



August 20, 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

"There is no such thing as 'fortune' or 'chance.'"

John Calvin

PRELUDE

I Don't Feel No Ways Tired
St. Arbucks Quartet

Rev. James Cleveland

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 don't feel noways tired

INTROIT

Deep River African American Spiritual
The Sopranos of the Chancel Choir arr. N. Clifford Page
Kecia Waldschmidt, conductor

Deep river, my home is over Jordan,
Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.
Oh, don't you want to go to that gospel feast,
That promised land where all is peace?
Oh don't you want to go to that promised land,
That land where all is peace?
Deep river, my home is over Jordan,
Deep river, Lord, I want to cross over into campground.

WELCOME

Jeff Carlson

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Be still.

All: And know that God is.

One: God was, also, in the beginning.

All: And when all our striving has ceased, *God will be.*

One: Rejoice in God, always!

All: Again, we say, rejoice!

** 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 be 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



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 *based on Psalm 32*

Matt Fitzgerald

**Oh God, when I am silent about my sinfulness
it is as if my bones are wasting away inside me.
I groan all day long.
I feel your hand on me. Heavy.
I feel my strength sapped as in the heat of summer.
But when I confess to you, my heart sings.
You are my hiding place.
You surround me with songs of forgiveness.
Your love is unfailing.
Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Sunday School students are invited to participate in Prayground Sunday School.
If you would like to accompany your child(ren) to the gym, you are welcome to drop
them off and return to worship. The nursery is available for 0-5-year olds.*

RESPONSE

Be Still My Soul

v. 1

1. Be still, my soul: for God is on your side; _____ bear pa - tient -
 2. Be still, my soul: for God will un - der - take _____ to guide in
 3. Be still, my soul: the hour will soon be here _____ when we shall

- ly the cross of grief or pain; _____ Leave to your God to
 fu - ture days as in the past. _____ Your hope, your con - fi -
 be with God whom we a - dore, _____ with dis - ap - point - ment

or - der and pro - vide; _____ in ev - ery change God
 - dence let noth - ing shake; _____ all now mys - te - rious
 gone, no grief nor fear, _____ sor - row re - placed with

faith - ful will re - main. _____ Be still, my soul: your best e - ter - nal
 shall be clear at last. _____ Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still
 joy for - ev - er - more. _____ Be still, my soul: when change and tears are

Genesis 44:1-15 from the Message translation

Joseph couldn't hold himself in any longer, keeping up a front before all his attendants. He cried out, "Leave! Clear out—everyone leave!" So there was no one with Joseph when he identified himself to his brothers. But his sobbing was so violent that the Egyptians couldn't help but hear him. The news was soon reported to Pharaoh's palace.

Joseph spoke to his brothers: "I am Joseph. Is my father really still alive?" But his brothers couldn't say a word. They were speechless—they couldn't believe what they were hearing and seeing.

"Come closer to me," Joseph said to his brothers. They came closer. "I am Joseph your brother whom you sold into Egypt. But don't feel badly, don't blame yourselves for selling me. God was behind it. God sent me here ahead of you to save lives. There has been a famine in the land now for two years; the famine will continue for five more years—neither plowing nor harvesting. God sent me on ahead to pave the way and make sure there was a remnant in the land, to save your lives in an amazing act of deliverance. So you see, it wasn't you who sent me here but God. He set me in place as a father to Pharaoh, put me in charge of his personal affairs, and made me ruler of all Egypt. "Hurry back to my father. Tell him, 'Your son Joseph says: I'm master of all of Egypt. Come as fast as you can and join me here. I'll give you a place to live in Goshen where you'll be close to me—you, your children, your grandchildren, your flocks, your herds, and anything else you can think of. I'll take care of you there completely. There are still five more years of famine ahead; I'll make sure all your needs are taken care of, you and everyone connected with you—you won't want for a thing.'

"Look at me. You can see for yourselves, and my brother Benjamin can see for himself, that it's me, my own mouth, telling you all this. Tell my father all about the high position I hold in Egypt, tell him everything you've seen here, but don't take all day—hurry up and get my father down here."

Then Joseph threw himself on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. He then kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Only then were his brothers able to talk with him.

