

Baptism Sunday  
New Member Sunday  
June 18, 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

“Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.”  
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

PRELUDE                  *Concerto in A Minor—Adagio, BWV 593*      J. S. Bach/A. Vivaldi  
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

INTROIT *O Day of Radiant Gladness*  
Chancel Choir

CHIMES

WELCOME Matt Fitzgerald

\* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O Lord our God! Be in our midst today!

**All: Extinguish our vanity, defiance and despair.**

One: Replace them with your greatness, goodness and mercy!

**All: Make us yours today and every day!**

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

\* HYMN

*God Is Working His Purpose Out*



1. God is work - ing his pur - pose out As year suc -  
 2. From ut - most east to ut - most west, Wher - e'er man's  
 3. March we forth in the strength of God With the ban - ner of  
 4. All we can do is noth - ing worth Un - less God

-ceeds to year; God is work - ing his pur - pose out, And the  
 foot hath trod, By the mouth of man - y mes - sen - gers Goes  
 Christ un - furled, That the light of the glo - rious gos - pel of truth May  
 bless - es the deed; Vain - ly we hope for the har - vest - tide Till

time is draw - ing near; Near - er and near - er draws the time, The  
 forth the voice of God; Give ear to me, ye con - ti - nents, Ye  
 shine through - out the world; Fight we the fight with sorrow and sin To  
 God gives life to the seed; Yet near - er and near - er draws the time, The

time that shall sure - ly be, When the earth shall be filled with the  
 isles, give ear to me, That the earth may by filled with the  
 set their cap - tives free, That the earth may be filled with the  
 time that shall sure - ly be, When the earth shall be filled with the

1-3. 4.  
 glo - ry of God As the wa - ters cov - er the sea.  
 glo - ry of God As the wa - ters cov - er the sea.  
 glo - ry of God As the wa - ters cov - er the sea.  
 glo - ry of God As the wa - ters cov - er the sea.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liz Nickerson

**Merciful God, our faults are too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Set us free from a past that we cannot change;  
 Open to us a future in which we can be changed and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image. Listen now as we share our personal confessions in silence with you.**

## MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### RESPONSE

### *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

v. 1

1. Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, Tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
2. O to grace how great a debt-or Dai-ly I'm con-strained to be!

Streams of mer-cy, nev-er ceas-ing, Call for songs of loud-est praise.  
Let thy good-ness, like a fet-ter Bind my wan-dering heart to thee:

Teach me some me-lo-dious son-net, Sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove;  
Prone to wan-der, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;

Praise the mount! I'm fixed up-on it, Mount of thy re-deem-ing love.  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for thy courts a-bove.

## THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM OF

Scarlett Jorie England, Augustus Evan Schmitt, Irem Metin, Aidan Metin Ritchie,  
Benjamin Metin Ritchie

Pastor: Scarlett, Augustus, Irem, Aiden and Benjamin, receive now the Light of Christ. May you walk always as children of light. May your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to God. They are now received into the love and care of the church. See what love God has given us that we should be called children of God.

**All: Almighty God, giver of life, you have called us by name and pledged to each of us your faithful love. We pray for your children, Scarlett, Augustus, Irem, Aiden, and Benjamin. Inspire their lives. May they sing many songs, know many joys, heal many wounds, and embrace many people in your name. We pray for their families, that they may be guided by your love so that they may know your presence. May we walk together with these families as witnesses to your gospel, as those for whom you have lived and died and live again. Amen.**

Pastor: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you always.

**All: Amen**

RESPONSE

*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*  
See previous hymn

v. 2

## SCRIPTURE

Mark Sancya

### *Romans 5:1-10*

By entering through faith into what God has always wanted to do for us—set us right with him, make us fit for him—we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We throw open our doors to God and discover at the same moment that he has already thrown open his door to us. We find ourselves standing where we always hoped we might stand—out in the wide open spaces of God's grace and glory, standing tall and shouting our praise.

And not only that. We continue to shout our praise when we are suffering, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Christ didn't, and doesn't, wait for us to get ready. He died for us when we were far too weak and rebellious to be anything but God's enemies. In human experience it is a rare thing for one person to give their life for another, even if the person they die for is a good man. Yet the proof of God's amazing love is this: it was while we were sinners, God's enemies, of absolutely no use to God, that Christ died for us.

If Christ spared us from God's wrath by dying for us while we were his enemies, now that we are at peace with God, we can be wonderfully certain of our salvation - because he lives for us. This is more than a matter of bare salvation. We don't just sigh with relief, we hold our heads high in the light of God's love because of the peace Christ has made.

