

October 22, 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

"We do not think ourselves into new ways of living, we live ourselves into new
ways of thinking." Richard Rohr

PRELUDE *I Expect to See Him* Jessie Dixon
St. Arbucks Quartet

INTROIT *O God of Love, O King of Peace*
Chancel Choir

CHIMES

WELCOME Liz Nickerson

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP Mary Stainton

One: The Spirit blows where She will.

All: Surprising us as She moves within and around us

One: Let us open ourselves to the Spirit's surprises!

All: Let us worship God!

** 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

Liz Nickerson

**The air is cooler now;
red, yellow and orange leaves cover the ground.
Once again we mark Earth's crossing from one season to the next.
Each season bringing its own particular beauty;
Each its own occasion for awe.
We marvel at the differences.
We're not so great about differences in people, God.
Instead of being awed by them, we get frustrated and angry.
We want everyone to be like us, and so we try to change them. Forgive us
God, for trying to force people into boxes we deem acceptable instead of
recognizing the beauty of who they are;
Instead of marveling at the countless forms of beauty you have created.
Turn us around, God. Help us to look again—
to recognize their beauty even when they are different from us.
Especially when they are different from us. 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

What a Covenant

v. 1

1. What a cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing
 2. Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing
 3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing

on the ev - er - last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness,
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace

what a peace is mine, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 grows from day to day, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;

lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

SCRIPTURE

Marcy Harman

Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

* 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

What a Covenant
See previous hymn

vv. 2 & 3

SERMON

"The Traps We Set"

Mary Stainton

* HYMN

Down by the Riverside



1. Goin' to lay down my sword and shield,
2. Goin' to lay down my war___ shoes, Down by the riv-er - side,
3. Goin' to put on my long white robe,
4. Goin' to meet my lov - ing sav - ior,



Down by the riv-er - side, Down by the riv-er - side.
Goin' to lay down my
Goin' to lay down my
Goin' to put on my
Goin' to meet my lov -



sword and shield,
war___ shoes, Down by the riv-er - side, To stud - y war no more.
long white robe,
- ing sav - ior,



I ain't goin't stud-y war no more, Ain't goin't stud-y war no



more, Ain't goin't stud-y___ war no more, I ain't goin't stud-y war no



more, Ain't goin't stud-y war no more, Ain't goin't stud - y war no more.

GIVING MOMENT

Lauren Cherney

OFFERTORY

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
Chancel Choir

Early America hymn
arr. Virgil Thompson

My shepherd will supply my need.
Jehovah is his name.
In pastures fresh he makes me feed
Beside the living stream.
He brings my wand'ring spirit back
When I forsake his ways.
He leads me for his sake in truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death
Thy presence is my stay.
One word of thy supporting breath
Drives all my fears away.
Thy hand, in sight of all my foes,
Doth still by table spread.
My cup with blessings over flows,
Thine oil anoints my head.

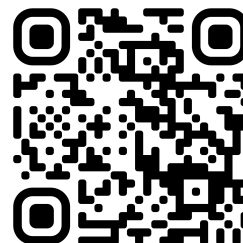
The sure provisions of my God
Attend me all my days.
O may thy house be my abode
And all my work by praise.
There would I find a settled rest
While others go and come.
No more a stranger or a guest
But like a child at home.
Poetic paraphrase of Psalm 23

You can give to St. Pauls electronically:

