



November 19, 2023
Baptism 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

"Grace isn't just forgiveness, it is forgiveness fueled by surrender."

Amy E. Spiegel

PRELUDE

St. Arbucks Quartet

INTROIT

We Gather Together
Chancel Choir

CHIMES

WELCOME

Jeff Carlson

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

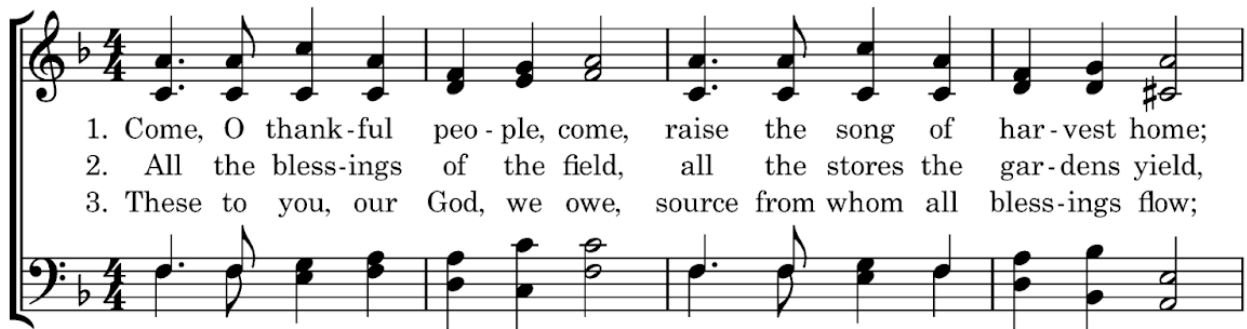
One: This is the day that the Lord has made

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

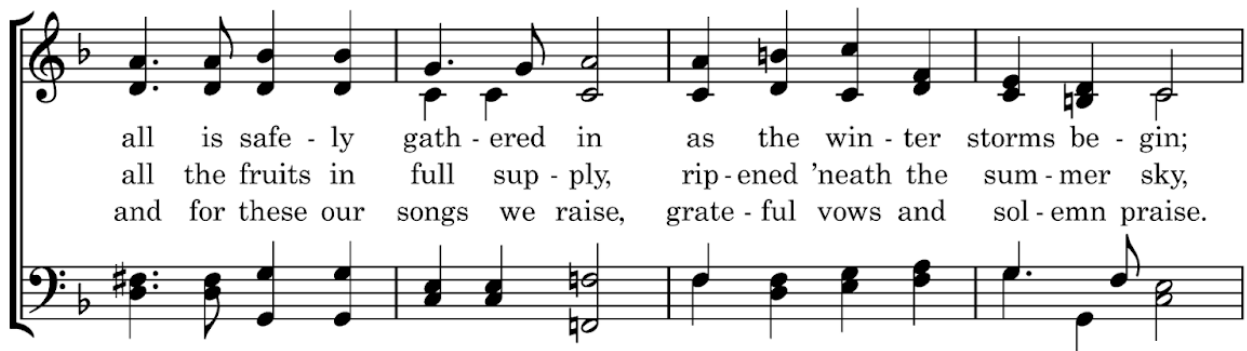
** Please stand if you are able to do so.*

