



September 17, 2023
New Member Sunday

No matter who you are,
No matter where you are
On life's journey,
You are welcome here.

Please silence cell phones.

*Bibles for use during worship are available at each entrance to the Sanctuary.
Assisted listening devices and Bluetooth hearing aid guides are in the Narthex.
The Nursery and Toddler Room are open for children ages 0-5, from 10 to 11 a.m.*

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"Let the judgment be, the heart be humble;
Let the judgment be as it hath, no struggle, no wrath."

Rachel Blausetin

PRELUDE

Chant de Paix
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

Jean Langlais

INTROIT

God Is Here! As We Your People Meet
Chancel Choir

CHIMES

WELCOME

Liz Nickerson

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O God, be with us in this hour!

All: Erase tedium from our speech!

One: Pull distraction from our ears!

All: Make us focused and grateful!

One: Change us from people who *listen* to your word

All: Into people who *live it*. Amen.

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

* HYMN

Sing Praise to God

1. Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sus - tains all cre -
 2. Praise God, our guard - ian, who lov - ing - ly of - fers cor -
 3. Sing praise to God, with sin - cere thanks for all your suc -
 4. Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God com -

- a - tion! Sing praise, my soul, in pro - found and com -
 - rec - tion, Who, as on ea - gle's wings, saves us from
 - cess - es. Mer - ci - ful God ev - er loves to en -
 - mend - ing. All that have life and breath join you, their

- plete ad - o - ra - tion! Glad - some re - joice— or - gan and
 sin - ful de - jec - tion. Have you ob - served, how we are
 - cour - age and bless us. On - ly con - ceive, what god - ly
 notes sweet - ly blend - ing. God is your light! Soul, ev - er

trum - pet and voice— join - ing God's great con - gre - ga - tion.
 al - ways pre - served by God's pa - ren - tal af - fec - tion?
 strength can a - chieve: strength that would touch and car - ess us.
 keep this in sight: a - men, a - men nev - er end - ing.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Matt Fitzgerald

**Gracious God,
Forgive us when we keep Christ in the past,
see the church as a club,
and stifle your love.
Make your risen son live here with us.
Make the gospel sing in our ears.
Let Saint Pauls be *your* church.
Make your love run freely
through us like a river.
Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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

RESPONSE

O God of Earth and Altar

v. 1

1. O God of earth and al - tar, bow down and hear our cry;
2. From all that ter - ror teach - es, from lies of pen and voice,
3. A - wak - en us to ac - tion and forge us in - to one,

Our earth - ly rul - ers fal - ter, our peo - ple drift and die;
From all the eas - y speech - es that make our hearts re - joice,
de - fy - ing sect and fac - tion; O God, your will be done!

The walls of gold en - tomb us, the swords of scorn di - vide;
From val - ue's pro - fan - a - tion, from hon - or sac - ri - ficed,
Op - press - sive sys - tems snare us; our ap - a - thies in - crease.

Take not your thun - der from_ us, but take a - way our pride.
From sleep and from dam - na - tion, de - liv - er us, O Christ!
Great God, in mer - cy spare_ us for jus - tice and for peace!

SCRIPTURE

Greg Clemons

Romans 14:1-12 (The Message and NRSV translations)

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.

Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. But since both are guests at Christ's table, wouldn't it be terribly rude if they fell to criticizing what the other ate or didn't eat? God, after all, invited them both to the table. Do you have any business crossing people off the guest list or interfering with God's welcome? Who are you to pass judgment on servants of one another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

If you eat meat, eat it to the glory of God and thank God for meat; if you're a vegetarian, eat vegetables to the glory of God and thank God for vegetables. None of us are permitted to insist on our own way in these matters. It's God we are answerable to—all the way from life to death and everything in between—not each other. That's why Jesus lived and died and then lived again: so that he could be our Master across the entire range of life and death, and free us from the petty tyrannies of each other.

