

October 29, 2023
Reformation Sunday
UCAN Sunday
St. Pauls 180th Birthday

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.*

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly."

Martin Luther

PRELUDE

Prelude and Fugue in G Major BWV 860
from the *Well-Tempered Clavier, Book One*
Kevin Dzierzawski, piano

J.S. Bach

INTROIT

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
Original version
Chancel Choir

Martin Luther

CHIMES

WELCOME

Jeff Carlson

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: How do you know God loves you?

All: Scripture insists and Christ is real!

One: What have we done to earn God's love?

All: Nothing! Not a single thing.

One: What do we do now?

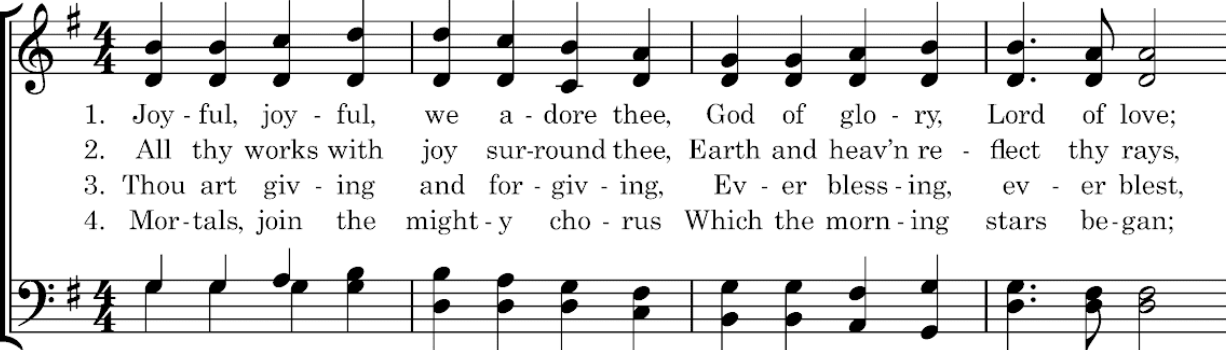
All: We thank God! We sing with joy!

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

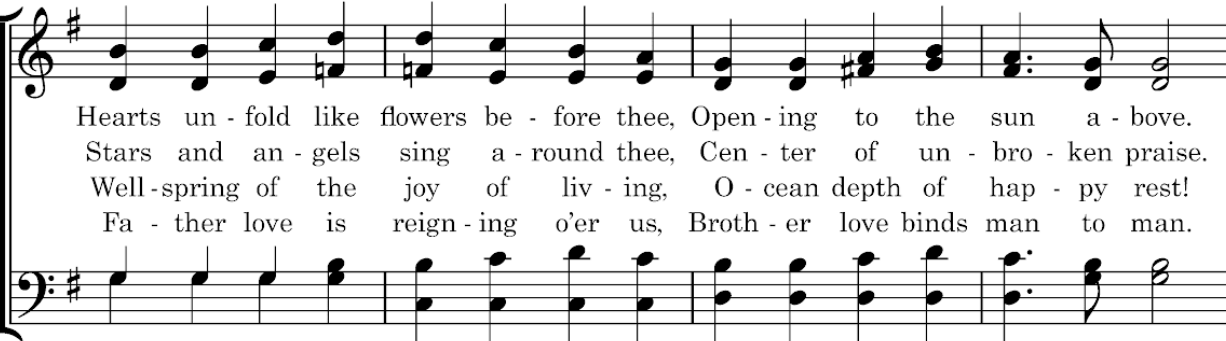
* HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

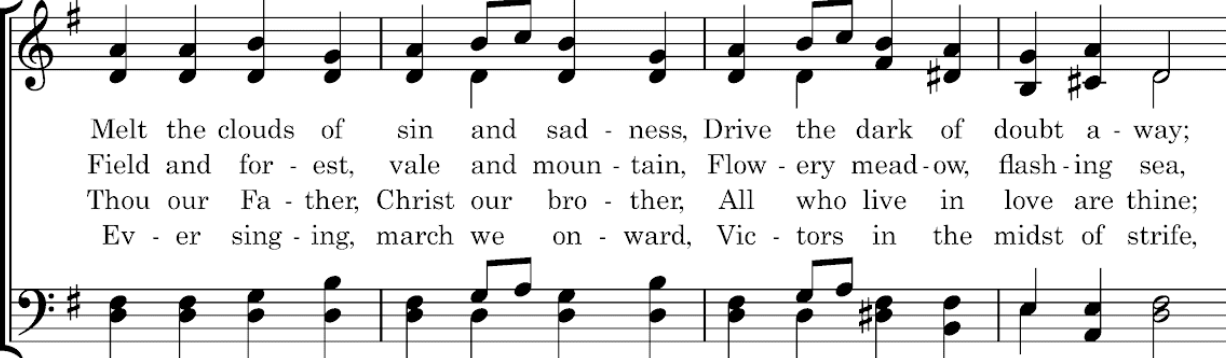
Chancel Choir sings 3rd stanza in German