*** 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 Still My Soul
See previous hymn

vv. 2 & 3

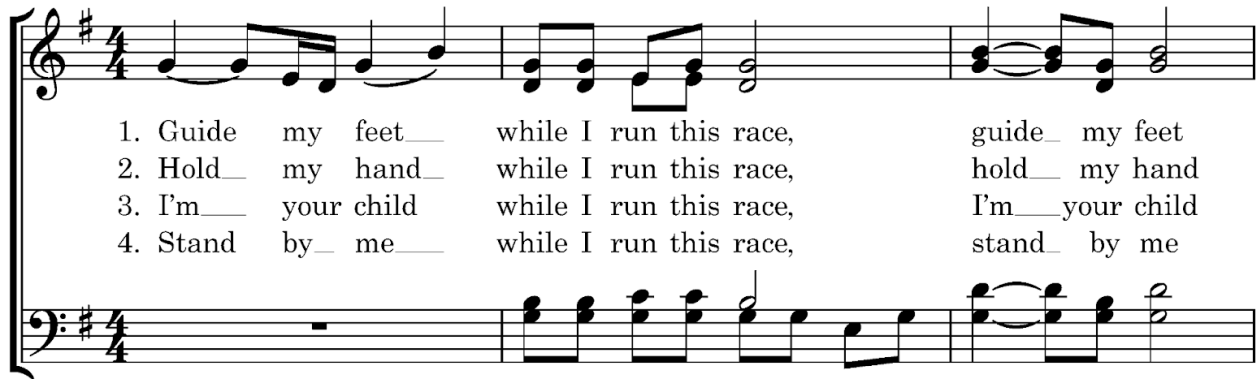
SERMON

"God Was Behind It"

Matt Fitzgerald

* HYMN

Guide My Feet



1. Guide my feet while I run this race, guide my feet
2. Hold my hand while I run this race, hold my hand
3. I'm your child while I run this race, I'm your child
4. Stand by me while I run this race, stand by me

Yes, my God.



while I run this race, guide my feet while I run this race,
while I run this race, hold my hand while I run this race,
while I run this race, I'm your child while I run this race,
while I run this race, stand by me while I run this race,

Yes, my God.



For I don't want to run this race in vain.

MISSION MOMENT

Migrant Housing Project

David Brown

OFFERTORY

Sing Gently

Eric Whitacre

The Sopranos of the Chancel Choir
Kecia Waldschmidt, conductor

May we sing together, always
May our voice be soft
May our singing be music for others
And may it keep others aloft.

Sing, sing gently, always
Sing, sing as one.

May we stand together, always
May our voice be strong
May we hear the singing and
May we always sing along.

Sing, sing gently, always
Sing, sing as one.

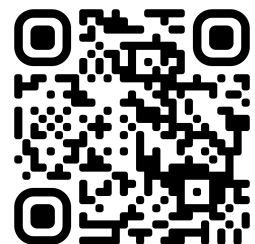
Singing gently as one.

You can give to St. Pauls electronically:

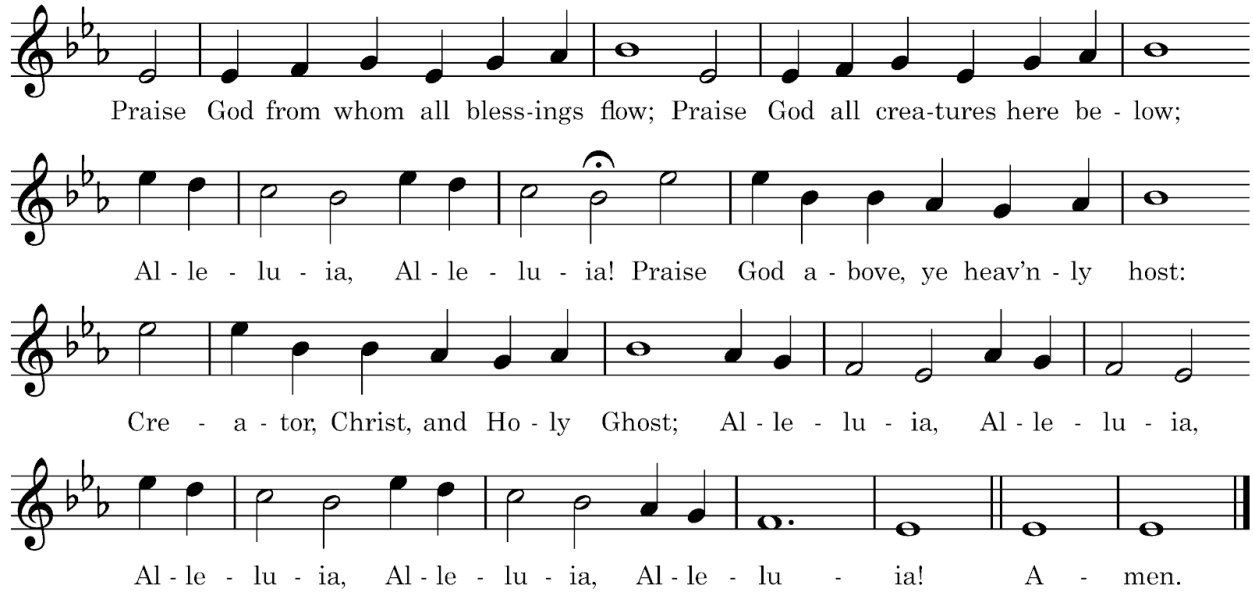
Scan this code with your cell phone camera,