So where does that leave you when you criticize a brother? And where does that leave you when you condescend to a sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. Your critical and condescending ways aren't going to improve your position there one bit. Read it for yourself in Scripture:

"As I live and breathe," God says,
"every knee will bow before me;
Every tongue will tell the honest truth
that I and only I am God."


So mind your own business. You've got your hands full just taking care of your own life before God.

* RESPONSE


O God of Earth and Altar
See previous hymn

vv. 2 & 3

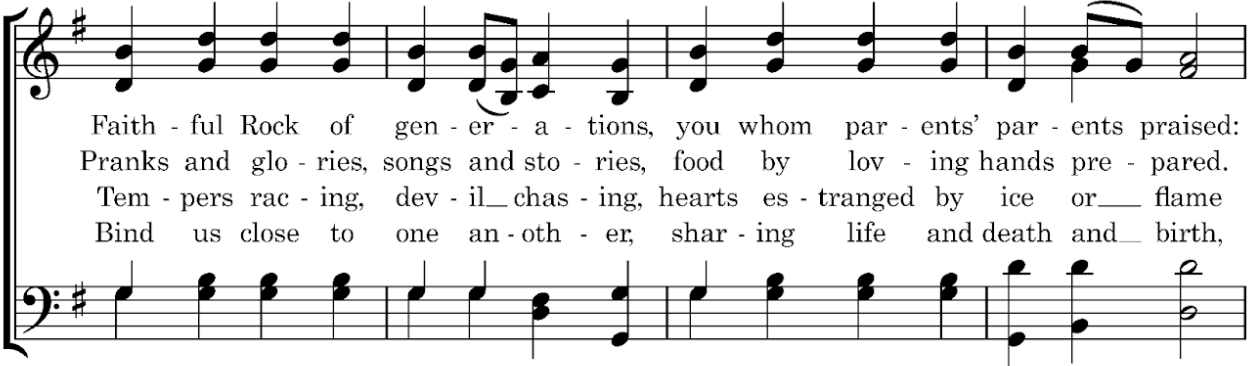
* HYMN

God We Thank You For Our People


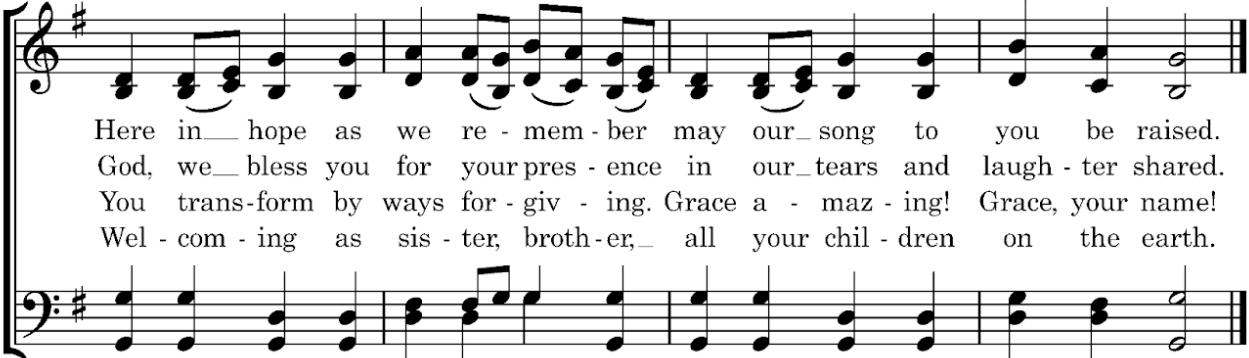
1. God, we thank you for our peo-ple, roots dug deep with-in the soil,
 2. Thank you, God, for gen-tle plea-sure: les-sons learned and se-crets told,
 3. Still we must con-fess be-fore you, some-times, Sav-ior, we have failed;
 4. By your Spir-it of cre-a-tion keep us bold for risk-ing still,



har-dy spir-its, rich in lov-ing, strong for strug-gle, bold for toil.
 hopes and mem-ories saved as trea-sure, passed to young ones by the old,
 though we wor-ship and a-dore you, some-times love has not pre-vailed.
 ea-ger in an-ti-ci-pa-tion, ev-er strong to do your will.



