

January 21, 2024

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

Watch what God does, and then do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with Jesus and learn a life of love. Observe how Jesus loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love to get something from us, but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that. All love involves sacrifice. (Based on Ephesians 5:1-2, The Message)

PRELUDE	<i>Variations on Morning Song</i>	Robert Grogan
	Kevin Dzierzawski, organ	

INTROIT	<i>To Give, and Give Again</i>
	Chancel Choir

CHIMES

WELCOME	Matt Fitzgerald
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* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We have come to worship God and follow Jesus.

All: Lord, help us to hear your call and strengthen us to follow you.

One: Open our hearts, Lord, and teach us to walk in your ways.

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

* HYMN

God Is Here! As We Your People Meet



1. God is here! As we__ your peo-ple meet to of - fer praise and prayer;
2. Here are sym-bols to__ re-mind us of our life - long need_ of grace;
3. Here our chil-dren find_ a wel-come in the Shep-herd's flock_ and fold;
4. Sov-ereign God, of earth and heav-en, in an age__ of change and doubt



May we find in full - er mea-sure what it is__ in Christ we share.
Here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit, here the cross_ has cen - tral place.
Here as bread and wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as__ of old.
Keep us faith - ful to__ the gos-pel, help us work_ your pur - pose out.



Here, as in the world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
Here in hon - es - ty__ of preach-ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
Here the ser-vants of__ the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



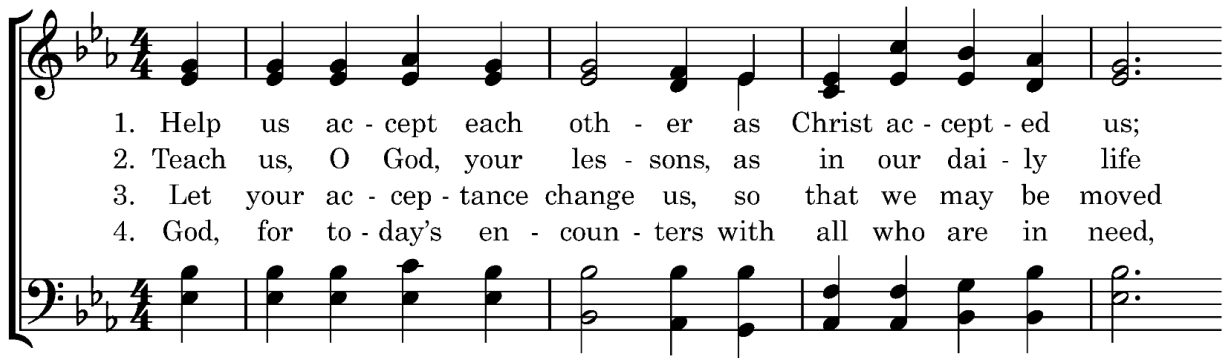
wait the com - ing of__ the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and_ re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to__ be - lieve and to a - dore.
we,_ who can - not live_ with - out you, we__ a - dore you! We be - lieve!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

