

August 27, 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.*

PRELUDE

Just a Closer Walk
St. Arbucks Quartet

Traditional
arr. Brendan Henry

INTROIT

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord
from Godspell
Breanna and Todd Coe, soloists
St. Arbucks Quartet

Stephen Schwartz

Lyrics adapted from Matthew 3:3.

WELCOME

Liz Nickerson

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: It was the power of God that let Moses throw off Pharaoh's chains!

All: All thanks be to God!

One: It was the power of God that freed Jesus from the tomb's grip!

All: All thanks be to God!

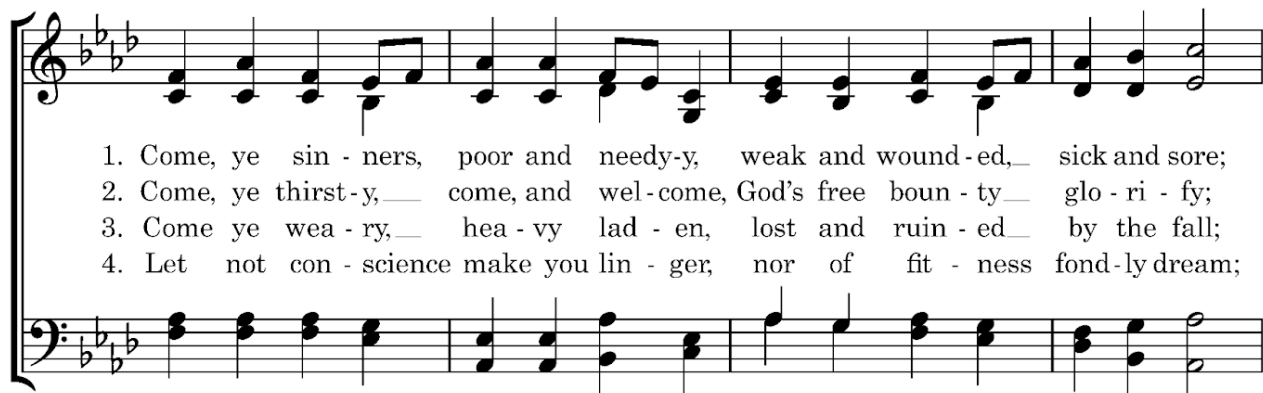
One: It is the power of God that gives us hope and makes us whole!

All: All thanks be to God!

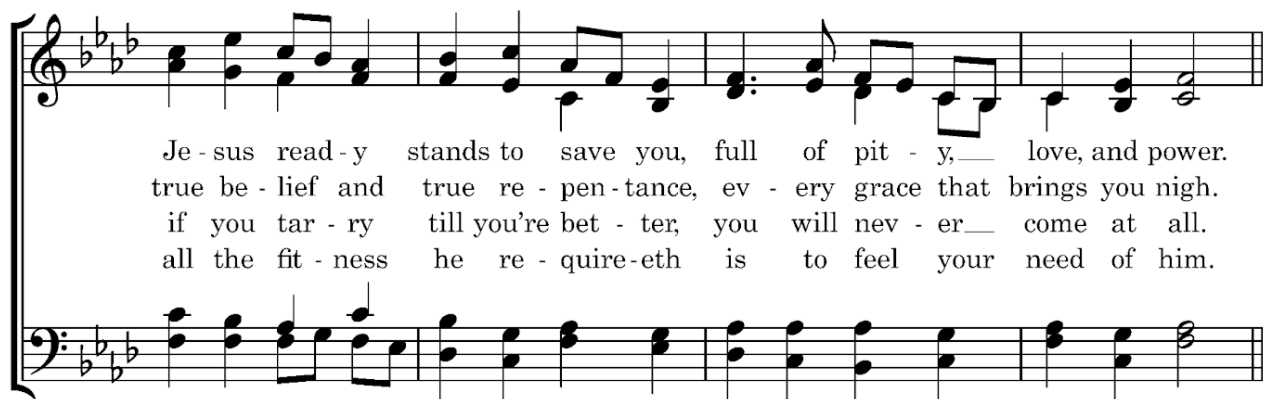
** Please stand if you are able to do so.*