Faith-ful Rock of gen-er-a-tions, you whom par-ents' par-ents praised:
 Pranks and glo-ries, songs and sto-ries, food by lov-ing hands pre-pared.
 Tem-pers rac-ing, dev-il chas-ing, hearts es-tranged by ice or flame
 Bind us close to one an-oth-er, shar-ing life and death and birth,



Here in hope as we re-mem-ber may our song to you be raised.
 God, we bless you for your pres-ence in our tears and laugh-ter shared.
 You trans-form by ways for-giv-ing. Grace a-maz-ing! Grace, your name!
 Wel-com-ing as sis-ter, broth-er, all your chil-dren on the earth.

MISSION MOMENT

Consider the Lilies

Jan Bail

OFFERTORY

Sim shalom

Max Janowski

(Sung in Hebrew)

Kurt R. Hansen, tenor

Chancel Choir

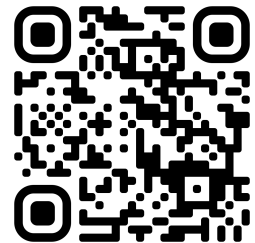
Grant us peace, goodness and blessing,
Grace, kindness and mercy,
To us and all your people Israel.
Bless us our Father, all of us as one
Through the light of your presence.
Truly through the light of your presence,
Adonai our God.
You gave us a Torah of life – love of kindness,
Justice, blessing, mercy, life, and peace.
May you see fit to bless your people Israel
At all times, at every hour, with your peace.
Praised are you Adonai,
Who blesses your people Israel with peace.
from the liturgy for High Holy Days

You can give to St. Pauls electronically:

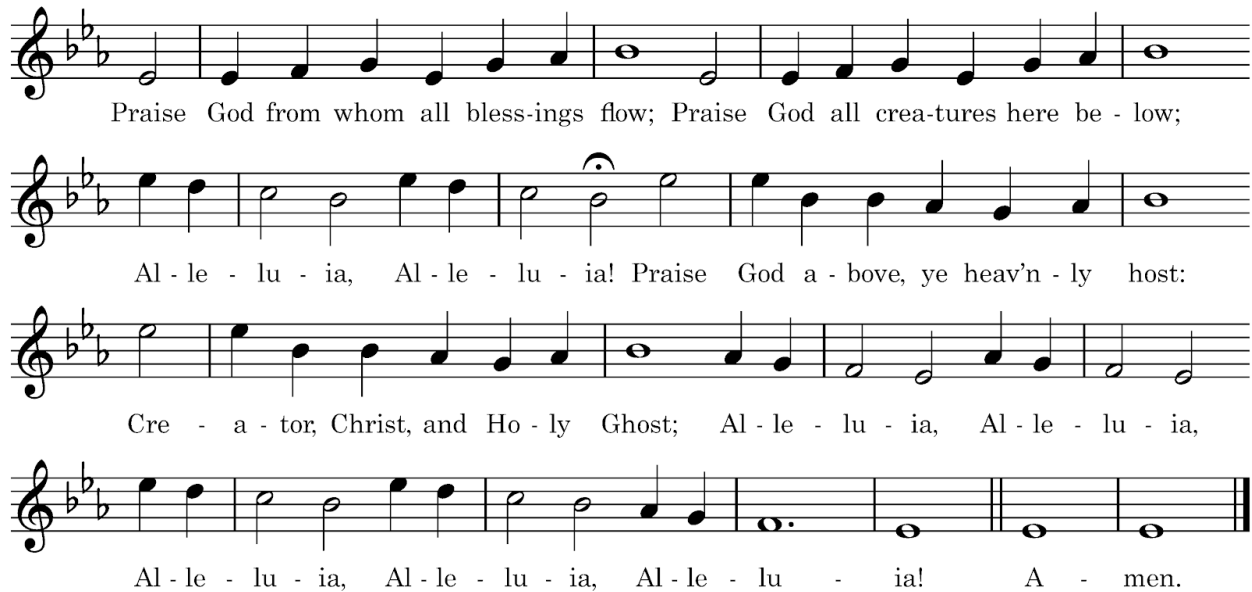
Scan this code with your cell phone camera,

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 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

Pastor 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.

