

November 26, 2023

Totenfest

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

There is no Sunday School this week.

Children are invited to stay in worship. The Nursery is open for children ages 0 to 4.

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.

Please silence cell phones.

PRELUDE

A Message for Austin/Praise the Lord/Enter the Void

St. Arbucks Quartet

Ryuichi Sakamoto
reimagined by Thundercat

I know I'll see you again
In another life
Thank you for sharing your love and your light
Though we say goodbye
We will say hello again
You'll always live in our hearts and our minds
Thank you for being a friend
That you were to me
I cherish the moments of all our good time
You traveled beyond
Your legacy lives on
Go forward as the eagle
To your endless majesty
I know I will see you again
In another life
Thank you for sharing your light with the world
Travel beyond
Your legacy lives on
Now enter the void
Forever

INTROIT

The Countless Host in White Array
Chancel Choir

Edvard Grieg

The countless hosts in white array, that in Gods presence ever stay,
All bearing palms, singing psalms, what are these; whence came they?
These are the ransomed souls that bore on earth great tribulation sore;
They overcame through Jesus name, won life for evermore.
And now around the throne they sing, their echoing hallelujahs ring;
With harp and lyre, with angel choir, they glorify their King.

CHIMES

WELCOME

Jeff Carlson

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP (*From Isaiah 61*)

One: The spirit of the Lord God is upon us, because God has anointed us.

**All: God sends us to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives.**

One: To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor; to comfort all who mourn.

**All: To give to those who mourn a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of joy instead of mourning.**

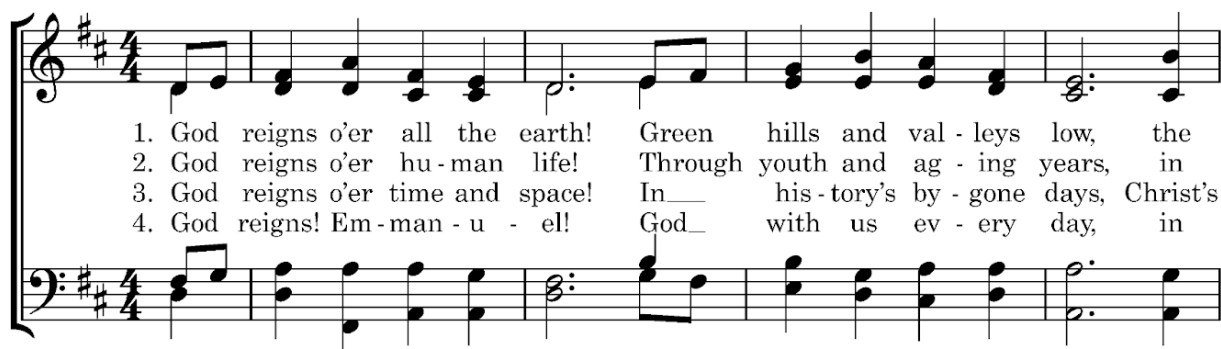
One: A garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

All: May the Spirit of the Lord God be upon us.

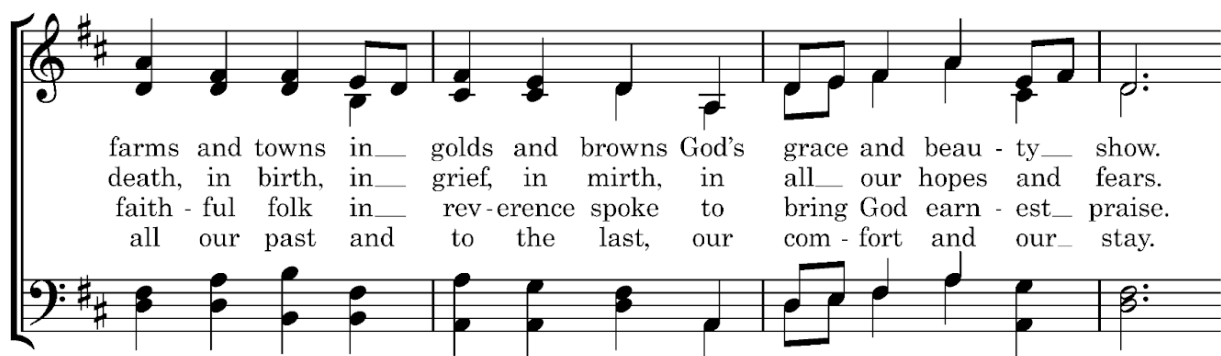
** Please stand if you are able to do so.*