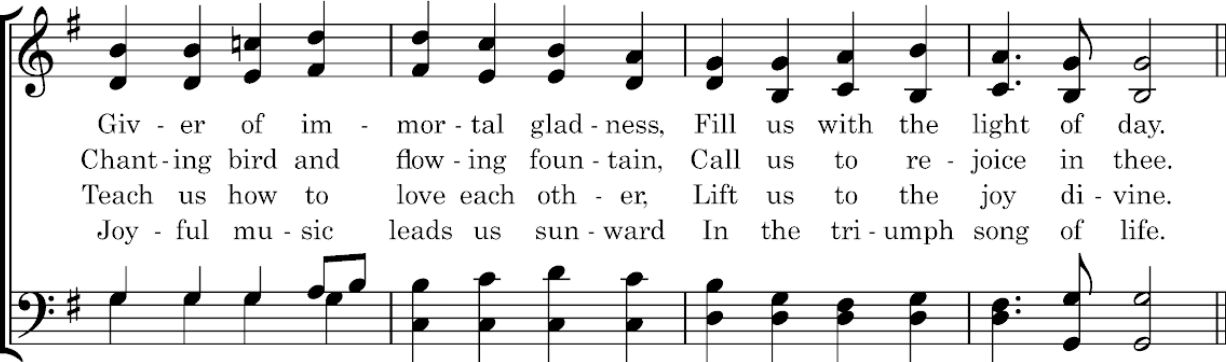
1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All thy works with joy sur-round thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
4. Mor-tals, join the might - y cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be-gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Fa - ther love is reign - ing o'er us, Broth - er love binds man to man.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - ery mead-ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our bro - ther, All who live in love are thine;
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in thee.
Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the joy di - vine.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jeff Carlson

**Lord, there is so much greed in our hearts.
So much suspicion in our minds.
So much self interest in our love.
So much sin to cherish and protect.
You have promised to break in
and steal our treasures.
Do it! Take them!
Remake 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

There Is a 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,

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!"

SCRIPTURE

Steve Schwartzberg

Isaiah 54:11-17

Afflicted city, storm-battered, unpitied:

I'm about to rebuild you with stones of turquoise,
Lay your foundations with sapphires,
construct your towers with rubies,
Your gates with jewels,
and all your walls with precious stones.

All your children will have GOD for their teacher—
what a mentor for your children!

You'll be built solid, grounded in righteousness,
far from any trouble—nothing to fear!
far from terror—it won't even come close!

If anyone attacks you,
don't for a moment suppose that I sent them,
And if any should attack,
nothing will come of it.

No weapon formed against you shall prosper.
and you shall confute every tongue that rises against you in judgment.
This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD
and their vindication from me, says the LORD.

* 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

There Is a Balm in Gilead
See previous hymn

v. 2

SERMON

"No weapon formed against you shall prosper."

Fred Long

* HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God

1. Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voices,
2. O may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,
3. All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,

Who wondrous things hath done, In whom his world rejoices,
With ever-joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us,
The Son, and him who reigns With them in highest heaven,

Who, from our mothers' arms, Hath blessed us on our way
And keep us in his grace, And guide us when perplexed,
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heaven adore,

With countless gifts of love, And still is ours to-day.
And free us from all ills In this world and the next.
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.

GIVING MOMENT

Nathan Chamberlain

OFFERTORY

Fürchte dich nicht BWV 228

J.S. Bach

(Sung In German)

Chancel Choir

*Fürchte dich nicht, ich bin bei dir;
weiche nicht, denn ich bin dein Gott!
Ich stärke dich, ich helfe dir auch,
ich erhalte dich
durch die rechte Hand meiner
Gerechtigkeit.*

Be not afraid, I am beside you;
falter not, for I am your God!
I strengthen you, and help you as well,
I preserve you
by the right hand of my righteousness.

*Fürchte dich nicht,
denn ich habe dich erlöst,
ich habe dich bei deinem Namen gerufen,
du bist mein!*

Be not afraid,
for I have redeemed you,
I have called you by your name,
you are mine!