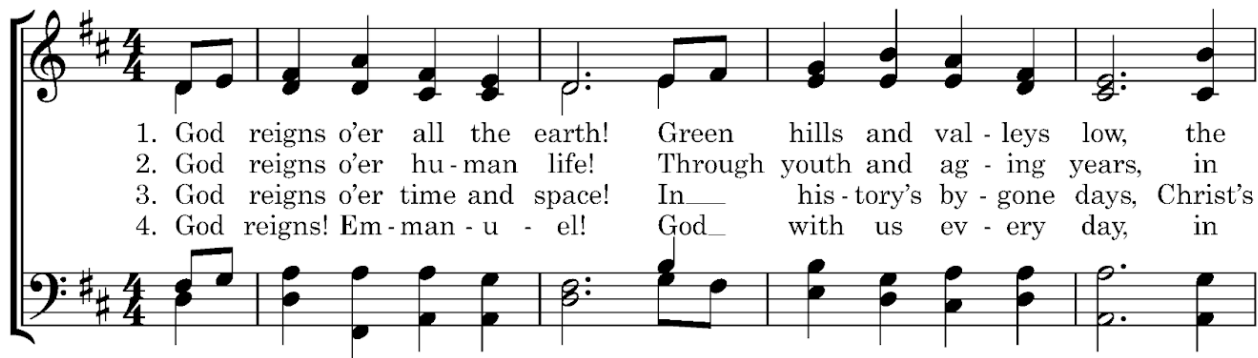
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

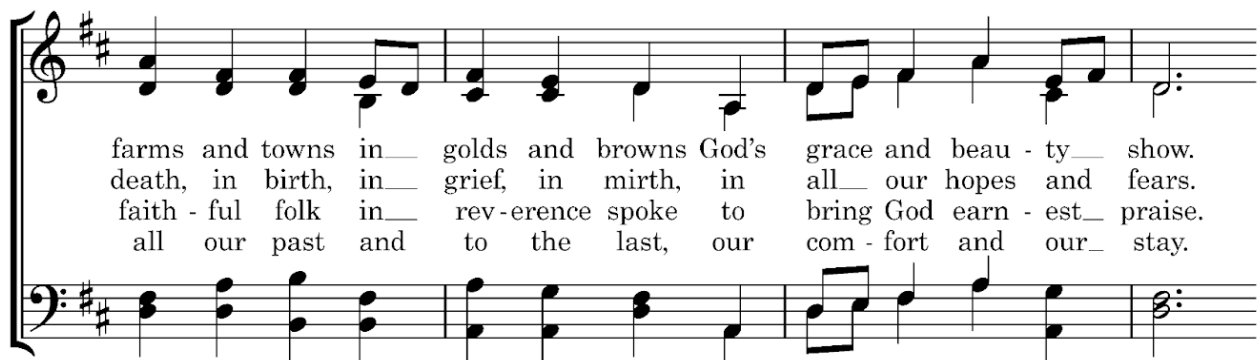
Amen.