* HYMN

God Reigns O'er All the Earth



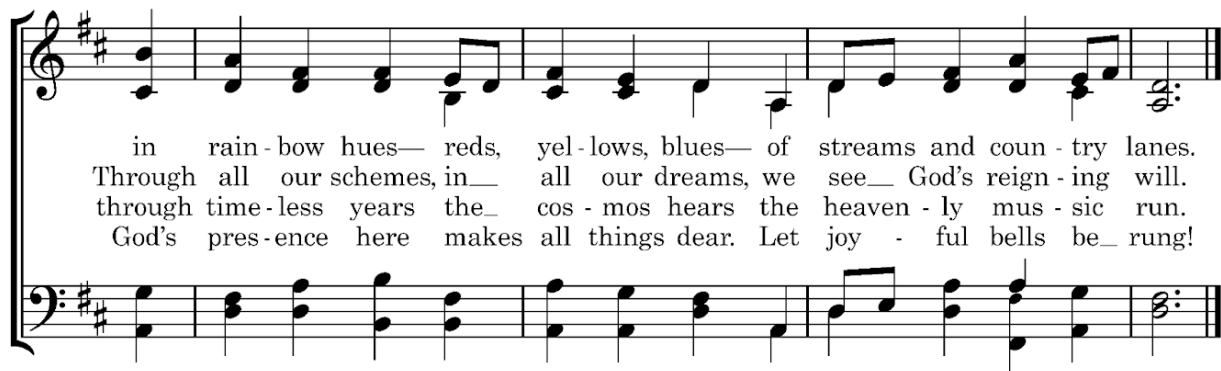
1. God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and val - leys low, the
 2. God reigns o'er hu - man life! Through youth and ag - ing years, in
 3. God reigns o'er time and space! In his - tory's by - gone days, Christ's
 4. God reigns! Em - man - u - el! God with us ev - ery day, in



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



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



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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Marti Pechnyo

**Dear God, bring us together as one,
Reconciled with you and with each other.
You have made us not in one mold, but in many.
Deepen our unity that we may rejoice in our diversity.**

**Dear God, bring us together as one,
Teach us always to be more compassionate and forgiving.
Let us be the essence of peace, love, understanding, and joy,
No matter how trying any situation we face becomes.**

**Dear God, bring us together as one,
Reconciled, healed, forgiven,
Sharing you with others as you have called us to do.
Dear God, let us be together as one. Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RESPONSE

We Praise You, O God

vv. 1-2



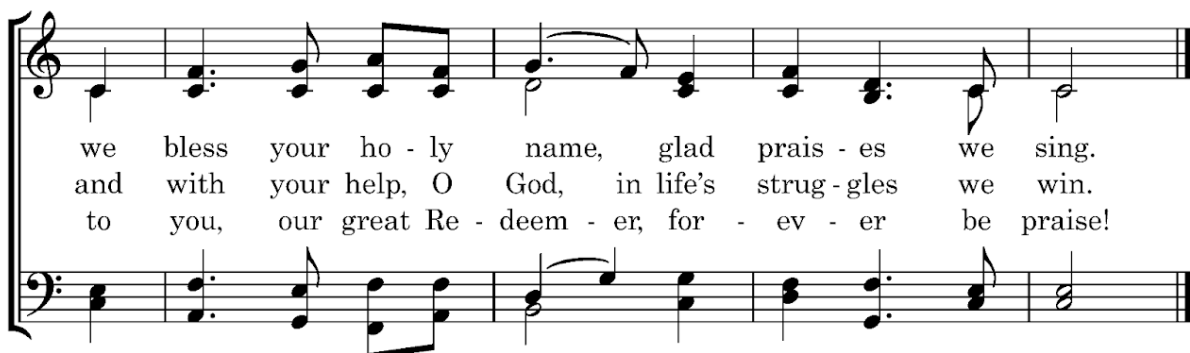
1. We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
2. We wor - ship you, God of our moth - ers and fa - thers;
3. With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer,