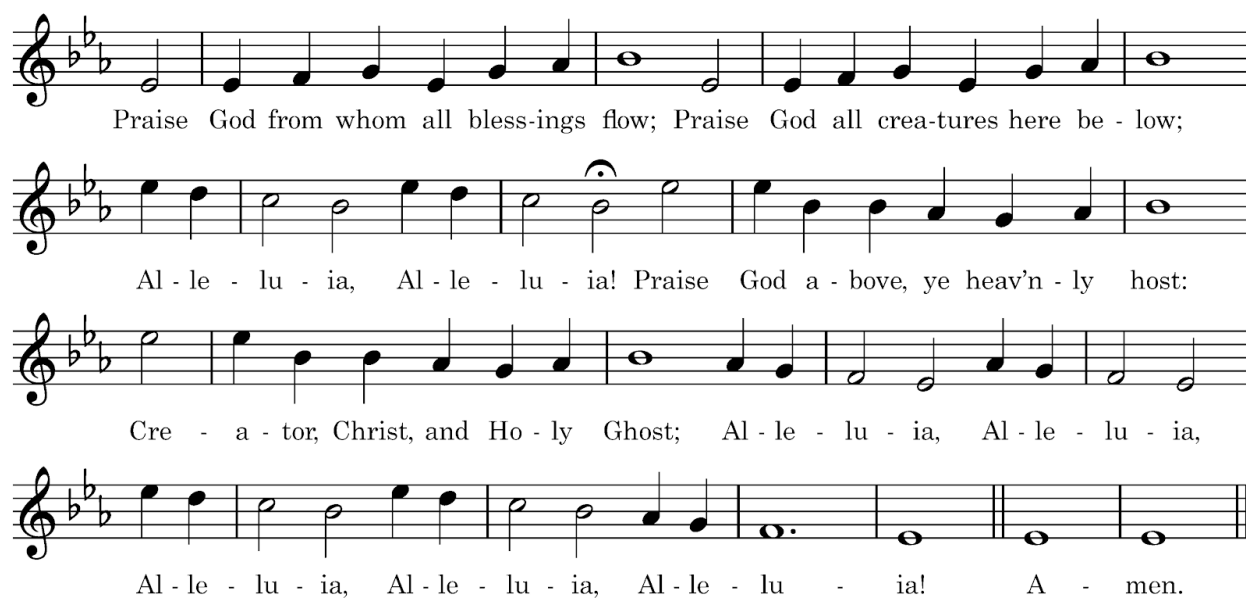
Scan this code with your cell phone camera,

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Liz Nickerson

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

* HYMN

How Firm a Foundation



1. How firm a foun - da - tion for you has been laid,
 2. "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3. "When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go,
 by God in the Word, in the sac - ri - fice paid!
 for I am your God, I will still give you aid;
 the riv - ers of woe shall not o - ver you flow;
 What more can God say than to you has been said,
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand
 For I will be with you, your trou - bles to bless,
 to you, who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my gra - cious, om - ni - po - tent hand."
 de - liv - er - ing you from your deep - est dis - tress."

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



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

POSTLUDE

Concerto in A minor, BWV 593

J. S. Bach/Vivaldi

Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

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.

TODAY'S GUEST PREACHER

Mary Stainton grew up in Lancaster, Pennsylvania with a brother and sister who are now her best friends. She was ordained as a minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in 1989, and came to Chicago in 1991 to join the chaplaincy staff of what is now Rush University Medical Center. She loves reading, coffee, good conversation, and anything to do with creating or participating in great worship experiences. She became an official member of St. Pauls this past September, but has attended St. Pauls for many years.

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 classes are in session. Students are dismissed with their teachers during the worship service and parents pick up children after the service in their classrooms.
- Confirmation class fall dates are: October 1, 15, 29; November 19; and December 3.
- High School Sunday School class meets on the first and third Sundays of the month. Fall dates are: October 1, 15; November 5, 19; December 3 and 17. High schoolers meet immediately following the service in the Youth Lounge, downstairs. Parents and teens should join the High School GroupMe for up to date information.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Liz Nickerson, Mary Stainton

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: Marcy Harman

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, David Faulkner, Doug Clark

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

Greeters: Craig Wilbanks, Monty Kehl

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are in celebration of long time member Liz Raiman's birthday on October 31.

BORN THIS WEEK IN OCTOBER

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.

Oct 22 Carolyn Grunst, Jack Brizzolara, Jennifer Heiney, Leah Mooney, Trip Campbell

Oct 23 Troy Meinders, Wendy Love, Henry Winking, Jack Kahan

Oct 25 Mary Frances Winking, Nancy Davidson, Pat Ruch, Anne Pechnyo,

William Beck, Michael Sanz

Oct 26 Colette Schimp, Kaitlyn Nowack, Joshua Wallace

Oct 27 Claudia Walvoord, Eva Mack

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 - MOMS GROUP - 11:15 a.m., Youth Lounge (east end of the Social Hall)

Being a mom is the hardest job in the world! So come once a month to gather with other moms with newborns through 10 years and support each other! Each month will have a helpful theme for us to explore so we can become the best moms possible and form a tight-knit community. Free childcare by trained professionals is available in the church nursery on the south wall of the Social Hall. RSVP at spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/mom-s-group or contact Liz at lnickerson@spucc.org.