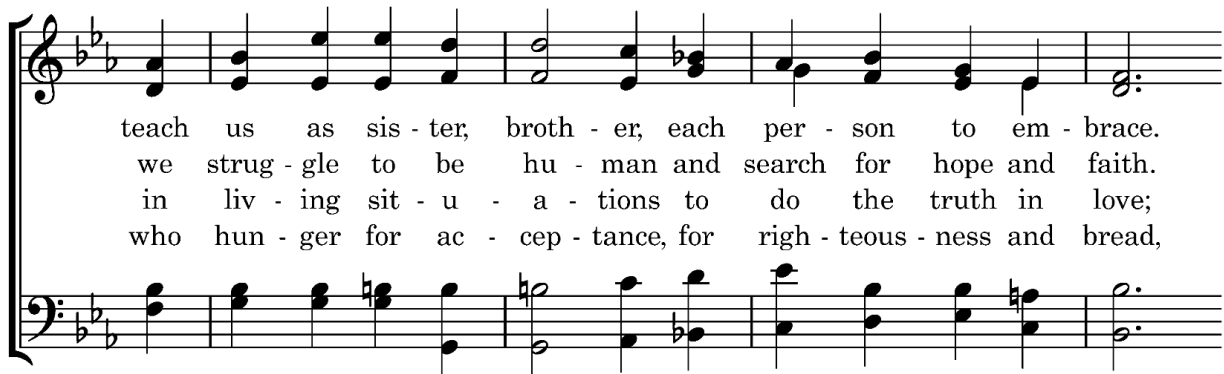
Lord of all, it is easy for us to say that we will follow you; and then turn our backs and go a different direction. You challenge us to become like Christ. To take up our own crosses. Your love requires us to sacrifice our fears, our anger, our resentments and replace them with love. Forgive us when we go in the wrong direction. Give us courage to live like your disciples and show us how to sacrifice our priorities for your priorities. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

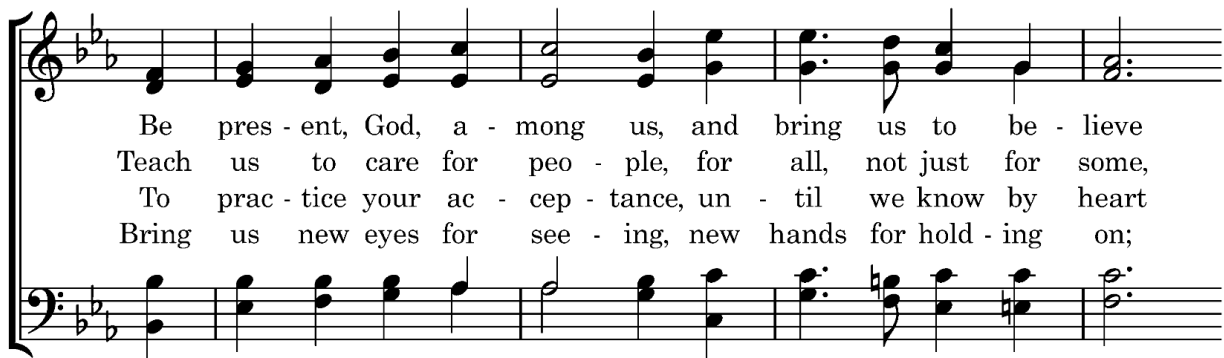
WORDS OF ASSURANCE



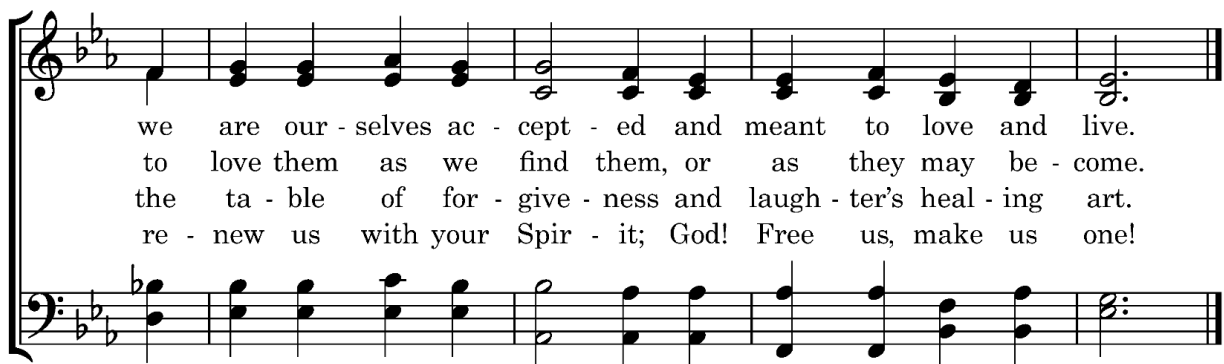
1. Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us;
2. Teach us, O God, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life
3. Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved
4. God, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,



teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.
we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for righ - teous - ness and bread,



Be pres - ent, God, a - mong us, and bring us to be - lieve
Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
To prac - tice your ac - cep - tance, un - til we know by heart
Bring us new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on;



we are our - selves ac - cept - ed and meant to love and live.
to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.
the ta - ble of for - give - ness and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
re - new us with your Spir - it; God! Free us, make us one!