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
through life's storm and tem - pest our guide you have been.
and glad - ly our song of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you, we kneel and a - dore you;
When per - ils o'er - take us, you nev - er will for - sake us,
Our sins now con - fess - ing, we pray for your bless - ing;



we bless your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
and with your help, O God, in life's strug - gles we win.
to you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

SCRIPTURE

David Faulkner

Matthew 4:23-5:12

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them. And great crowds followed him.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

*** 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**

We Praise You, O God
Previous hymn

v. 3

SERMON

"Blessed"

Jeff Carlson

* HYMN

Precious Lord



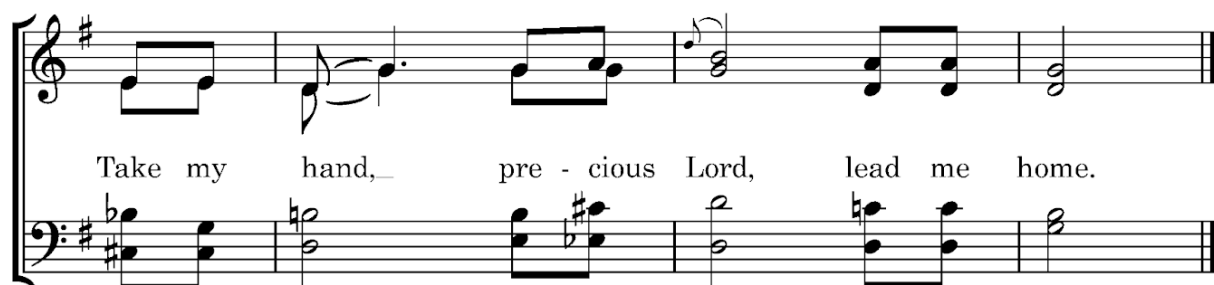
1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2. When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3. When the shad - ows ap - pear and the night draws near,



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
when my life is al - most gone,
and the day is past and gone,



Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:
At the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:



Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

GIVING MOMENT

Jack Lyons

OFFERTORY

Goin' Home

Antonin Dvořák

Kecia Waldschmidt, Jana O'Brien, and Todd Coe, soloists
Chancel Choir

Goin' home, goin' home, I'm a goin' home
Quietlike, some still day, I'm jes' goin' home.
It's not far, jes' close by, through an open door
Work all done, care laid by, Gwine to fear no more
Mother's there, 'spectin' me, Father's waiting, too
Lots o' folk gathered there, all the friends I know. All the friends I know.
Nothin' lost, all's gain, no more fret nor pain
No more stumblin' on the way, no more longin' for the day
Gwine to roam no more
Mornin' star lights the way, restless dream all done
Shadows gone, break o' day, real life jes' begun.

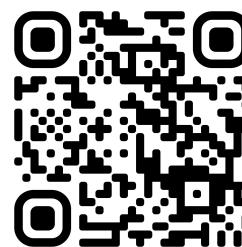
Dere's no break, ain't no end, jes' a livin' on
Wide awake with a smile, goin' on and on
Goin' home, goin' home, I'm jes' goin' home.
It's not far, jes' close by, through an open door
I'm a goin' home. I'm jes' goin' home.

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.



TOTENFEST TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Joseph JaQuay

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

For All the Saints



1. For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, Who
2. Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might:_____
3. O blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine!_____
4. And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long,_____

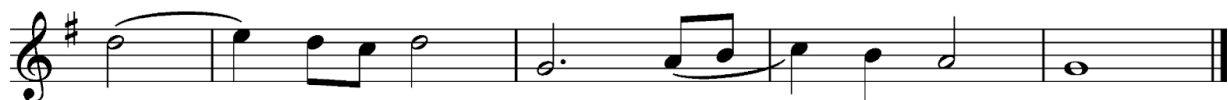


thee_____ by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
Thou, Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight;_____

We fee - bly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; Yet
Steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, And