* HYMN

God Reigns O'er All the Earth



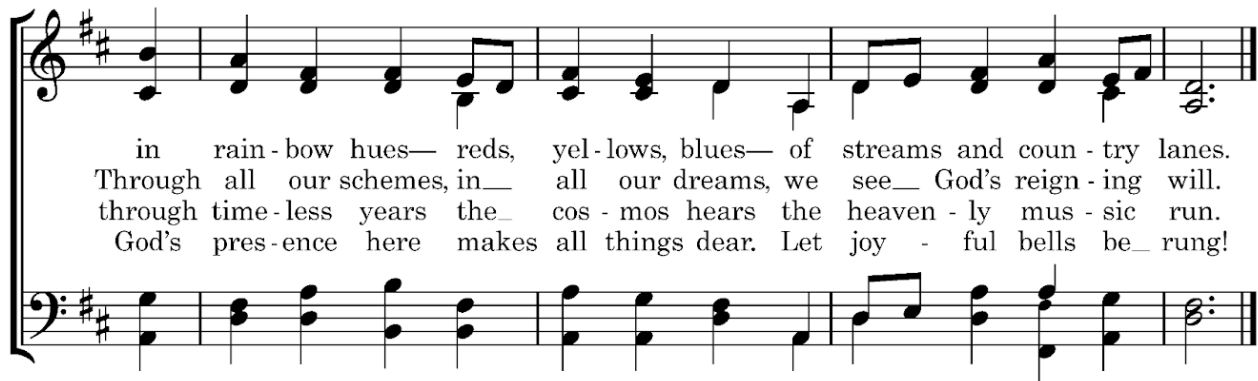
1. God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and val - leys low, the
 2. God reigns o'er hu - man life! Through youth and ag - ing years, in
 3. God reigns o'er time and space! In his - tory's by - gone days, Christ's
 4. God reigns! Em - man - u - el! God with us ev - ery day, in



farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beau - ty show.
 death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.
 faith - ful folk in rev - erence spoke to bring God earn - est praise.
 all our past and to the last, our com - fort and our stay.



God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spread - ing plains,
 God reigns o'er hu - man life! Our in - spi - ra - tion still.
 God reigns o'er time and space! O'er gal - ax - y and sun,
 God reigns! Em - man - u - el! Let praise to Christ be sung!



in rain - bow hues— reds, yel - lows, blues— of streams and coun - try lanes.
 Through all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reign - ing will.
 through time - less years the cos - mos hears the heaven - ly mus - ic run.
 God's pres - ence here makes all things dear. Let joy - ful bells be rung!

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

Glory, Glory
St. Arbucks Quartet

African American Spiritual
arr. Harriet Ziegenhals

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 the Ministry Fair and coffee hour in the gym, on the lower level.

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. Activity “busy bags” are available in the Narthex for children to use during the service.
- SUNDAY SCHOOL & CONFIRMATION have resumed. Students are dismissed with their teachers during the worship service and parents pick up children after the service in their classrooms.
- High school youth group starts today and meets immediately following the service in Pastor Matt’s office. Parents and teens should join the High School GroupMe for up to date information.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Liz Nickerson, Matt Fitzgerald

Music Director: Kurt R. Hansen

Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski

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

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Scripture Reader: Greg Clemons

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: Doug Clark, David Faulkner

Greeters: Madelyn Jansma, Blair De Haan, Derek De Haan

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are from Mead Gifford, in memory of his parents, John and Kathryn Gifford.

BORN THIS WEEK IN 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.

Sept 17 Brett Jaussi, Jeff Johnson

Sept 18 Mead Gifford, Miles Van Denburg, Sean Patton, John Weldon

Sept 19 Chuck Kent

Sept 20 Steve Peterson, Ethan Ashley-Ferguson, Joe Harrington

Sept 21 Grace Stauskas, Julian Jarzebowski, Lindy McGuire

Sept 22 Brooke Roark, Nathan Bultemeier, Phillip Elkins, Annika Hull,
Charlie Rodriguez, Jonah Charlton

Sept 23 Beatrice Jaji, Cosette Millard, Stefan Millard, Seth Davis, Sally Kinnamon,
Liz Nickerson

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



My name is **David Brown** and I have been attending Saint Pauls for eight years, being very thoughtful about my decision to finally transfer my membership from Epiphany UCC, where I was a long-time member, part of the congregation that first called Pastor Matt. Professionally, I work in commercial real estate, enjoying small developments and renovations on Chicago's north side and in Evanston. I have been involved with Common Pantry as a volunteer and board member for the past 20 years. Most recently, I have been serving as Project Manager for the Migrant Housing Project at Saint Pauls and I have loved working with so many talented and dedicated members of this congregation. I have two daughters, Stella who is a freshman at Marquette University and Hazel, who is a high school senior at Beacon Academy in Evanston. I am excited to finally become a member.