SCRIPTURE

Mark Sancya

Mark 1:14-20

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

* 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

Help Us Accept Each Other
See previous hymn

vv. 3 & 4

SERMON

“Following Jesus”

Liz Nickerson

* HYMN

The Summons



1. Will you come and fol - low me, if I but call your name?
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind, if I but call your name?
3. Will you let the blind - ed see, if I but call your name?
4. Will you love the 'you' you hide, if I but call your name?
5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you, and you in me?
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you, and you in me?
and ad - mit to what I mean in you, and you in me?
through my sight and touch and sound in you, and you in me?
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you, and you in me.

OFFERTORY

We Are Called
Chancel Choir

David Haas

Come, live in the light
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord
We are called to be light for the kingdom
To live in the freedom of the city of God.

We are called to act with justice
We are called to love tenderly
We are called to serve one another
To walk humbly with God.

Come, open your heart
Show your mercy to all those in fear
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
So all hatred and blindness will be no more.

We are called to act with justice ...

Come, throw wide our doors!
Welcome new neighbors and strangers
As friends. We are called to open our spaces.
To share God's rich graces through faith without end.

We are called to act with justice ...

The Congregation joins on the repeat of the refrain:



The musical notation is written on three staves in 3/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words split across lines and some words followed by a blank line for a breath or continuation. The first staff contains the first two measures of the refrain. The second staff contains the next two measures. The third staff contains the final two measures, ending with a double bar line.

We are called to act with jus - tice; we are called to
love ten - der - ly; _____ we are called to serve one an -
- oth - er, _____ to walk hum - bly with God.

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 bless-ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures 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.

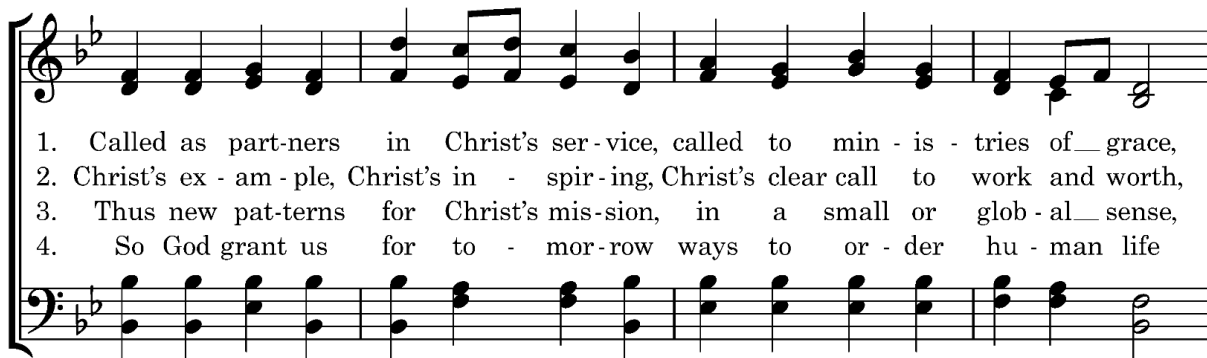
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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