\* RESPONSE

*Amazing Grace*

vv. 1 & 2

1. A - maz - ing\_\_ grace! How sweet the sound, that  
2. Through man - y\_\_ dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
3. When we've been\_\_ there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a\_\_ wretch like me!\_\_ I once\_\_ was lost, but  
have al - ready - y come;\_\_ 'Tis grace\_\_ has brought me  
shin - ing\_\_ as the sun,\_\_ We've no\_\_ less days to

now\_\_ am\_\_ found, was blind but\_\_ now I see.\_\_  
safe\_\_ thus far, and grace will\_\_ lead me home.\_\_  
sing\_\_ God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.\_\_

SERMON

"Costly Grace"

Matt Fitzgerald

\* HYMN

*Amazing Grace*  
See previous hymn

v. 3

OFFERTORY

*Gloria* from Gloria  
Chancel Choir

Antonio Vivaldi

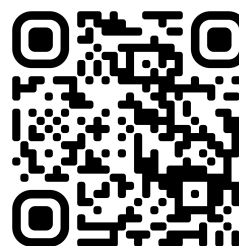
Glory to God in the highest.

*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 blessings flow; Praise God all creatures 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.



## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

## A Dialogue on our Statement of Faith

Pastor Matt: Let us affirm together our faith as we receive these new members into our church.

**Congregation: We believe in God who has created and is creating.**

President: God has come to us in Jesus Christ to reconcile and make us new. God works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation: We trust God. God calls us to be the church.**

Pastor Liz: Will you promise to support this congregation with your time, talent and resources, participating regularly in the worship of Saint Pauls United Church of Christ and contributing to our life and ministry in the city?

New Members: We do promise. With you, we will celebrate God's presence, love and serve others, care for creation, seek justice and resist evil.

Pastor Matt: With your love, God will love. With your hands, God will touch the city. With your lives, God will bring justice and compassion to the world.

**Congregation: We promise you our love, support and care.**

**All: Together we will 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!**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Liz Nickerson

## 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

*Thank Our God for Christian Siblings*



1. Thank our God for Chris-tian sib - lings, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2. Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep-ing faith with Christ as guide;
3. Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re-main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.  
 Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.  
 Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan - dard, let us sing as with one voice,  
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.  
 One in Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.  
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.  
 Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

\* BENEDICTION

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

*Balm in Gilead*  
 St. Arbucks Quartet

*Black 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 to coffee hour in the Social Hall, directly below the Sanctuary.***

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**



My name is **David Faulkner**. I have been a lifelong UCC member and have lived in the Chicago area my entire life. I live in Oak Park with my wife Megan, but am planning on moving into the city. I work in a retail warehouse and am in school studying for my Bachelor's degree in Transportation and Logistics Management from Bellevue University. When I'm not doing any of those things, I play competitive Whirlyball, love to check out new and exciting things in the city, and my main passion is anything to do with cars.



We are **Gary and Gale Landem**. We lived in the Chicago suburbs where we raised our family. When we retired, we moved to rural Minnesota to enjoy our Minnesota family and the four seasons, even the long and sometimes very brutal winters. We have recently moved to Chicago and are enjoying exploring so much of what city living has to offer. We are spending summers fishing, boating and gardening at our Minnesota home.



We are **Irem Metin and Will Ritchie**. We and our two boys, Aidan (6) and Benjamin (3), are excited to join Saint Pauls. We moved to Chicago eight years ago and have lived in the neighborhood since. We grew up in different countries and families with very different backgrounds. Irem is from Istanbul, Turkey; Will grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota. Our love of community and learning is one of the many values that brought us together and led us to Saint Pauls. We love spending time outdoors, running, picnicking at one of our many neighborhood parks, cheering for our boys

at various soccer and baseball games, and going on family bike rides that usually end at Annette's Italian Ice. We are very excited to join this welcoming community.



We are **Evan and Mallory Schmitt**. We have lived in the city for eight years and are thrilled to have found the amazing community here at St. Pauls in which to raise our son Augustus. In our free time, we enjoy the trials and tribulations of golf, projects around the house, and are currently perfecting our baby-focused stand-up comedy act. Augustus is refining his walking skills and learning to be “gentle” with the “Gog” (dog) and “Ca” (cat).

## TODAY'S MUSIC

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) had such respect for the music of Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741), that he hand copied some of his music into his personal library. They never met, however. This work, ***Concerto in A minor, BWV 593***, which Vivaldi wrote for strings in 1710, Bach transcribed and arranged for organ in 1713 or 1714. The *Adagio* has both a sense of grandeur and warmth.

The text, ***O Day of Radiant Gladness***, was composed by Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885) in 1862. He was the nephew of the famous poet William Wordsworth, and had a long career as a priest in the Anglican Church. The tune, ES FLOG EIN KLEINS WALDVÖGELEIN, is a 17th century German folk melody first published in a manuscript found in Memmingen.