* HYMN

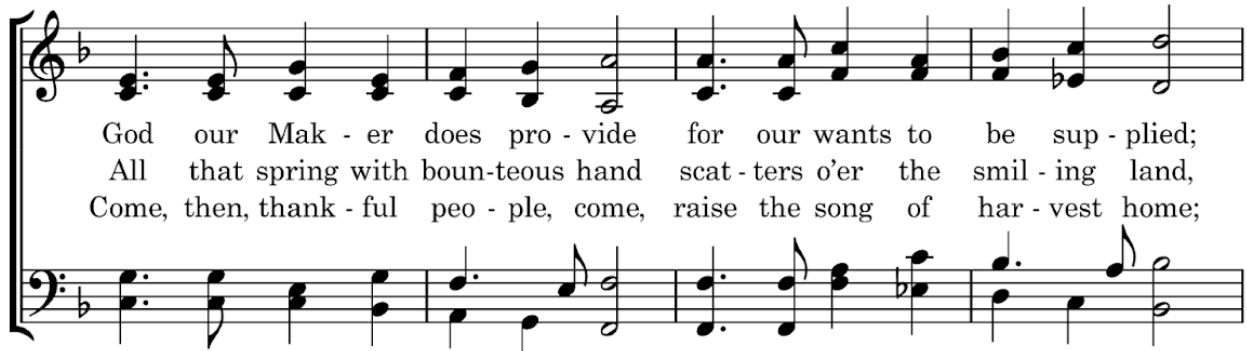
Come, O Thankful People, Come



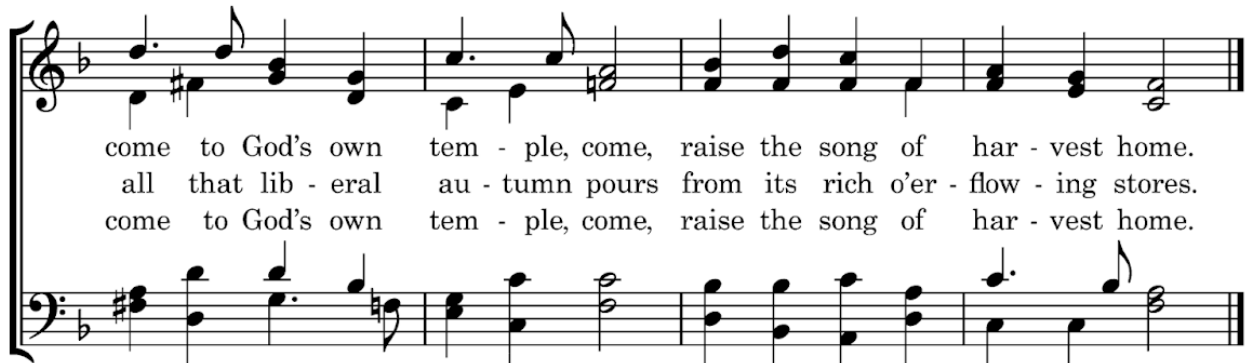
1. Come, O thank-ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home;
2. All the bless-ings of the field, all the stores the gar - dens yield,
3. These to you, our God, we owe, source from whom all bless-ings flow;



all is safe - ly gath - ered in as the win - ter storms be - gin;
all the fruits in full sup - ply, rip - ened 'neath the sum - mer sky,
and for these our songs we raise, grate - ful vows and sol - emn praise.



God our Mak - er does pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied;
All that spring with boun-teous hand scat - ters o'er the smil - ing land,
Come, then, thank - ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home;



come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
all that lib - eral au - tumn pours from its rich o'er - flow - ing stores.
come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God we come before you with humble hearts reminded that although we often turn from you, your arms remain open to us. Remove any jealousy we feel when others receive what they don't deserve. Help us instead to see the forgiveness you extend to us and give that same forgiveness to others. In silence hear now our personal confessions.

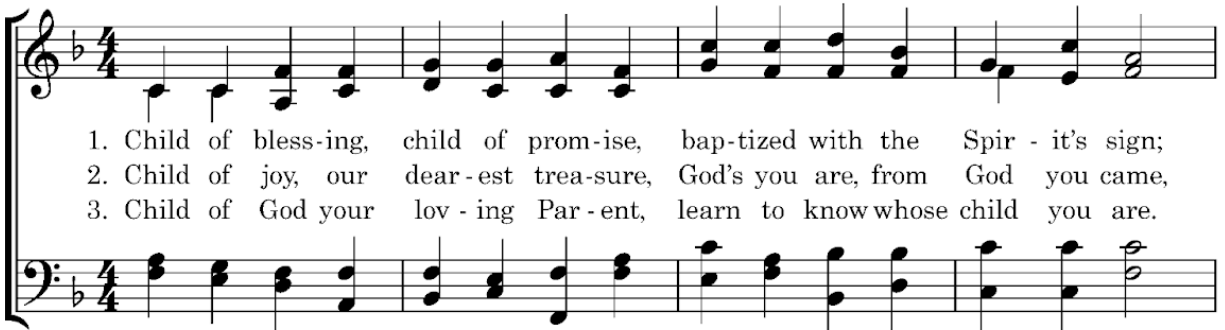
MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

