your neighbor as yourself." Join us for an adventure as we look for treasure in unfamiliar terrain! RSVP to Jeff, [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org).

**JUNE 11 - SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - 11:30 a.m., Sanctuary**

Please join us for this special congregational meeting to vote on the kick-off of fundraising efforts for the next stage of the Expanding Our Openness campaign and changes to our bylaws relating to the Human Resources policies and practices of our Church. This meeting will take place in person, with Zoom Webinar and call-in options for those who wish to participate virtually. For more meeting details and Zoom information, see the full announcement here: [tinyurl.com/ektz4uah](http://tinyurl.com/ektz4uah).

**JUNE 25 - ST. PAULS SOCIAL PRIDE COOKOUT - 4 p.m., Courtyard**

Adults of all ages are invited to join St. Pauls Social and hosts Rick Peterson and Doug Heyboer for a cookout after the Pride Parade in the St. Pauls courtyard. Whether you're marching or not, you're invited to join this fun cookout. Please bring your own food and beverages. A grill will be provided for all to share. You can leave your food at the church during the march.

**JUNE 28 - COOKIES FOR A CAUSE - 5:30 p.m., St. Pauls Kitchen**

Join the St. Pauls cookie bakers for dinner, socializing and cookie making. Meet us in the kitchen at 5:30 p.m. or whenever you can make it. We eat around 6:30 p.m. Cookies go to A Just Harvest and the Lincoln Park Community Shelter. If you can't join us but would like to participate, you may drop off cookies marked MARCIA at St. Pauls on the 28th. Please get in touch with Marcia Volk to reserve a spot and she will let you know what dinner/baking supplies are still needed, [marcia@volkonline.com](mailto:marcia@volkonline.com) or (773) 307-6866.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **MIGRANT LAUNDRY/SHOWER VOLUNTEERING**

Migrants at local police stations are in need of fresh laundry and opportunities to shower. St. Pauls has a wealth of facilities and we would like to help provide access to these services. We are looking for volunteers to help with transportation and running laundry in the St. Pauls machines. We would like to offer this service weekly on Saturday mornings, and possibly other days if there is strong participation. If you are interested in learning more or signing up to help with laundry and providing access to showers, please email Jen Kew at [CEPsupper@gmail.com](mailto:CEPsupper@gmail.com). We have a wish list of laundry and shower supplies. Sign up for wish list items today: [tinyurl.com/LaundryWishlist](https://tinyurl.com/LaundryWishlist) and deliver items in good condition to the St. Pauls office by Sunday, May 28.

### **MIGRANT MEAL SUPPORT**

Chicago's challenge to support the migrant populations arriving here continues to stress the city. For migrants, it's an extraordinarily difficult period with no real hospitable shelter to await their intake meetings. SPUC is meeting the challenge by organizing a group to provide meals to people living at the 18th District Police Station (1160 N. Larrabee). We are looking for anyone interested who would like to be part of food prep and delivery on two upcoming Mondays. Please consider participating to support our efforts by volunteering through this link: [tinyurl.com/yihum2me](https://tinyurl.com/yihum2me) or contact Mark Pellegrino at [jjmarkp@yahoo.com](mailto:jjmarkp@yahoo.com).

### **MAKE A BIBLE DIORAMA!**

You are invited to craft a scene from the Bible for all to enjoy. Take a look at the brightly lit display case mounted to the back wall of the Narthex. Our first diorama is already installed! Register to make your own, using whatever you have on hand at home. Church staff will contact you to arrange installation. [spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1776895](https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1776895)

### **LPCS MEAL PREP VOLUNTEERS**

A group of St. Pauls people gathered last Sunday in the kitchen to prepare dinner for 30 patrons of the Lincoln Park Community Shelter, a long-standing partner of St. Pauls in helping our neighbors. This committed cohort prepared lasagna (both meat and veggie!), tossed salad, and made scrumptious garlic bread (our team of taste-testers were second-to-none!). The camaraderie and sense of purpose compels us to do it again. Please contact Kevin Hull (husband of Kirsten Opp Ekdahl Hull) at [HullPartners@gmail.com](mailto:HullPartners@gmail.com) if you are interested in potentially volunteering at a future date. St. Pauls Cooks!



## **CALLING ALL GRADUATES!**

Do you have a high school, college, or graduate school graduate? Please email their name and graduation date to Erin Fitzgerald at [erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org](mailto:erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org). They will be recognized in worship on June 4 at the youth mission trip commissioning on Baccalaureat Sunday!