***God Is Working His Purpose Out*** is a favorite hymn of our recently deceased Pastor Emeritus Tom Henry. The text was written by Arthur Campbell Ainger (1841–1919) in 1894. The text demanded a muscular tune, which Martin Shaw (1916–1999) provided in 1951.

***Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing***, to the tune NETTLETON, is from the rich American tradition of the Sacred Harp hymnals, specifically Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*. The text was written by Robert Robinson (1735-1790), who began his professional life as an apprentice to a hairdresser before committing himself to a religious life.

The text for ***Amazing Grace*** is by John Newton (1725-1807), who was a slave ship captain, but became an Anglican clergy and fervent abolitionist. He once said that writing this text saved his soul. The tune, NEW BRITAIN, is most likely an African American spiritual and was first published in 1829.

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) was a contemporary of J.S. Bach (1685-1750). Indeed, one could say that he was the “Bach of Italy.” Bach thought so highly of his works that he transcribed ten of his pieces into his personal library and for performance. Vivaldi was a prodigious composer of operas, chamber music, songs, and sacred works. This ***Gloria*** is one of his more well-known works. It was composed sometime shortly after the turn of the century. He composed two other settings of this text. *The Four Seasons* is probably his most widely played works, having even been used in commercials, cartoons and film scores.

The original text for ***Thank Our God for Christian Siblings*** was written in 1948 by Roger K. Powell (1914-2003) as a rallying song for The National Council of Churches meeting in 1952. The text was updated for our *New Century Hymnal*. PLEADING SAVIOR was first published in 1830 and is attributed to Joshua Levitt (1794-1873). Levitt was a Yale graduate and became a Congregational minister. He aided a slave to escape the South and raised funds for the defense of the Armistad captives.

***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 from their oppression. For enslaved people 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. This arrangement is by our own Brendan Henry.

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

**Clergy:** Matt Fitzgerald, Liz Nickerson

**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:** Mark Sancya

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

**Head Usher:** Beatrice Jaji

**Ushers:** Mary Brown, David Baker, Doug Clark

**Gatekeeper:** Dodd Brown

**Greeters:** Madelyn Jansma, Jim Jansma

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

**Custodian:** Ramiro Gonzalez

## **BORN THIS WEEK IN JUNE**

*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.*

June 18 Griffin Weil, Spencer Weil, Jones Brinkoetter  
June 19 Jordan England, Stephen Brach-Spivey, Thomas Jackson, Chris Bettler  
June 20 Zoe Montgomery  
June 21 Paul Kendall  
June 22 Geoffrey Gist  
June 23 Benn Hamm, Brian Good, Chris Kohler, Nancy Kintzel, Elise Prangley,  
Quinn Houser  
June 24 Doug Hoerr, Katie Barkley, Kristin Ammon

## **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.*

**TODAY - DISCUSSION of *THE BIG PAYBACK* MOVIE** -11 a.m., Comet Room (below the Narthex). *The Big Payback* examines current efforts to address reparations for slavery to African Americans. More than 150 years after the Emancipation Proclamation, the Black community still bears the burdens of state-sanctioned racial discrimination. Join us on this journey to breathe new life into the discussion about reparations and help our community reimagine what justice and equality can look like. Co-facilitators Kirk Chernansky and David Fowlkes will lead us on an exploration of reparations, why it matters, and what roles we can play.

### **JUNE 20 - RETIREMENT GROUP** – 10 a.m., Social Hall

The Retirement Group meets at 10 a.m. on the third Tuesday of the month in the Social Hall. 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).

### **JUNE 21 - 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 23 - 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 25 - PRIDE PARADE - after worship, Courtyard**

Express our welcome by walking together with St. Pauls and members of the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Church(CCWC) in the 2023 Pride Parade on Sunday, June 25. This year's theme is "**God's Love Embraces and TRANSforms All!**" Meet after worship in the courtyard by the bell, bring your CTA card and we'll head up to the parade route on the "L". Let us know you're walking by signing up here: [spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1802009](https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1802009)

**JUNE 25 - ST. PAULS SOCIAL PRIDE COOKOUT - 3 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. Let us know you're coming by registering here: [spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1804748](https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1804748)

**JUNE 27 - SACK LUNCH GROUP: FOOD FOR THE SOUL - 12 -2 p.m., Social Hall**

Sponsored by St. Pauls Social. Adults of all ages are invited. 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 but coming at the last minute is fine, as well as needing to leave early! [spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1746758](https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1746758)

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

Join the St. Pauls cookie bakers for dinner, socializing and cookie making. Meet us 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.