Sponsor: Carrie Bruggers



My name is **Julia Ehrhardt** and I use she/her pronouns. Born in Elmhurst and raised in New Jersey, I moved to Chicago three months ago after taking early retirement from the University of Oklahoma, where I worked for 25 years as a professor and student advocate. I am currently looking for a new job that involves my passions: teaching, social justice work, reading and writing, and helping imaginative people reach their potential. For fun, I take long walks and bike rides, visit museums and go to the movies, and go to farm markets.

Sponsor: Steve Garrett



My name is **Mary Stainton**. I grew up in Lancaster, Pennsylvania with a brother and sister who are now my best friends. I was ordained in 1989 and came to Chicago in 1991 to join the chaplaincy staff of what is now Rush University Medical Center. I love reading, coffee, good conversation, and anything to do with creating or participating in great worship experiences, which explains why I'm joining Saint Pauls!

Sponsor: Bob Wild

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 - MINISTRY FAIR - 11 a.m., Gym

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

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

The Retirement Group meets 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

OCT 1 - MEDICAL FAIR: VACCINES & MORE - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Gym

We will cover: 1. AED Demonstration 2. Blood Pressure 3. Five Wishes 4. Vaccinations administered by an RPh from Walgreens, no appointment needed. Covid booster, Shingles, Pneumonia, and Flu shots. Kids under 18 need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Remember to bring your Covid vaccine card and your Medicare card or insurance card for the pneumonia and shingles shots.

OCT 1 - WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY & NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

The first Sunday in October is designated to remember that around the globe—in different languages, with different traditions and customs, and in various forms of liturgy—the Lord's Supper is celebrated. The table of Jesus runs around the world and connects us in unity with brothers and sisters in Christ of every race, tongue and nation. We will also participate in a special offering for UCC: Neighbors in Need. It supports ministries of justice and compassion around the USA, including the Council for American Indian Ministry and justice advocacy work. For more information, visit ucc.org/nin.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEER FOR OKTOBERFEST

St. Pauls Oktoberfest block party returns this fall on September 23rd from 1-8 p.m.. 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!

LISTEN FOR GOD IN NEW SMALL GROUPS!

Do you want to hear God's voice? We are forming new small groups of church members who will meet weekly for eight weeks. "Listening for God" will introduce you to new church friends and a renewed faith in conversations about a different short story each week. We will read short stories from Alice Walker, Raymond Carver and more great authors. Register by September 24 to be placed in a group. Groups will begin the week of October 2. Questions? Please contact Pastor Matt, mfitzgerald@spucc.org. If you are already in a small group that meets regularly, there is no need to register. Let Matt know if your group would like to use our new curriculum. Register here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1930279

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

Send our college students some love by bringing small care package items to the church office by October 7. 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.

UCAN GIFT TRAIN

As the Christmas Season approaches, the Outreach & Benevolence Committee is making preparations to help St. Pauls participate in UCAN's gift train for another year! This is a great opportunity to engage with UCAN and support those they serve. Keep an eye out for more information in late October on how you can participate!

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: spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/studying-justice-for-the-native-nations.

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

CREATION CORNER - provided by the Green Team

Do You Know Your Carbon Footprint? A carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions coming from the production, use and end-of-life of a product or service. The measure includes gasses, particularly carbon dioxide. The majority of an individual's carbon footprint is related to housing, food and transportation. Do you know how you score and how you can modify your choices? Please go to this website and see carbon-calculator.climatehero.me. You will be surprised!

JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

September 15 – October 15 is **National Hispanic Heritage Month (NHHM)**. NHHM celebrates the history, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. The date September 15 is significant because it is the date of independence of numerous Central American countries. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18 respectively. As of July 2021, the Hispanic population of the US is about 60 million, which constitutes 18.9% of the US population, making people of Hispanic origin the nation's largest racial or ethnic minority.

PASTORS' SABBATICAL SCHEDULE

St. Pauls provides a three-month sabbatical to each of our pastors every seven years. This year, Pastor Jeff is on sabbatical through October 23. Pastor Matt will be on sabbatical October 16 to December 16.

SPECIAL MUSIC 2023-2024

“MASS APPEAL”

Once again, there is a theme for special music during the 2023-2024 season offered by our Chancel Choir during our 10 a.m. Sunday morning worship services. Please add these dates to your calendar and please invite your friends to join us in person or online at spucc.org/streaming.

Mass Appeal is a way to look at one of the oldest forms of Christian liturgical worship in three very different ways. The goal is to share how the words of the liturgical Mass can be expressed in varied musical styles but always with the same goal: expressing the spiritual joy, longing, majesty, and supplication.

Sunday, December 3, 2023 - *St. Francis in the Americas - A Caribbean Mass* composed in 1997 by Glenn McClure. This joyfully rhythmic Mass setting is a perfect expression of the journey from the anticipation of Advent to the birth of Jesus on Christmas. It is accompanied by a steel drum band.

Sunday, March 17, 2024 - *Messe solennelle* by Louis Vierne. This French Romantic setting in Latin was composed for choir and organ in 1899. It showcases beautiful and majestic writing for both choir and a pipe organ with the breadth of colors available on our Phoenix and the talents of Kevin Dzierzawski.

Sunday, May 19, 2024 - *A Gospel Mass* was composed in 1982 by Robert Ray. This wonderful setting, largely in English, marries the spiritual energy and uplift of Gospel music with the timeless words of the Mass ordinary. This gives us a chance to showcase not only the Chancel Choir, but also our incredible St. Arbucks Quartet.

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 email lilies@spucc.org.

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? The ushers and greeters meet in the Narthex at 9:30 a.m. for quick announcements and a prayer. Then, the greeters stand at the church doors to say “Hello!” to folks—greeting attendees with a smile and cheerfulness, while the ushers are inside continuing to welcome attendees and hand out worship bulletins. 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 and stitch in community on the first Sunday of the month at our drop-in handwork group. We gather in a corner of the Social Hall for one hour after the worship service. New to handwork? We have expert knitters, crocheters, embroiderers, and sewers to help you get started with a project. We also welcome admirers of handwork should you wish to pull up a chair and join the conversation!

LITTLE LIGHTS is a St. Pauls early childhood program with classes for 2, 3, and 4-year-olds. We have limited spots remaining 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 – 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 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 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

Chant de paix Op. 40 (Song of Peace) was composed by Jean Langlais (1907-1991). He referred to himself as "Breton (born in Brittany) of Catholic Faith" because of his devotion to composing liturgical music for the church. He became blind at age 2 from glaucoma. He was also renowned as an organist and improviser. As a performer, he traveled the world, and was one of the organists chosen to dedicate our Phoenix organ in 1959. He is in a class of great French organists that include Olivier Messiaen, Marcel Dupré and Maurice Duruflé.

The text for ***God Is Here! As We Your People Meet*** was written in 1971 by Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000). Born in Liverpool, he was one of the most prominent hymnodists in Britain and became a Methodist minister. The tune, ABBOT'S LEIGH, was composed in 1941 by Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1992). Taylor was both a musician and a priest of the Church of England. He composed 20 hymns and edited a number of hymnals.