## **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)

## **SUPPORT OUR YOUTH MISSION TRIP**

Support St. Pauls youth fundraising efforts for their service and learning trip to Tucson in June with Be the Neighbor. They will volunteer and learn from ministries serving immigrants on the US-Mexico border. Your donation helps fund a portion of their air travel to Tucson, transportation there, other expenses for their week away, as well as scholarships for some of the youth. Please help support our emerging congregational leaders who have spent the last crucial years of their adolescence altered by covid-19. And thanks to all of you who supported them already at Pancake Church when we raised \$5,500! You can donate here:

[spucc.churchcenter.com/giving/to/youth-mission-trip-donations](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/giving/to/youth-mission-trip-donations).

## **JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC**

**Defend democracy for all!** May 8 marked the National John Lewis Voting Rights Action Day. Advocates gathered to call for passage of the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. The 2013 Supreme Court gutted key provisions of the historic 1965 Voting Rights Act. Since then, a host of states have put forward a number of restrictive voter rights laws. Taken together these efforts to restrict voting rights and access to the polls disproportionately affect low-income workers, communities of color, senior citizens, students, people living with disabilities and veterans. Join other UCC churches and contact your senators here, [p2a.co/oV9SD29](http://p2a.co/oV9SD29).

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

**For The Love of Trees and Social Justice.** Trees provide for the very necessities of life itself: they clean the air and host diverse animal communities. Increasingly, they will also be important in moderating severe heat waves due to global warming. Yet, the tree canopy in Chicago ranges from 10% to 23% coverage; this is less than other regions and inequitably distributed, with low-income neighborhoods having less canopy. The City of Chicago is initiating a plan called “Our Roots” to increase tree plantings in low-income neighborhoods. It calls for doubling the number of trees planted over the next five years. There is a role we can all play in this effort; more details will be provided next week.

## **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 Hall. 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 St. Pauls members and friends. See our calendar, register for events, update your information, join our photo directory, manage your online donations, see your giving history, and more!

**COMMON PANTRY COMMUNION SUNDAYS** – We’re collecting food for the Common Pantry every communion Sunday - usually the first Sunday of the month. See their wishlist for most-needed items here, [commonpantry.org/donations](https://commonpantry.org/donations). Modest-sized products are best for distribution (e.g., a few 24 oz. containers of cooking oil are preferable to a 64 oz. container). Leave items in the Narthex bin.

**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](http://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).

**HANDWORK MEET-UP** – If you enjoy handwork, you’re invited to sit together in communion and community on the first Sunday of the month 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.

**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).

**LPCS VOLUNTEERING** – Lincoln Park Community Services has a new volunteer opportunity on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., or 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. You will prepare LPCS-provided lunches for their street outreach program and welcome folks coming for drop-in services. To learn more about this program, contact volunteer coordinator Lynne Brenan at [lynnebrenan@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnebrenan@yahoo.com) or (630) 542-7012. Learn more here: [tinyurl.com/4sfbcmpx](http://tinyurl.com/4sfbcmpx).

**MEN’S GROUP** – A St. Pauls Men’s Group is being formed. If you’d like to join, please contact Jim Jansma: [jjansma14@gmail.com](mailto:jjansma14@gmail.com). The group is going to meet each Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Lincoln Station, right around the corner on Lincoln Avenue. Make friends, find support and enrich your life with other St. Pauls members.

**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 p.m. *Please note, this is not a drop-off event.* Adult supervision is required.

**POP TAB PROGRAM: RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITY** – Help support the Ronald McDonald Charities by saving aluminum tabs from all kinds of cans: soda, canned foods, pet food, etc. Find a container and start collecting. Bring your pop tab donations to the Narthex and add them to our collection bin. This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce young children to helping others and recycling. Little things like pop tabs can make a big difference!

### **RETIREMENT GROUP**

The Retirement Group meets at 10 a.m. on the third Tuesday of the month in the Parlor\*. 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).

**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 [jenluerssen@yahoo.com](mailto:jenluerssen@yahoo.com). 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), Marti Pechnyo (mpechnyo@gmail.com), 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](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.

**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 & 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 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.

### **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!

## ST. 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.*

- Juanita Barlow and Paquita Mueller at the death of their sister, Maria Dolores Guadalupe.
- Micki Fayhee and family at the death of her mother, Linda.
- Loved ones of Petrine Ashley at her death.
- Kevin O'Brien's friend, Clay Taylor, recovering from heart transplant surgery.
- Sarah and her children, Emma and Jack, at the loss of their husband/father in an accident.
- Nick, at the passing of his mother.
- Mary Frances Winking's stepfather, Melvin, recovering from a stroke.
- Colleen, the wife of a friend of Brian Hafner's, who has suffered multiple strokes.
- 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 Terry S., incarcerated since the age of 17, recently released after 38 years in prison.
- For Gabe, Ranulfo and Macho, all struggling with addiction.
- For Bo, recovering from a stroke.
- 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!*

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 the Lincoln Common Parking Garage, 2316 N. 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.