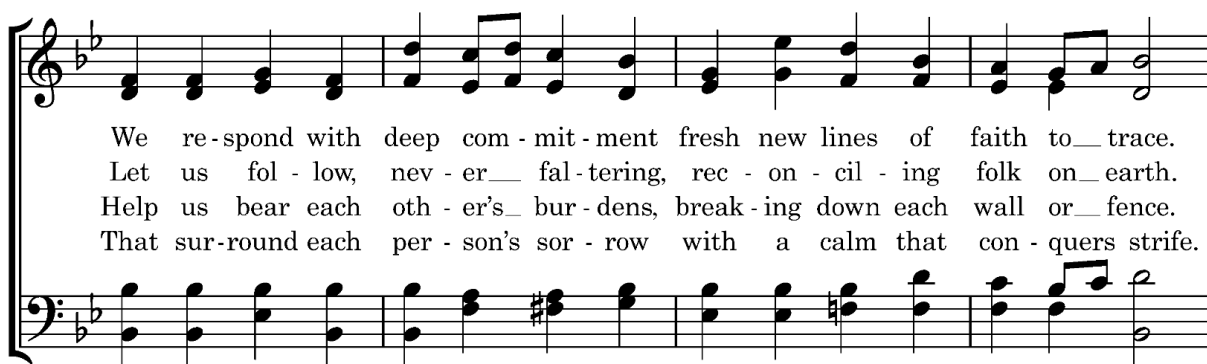
Amen.

* HYMN

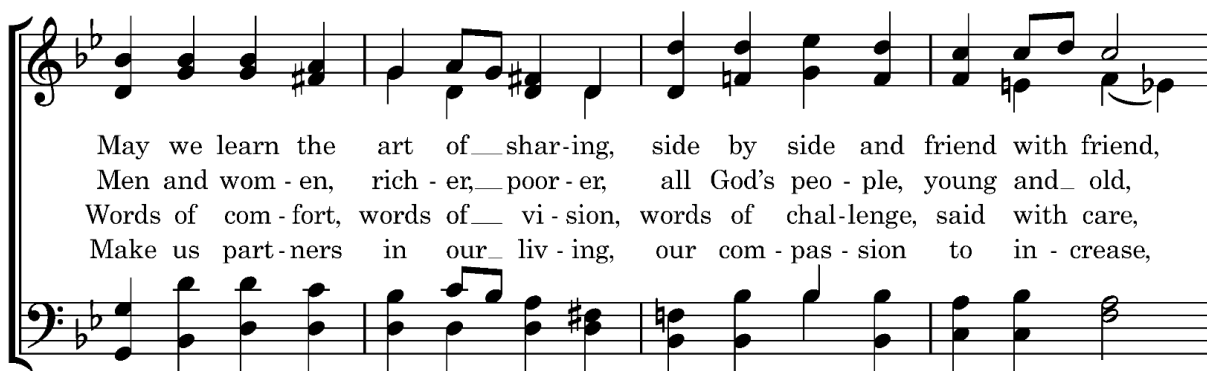
Called as Partners in Christ's Service



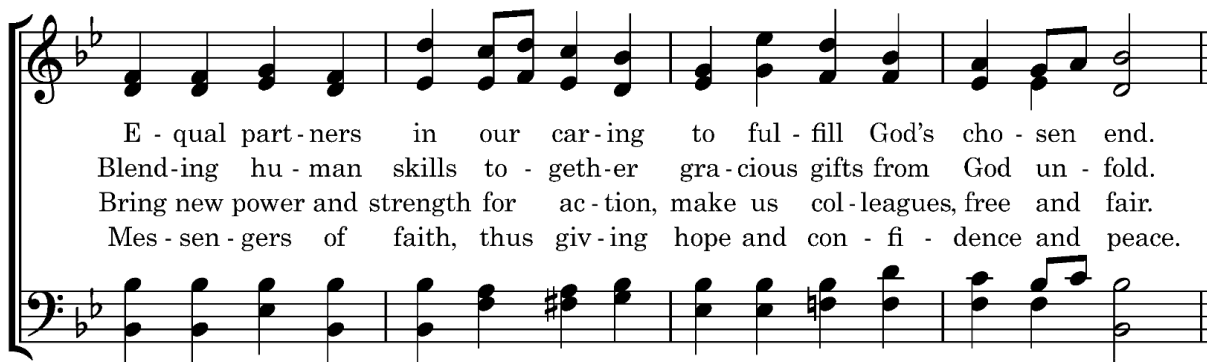
1. Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min - is - tries of__ grace,
2. Christ's ex - am - ple, Christ's in - spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
3. Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob - al__ sense,
4. So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or - der hu - man life