CHORALE

*Herr, mein Hirt, Brunn aller Freuden,
du bist mein, ich bin dein,
niemand kann uns scheiden.
Ich bin dein, weil du dein Leben
und dein Blut mir zugut
in den Tod gegeben.*

Lord, my shepherd, font of all joy,
you are mine, I am yours,
no one can separate us.
I am yours for you have given me
your life and your blood,
for my benefit, by your death.

*Du bist mein, weil ich dich faße,
und dich nicht, o mein Lieht,
aus dem Herzen laße.
Laß mich, laß mich hingelangen,
da du mich und ich dich
lieblich werd umfassen.*

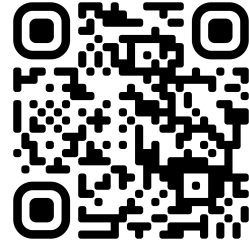
You are mine, for I hold on to you
and do not allow you, O my light,
to leave my heart.
Let me, let me reach toward you,
that you might lovingly
embrace me, as I do you.

You can give to St. Pauls electronically by:

Scanning this code with your cell phone camera,

At spucc.churchcenter.com/giving,

Or through 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

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1. A might - y for - tress is our God, A bul - wark nev - er
 2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, Our striv - ing would be
 3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, Should threat - en to un -
 4. That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, No thanks to them, a -



fail - ing; Our help - er he a - mid the flood Of
 los - ing, Were not the right man on our side, The
 - do us, We will not fear, for God hath willed His
 - bid - eth; The Spir - it and the gifts are ours Through



mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe Doth
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ
 truth to tri - umph through us. The prince of dark - ness grim, We
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, This



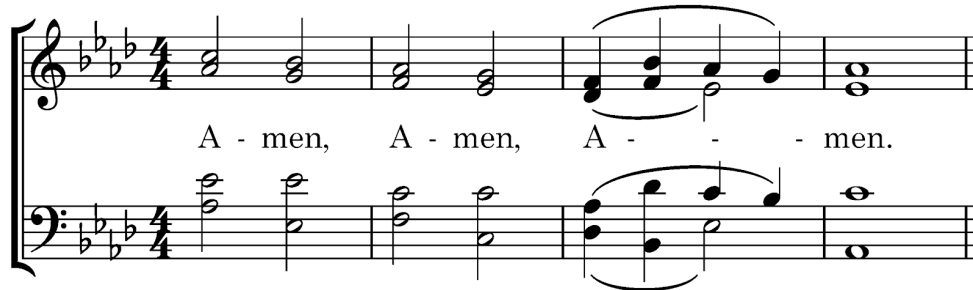
seek to work us woe; His craft and power are great, And
 Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sab - a - oth his name. From
 trem - ble not for him; His rage we can en - dure, For
 mor - tal life al - so; The bod - y they may kill; God's



armed with cru - el hate, On earth is not his e - qual.
 age to age the same, And he must win the bat - tle.
 lo, his doom is sure: One lit - tle word shall fell him.
 truth a - bid - eth still, His king - dom is for - ev - er.

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
St. Arbucks Quartet

Ludwig van Beethoven
arr. Craig Curry

If you would like someone to pray with you today, Stephen Ministers are present after the Postlude at the right front of the Sanctuary.

Following Worship, all are invited to coffee hour in the Gym where you'll find St. Pauls and UCAN history boards.

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.

WE'RE CELEBRATING OUR BIRTHDAY WITH UCAN!

Birthdays are family celebrations, and UCAN is St. Pauls family. Our congregation founded UCAN more than 150 years ago to care for orphans from the Civil War. Today UCAN is one of the most impactful youth and family services organizations in Chicago, serving tens of thousands of people a year with the conviction that "youth who have suffered trauma can become our future leaders." Although it has long been an independent nonprofit, St. Pauls remains committed to UCAN's transformative work in youth development, violence prevention, and advocacy. Karen Johnson and Matt Fitzgerald currently serve on the UCAN board. 100% of our Christmas offering this year will go to support the work of UCAN. Learn more here: ucanchicago.org.

TODAY'S PREACHER IS FRED LONG

Fred Long is Vice President of Development at UCAN, an innovative youth services organization that is a sanctuary for youth who have suffered trauma and offers a continuum of services to meet the critical needs of Chicagoland's at-risk populations. Since 2016, Long has served as UCAN's top fundraising executive, charged with annually securing nearly \$5 million in private grants; corporate and small business contributions; individual donations; and other sources. Fred is the husband of Tina Long and proud father of Devin and Melanie Long.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Jeff Carlson, Fred Long, Liz Nickerson

Music Director: Kurt R. Hansen

Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski

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

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Scripture Reader: Steve Schwartzberg

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, David Faulkner, Doug Clark

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are from someone wishing you a Happy Sunday!