* HYMN

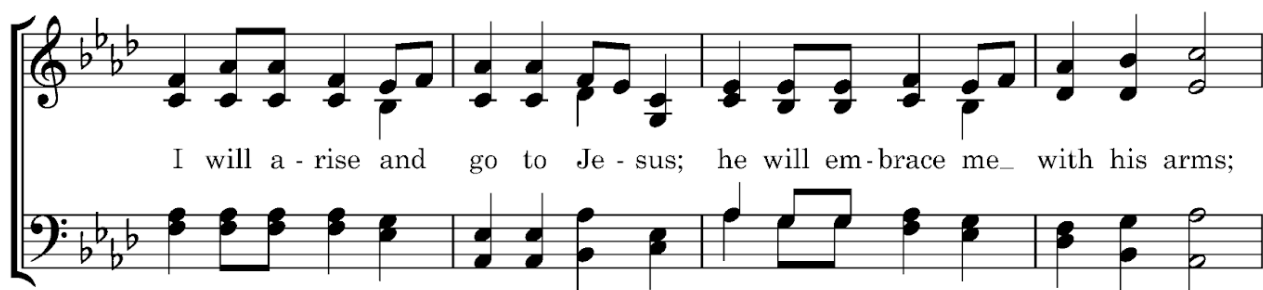
Come Ye Sinners



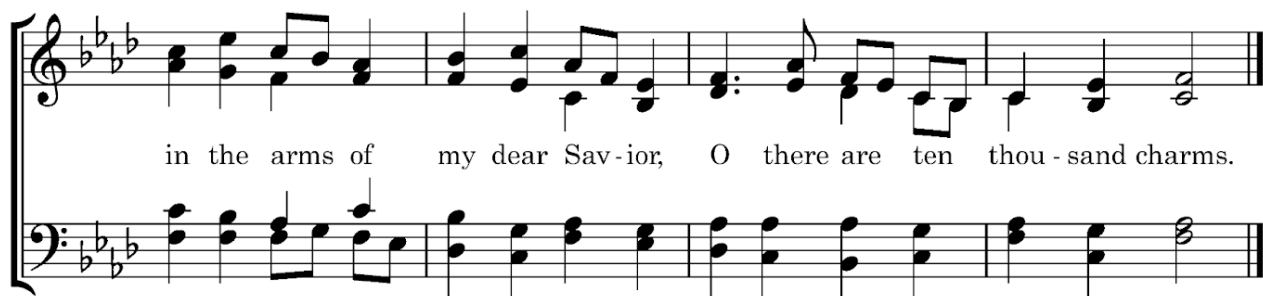
1. Come, ye sin - ners, poor and needy-y, weak and wound-ed, sick and sore;
 2. Come, ye thirst-y, come, and wel-come, God's free boun - ty glo - ri - fy;
 3. Come ye wea - ry, hea - vy lad - en, lost and ruin - ed by the fall;
 4. Let not con - science make you lin - ger, nor of fit - ness fond-ly dream;



Je - sus read - y stands to save you, full of pit - y, love, and power.
 true be - lief and true re - pen - tance, ev - ery grace that brings you nigh.
 if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter, you will nev - er come at all.
 all the fit - ness he re - quire-eth is to feel your need of him.



I will a - rise and go to Je - sus; he will em-brace me with his arms;



in the arms of my dear Sav-ior, O there are ten thou - sand charms.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord God, help me. I'm in over my head.
I have sunk into deep mud.
My feet can't touch the bottom and I have entered deep water.
I am tired of crying.
My throat is hoarse.
My eyes are exhausted.
God, you know my foolishness.
My wrongdoings aren't hidden from you.
In your great and faithful love, answer me with your certain salvation.
Save me from the mud; don't let me drown.
Save me from the watery depths.
Answer me, Lord, for your faithful love is good.
Turn to me in your great compassion, for I trust in you. 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

Balm in Gilead

v. 1

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil - e - ad To make the wound - ed whole,
 There is a balm in Gil - e - ad to heal the sin - sick soul.

1. Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged And think my work's in vain,
 2. If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, If you can - not pray like Paul,
 3. Don't ev - er feel dis - cour - aged, For_ Je - sus is your friend;
 But_ then the Ho - ly Spir - it Re - vives my soul a - gain.
 you can tell the love of Je - sus, And say, "He died for all!"
 And_ if you lack for knowl - edge He'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

SCRIPTURE

Patricia Kirby

Psalms 124

If it had not been the LORD who was on our side – let Israel now say –
 if it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us,
 then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled
 against us; then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have
 gone over us; then over us would have gone the raging waters.
 Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.
 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken,
 and we have escaped.
 Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

*** 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)

ANTHEM

*Day by Day
from Godspell*

Stephen Schwartz

Breanna and Todd Coe, soloists
St. Arbucks Quartet

Day by day,
Day by day,
Oh, dear Lord, three things I pray:
To see Thee more clearly,
Love Thee more dearly,
Follow Thee more nearly,
Day by day.