We re-pond with deep com - mit - ment fresh new lines of faith to__ trace.
Let us fol - low, nev - er__ fal - tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on__ earth.
Help us bear each oth - er's__ bur - dens, break - ing down each wall or__ fence.
That sur-round each per - son's sor - row with a calm that con - quers strife.



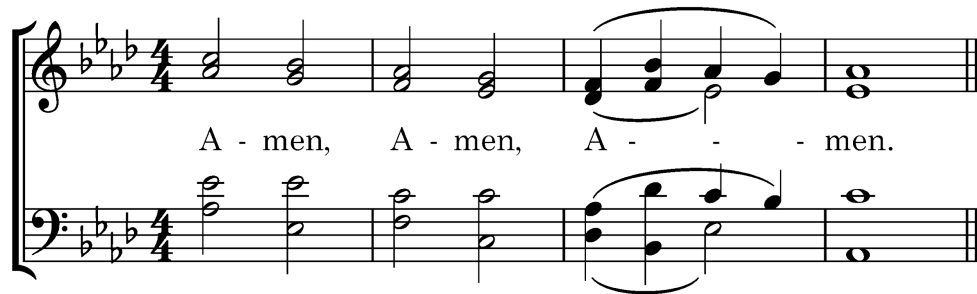
May we learn the art of__ shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
Men and wom - en, rich - er,__ poor - er, all God's peo - ple, young and__ old,
Words of com - fort, words of__ vi - sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
Make us part-ners in our liv - ing, our com - pas - sion to in - crease,



E - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.
Blend-ing hu - man skills to - geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un - fold.
Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

For the Beauty of the Earth
St. Arbucks Quartet

arr. Bradley Sowash

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING UPDATE

We gave away all of our Christmas Eve offerings again this year. Thanks to the generosity of you along with our visitors to St. Pauls, we will be sending \$9,500 to UCAN to support their work, healing youth from trauma and violence intervention.

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, downstairs, directly beneath the Sanctuary.

PEACE CANDLE - We have added a peace candle to the Chancel. Jesus said blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God. Please pray for peace daily for all the current wars raging in the world and in our hearts.

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

- Childcare is available for babies and toddlers up to age 5 during worship from 10 to 11 a.m. downstairs in the Nursery and Toddler Room. Activity “busy bags” are available in the Narthex for children to use during the service.
- SUNDAY SCHOOL and CONFIRMATION classes are on hold during Bible Off Broadway Rehearsals. All children are encouraged to participate.
- High School Sunday School class meets on the first and third Sundays of the month. Winter dates are: January 7, 21; February 4, 18; March 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: Matt Fitzgerald, Liz Nickerson, 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

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Faulkner, Fred Pearson

Scripture Reader: Mark Sancya

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

Altar flowers donated by Ninon Freeman.

BORN THIS WEEK IN JANUARY

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.

Jan. 21 Abby Simonton, Ann Carstensen, Joanne Tong, Pamela Smith, Summer Abraham

Jan. 23 Dan Abercrombie

Jan. 24 Hamish Fyfe, Kelly Martin

Jan. 25 Michael Sanders

Jan. 26 Dan Martin, Harrison Rogers

UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN. 22 - YOUNG ADULTS PICKLEBALL - 7 p.m., Gym

Come meet new people and have some fun. This is a group for folks in their twenties and thirties. Email us at youngadults@spucc.org.

JAN. 23 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL LUNCH GROUP -12-1:30 p.m., Social Hall.