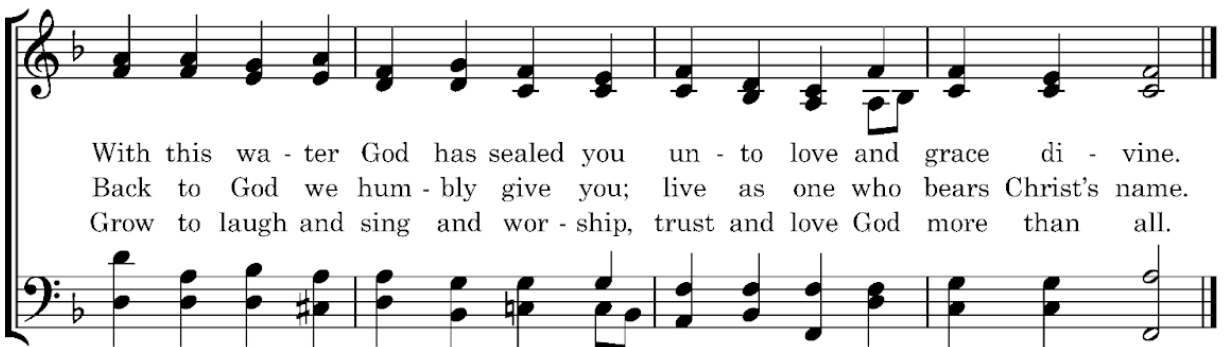
RESPONSE

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

v. 1



1. Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap-tized with the Spir - it's sign;
2. Child of joy, our dear-est trea-sure, God's you are, from God you came,
3. Child of God your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to know whose child you are.



With this wa - ter God has sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
Back to God we hum - bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.
Grow to laugh and sing and wor - ship, trust and love God more than all.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM OF

Madeline Rae Hurlbutt

Pastor: Madeline, receive now the Light of Christ. May you walk always as a child of light. May your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to God. Madeline is now received into the love and care of the church. See what love God has given us that we should be called children of God.

All: Almighty God, giver of life, you have called us by name and pledged to each of us your faithful love. We pray for your child, Madeline. Inspire her life. May she sing many songs, know many joys, heal many wounds, and embrace many people in your name. We pray for her parents, that they may be guided by your love and know your presence. May we walk together with this family as witnesses to your gospel, as those for whom you have lived and died and live again. Amen.

Pastor: Madeline, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you always.

All: Amen

*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

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise
See previous hymn

vv. 2 & 3

Luke 11:11-32

11 Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. **12** The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. **13** A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. **14** When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. **15** So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. **16** He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. **17** But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! **18** I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; **19** I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' **20** So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. **21** Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' **22** But the father said to his servants, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. **23** And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, **24** for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. **25** "Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. **26** He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. **27** He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.' **28** Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. **29** But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. **30** But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' **31** Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. **32** But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

*** 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

Come, O Thankful People, Come
See previous hymn

v. 3

SERMON

"Lost, Then Found"

Liz Nickerson

* HYMN

Amazing Grace



1. A - maz - ing_ grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a__
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my__
3. Through man - y__ dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al -
4. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright shin - ing__



wretch like me!_____ I once__ was__ lost, but
 fears re - lieved;_____ How pre - cious did that
 - ready - y come;_____ 'Tis grace__ has__ brought me
 as the sun,_____ We've no__ less__ days to



now__ am__ found, was blind, but__ now I see._____
 grace__ ap - pear the hour I__ first be - lieved!_____
 safe__ thus far, and grace will__ lead me home._____
 sing__ God's praise than when we'd first be - gun._____

GIVING MOMENT

Renae Bradshaw

OFFERTORY

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem

John Henry Maunder

Chancel Choir

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem,

Praise thy God, O Zion.

For He hath made fast the bars of thy gates,

And hath blessed thy children within thee.

The Lord is gracious,

And full of compassion,

Slow to anger, and of great goodness.

The Lord is good to all,

And his tender mercies are over all that fear His works.

All thy works praise thee,

And thy saints give thanks unto thee.

The valleys stand so thick with corn that they laugh and sing.

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem,

Praise thy God, O Zion. Amen.

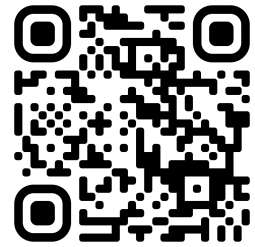
from Psalms 145 and 147

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

Jeff Carlson

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

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

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

Amen.

* HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God

The Chancel Choir will sing the first stanza in German

1. Nun dank - et al - le Gott, mit Herz - en, Mund und Händ - en,
2. Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voic - es,
3. All praise and thanks to God Our Mak - er now be giv - en,

der gro - sse Ding - e tut an uns und al - len End - en;
Who won - drous things has done, In whom this world re - joic - es,
To Christ, and Spir - it, too, our help in high - est heav - en,

der uns von Mut - ter - leib und Kind - es - bein - en an
Who, from our par - ents' arms, Has blessed us on our way
The one e - ter - nal God, Whom earth and heav'n a - dore,

un - zäh - lig viel zu gut bis hier - her hat ge - tan.
With count - less gifts of love, And still is ours to - day.
For thus it was, is now, And shall be ev - er - more.