Church Center at spucc.churchcenter.com/giving,

PayPal at spucc.org/paypal, or Zelle to 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

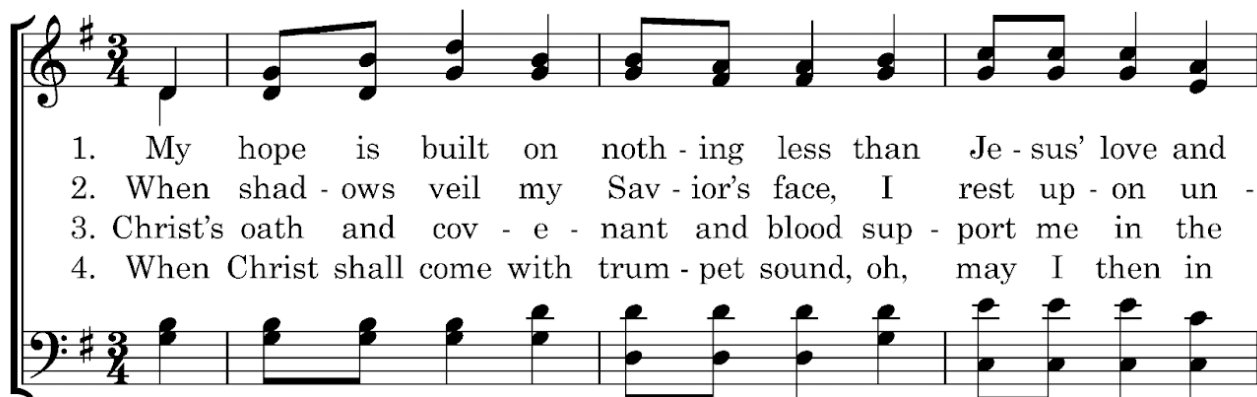
Jeff Carlson

THE LORD'S PRAYER

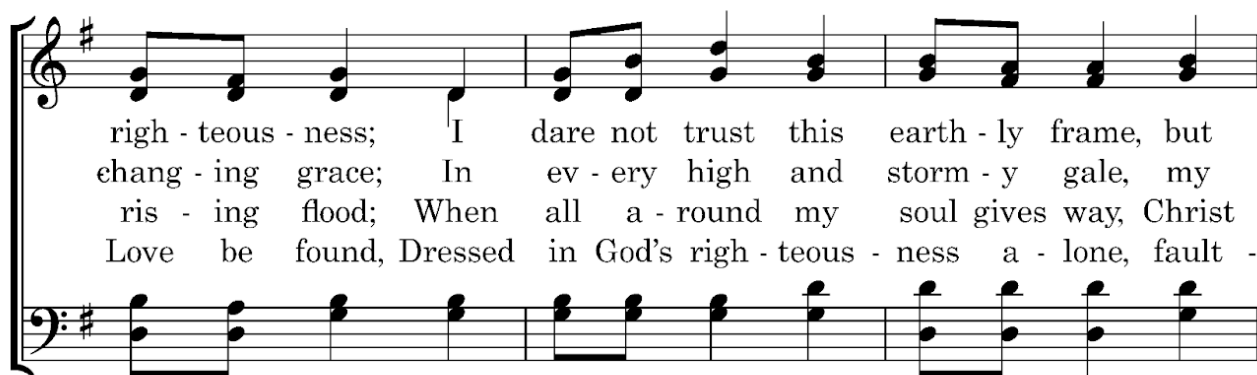
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**