### **JULY 8 - LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION 4th ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER**

12-2p.m. Meeting House Tavern, 5025 North Clark Street

Join Lighthouse Foundation for their 4th Anniversary Fundraiser celebrating its work over the past four years and looking towards the future. Experience live music, drag performances, and storytelling from their accomplices in the work. Meeting House Tavern's bar will be open to purchase drinks. Donations for this event will support the work of their flagship research project, the Black Queer Equity Index. Register here: [tinyurl.com/yn66jpsy](https://tinyurl.com/yn66jpsy)

### **JULY 29-30 WOMEN'S FARM/STARVED ROCK WEEKEND AT VOLK'S FARM**

Please join us at Marcia Volk's family farm the weekend of July 29-30. Come for Saturday only or the weekend. Carpool to farm (about two hours SW) and spend Saturday hiking at Starved Rock and/or enjoying the farm trails, picking wildflowers, riding our 4-wheeler, zip line and boating. On Saturday night we'll have a potluck dinner and bonfire. On Sunday we'll attend Marcia's summer UCC church in Lacon (optional). Breakfast and lunch are at the farm Sunday. Please bring \$10 for expenses if possible. First 11 people to respond get the beds, two to a bed. All beds require the ability to climb stairs. For more information or to reserve your spot, contact Marcia Volk at [marcia@volkonline.com](mailto:marcia@volkonline.com) or 773-307-6866.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **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 (2-4): 9 a.m. -12 p.m. Elementary school (5-12): 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
[spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1617569](https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1617569)

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

**Juneteenth** celebrates the day when the last African Americans held as slaves learned that they were free, two years after the Emancipation Proclamation and two months after the Confederate surrender. Nearly 160 years later, our social and governmental systems have yet to fully embrace our Black siblings as equal citizens. This June 19, join a **Conversation on Health Equity with Dr. Ngozi Ezike**, sponsored by [liveunitedchicago.org](https://liveunitedchicago.org), to explore the disparities in health care faced by minority communities, and how we can all be better. Learn more and RSVP here, [tinyurl.com/3hy6ene7](https://tinyurl.com/3hy6ene7).

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

If you are using paper napkins, you are throwing away trees. Instead, use cloth napkins, which are easy to find new or used. Patterned ones hide stains and distinctive napkin rings can mark each person's for a day or two before they are laundered. Napkins and napkin rings also make excellent gifts, which can bring whimsy to your table. Children may enjoy napkin rings made of shells or in the image of animals.

### **UCC GENERAL SYNOD – WHAT IS IT? WHO IS INVOLVED?**

The 34<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the United Church of Christ (UCC) will be held in two weeks in Indianapolis, Indiana. The theme of this year's Synod is "Making All Things New" (*Isaiah 43: 18-19*). This General Synod is being hosted by the UCC's Indiana-Kentucky Conference (300-400 volunteers are being recruited!). The General Synod is akin to a family reunion of the UCC – it includes opportunities to meet and reconnect, glorious worship services, dynamic keynote speakers, an exhibit hall, educational workshops for the church in action, and, of course, elections of denomination leaders and consideration of resolutions that will shape the positions of the denomination. The General Synod is the UCC's national decision-making body, responsible for giving general direction to the denomination's various programs.

At the General Synod, all UCC groups in various settings of the church are strongly encouraged to participate. Interested visitors are welcome. General Synod rotates among locations in the U.S. and occurs every two years, but a proposal being considered at this meeting would shift the meeting to every three years. While individual UCC churches do not send representatives to the Synod directly, they elect delegates to the Conference in which they are located, which in turn elects delegates to the Synod. General Synod delegates from the Conferences include roughly an equal number of lay persons and clergy that are also roughly an equal number in gender. In addition to delegates from the Conferences, the national denominational officers and board members of the UCC and representation from the "HUGs" (Historically Under-represented Groups) serve as members of the General Synod. The HUGs include disability ministries, youth ministries, The Coalition for LGBTQ Concerns/ONA, and individual groups representing Black, Hispanic, the Council of American Indian Ministries (CAIM), and Pacific Islanders and Asian Americans (PAAM).

*Rick Peterson wrote this article about the UCC General Synod. Rick has participated in six General Synods, three as a voting delegate (as a member of the national UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries Board of Directors). Rick is currently the St. Pauls representative to the UCC's Chicago Metropolitan Association and Illinois Conference.*

## 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 in 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, contact Linda Nitzsche, [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](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).

**HANDWORK MEET-UP** – If you enjoy handwork, you're invited to sit together in 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).

**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 Social Hall 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!

**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 [cindyzinn11@gmail.com](mailto: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 ([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)).

**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.

### **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!

## **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.*

- Rachel Barton Pine, her husband Greg, and their daughter Sylvia as Rachel recuperates from surgery.
- Troy Meinders' sister, Tricia, who is undergoing cancer treatment.
- Juanita Barlow and Paquita Mueller at the death of their sister, Maria Dolores Guadalupe. Juanita gives thanks for your love and support.
- Micki Fayhee and family at the death of her mother, Linda.
- Loved ones of Petrine Ashley at her death.
- 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.