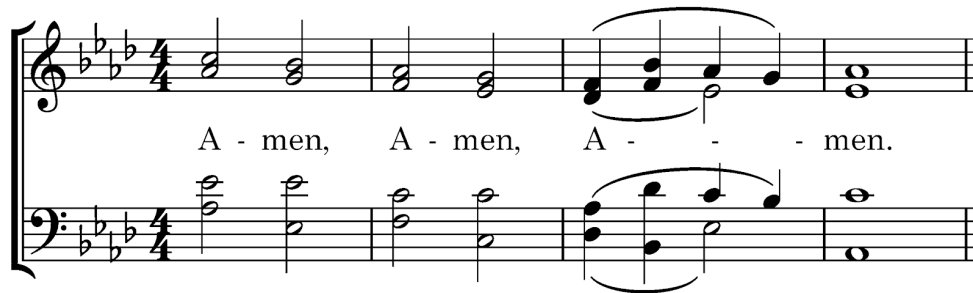
name O_____ Je - sus, be for - ev - er_____ blest.
Thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one_____ true_____ light.
all are_____ one in thee, for all_____ are_____ thine.
hearts are_____ brave a - gain, and arms are_____ strong.



Al - - le - lu - ia! Al - - le - lu - ia!

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

Symphony No. 2—Allegro
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

Louis Vierne

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.

THE MEANING OF TOTENFEST

This is the last Sunday of the church year. The new church year begins next week with the First Sunday in Advent. Today, we remember those in our congregation who have died and those whose services had been officiated by a St. Pauls Pastor and we give thanks for their lives. We lift up in prayer the families and friends of those who have lost loved ones. From St. Pauls' German heritage, we call this day Totenfest, which means "a festival celebration for those who have died." The liturgical color for this Sunday is white, a symbol of resurrection.

THE TOTENFEST ROLL

*Members of St. Pauls who have died this church year, and friends
at whose services a St. Pauls pastor officiated:*

Darlene Braun December 22, 2022	Sonja Rae February 2, 2023	Michael Toomin July 21, 2023
Joann Noonan January 22, 2023	Al Cerkam February 3, 2023	Keith Gentzen August 24, 2023
Dolores Pifer January 27, 2023	Petrine Ashley April 22, 2023	Karen Rieck November 11, 2023
	Betsy Bueschel July 10, 2023	