The rose on the altar celebrates the birth of Luella Storm Sandoval to Rebecca and Julio on September 25th.

BORN THIS WEEK IN OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

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 29 Pam Woll, Pattie Miller, Eileen Schrimpf, Sophie Doerr

Oct 30 Alayna Mack

Oct 31 Liz Raiman, Lisa Doerr, Jackson Noonan, Greg Kobak

Nov 1 Allen Heinemann, Nick Walvoord, Willow Clancy

Nov 2 Georgia Smith, Greg Mooney, Meggan Teague, Phyllis Grimm, Charles Wilk,
Jean Wilk, Prentiss Koldyke

Nov 3 Carole Crowley, Ron Clarke

Nov 4 Corinne Lee, Nina Alverdy, Todd Lightfoot, Emily Hein

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.

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. 12 - 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.

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. 19 – NEW MEMBER CLASS - 11:15 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room
Join pastors, members, and others curious about St. Pauls for our fall 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). Please RSVP here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1754569

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.

NOV. 28 – 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. 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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UCAN GIFT TRAIN

This holiday season, the Outreach & Benevolence Committee is preparing to help St. Pauls participate in UCAN's gift train for another year! Starting today, 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 26**.

TOTENFEST MEMORIALS

Totenfest will be held on Sunday, November 26. During worship, we will give thanks for the lives of the members and friends of our congregation who died during the past year. Totenfest is a German word meaning "Festival of the Dead." You can make a memorial gift honoring a loved one online at the link below, or by any of our other giving methods. Please make your gift and email your memorial dedication for the bulletin to the office at info@spucc.org **by Monday, November 20**.

spucc.churchcenter.com/giving/to/totenfest

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.

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

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).

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

"Truth-telling is the required path to reconciliation, which can lead to healing, restoration and ultimately, reparations." Rev. Dr. Waltrina Middleton of the Community Renewal Society shares her perspective on this global moment when we have the choice between war and bigotry or freedom and liberation for all. She calls us to speak out courageously for God's healing love and justice in this blog, tinyurl.com/bd3bj9kb.

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

REDUCE HOLIDAY WASTE

Make alternative Christmas gifts by hand. Recipes and patterns can be found online. Examples: Beeswax wraps, lemon beeswax candles, map coasters, marbled clay ring dish, herbal drawer fresheners, lavender eye pillow, etched wood spoons, stenciled tea towels, sewn material snack bags, soap on a rope, body butter, bath salts, sugar scrub bars, lip balm, cleansing balm, face or body soap bars. These are only a few things that make wonderful Christmas gifts you and your family can make. When you do buy traditional gifts, check labels, product details, and avoid plastics.

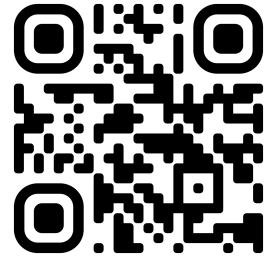
PASTORS' SABBATICAL SCHEDULE

St. Pauls provides three months of sabbatical to each of our pastors every seven years. 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.

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? Arrive at 9:30 am and meet with ushers in the Narthex for quick announcements and a prayer. Then stand at the church doors and say “Hello” to attendees greeting them with a smile, warm welcome and cheerfulness. The ushers are inside continuing to welcome attendees and distribute worship bulletins. Sign up here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2003199

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 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 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.