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

Nun Danket Alle Gott
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

S. Karg-Elert

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 for coffee and snacks in the Social Hall.

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: Jeff Carlson, 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: Tim Reed

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Faulkner, Fred Pearson

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

Greeters: Linda Loving, Monty Kehl, Craig Wilbanks

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

BORN THIS WEEK IN 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.

Nov. 19 Laura Hochuli

Nov. 20 Penelope Patton, David Brown

Nov. 21 Ruth Bryant, Aidan Ritchie

Nov. 22 Mitch Holzrichter

Nov. 23 Jim Miller, Kyle Mack, Tom Hanson, Cale Roschen

Nov. 24 Jake Lippert, Shari Charlton, Hannah Mutch, Pierce Prangley

Nov. 25 Daniel Lias, Randall Kooistra

UPCOMING EVENTS

See our full event calendar online at spucc.churchcenter.com/calendar.

** Events marked with an asterisk are in a non-wheelchair accessible location.*

Contact the church office or group leader for more information.

TODAY – NEW MEMBER CLASS - 11:15 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. 22 – WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - NO MEETING THIS WEEK

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. 28 – FOOD FOR THE SOUL: LUNCH GROUP - 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!

NOV. 28 – GIVING TUESDAY: SUPPORT UCC EFFORTS TO CARE FOR CREATION & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES

The UCC cares deeply about environmental and climate justice. In 2022, the denomination made a five-year commitment to focus our Giving Tuesday campaigns on environmental issues, and through these contributions, we will gather resources for our work to help address climate issues that impact our world. Projects include an “all church” Earth Day Summit in 2024 and continuation of the successful Climate Hope Summer, an environmental justice fellowship program for youth and young adult leaders. Give generously!

NOV. 29 - COOKIES FOR A CAUSE - 5:30 p.m., Kitchen

Join the St. Pauls cookie bakers for dinner, socializing and cookie making. Meet us in the kitchen at 5:30 p.m. or whenever works for you. We eat around 6:30 p.m. Cookies (about 1,000) go to A Just Harvest and the Lincoln Park Community Shelter. If you can't join us but would like to participate, you may drop off any homemade cookies at the church by November 29, labeled MARCIA. Please get in touch with Marcia Volk, marciavolk@volkonline.com, (773) 307-6866, to reserve a spot and she will let you know what dinner/baking supplies are still needed. And if you know of someone who needs some support or friends from the baking crew, please bring them along. Marcia will be away November 16-21, but will respond to your phone calls or email when she returns.

DEC. 10 - 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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAST DAY TO ORDER 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 today**. \$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.

TOTENFEST MEMORIALS

Totenfest will be 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 tomorrow, Monday, November 20**.
spucc.churchcenter.com/giving/to/totenfest

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! 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 at church **by November 26**.

ADVENT MARKET ITEMS NEEDED

The Advent Market is on Sunday, December 10, and will help fund The Resurrection Project, a non-profit group in Chicago that is dedicated to advancing racial and social equity by empowering historically marginalized communities in areas of wealth building, healthcare, affordable housing, and education. Most recently, they have helped St. Pauls support our Venezuelan families. We need new or gently used items such as jewelry, candles, frames, handmade items, Christmas decorations, toys, etc. (Please, no clothing unless it is holiday specific.)

The **drop-off dates are:**

December 2: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.,

December 3: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.,

December 8: 10 a.m.-3 p.m., and

December 9: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Questions, please text or email Carrie Bruggers at (773) 294-4446 or crbruggs@gmail.com.

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.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

What is the true history of Thanksgiving? Sean Sherman, The Sioux Chef, offers a Native American perspective here, tinyurl.com/2m4fpt4t, with insights on the Indigenous culinary contributions. He states, "The thing is, we do not need the poisonous 'pilgrims and Indians' narrative. We do not need that illusion of past unity to actually unite people today. Instead, we can focus simply on values that apply to everybody: togetherness, generosity and gratitude. And we can make the day about what everybody wants to talk and think about anyway: the food."

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

REDUCE HOLIDAY WASTE

Select your tree carefully.

- Live trees that you can replant are best.
- Trees harvested from an organic tree farm will likely be replaced by two trees.
- Plastic trees need to be used for at least 10 years to keep their environmental impact below that of live trees.
- Use LED lights.

Dispose of your tree carefully.

- If you can't replant, keep your tree out of a landfill.
- Discover possibilities in your area for composting or chipping.
- Do not burn a tree as that releases carbon dioxide.