TODAY - "RADICAL RESISTANCE" LGBTQ-RAN GALA - 5-6:30 p.m., Virtual

Please join us at the "Radical Resistance" Gala of the LGBTQ-Religious Archives (LGBTQ-RAN). This virtual event will inform attendees of the activities of this robust organization and spotlight and honor six LGBTQ religious history makers, including two emerging scholars. Those being honored include Bishop Yvette Flunder, Barbara Satin and Rev. Dr. Mel White. LGBTQ-RAN, an international organization formed in 2001, is an innovative venture preserving the history, and encouraging the scholarly study, of LGBTQ religious movements – Christian, Jewish, Islamic, and others – around the world. Rick Peterson is Treasurer of the LGBTQ-RAN Board of Directors. St. Pauls is a Sponsor of this Gala. Attendance at the Gala is free, but registration is required. For more information, see LGBTQreligiousarchives.org.

OCT. 24 – LUNCH GROUP: FOOD FOR THE SOUL - 12-1:30 p.m., Oscar Mayer Room

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. David Faulkner will be hosting October's Food for the Soul. During this event, we will delve deeper into Ecclesiastes 3, including the musical connection to the '60s! Don't miss it! Just come if it is your first time. Those who have previously attended should please RSVP via the group email reminder. Coming at the last minute is fine, as well as needing to leave early!

NOV. 1 – WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY RETURNS - 12-12:45 p.m., Zoom

Ecclesiastes: A Solitary Book for Solitary People. Ecclesiastes is full of contradictions, because human life is full of contradictions. After years of reflection on life, its writer attempts to hold that reality in balance - all is vanity and yet everything is a gift from God to be enjoyed. Join Pastor Jeff for a deep dive into this enigmatic book. RSVP to Jeff Carlson, jcarlson@spucc.org.

NOV 3-4 - UCC ILLINOIS CONFERENCE ANNUAL CELEBRATION - Yorkville, IL

The Annual Celebration of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC) will be held in Yorkville, IL. The 2023 theme is “Repentance, Rekindling and Renewal.” In addition to the annual business meeting, timely workshops and the celebratory banquet, the Celebration will introduce the new UCC General Minister Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson to the Illinois Conference. A new, streamlined governance structure also will be proposed. Illinois Conference Minister Rev. Molly Carlson will lead closing worship. The Illinois Conference, with approximately 70,000 members and 241 congregations in the upper two-thirds of Illinois, is the third largest conference in the UCC. See ilucc.org.

NOV. 12 - YOUNG ADULTS BRUNCH - 11:15 a.m., Courtyard

Come meet new people and have some meaningful conversations. We will walk to a nearby brunch spot. This is a group for folks in their twenties and thirties. Join our GroupMe group with the QR code or email us at youngadults@spucc.org.



NOV. 18 – WINDY CITY WINDS FALL CONCERT - 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Windy City Winds, “Chicago’s Community Band,” invites you to our Fall Concert. Internationally acclaimed composer Johan De Meij will guest conduct his *Symphony #1 “The Lord of the Rings”* celebrating the 35th anniversary of this epic and enormously popular work inspired by the books of J.R.R. Tolkien. De Meij will also conduct two of his shorter works, including the *Windy City Overture*. Admission is free and the concert will be live streamed. Audience members can meet the composer and celebrate his 70th birthday at a reception following the concert.

NOV. 21 - 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PECAN PIES FOR THE YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Pecan pie sales are back! Our pecan pie sales will support the Youth Mission Trip. Pies are wonderful fresh but can be frozen (still wonderful)! Order and pay by credit card online **by November 19**. \$20/pie, limit two pies per person. You can also order a pie to be donated to UCAN's residential home kitchen. Pickup: November 20, 2-6 p.m. or November 21, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Questions/concerns, please contact Mary Brown, doddbrown@sbcglobal.net, or 847-989-5966.

Purchase your pies here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1975896.

CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS!

We are looking to have 17 scarves and/or hats handmade by members and friends to share with our Venezuelan guests for their first Chicago winter. The St. Pauls Handwork Group is gathering these and will provide yarn to anyone who needs it. Contact Lynn Dykstra Davis at Lrdykstra@aol.com if you would like to contribute a scarf or hat. You can drop off completed items at the office.