* HYMN

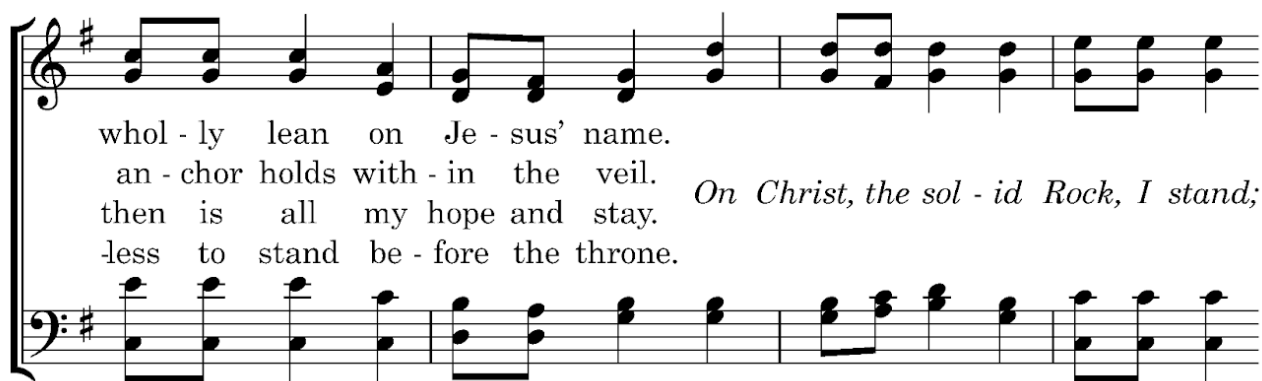
My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



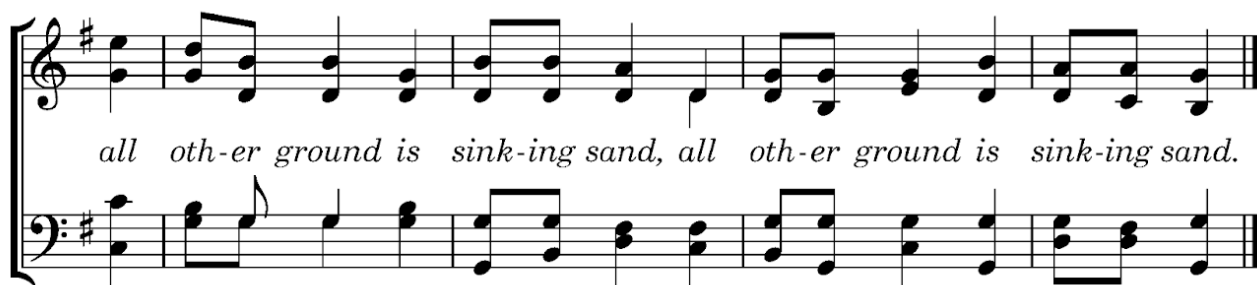
1. My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' love and
2. When shad - ows veil my Sav - ior's face, I rest up - on un -
3. Christ's oath and cov - e - nant and blood sup - port me in the
4. When Christ shall come with trum - pet sound, oh, may I then in



right - teous - ness; I dare not trust this earth - ly frame, but
chang - ing grace; In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
ris - ing flood; When all a - round my soul gives way, Christ
Love be found, Dressed in God's right - teous - ness a - lone, fault -



whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
an - chor holds with - in the veil. *On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand;*
then is all my hope and stay.
less to stand be - fore the throne.



all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

Rejoice!
St. Arbucks Quartet

Richard Smallwood

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 gym.

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

- Childcare is available for babies and toddlers up to age 5 during worship from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Nursery and Toddler Room downstairs.
- Older children are encouraged to worship with their parents. Look for the children's Bibles placed throughout the pews. Activity "busy bags" are available in the Narthex.
- UPCOMING SUMMER ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL DATES: Today and August 27
- REGULAR SUNDAY CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMS resume on September 17.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Jeff Carlson, Matt Fitzgerald

Music Director: Kurt R. Hansen

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

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Scripture Reader: Karen Lyons

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: John Balevic, Mary Brown, David Faulkner

Greeters: Craig Wilbanks, Monty Kehl, Jan Fraccaro, Vic Fraccaro

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

BORN THIS WEEK IN AUGUST

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.