TOTENFEST MEMORIALS

Elizabeth Bueschel from the Bueschel family

Joe Guastafeste from Janet and Mark Musich

Virginia and Robert Borden from Allen Heinemann and Bill Borden

Virginia and Wilton Heinemann from Allen Heinemann and Bill Borden

Hazel Vespa from Allen Heinemann and Bill Borden

Nancy Brandt from Allen Heinemann and Bill Borden

Richard Shank from Allen Heinemann and Bill Borden

Thomas and Colleen Henry from the Henry/Kompare families

Joseph Kompare from the Kompare family

Mary Payne and Kevin Quigley from the Henry/Kompare families

Leroy and Henrietta Dykstra from Andrew Davis and Lynn Dykstra

Edward Davis from Andrew Davis and Lynn Dykstra

Clarence Van't Hul from Andrew Davis and Lynn Dykstra

Karen Rieck from Andrew Davis and Lynn Dykstra

Elizabeth "Betsy" Hartanov from her son, Justin Hartanov

Dolores Pifer from her daughter, Pam Pifer

Joseph Heiney from his daughter, Jennifer Heiney

Dolores Pifer from her family and friends

Samuel Good from Mark and Sarah Good Mosley

Jerry Grose from Mark and Sarah Good Mosley

Tom Henry from Mark and Sarah Good Mosley

Ron Kinnamon from Mark and Sarah Good Mosley

George and Shirley Mosley from Mark and Sarah Good Mosley

Wes Salisbury from Mark and Sarah Good Mosley

Charles and Marion Joachim from their daughter, Maxine Joachim

Keith Gentzen from the Gentzen family
Archie Fletcher from Sally Fletcher
Ed Zasadil from his spouse, Larry Simpson
Esther Simpson from her brother-in-law, Larry Simpson
Stephen Anderson from Larry Simpson
Jorge Iorgulescu from Larry Simpson
Jack Marshall from Larry Simpson
The Hon. Michael Toomin from Larry Simpson
Charles White from Larry Simpson
Ron Oswald from Larry Simpson
Neal Dungan from Larry Simpson
Haydn Morris from Larry Simpson
Mildred Zasadil from Larry Simpson
Tom and Colleen Henry from Liz Raiman
Sam Hill from Liz Raiman
Wanda and Ken Heinemann from Gay and Moe Kelly
Benjamin "BJ" Heinemann from Gay and Moe Kelly
Maurice and Francis Kelly from Gay and Moe Kelly
Judge Michael P. Toomin from Gay and Moe Kelly
Linda G. Johnson from her daughter, Micki Fayhee
Al Cerkam from Pat Ruch and Cerkam Family
Aline Ruch Frank from her sister, Pat Ruch
Petrine Ashley from her family
Barbara Doyle from her friend, Terrill L. Stumpf

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

STEPHEN MINISTERS: Marti Pechnyo and Joe JaQuay are leading in worship today.

Our Stephen Ministers offer compassion and care to our members going through a tough time. If you'd like to be connected with one or are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister yourself, contact Pastor Jeff. We are hoping to have a training class for new Stephen Ministers in 2024.

Clergy: Jeff Carlson

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: David Faulkner

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: Doug Clark, David Faulkner, Ninon Freeman

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

Greeter: Linda Loving

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

BORN THIS WEEK IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

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. 26 Carrie Bettler

Nov. 27 Steve Mannina, Bennett England

Nov. 28 Barbara Arsenault, Lisa Patterson Raterman, Michael VanSomeran

Nov. 29 Lily Mooney

Nov. 30 David Bradley

Dec. 1 Brooke Walvoord, Dodd Brown, John Reed, Leo Lawrence, Rex Lawrence

Dec. 2 Bill Kennedy, Frank Mynard, Richard Wu, Matthew Wallace

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAULS

- SUN, DEC 3 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, *LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE*
10 a.m. - Worship, Christmas Cantata - *A Caribbean Mass* with steel band
- WED, DEC 6 LITTLE LIGHTS CHRISTMAS SHOW
5 p.m. - Concert & Art Show, Sanctuary
- SUN, DEC 10 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, *LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE*
10 a.m. - Worship, Communion
11:30 a.m. - Advent Market, Gym
- THURS, DEC 14 ADVENT TAIZÉ SERVICE♦
7 p.m. - Service of sung prayer and meditation, Sanctuary
- SAT, DEC 16 COOKIES WITH SANTA
10 a.m. - Cookies, crafts and pictures with Santa, Gym
- SUN, DEC 17 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, *LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY*
10 a.m. - Worship, Readings & Carols with youth choirs and brass
- TUES, DEC 19 FOOD FOR THE SOUL
12 p.m. - Lunch Group, fellowship and Christmas caroling
- THURS, DEC 21 WINTER SOLSTICE SERVICE♦
7 p.m. - Service, Labyrinth walk, Gym
- SUN, DEC 24 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, *LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE*
10 a.m. - Worship

CHRISTMAS EVE
5 p.m. - Family Service, Sanctuary
9 p.m. - Candlelight Service, Sanctuary
Christmas story, carols, candles, and choir

*Scan here for more
information about
Advent events*

♦RSVP for childcare



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.

NOV. 29 – WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - 12 p.m., Zoom

Ecclesiastes: 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

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

You are invited to Voices of Celebration & Thanks, the annual Gospel Concert of Pilgrim Baptist Church and the National Museum of Gospel Music, 3301 S. Indiana Avenue. The concert will be on Saturday, December 9 at 7 p.m. Please RSVP your plans to attend to cindyinn11@gmail.com no later than November 30.

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

Each year in the U.S., 25-30 million real Christmas trees are sold. For every tree harvested, one to three seedlings are planted. The Christmas trees currently growing on 350,000 acres of green space are taking in carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen, helping to clean our air and slow climate change. Artificial trees last many years, but once unusable, they go into landfills where they never biodegrade! So please use and recycle a real tree. There are 4,000+ local tree recycling programs in the U.S.