UCAN GIFT TRAIN

This holiday season, the Outreach & Benevolence Committee is making preparations to help St. Pauls participate in UCAN's gift train for another year! Starting on October 29th, stop by their table during Social Hour and sign up to shop a wish list. This year, we have requests for gift cards as well as specific toys and clothes. Gifts are due back to the church by November 26th.

CALL FOR STREAMING VOLUNTEERS

Love all things digital, especially fancy devices? Got a knack for capturing special moments on camera? Love to chat with family, friends and others? Want to contribute to a key outreach effort of St. Pauls? If you answered yes to any of the above questions, the St. Pauls Streaming Team needs you. Our team is expanding its mission and can use your help. If interested, come see us in the balcony after the service or reach out to Brian Hafner (bhafner2@att.net) or Bob Ball (Robert.f.ball@outlook.com).

2024 ALTAR FLOWER & SCRIPTURE READER SIGN-UPS

Sign-ups for next year's altar flowers and scripture readers are now available!

Sign up for flowers here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1967767

Sign up for reading here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1967800

UCC DAILY DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDE

Every day there is a Scripture passage and reflection that you can sign up to receive in your inbox! This is a great way to make time to reflect on God each day and grow in your faith. To sign-up visit ucc.org/daily-devotional.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

There are no tribal reservations in Illinois, just many locations bearing Indigenous names. This timeline (tinyurl.com/34ty9v2v) lays out how the Native peoples were forced or coerced off this land for colonial expansion, as they were in much of the U.S. territories historically. In 1953, Congress established a new policy (tinyurl.com/23m2fsx3) which eliminated much government support for Indian tribes and ended the protected trust status of all Indian-owned lands. Native people were then encouraged to relocate to urban areas, where they were left to assimilate with mainstream culture. **How do we make amends and live in a way that respects the distinct cultures of our Native neighbors?**

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

REDUCE HOLIDAY WASTE

Buy children's gifts with sustainability in mind. Is it made of sustainable materials? Will it be something that can eventually be passed along to another child? Browse "sustainable toys." Consider giving children in your life one of God's creations to love. Visit the World Wildlife Fund gift center. WWF offers adoption options for more than 100 amazing creatures. Talk with your young person about your choice of gifts and loving all of God's creatures.

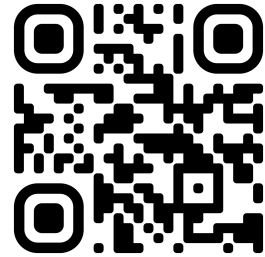
PASTORS' SABBATICAL SCHEDULE

St. Pauls provides three months of sabbatical to each of our pastors every seven years. This year, Pastor Jeff returns from his sabbatical tomorrow. Pastor Matt is on sabbatical until December 16.

PLEDGING & GIVING INFORMATION

PLEDGE WITH BOLD GRATITUDE FOR 2024

Thank you to everyone who has already made a pledge for 2024! Your generous support of St. Pauls is greatly needed and much appreciated. If you have yet to pledge your time, talents or treasures for 2024, you can fill out a paper pledge form and put it in the offering tray or return it to the office. Or, you can pledge online at spucc.org/pledge or by scanning this QR code.



Making a pledge shares with us your intention to donate your time, talents and financial support. This information helps us plan and budget for the upcoming year.

Important Note: If your pledged financial support for 2024 is changing from this year, and you have a current recurring donation set up through one of our donation options, please adjust your recurring donation accordingly. Pledge forms do not authorize St. Pauls to create or update recurring donations. Email bookkeeper@spucc.org with questions or for help.

2024 GIVING CAMPAIGN - IRA QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

If you have an IRA and are required, or will be required, to take a minimum annual distribution (RMD) from your account, you may be interested to know that there are tax advantages to taking your distribution as a direct contribution to a charitable organization such as St. Pauls.

If the distribution is made directly from your IRA to St. Pauls, then you enjoy two tax benefits: 1) the distribution does not count as taxable income and 2) the distribution does count towards satisfying your RMD if over age 73. The gift, called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), must go directly from your IRA to the organization, and your total gifts cannot exceed \$100,000 per year. You can make QCDs after you reach age 70 ½, which is earlier than the current RMD age of 73. You cannot make QCDs from your 401K; it has to be rolled into an IRA first.

With the 2017 changes in the tax law, some have lost the ability to itemize their deductions, including charitable contributions, and are now taking the higher standard deduction. Making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a great way to still get a tax benefit for charitable giving. If you have questions about QCDs, consult your tax or financial advisor. Members of the Finance Committee are able to provide more information as well. Reach out to Committee chair Sally Fletcher at Treasurer@SPUCC.org.