Aug 20 Asha Gidwani, Jude Gonzalez-Greenberg, Karl Peterson, Maeve Gleason

Aug 21 Michael Van Zeyl, Ken Travers

Aug 22 Anne Mathew, Karen Lyons, Maurice Wallace, Cece Chamberlain,
David Poynton

Aug 24 Cres Roewer, Christopher McGuire, Doug Heyboer, Paige Terborg

Aug 25 Kurt Hansen, Maureen Reilly, Paul Berghoff, Ainslie Razeghi, Clark Baurer

Aug 26 Landon Roark

PASTORS' SABBATICAL SCHEDULE

St. Pauls provides a three-month sabbatical to each of our pastors every seven years. This year, Pastor Jeff will be on sabbatical from August 28 to October 22. Pastor Matt will be on sabbatical October 16 to December 16.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

See our full event calendar online at 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.

AUG 23 - 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 as we look for treasure in unfamiliar terrain! RSVP to Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org.

AUG 22 - SACK LUNCH GROUP: FOOD FOR THE SOUL - 12 -1:30 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 Jeff Carlson will be at the piano for a "Hymn Sing" after we eat. This is your chance to sing your favorite hymn from either the Red or Black Hymnal. You choose the hymns, Pastor Jeff will play them, and everyone will sing. Along with the singing, test your hymnology with a game of "Name That Hymn!" RSVP is appreciated but coming at the last minute is fine, as well as needing to leave early!

spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1746758

AUG 27 - NEW MEMBER CLASS - 11 a.m., Cloud Room*

Join pastors, members and others curious about St. Pauls for our upcoming New Member Class. Together we'll talk about faith and our community, and we'd love for you to be part of the conversation! We'll meet after worship, and childcare will be provided as needed (please let us know in your registration). The joining date for this class will be September 17. Register here:

spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1870150. Can't attend this time? Click the link to see other upcoming class dates too!

AUG 27 - CONSIDER THE LILIES TEAM MEETING - Comet Room, 11 a.m.

Are you looking for a way to get involved with the life of St. Pauls? Join us for an informational meeting and light lunch to learn more about being part of our team. We deliver the Sunday altar flowers to members and friends who need to know St. Pauls is thinking of them. We hope to have enough volunteers so that each team member makes a delivery once a month. If you would like to be part of this initiative, please join us for this meeting or contact Jan Bail at janbail@msn.com.

AUG 30 - COOKIES FOR A CAUSE - 5:30 p.m., Kitchen & Gym

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 take part, you may drop cookies off at church on or before the 30th, marked MARCIA. 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 or (773) 307-6866.

SEPT 19 - RETIREMENT GROUP - 10 a.m., Parlor*

The Retirement Group meets at 10 a.m. on the third Tuesday of the month. Please join us to discuss our transition paths, ways we found ourselves here, what's meaningful, and what's next with or without planned health, funds or companionship. For more info, contact Marcia Knudson at marciaknudson@gmail.com.

SEPT 23 - ST. PAULS OKTOBERFEST - 1 - 8 p.m.

It's Munich meets Chicago as St. Pauls hosts Oktoberfest in celebration of its German heritage! What better way to tap into the excitement of this Bavarian tradition than with authentic German food, local Oktoberfest beers, live music and dancing, a jumpy-house, and games for all ages. This year's live entertainment will once again include the Midwest's premier oompah band, Die Musikmeisters, as well as acclaimed children's entertainer, Laura Doherty. Grab your lederhosen and join us for a festive day of Alpine merriment! Admission is free. This event is open to the public and family friendly so invite your neighbors and friends and join us at the corner of Fullerton and Orchard. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held in our gymnasium.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAWAII WILDFIRES RELIEF

The Hawaii Conference of the United Church of Christ is assisting people impacted by the wildfires on Maui through local UCC churches, including the historic 200-year-old Waiola Church in Lahaina, which was burned in the fire.



REGISTER FOR CHURCH SCHOOL!