Sponsored by St. Pauls Social. Adults of all ages are invited. Make new friends and connect with old ones with lunch (bring your own lunch), fellowship, fun, and faith. You may register here if you wish: tinyurl.com/2p3w8jnf.

JAN. 28 - YOUTH MISSION TRIP SPECIAL MEETING - 11 a.m., Youth Lounge

Learn to Be the Neighbor from Leaders on Race and Reconciliation

Teens and parents, please attend a special meeting after worship on Sunday, January 28, in the Youth Lounge. Come learn more about this year's trip, travel plans, cost, fundraising efforts, and more. We are excited to invite our youth on the summer 2024 trip to Tulsa, Oklahoma, June 8-15. The trip will be centered around a justice-focused biblical curriculum based on Luke and Matthew. Drawing from Tulsa's history of racial violence in the Trail of Tears and the burning of "Black Wall Street," youth will work with activists and church leaders who are determined to find hope. We will learn about types of racism, differences between equity and equality, and the racial wealth gap. Lessons learned will be brought home and put to work at St. Pauls and in Chicago. If you are already planning to join the adventure, you can register here: tinyurl.com/2024-youth-mission-trip.

JAN. 31 - NEW WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY BEGINNING - 12 p.m., Zoom

We'll be studying the Gospel of Mark through the season of Lent. This fast-paced Gospel is thought to be the first one written. Join our often lively discussion as we explore the meaning of the good news of Jesus from Mark. Meets weekly at noon through March 27. To sign up, email Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org.

FEB. 4 - BIBLE OFF BROADWAY - AND BRUNCH AFTERWARDS! - 10 a.m.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 4 as a "must-attend" day at St. Pauls.

That's when our youth will take the reins of the 10 a.m. worship service and present *The Parables of Jesus* in Bible Off Broadway 2024! But wait – there's more!

Immediately after worship, the entire congregation is invited to a delicious brunch in the gym catered by the Hearty Boys to celebrate our youth and debut the "Expand and Elevate Our Openness" Capital Campaign video. This brunch event will celebrate the launch of Phase II of the church accessibility and courtyard renovation fundraising campaign, which is slated to run through April 30. Don't miss either of these inspirational and transformational St. Pauls events! All are welcome!

FEB. 9 - ST. PAULS SOCIAL WHISKEY TASTING - 7 p.m., Parlor

Join St. Pauls Social and host Todd Coe for a whiskey tasting. Todd will walk us through the sights, smells and tastes of several different whiskies and discuss what to look for when shopping for a bottle of your own. Please bring a snack to share. A donation of \$10 is requested to cover the costs of the samples. Please RSVP by Friday, February 2 at <http://tinyurl.com/4d3pvdvy>.

The event is limited to the first 20 attendees.

FEB. 11 - NEW MEMBER CLASS - 11:30 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room

Join pastors 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 with lunch provided, and childcare will be provided as needed (please let us know in your registration). New members will join in worship on February 25. Sign up here: <http://tinyurl.com/b9kyn7fy>.

FEB. 18 - MOMS' GROUP - 11:15 -12:30 p.m., Youth Lounge - gather with other moms with newborns through 10-year-olds to 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 provided. Contact Pastor Liz at lnickerson@spucc.org.

FEB. 20 - C.S. LEWIS IN A YEAR BEGINS - 7 p.m., Zoom

In 2024, Saint Pauls is going to read "C.S. Lewis in a Year." Led by Pastor Jeff and Pastor Matt, alternating between the seven novels in *The Chronicles of Narnia* and Lewis's five most acclaimed works of theology. Beginning February 20, we will meet over Zoom on the third Tuesday of each month. Reading C.S. Lewis with church friends will impact your life and your faith profoundly. His work is imaginative and exciting. He explains Christian concepts and God's goodness as clearly as any writer ever has. Start reading now for our first discussion: *Mere Christianity*; a complete reading list will be shared upon registration. Join this exciting adventure by registering here: <http://tinyurl.com/bdzda6u7>.