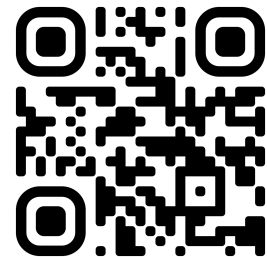
PASTORS' SABBATICAL SCHEDULE

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! 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 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).

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

A Message for Austin/Praise the Lord/Enter the Void was released in June 2023 on the album *Apocalypse* by Stephen Bruner (b. 1984), aka Thundercat. It is a tribute to Austin Peralta (1990-2012), a jazz pianist and composer from Los Angeles. The piece incorporates samples from Ryuichi Sakamoto's (1952-2023) album *El Mar Mediterrani* (1999). Sakamoto was a Japanese composer, pianist, and actor who pursued both a solo career and as part of the band Yellow Magic Orchestra. He pioneered a number of electronic music genres. Stephen Bruner is a well known song writer, pianist, singer, and record producer from Los Angeles. His performing groups include West Coast Get Down.

The Countless Hosts in White Array is a Norwegian folk melody from the 17th century. DEN STORE HVIDE FLOK, which is the tune name, is the first line of the Norwegian poem by Hans Adolf Brorson (1694-1764), who composed the poem in c. 1760. Helen A. Dickinson (1875-1957) provided the translation into English in 1907. This hymn arrangement was made by one of Norway's most famous composers, Edvard Grieg (1843-1907). Among Grieg's many great works is the *Peer Gynt Suite* and his *Piano Concerto*.

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

The tune, KREMSER, is an unattributed Dutch folk song that dates from the 16th century. We also know a more traditional Thanksgiving text in English, *We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing*. The text of this version, "**We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer, Creator,**" was written by Julia C. Cory (1882-1963) in 1902. Because her father was a Sunday school superintendent and amateur hymn writer, Julia began composing hymn texts at a very early age.

Thomas A. Dorsey (1899-1993) began his career as a blues pianist and songwriter. Later, he became a church choir director at Pilgrim Baptist Church in Chicago and was a co-founder of the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses. Widely known as the "father of the gospel song," he played an important role in the development of African American gospel music. His best-known song, ***Precious Lord***, was composed following the tragic double death of his first wife Nettie and their newborn son. It was a great comfort to Mr. Dorsey in his grief, as well as countless others who have sung it.

Goin' Home is an anthem based on a beautiful theme in the *Symphony No. 9, "Symphony From a New World,"* by Antonin Dvořák (1841-1904). Dvořák was a Czech composer who spent a very important part of his career in the United States. He was deeply affected by folk music of his Bohemian heritage, so it is not surprising that during his time in our country he was also moved by the African American spirituals he heard. The famous African American composer Harry Thacker Burleigh worked with Dvořák for many years, so it was assumed that the tune we associate with *Goin' Home* was a spiritual Dvořák had heard. The problem is that there is no record of a spiritual with that title or melody. It is a tribute to Dvořák that he created a melody that was an homage to a musical genre that was foreign to him, but also tugged at the roots of his love for Bohemian folk music. The words were added in 1922 by one of his American students, William Arms Fisher, who expressed the hope and belief of life beyond death just "*close by, through an open door.*"

The author of the text of ***For All the Saints*** was William Walsham How (1823-1897). He penned the poetry we love so much in 1864. How was an Oxford graduate and served many parishes in England throughout his life. Just to prove there can be a sense of humor even in hymn tune names, SINE NOMINE, means "no name" in Latin. The stirring music was written in 1906 by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). One of the greatest English composers of the post-Victorian era, he composed music for nearly all genres of performance.

The ***Allegro*** from *Symphony No. 20 in E minor, Op. 20* was composed by Louis Vierne (1870-1937) in 1902. Along with Charles-Marie Widor, Vierne was one of the great Romantic symphonists for organ. Born blind, he composed six symphonies for the organ. He was also the organist of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris from 1900 until his death. In fact, Vierne collapsed and died at the console at Notre Dame at the close of a recital there. Maurice Duruflé was at his side as an assistant that day. The *Allegro* shows Vierne's brilliance as both a composer and performer.

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.