God created us to be creative and to create! This will be our theme as we start Church School! Each child will learn that they were each created in God's own image. They will learn to love and value all people and to love themselves. They won't want to miss growing in their faith and making new friends this fall! Please fill out the one-time registration for the '23-'24 school year below. We have a nursery for children under 2, Preschool Child Care for children 2-5, and Sunday School/Confirmation I & II for 5-year-olds to high school. Email questions to Children's Program Coordinator Danielle Mayfield at danielle.mayfield@spucc.org. Register here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1850397

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES - If you have a daughter or son in college, please send Children's Program Coordinator Danielle Mayfield their mailing address so the Connectors can send them a care package this fall. danielle.mayfield@spucc.org

STUDYING JUSTICE FOR THE NATIVE NATIONS - This group will begin by reading cutting edge scholarship on the relationship between the United States and the Native Nations of Turtle Island starting with Steve Newcomb's *Pagans in the Promised Land*. Contact Steve Schwartzberg with questions, stevenschwartzberg@yahoo.com. Join the group here: spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/studying-justice-for-the-native-nations.

CHANCEL CHOIR ON SUMMER BREAK - Our Chancel Choir is on summer break and will return to worship services on our Kick-off Sunday, September 10. Until then, music will be provided by talented members of our congregation each Sunday.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

The proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (chumashsanctuary.org) could be co-managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Chumash People in California. In reclaiming their heritage, they bring centuries of tribal knowledge to the conservation of the coast. They are already collaborating with scientists on monitoring the marine ecosystem. Read about how **First Nations leadership is helping protect the environment for all our futures** here, tinyurl.com/5f3d975h.

Creation Corner - provided by Green Team

REDUCE ELECTRICITY USAGE

- Tips for washing: This is one of the easiest ways to conserve energy at home. Simply wait for a full load before running your dishwasher and washing machine. Yep, no need to do laundry every day.
- Let your dishes air-dry instead of using your dishwasher's drying feature. For clothes, hang them outside to dry.
- And for one of the best energy savings tips, when washing your laundry, use the cold setting on your washing machine. You'll save around \$115 every year.

OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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.

CAREGIVERS' GROUP – A caregiving role can be a source of love, joy and considerable stress, but it's easier when it doesn't feel like you're the only one. The St. Pauls Caregivers' Group is an informal support group of people who are responsible for the care of parents, partners, friends, or children with illnesses or disabilities. We gather via Zoom the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 10 to 11 a.m. to listen, share, empathize, and encourage. Contact Pam Woll pamelawoll@sbcglobal.net with questions, or Claire Higgins at chiggins@spucc.org to be added to the email list.

CHURCH CENTER – 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. 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.

CONSIDER THE LILIES - Are you looking for a way to get involved with the life of St. Pauls? Join the team that delivers our Sunday altar flowers to members and friends who need to know St. Pauls is thinking of them. We hope to have enough volunteers so that each team member makes a delivery once a month. If you would like to be part of this initiative, please contact Jan Bail at janbail@msn.com.

CONNECTORS reach out providing networking and support for members and friends of St. Pauls. Membership is open to all who have the time and the inclination to help. Contact Marcia Volk at marcia@volkonline.com.

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

GREEN TEAM – As people of faith, members of St. Pauls are called to "Care for Creation." To that end, the Green Team is seeking new members, particularly young adults and youth, as we become a Creation Justice church recognized by the UCC. We would love to have you! If you are interested, please contact either of the new interim Green Team co-chairs, Ninon Freeman at nlanda05@yahoo.com or Rick Peterson at rnpeterson2017@gmail.com.

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. If you would like to schedule a tour or have additional questions, contact Little Lights Director Erin Fitzgerald at 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 or (630) 542-7012. Learn more here: tinyurl.com/4sfbcmpx.

NEW MEMBER CLASS August 27 - Join pastors, members, and others curious about St. Pauls for an upcoming New Member Class. Together we'll talk about faith and our community, and we'd love for you to be part of the conversation! We'll meet after worship, and childcare will be provided as needed (please let us know in your registration). See upcoming dates here: spucc.org/new_member_classes

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

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.

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. Subscribe to the distribution list below, or look out for future events in the bulletin calendar: spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/st-pauls-social.