FEB. 28 - COOKIES FOR A CAUSE - 5:30 p.m., Kitchen

Join St. Pauls cookie bakers for dinner, socializing and cookie making on Wednesday, February 28. Meet us in the kitchen at 5:30 p.m. or whenever it works for you. We eat around 6:30 p.m. Our cookies (more than 1,000) go to a Just Harvest and their various shelters and the Lincoln Park Community Shelter (LPCS). If you can't join us but would like to participate, you may drop off any homemade cookies labeled MARCIA at the church by February 28. Please contact Marcia Volk at marcia@volkonline.com or (773)307-6866 to reserve a spot or to inquire about dinner/baking supplies that might be needed. Friends and family are welcome. We're a friendly group and have a good time making "cookies for a cause."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WINDY CITY WINDS CONCERT – FRIDAY MARCH 8 – “A EUROPEAN TOUR”

Windy City Winds, “Chicago’s Community Band,” invites you to our winter concert, *A European Tour*, in our sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. on Friday evening, March 8. Our guest soloist will be world-famous Chicago Symphony Orchestra Assistant Principal Clarinetist John Bruce Yeh performing works by Weber and Debussy. The concert will feature music from Spain, Greece, Germany, France, Ireland, and Italy. Admission is free and the concert will be live streamed. Audience members can participate in WCW’s annual raffle for valuable prizes.

JOIN OUR INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA

Do you play an orchestral string, woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument? If so, please join the St. Pauls UCC Intergenerational Orchestra as we prepare to perform in worship on Sunday, March 3. Orchestra members include pre-teens, teenagers and adults of all ages and abilities! Rehearsals are immediately after worship for about an hour in the Oscar Mayer Room on February 11, 18 and 25. If you are interested, please contact our conductor Mark Mosley at (773) 732-0625 or mwmosley@gmail.com. Please join us as together we “Make a Joyful Sound in the City!”

FAITH IN ACTION MESSAGING GROUP

Some people call it showing up for a protest or marching against a government policy. Others call it public witnessing for the values inherent in our faith. Most of us appreciate being able to do both with like-minded members of our congregation.

Members and friends of St. Pauls can join this group. If you'd like to receive advance email notice of such protests, gatherings or advocacy opportunities – frequently on short notice due to swift governmental action - or to invite others in the group to join you in an advocacy opportunity, join Faith in Action. Register here: <http://tinyurl.com/wuphf495>.

A MUSICAL GIFT FOR YOU!

Our own St. Arbucks Quartet recorded an album, *Mid-Winter Gifts*, in February 2022 featuring music they have played during our worship services. It is available FREE to you and everyone online. Here is a link to the album on Spotify: <http://tinyurl.com/bdcpvedv>.

And here is a link to the same album on Apple Music: <http://tinyurl.com/39skfy9k>. It is exactly the same music on both sites, simply choose your preferred platform. Please feel free to share these links with your friends. You do not need a Spotify or Apple Music account to listen.

USE OF CHURCH REVENUE TASK FORCE - We are looking to increase the funds the church receives from building rentals and use fees for events. We need your talent and creative ideas and are looking for people to serve on this task force to devise a plan. Interested? Contact Larry Damron at lawerencedamron@gmail.com.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

Listen to Dr. Robert P. Jones, president and founder of Public Religion Research Institute, discuss *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Future of American Democracy* on Wednesday, January 31 from 6:30-8 p.m. Free and live in the sanctuary of Fourth Presbyterian Church, Michigan and Delaware, or live streamed here: tinyurl.com/9rekk6n6. Dr. Jones explains how paradoxes in our nation's founding survive today in the form of White Christian Nationalism and illuminates the possibility of a new American future in which we finally fulfill the promise of a pluralistic democracy. Please read his book and plan to attend our discussion at St. Pauls in April.

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

REASSESS FOOD CHOICES/USE

More ways to avoid food waste:

Cook at home. This is one of the most sustainable eating habits you can adopt.