Chancel Choir

Kurt R. Hansen, Music Director

Kevin Dzierzawski, Organist

Karina Kontorovitch, Rehearsal pianist

Sopranos

Katie Alrutz

Lenore Ettinger

Nadia Jimenez

Gay Kelly

Jennifer Kew 1

Karin Magnuson

Nancy Pifer *

Ashley Saluga

Grace Stauskas

Kecia Waldschmidt 2

Pam Woll

* Section leader

1 - Quartet One

2 - Quartet Two

+ Librarian

Altos

Cindy Ball

Amy Barton

Lois Basil

Terry Brancaccio Hansen

Carrie Bruggers +

Breanna Coe 1*

Micki Fayhee

Karen Johnson

Winnie Kearns 2

Jana O'Brien

Amy Petersen Beck

Pat Ruch

Tenors

Todd Coe 1

Andy Davis

Doug Heyboer

Rick Peterson

Nathan Streeter 2

Basses

Bill Borden

Jim Brandt

Allen Heineman

Graham Hicks

Mark Huddle

Julian Jarzebowski

Lee Lichamer 1*

Mark Mosley 2

Mark Swanson

Doug Walter

TODAY'S MUSIC

The ***Fugue In G Major*** BWV 860 is from the *Well-Tempered Clavier (WTC)-Book One*, composed over time in the early 1720s by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). We take for granted our tuning system for keyboard instruments, but in Bach's time there were several different systems of tuning. Well-temperament was a compromise that allows all 24 major and minor keys to sound equally good. Other tuning systems would make certain major or minor keys very jarring. Bach's two books of the *WTC* are a demonstration that all major and minor keys would sound equally agreeable. He composed a prelude and fugue for each of the 12 major keys and each of the 12 minor keys, which is why both books of the *WTC* contain 24 preludes and fugues. In addition to this being an exercise for Bach, it is another proof that he could make great music out of an exercise or demonstration piece.

There is no better way as a church with a strong German heritage to celebrate the Reformation than by bookending our service with ***A Mighty Fortress Is Our God***, the great Martin Luther (1483-1546) hymn. It is arguably Luther's greatest hymn and encapsulates the theology of the Lutheran Church. The Introit is the original almost dance-like rhythmic version that Luther composed and congregations of that time sang. The recessional hymn presents a more majestic march. The final stanza is a harmonization of the final chorale by Bach (1685–1750) from his cantata, which bears the tune name, EIN FESTE BURG .

Our familiar hymn ***Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*** is based on “Ode to Joy,” the theme from the last movement of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* (1824). The introduction, choral interlude and finale to today's processional hymn are brief excerpts from that work. The music for *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* (ODE TO JOY) was composed by Beethoven (1770-1827) and is the chorale melody from the final movement of his *Ninth Symphony*. The original German text (1785) was by the famous poet and dramatist Friedrich Schiller (1759-1805), and the English text was composed in 1907 by Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933). Van Dyke was an American author and clergyman and was appointed ambassador to the Netherlands by President Woodrow Wilson prior to the outbreak of World War I.

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 indigenous 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 although many believe in this balm's mysterious healing powers, 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 traversing to the north over rivers like the Potomac and Ohio.

Now Thank We All Our God is a translation by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878) of the original German by Martin Rinkart (1586-1649) written in 1636. Winkworth, although born in England, spent many years in Dresden, which is why she was so adept at translating German chorales. She was also a tireless fighter for women's rights. Rinkart became a scholar at St. Thomas School in Leipzig where Bach would later be Kapellmeister. The tune, NUN DANKET, takes its name from the first words of the German text. It is most often attributed to Johann Crüger (1558-1662), who in reality was the publisher of the psalter where this hymn tune first appeared.

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) composed six motets; five of the six are for couple choirs. ***Fürchte dich nicht*** (Be not afraid) is thought to have been composed on or about February 4, 1726, in Leipzig, Germany. He may have composed it for the funeral of Susanna Sophia Winckler, maiden name Packbusch. The text is drawn from Isaiah 41:10 and 43:1. The chorale melody, cantus firmus, in the final section is from the hymn *Warum sollt ich mich denn grämen* (Why Should I Then Grieve), which dates from 1653 in Berlin. The text was written by Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676), who was a prominent Lutheran theologian and hymnodist. The hymn we know as *O Sacred Head Sore Wounded* was his most famous text. Bach used the Gerhardt texts in his *Passions According to John and Matthew*, and also several of his cantatas. The choral writing for *Fürchte dich nicht* is almost a competition between the two choirs to see who can be more joyful in exclaiming "Be Not Afraid." The middle section is more intimate and sung by two quartets before both full choirs return and unite at the end. The *cantus firmus* is trumpeted by the sopranos over the fugue-like parts below them.

On Reformation Sunday, it is good to remember that our ***Festival Doxology*** is also part of our German and Reform heritage. Its German hymn tune, LASST UNS ERFREUEN, dates from 1623, and was first found in a hymnal published in Cologne, Germany.

Our familiar hymn ***Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*** is based on "Ode to Joy," the theme from the last movement of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* (1824). Craig Curry, who arranged this great hymn tune, is a graduate of Wheaton College Conservatory of Music and the University of Miami. He is an active composer whose arrangements and compositions have been widely performed.

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 180 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.