SERMON

"Escaping the Snare"

Matt Fitzgerald

*** HYMN**

Balm in Gilead
See previous hymn

vv. 2 & 3

OFFERTORY

All Good Gifts

Stephen Schwartz

from *Godspell*

Breanna and Todd Coe, soloists

St. Arbucks Quartet

We plow the fields and scatter
The good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered
By God's almighty hand.
He sends the snow in winter,
The warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine
And soft refreshing rain.

All good gifts around us
Are sent from Heaven above.
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
For all His love.

We thank Thee, then O Father,
For all things bright and good,
The seed time and the harvest,
Our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer
For all Thy love imparts,
But that which Thou desirest,
Our humble, thankful hearts.

All good gifts...

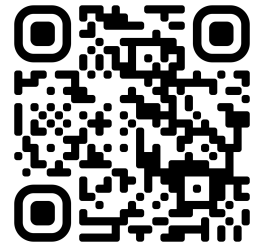
I really want to thank you, Lord...

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

When Israel Was in Egypt's Land



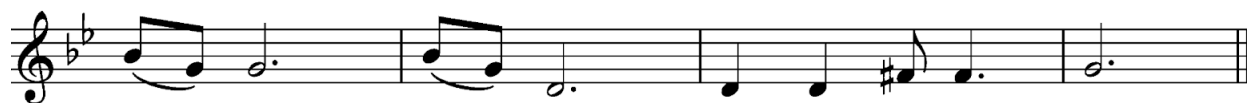
1. When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land, Let my peo-ple go,
2. "Thus spoke our God," bold Mo - ses said, "Let my peo-ple go;
3. No more in bond - age shall they toil, Let my peo-ple go,
4. Oh, let us all from bond - age flee, Let my peo-ple go,



Op - pressed so hard they could not stand, Let my peo-ple go.
 If not I'll smite your first - born dead, Let my peo-ple go."
 Nor spill their blood on E - gypt's soil, Let my peo-ple go.
 And let us all in Christ be free, Let my peo-ple go.



Go down, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land, _____



Tell old Pha - raoh let my peo-ple go.

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



A - men, A - men, A - - - men.

POSTLUDE

From the Top of My Head
 St. Arbucks Quartet

Roy Hargrove

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.

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!
- REGULAR SUNDAY CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMS resume on September 10.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Liz Nickerson, Matt Fitzgerald, Jeff Carlson

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: Patricia Kirby

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, Doug Clark, David Faulkner

Greeters: Madelyn Jansma, Jim Jansma

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are in celebration of the 41st wedding anniversary of Kurt and Terry Hansen.

BORN THIS WEEK IN AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

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 27 Lyndsay Palkon, Maureen Grunst, Todd Smith, Brooke Gentzen, Holden Lechtenberg, Matthew Razeghi
- Aug 28 Kathryn Mussatt, Pat Mayer, Roxana Vieira, Grace Ashley-McGraw, Nolan Dierks, Katie Kobak, Theo Bultemeier
- Aug 29 Karen Schmidt-Hein, Laura Nowack, Steve Patton, Nathaniel Weldon
- Aug 30 Ashley Pensinger-Sok, Ed Keller, Jessica Seaton, Tracy Nach, Greg Clemons
- Aug 31 Cecilia Badanes, Riley Conway, Timothy Liu
- Sept 1 Brent Carstensen, Jill Lawrence
- Sept 2 Carol Weston, Gretchen Althen, Mary Train
- Sept 3 Erika Keegan, Natalie Mutch

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.

TODAY - 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! The joining date for this class will be September 17. Can't attend this time? Check out upcoming class dates here: spucc.org/new_member_classes.

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

Are you looking for a way to get involved with the life of St. Pauls? Join us in the classroom below the Narthex 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 participate, you may drop off cookies 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 in our gym.



SEPT 26 - 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. RSVP is appreciated but coming at the last minute is fine, as well as needing to leave early! spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1746758

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEER FOR OKTOBERFEST, Saturday, September 23rd, 1-8 PM.

St. Pauls' Oktoberfest block party returns this fall. How do we pour 600 beers, serve 500 brats/hot dogs, and run kids' activities for seven hours? With the help of many volunteers! Can we count on you to be one of them? As a volunteer, you will work a 2-hour shift and receive a free food/drink ticket, as well as enjoy the chance to meet new friends, support St. Pauls' neighborhood outreach efforts, and have fun! Please sign up here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1899278, or contact Lorne Frank at lornefrank@lornefrank.com. PROST!