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!

CHURCH SCHOOL

God created us to be creative and to create! This is our theme for Church School this year. Each child will learn that they were created in God's own image. They will learn to love and value all people and to love themselves. 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

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. The flower ministry is flexible and meant to be an easy and rewarding experience. Team members sign up for approximately one Sunday every three months. It is amazing how this simple gesture brings such joy and feelings of love to the recipient – not to mention the joy and love experienced by the deliverer. If you would like to be part of this ministry, 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 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 CLASSES – 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: 2-3:45 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 other event invitations in our Facebook Group, St. Pauls Together.

Please limit announcements to 100 words. Thank you!

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.

TODAY'S MUSIC

I Expect to See Him is by Jessy Dixon (1938-2011), another gospel artist and composer with deep roots in Chicago. His music was beloved outside his own community and he received seven Grammy nominations in his career. He toured the world with Paul Simon after Mr. Simon heard him and the Jessy Dixon Singers at a concert at the Radio City Music Hall in New York City. He also wrote music for artists as varied as Diana Ross and Cher.

The text for ***O God of Love, O King of Peace*** was written in 1861 by Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877). The son of a British admiral, he was ordained, became Vicar of Monkland, and was later knighted. Sir Henry composed many hymn texts. The tune HESPERUS, also known as QUEBEC, was composed in 1854 by another Henry Baker (1835-1910). He too was an English clergyman and also a civil engineer.

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. First published in a hymnal in 1668, the composer of the music is unknown. The original text was written by Joachim Neander (1650-1680), who, although reported to have spent a “riotous youth,” became the first important hymn writer of the German Reformed Church.

E.A. Hoffman (1839-1929) wrote the text for ***What a Covenant*** in 1877. Many of us learned that hymn as *What a Fellowship*. He was an ordained minister and wrote more than 2,000 gospel songs in his lifetime. The tune bears two names, LEANING, which is the first word of the refrain, and SHOWALTER, in honor of the composer A. J. Showalter (1858-1924). He actually began teaching shape-note singing at age 14. He attended a number of private Christian music programs to learn his craft.

Down by the Riverside is another great anti-war song from the African American tradition. Both the tune and text are unattributed, but its first printed appearance is in hymnals published in the first decade of the 20th century. One of its peaks of popularity was in the 1930s before World War II. It was also popular during the antiwar movement of the 1960s.

The arrangement of ***My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*** is based on the hymn setting of *Resignation* in the early American hymnal *Southern Harmony* printed in 1835. This hymnal, along with *The Sacred Harp* and others, are true examples of early American art. Instead of the “normal” round note heads that we see in our hymnal, they used “shaped notes” – e.g., triangles, squares, diamonds, as well as

circles – as note heads. Singers were then taught how to read music by recognizing the intervals between “shapes.” During the 1976 American Bicentennial celebration, this historic way of singing and the music gained new popularity. The text is a poetic version of the 23rd Psalm by English poet and minister Issac Watts (1674-1748), often referred to as the “Godfather of English Hymnody.” Watts is noted for making poetic versions of the entire Book of Psalms.

How Firm a Foundation, although of anonymous origin, is a true American hymn first published in 1832 in Funk’s *Genuine Church Music*. That hymnal is part of what is often referred to as the Sacred Harp, or shape-note, hymnal tradition in our country, which began in the early 19th Century. These treasures also gained a rebirth during the bicentennial celebrations in 1976. Did you know that before the revival of this tune, FOUNDATION, this text was most often sung to the tune *Adeste Fideles (O Come All Ye Faithful)*? The text is also unattributed, but first discovered by John Rippon (1751–1836), who was an English Baptist clergy. He noted the author as “K.”

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) had such respect for the music of Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) that he hand copied some of his music into his personal library. However, they never met. This work, ***Concerto in A minor, BWV 593***, which Vivaldi wrote in 1710 for strings, Bach transcribed and arranged for organ in 1713 or 1714. The *Allegro* has a wonderful bright dancing quality.

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.

- Karin Magnuson at the loss of her father.
- Family and friends of Carl Braun, father of Ryan Braun, at his death
- Pat Kirby, battling drug-resistant pneumonia.
- 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 passed away October 9.
- 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.



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.