Sing Praise to God is another great hymn from our German heritage. The tune, LOBE DEN HERRN, is the first line of the first stanza of the German text. The composer of the music is unknown but it was first published in a hymnal in 1668. The original text was written by Joachim Neander (1650-1680). Although he was reported to have spent a “riotous youth,” he became the first important hymn writer of the German Reform Church. This updated translation was made in 1993 for our New Century Hymnal by Madeleine Forell Marshall (b. 1946).

The author of ***O God of Earth and Altar*** (1906) was Gilbert Keith Chesterson (1874-1936). He was a British journalist and lay theologian who also dabbled in hymn writing. LLANGLOFFAN is an unattributed Welsh melody.

Sim shalom (Grant us peace) was composed by Max Janowski (1912-1991). He was Cantor and Director of Music at KAM-Isaiah Israel Congregation in Chicago for 50 years. Kurt and Terry Hansen sang with him for his last 17 years. Mr. Janowski was truly one of the “great lights” of Jewish music of the 20th century. *Sim shalom* is one of his most performed works and is a prayer for peace made on Rosh Hashanah. The text and prayer for peace is particularly appropriate for this week, which also includes the 22nd anniversary of the attack on 9/11.

God Reigns O'er All the Earth is sung to the tune: TERRA BEATA. The source of the music is an English folk melody which first appeared as a hymn in 1906. The text was written in 1981 by Jane Parker Huber (1926-2008), one of the most prolific contemporary authors of hymn texts. Born to missionary parents in China, she was a lifelong Presbyterian who focused her hymn texts and ministry on peace-making, justice and inclusiveness.

Glory, Glory! Hallelujah! is a truly exuberant African American spiritual. Longtime members of St. Pauls will recognize it as one of our touchstone songs sung over the years on *How Sweet the Sound*, our Gospel music Sunday. The arrangement we sing is by Harriet Ziegenhals (1925-2016). Ziegenhals was the Director of the Community Renewal Chorus in Chicago for many years and often collaborated with Sam Hill, beloved Music Director and remarkable gospel pianist at St. Pauls from 1971 until his death in 1991.

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.

- Sister-in-law of Gloria Joseph, dealing with a cancer diagnosis.
- Leslie, sister of Mary Stainton, diagnosed with a brain tumor.
- 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

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

St. Pauls United Church of Christ
2335 N Orchard St. | Chicago, IL 60614
(773) 348-3829 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.

Ministry Fair Passport

We are the church together! There are so many great ways to get involved and make a difference in this community. By joining a group at St. Pauls you will grow in your faith, find deeper purpose and meaning in this community, and help the church help our world! Please visit each table and have them sign off that you stopped by. Tear off your passport and drop it in the box at the gym entry door. Passport's with the most tables signed will be entered in a drawing to win a \$100 Lettuce Entertain You Gift Card!

Name: _____ **Email:** _____

_____ **Table 1.** Ushers/Greeters/Scripture Readers, Church Council

_____ **Table 2.** Stephen Ministry, Caregivers Support Group

_____ **Table 3.** Green Team, UCC, Studying Justice for Native Nations

_____ **Table 4.** Pickleball, Basketball

_____ **Table 5.** Oktoberfest

_____ **Table 6.** Connectors, Cookies for a Cause

_____ **Table 7.** Young Adults, "Listen for God" Small Groups

_____ **Table 8.** Children and Youth Choirs

_____ **Table 9.** Chancel Choir, Intergenerational Orchestra

_____ **Table 10.** Little Lights, Children and Youth Programs, Photo booth

_____ **Table 11.** Retirement Group, Food for the Soul, St. Pauls Social

_____ **Table 12.** Handwork Group

_____ **Table 13.** Livestream Team, Facilities Committee

_____ **Table 14.** Outreach and Benevolence, SPARC

_____ **Table 15.** Migrant Housing Project, Consider the Lilies



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 LGPTQ+ people.

Welcome to each and to everyone.

We are blessed by your presence and
we are glad you are here.