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.



DONATE

Hawai'i 2023 Wildfires Relief Fund

bit.ly/hcuccrelief

We are working with our churches on Maui to distribute funds to those in need in devastated areas.

We are praying with Maui.

HAWAII CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
www.hcucc.org

REGISTER FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL!

God created us to be creative and to create! This will be our theme as we start Sunday 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 the Green Team

El Niño Augurs Christmas Late Deliveries – El Niño is a natural weather phenomenon occurring every two to seven years due to increased warming in the eastern and central Pacific. We are at the beginning of one. For consumers in the Midwest during the Christmas season, it means uncertainty and increased cost of goods as major ports have to reckon with weather disruptions and bottlenecks, particularly through the Panama Canal. Already drought-stricken, the Canal is restricting weight. So, plan ahead for Christmas: shop early and local and always Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle!

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.

BIBLE STUDY – Starting again November 1. Weekly on Wednesdays, noon to 1p.m. All are welcome! Contact Pastor Jeff for the Zoom link, jcarlson@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.

GREETING TEAM - Would you consider being one of our Sunday morning greeters? Arrive at church on Sunday mornings at 9:30am. The ushers and greeters meet for quick announcements and a prayer in the narthex at 9:30am. Stand at the church doors and say “Hello!” to folks—just greet attenders with a smile and cheerfulness. The ushers are inside, continuing to welcome attenders and hand out programs. It’s a great jumping off point to see other ministries and expand your involvement. Contact Madelyn Jansma to learn more: madelynj@live.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 TODAY - 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 Church Center 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 Luerksen at jenluerksen@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 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).



YOUNG ADULTS – A group for fun and fellowship for folks in their twenties and thirties. Join our GroupMe group with the QR code 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

Both the text and tune of ***Just a Closer Walk With Thee*** are of unknown origin. It appears in 99 hymnals and was first published in the mid-1940s. On a train trip to Chicago from Kansas City, Kenneth Morris (1917-1989), an African American gospel music composer, heard a porter singing this song. He asked the porter to sing it again so he could write down the melody and words. When it was published, Morris also added some of his own words. It likely dates back to as early as post Civil War days in African American churches. The arrangement we hear today was made by Brendan Henry.

Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy, to the tune RESTORATION, is mined from the wonderful early 19th century American shape-note hymnals including *Southern Harmony*. Its composer and lyricist are unknown, but it was first published in 1835. The melody is characterized by a folk-like swing.

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

All of the vocal music today – ***Introit, Anthem and Offertory*** – shared by Breanna and Todd Coe is from the 1971 musical *Godspell* with both lyrics and music by Stephen Schwarz (b. 1948). He is one of the great lights of American musical theater having also composed *Pippin*, *Rags*, *Children of Eden* and the score for the Disney film *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. *Godspell* is based on the Gospel of Matthew and seeks to make the old story speak to the “age of Aquarius” generation.

Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord is based on Mathew 3:3.

Day by Day occurs in Act I, and encourages the faithful to remember that God loves them and to always walk with God.

All Good Gifts occurs near the end of Act I and is part of the parable of the Sower of Seeds in which Jesus likens the Word of God to seeds that will always bear fruit.

When Israel Was in Egypt Land is an African American spiritual of anonymous origin both in terms of tune, GO DOWN MOSES, and text. Like many spirituals, this text has at least dual meanings. The text certainly refers to the Jews in the Hebrew Bible Book of Exodus longing for freedom from their slavery in Egypt, but the text also refers to the aspiration African American slaves had for their own freedom from bondage in our own country. Spirituals often used biblical references in order to express their oppression, plans for escape, and longing for freedom, e.g., *Were You There*; *Balm in Gilead*; *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*.

From the Top of My Head was composed by Roy Hargrove (1969-2018). In his all too short life, Hargrove became one of the greats in the jazz performing and recording world. He was a composer whose principal instruments were trumpet and flugelhorn. In addition to jazz, he also performed and recorded hip-hop, R & B, gospel, funk, and alternative rock. Born in Waco Texas, he attended the Berklee College of Music in Boston for one year, but a very active performing and recording career ended his formal training. He made and contributed to numerous recordings. His 14-year battle with kidney disease ended with his death in 2018.

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.

- Cheryl Kennedy, recovering from a heart attack.
- 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.
- Family and friends of Barb Bolsen at her death.
- 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

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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.