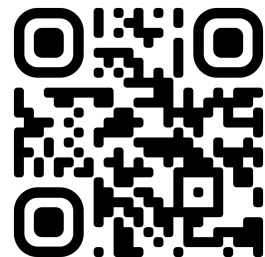
PASTORS' SABBATICAL SCHEDULE

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.

GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

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.

BASKETBALL – Join us for a weekly Wednesday 7 p.m. pickup game! All skill levels welcome. Email Pastor Matt to get on the updates list, mfitzgerald@spucc.org.

BIBLE STUDY – Weekly on Wednesdays, noon-1 p.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. Contact Pam Woll pamelawoll@sbcglobal.net with questions, or info@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

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

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

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

HANDWORK MEET-UP – If you enjoy handwork, you’re invited to sit together 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.

MOMS GROUP – Being a mom is the hardest job in the world! So come to the Youth Lounge after worship on the second Sunday of each 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 Pastor Liz at lnickerson@spucc.org.

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

RETIREMENT GROUP – The Retirement Group meets at 10 a.m. in the Parlor 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.

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).

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.



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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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.

Sign up for 2024 flowers at spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1967767.

COMMON PANTRY COMMUNION SUNDAYS – We're collecting food for the Common Pantry every communion Sunday - usually the first Sunday of the month. See their wish list 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.

CALL FOR LIVE STREAM 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).

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.

DRIVERS/TRANSPORTATION AIDS NEEDED FOR OLDER ADULTS – We are looking for volunteers to drive some older adults to church and accompany one of our congregants to church on Sunday mornings on the Pace bus round trip from their nursing facility. This is a great way for you to make a real difference for a fellow member. For questions or more information, please contact Pastor Liz at lnickerson@spucc.org.

GREETING TEAM – Would you consider being one of our Sunday morning greeters? Arrive at 9:30 a.m. 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

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.

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 for 2023: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1508612
Sign up for 2024 reading: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1967800

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send announcements for St. Pauls-sponsored events to info@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!

TODAY'S MUSIC

We Gather Together is an anonymous Dutch text from 1625 translated by renowned musicologist and hymnodist Theodore Baker (1851-1934). Baker was born in New York City, educated in Leipzig, Germany, and wrote seminal books about classical composers, the music of the Seneca tribe, and a psalter hymnal. He also translated *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* from the original German. The tune, KREMSEER, is also Dutch in origin and dates from the 16th century.

Come, O Thankful People, Come is a thanksgiving text written in 1844 by Henry Alford (1810-1871). Alford was an English born, Cambridge educated, Episcopalian clergy. He composed scores of hymn texts in his lifetime. ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR was composed in 1856 by George Jacob Elvy (1816-1893). He was also born in England, educated at Oxford, and became organist and master of the boy's choir at St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle. The hymn tune takes its name from his duty station. He composed it originally for another text, but Alford's text became firmly associated with this tune. Elvy also composed the tune, DIADEMATA, for *Crown Him With Many Crowns*.

The text for ***Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*** was written in 1981 by a UCC pastor and teacher of theology, Ronald Cole-Turner (b. 1948). The tune, STUTTGART, was composed in 1715 by Christian Friederich Witt (1660-1716). Witt completed a huge hymnal, *Psalmodia Sacra*, the year before his death. Of the 774 hymns (!!!), he composed nearly 100. He was Kapellmeister of the Gotha court in Stuttgart at the same time that Bach was in Leipzig, just 300 miles north. An interesting side note is that Nathan Laube, world renowned organist and friend of St. Pauls, was until recently on the organ faculty at the Hochschule für Musik in Stuttgart. He has since returned to the faculty at the Eastman School of Music.

The text for ***Amazing Grace*** is by John Newton (1725-1807), a slave ship captain who became an Anglican clergyman and fervent abolitionist. He once said that writing this text saved his soul. The tune, NEW BRITAIN, is most likely an African American spiritual and was first published in 1829.

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem was composed in 1897 by John Henry Maunders (1858-1920). He was a respected English organist and composer of the Victorian school. In his day, church cantatas and oratorios, such as *From Olivet to Calvary*, were performed widely in English speaking countries.

Now Thank We All Our God is a translation by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878) of the original German written in 1636 by Martin Rinkart (1586-1649). Although born in England, Winkworth 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.

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.

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.

- Prayers for peace - in our city, nation and world.
- Loved ones of Eleanore Breunig Barth, at her death.
- Family and friends of Karen Rieck, at her death.
- David Sr., father of David Faulkner, who is dealing with cardiac and dehydration health concerns.
- Pastor Liz and family at the death of her Uncle Tim.
- Bill Mooney and family at the death of his father Bill.
- 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.
- 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, 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.