SPARC (St. Pauls Anti-Racism Cluster) meets monthly to discern how we as a congregation can answer the call to live our faith in an age of injustice. We invite you to join us in identifying the educational opportunities, resources, and actions to take on our journey toward racial justice. To participate or share your ideas, contact Cindy Ball at cindyinn11@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).

YOUNG ADULTS – A group for fun and fellowship for folks in their twenties and thirties. Join our GroupMe group here or Email us 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 9:30 on Sunday mornings during the school year.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send announcements for St. Pauls-sponsored events to chiggins@spucc.org no later than 10 a.m. on Wednesdays, for publication in the Friday email and next Sunday bulletin. You are welcome to share personal announcements and event invitations in our Facebook Group, St. Pauls Together.

Please limit announcements to 100 words. Thank you!

TODAY'S MUSIC

We are so happy to welcome **The Sopranos of the Chancel Choir**, who have been prepared and conducted by Kecia Waldschmidt. Their members include Nancy Pifer, Jen Kew, Pam Woll, Nadia Jiménez, Gay Kelly, Grace Stauskas, Meg Tazelaar, Karin Magnuson, Katie Alrutz, Ashley Saluga, and returning member Suzanne Freshley.

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 the 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.

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.

This arrangement of ***Deep River*** was composed by N. Clifford Page (1866-1956). Very little is known about his life, but he arranged a number of works from spirituals to marches. The text is unattributed and predates our Civil War. The text is "coded" in order not to arouse suspicions of slave holders. "My home is over Jordan" can refer to crossing the Potomac or Ohio Rivers into the North, "that promised land," and freedom.

Be Still My Soul uses a tune called FINLANDIA, because the melody was composed by Jean Sibelius (1865-1957) as part of his famous tone poem by the same name that honored his homeland. The original German text is by Kathrina von Schlegel (1697-17??) and was translated into English by Scottish Jane Borthwick (1813-1897) who translated and composed many hymn texts.

Guide My Feet is another uplifting spiritual from the African American tradition. It is one of the many songs that was sung during marches in the civil rights movement in the 1960s. The believer asks God to guide them on the path of life.

Sing Gently was composed in 2020 by Eric Whitacre (b. 1970) in response to the pandemic and the loss of singing choral music together in person. With this work he created a virtual choir with more than 17,000 singers from 129 countries submitting video recordings. That can be found here, youtube.com/watch?v=InULYfJHKI0. Eric Whitacre's music has been performed and recorded numerous times. Our sopranos showcase the simplicity and beauty of the message and music.

The text for ***My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*** was written in 1834 by Edward Mote (1797-1874). British born Mote wrote a number of hymn texts after a spiritual awakening as a result of the preaching of an evangelical preacher. He also authored a number of Christian pamphlets. SOLID ROCK was composed in 1863 by the prolific hymn writer, William Bradbury (1816-1868). He was raised on his father's farm in Maine, developing a love for music as a child and began playing the organ in church by age 15. Among the best known of his hymns is the children's hymn, *Jesus Loves Me, This I Know*.

Rejoice! - Richard Smallwood (b. 1948) is one of the top composers and performers of Gospel music. His group, The Richard Smallwood Singers, has toured the world. He is a graduate of Howard University, which also counts Vice President Kamala Harris and so many other luminaries as alumni. He was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 2006.

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.

- Family and friends at the death of Bob Knuti.
- Thomas Wikman, beloved conductor and founder of Music of the Baroque, who has just entered hospice care.
- Barb Bolsen and her friends and family as she deals with cancer.
- Family and friends of Michael Toomin at his death.
- Theresa Herlevsen and family at the death of her mother Gertrude.
- David Bueschel and family at the death of Betsy Bueschel.
- Students and staff of the GCE school in Chicago, which recently closed.
- LeeAnne Tongue.
- Friends and family of Bo at his death.
- Leroy Johnson, husband of Karen L. Johnson, in the hospital diagnosed with acute leukemia.
- New member Irem Metin, who is recovering from surgery. Please keep Irem, her husband William, and sons Aidan and Benjamin in your prayers.
- Sarah and her children, Emma and Jack, at the loss of their husband/father in an accident.
- 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

Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, jcarlson@spucc.org

Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, lnickerson@spucc.org

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

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2335 N Orchard St. | Chicago, IL 60614
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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.