Plan meals, shop with a list, buy less, and avoid unnecessary purchases.

Limit your number of shopping trips. Traveling to buy groceries impacts the total number of miles foods travel to reach your plate.

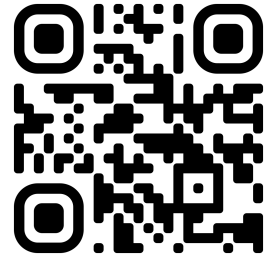
Buy local and regionally grown foods; the closer you live to your food supply, the lower its carbon footprint.

Organize your refrigerator to see "use-me-first" items before they perish. Use leftovers. Don't discard.

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 Time: Tuesdays: 5:30-8:30 p.m. To join us, visit: tinyurl.com/Tuesday-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 cindyzinn11@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. Sign up here: tinyurl.com/alter-flowers-2024.

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 or register here: <http://tinyurl.com/team-lilies>.

DRIVERS/TRANSPORTATION AIDES 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: <https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2003286>.

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 here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1967800

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

For St. Pauls-sponsored events send to info@spucc.org by 10 a.m. on Wednesdays, for publication in the Friday email and next Sunday bulletin. Share personal announcements/ events on our Facebook Group, St. Pauls Together. **Please limit announcements to 100 words.** Thank you!

TODAY'S MUSIC

Variations on Morning Song was composed by Robert Grogan. He was the Carillonneur and Organist at The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. He both recorded and composed.

The text for ***Awake, Awake to Love and Work*** was composed in 1921 by Geoffrey Anketel Studdert Kenndey (1883-1929), an Anglican minister of proud Irish descent. He spent his life working in deprived surroundings. The tune, MORNING SONG, is from another great early American shape-note hymnal, *Kentucky Harmony*. The melody is based on the English folk song *Old King Cole*.

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

The text for ***Will You Come and Follow Me*** was written by John Bell (b. 1949). He was born in Scotland, and after considering a career as a music teacher, went into ministry. He has enjoyed serving as a youth minister in impoverished areas of Scotland. THE SUMMONS is a folk melody, KELVINGROVE, which derives its name from a park in Glasgow, Scotland.

David Haas (b. 1957) composed both the text and music for ***We Are Called*** in 1988. As we launch our Capital Campaign Phase 2 to complete the work to make our church accessible to all, this anthem speaks to us with profound joy about hearing that call as a church and as individuals. The final stanza offers new lyrics created by Jana O'Brien to pinpoint our commitment to "open our spaces." David Haas is a native of Michigan whose compositions focus on contemporary liturgical worship music.

The text for ***Called As Partners in Christ's Service*** was written in 1981 by Jane Parker Huber (1926-2008). She was a well-known Presbyterian hymn writer, having composed lyrics for more than 100 hymns. She also championed women's rights within her denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA). The words are set to the tune, BEECHER by John Zundel (1815-1882) and named after the famed preacher, Henry Ward Beecher.

Bradley Sowash (b. 1960), who arranged this great hymn tune, ***For the Beauty of the Earth***, is a jazz pianist, composer, and educator specializing in improvisation. He is a music composition graduate of The Ohio State University, has authored *That's Jazz*, as well as a nine-volume jazz piano method, *Creative Chords*.

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 remaining 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, 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.
- Betty Voice being treated for sepsis.
- Family and friends of Karen Rieck at her death.
- David Sr., father of David Faulkner, who is dealing with cardiac and dehydration health concerns.
- Pat Kirby, hospitalized for tests.
- Family and friends of Mike Perricone at his death, especially for his wife Joan Vanderbeck and daughter Jenny.
- Liz Kurman recovering from elbow surgery
- 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.
- Debra and Robin at the death of their son Sean.
- For Laura at the recent death of her mother and the paralysis of her son Ryan in an accident. Pray for Ryan too as he struggles to regain some function and mobility.
- 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.
- 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, during 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 LGBTQ+ people.

Welcome to each and to everyone.

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