

January 28, 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

"Unknowable, as I am unknown to my guinea pigs: how can I 'love' you?  
I only as far as gratitude & awe confidently & absolutely go." John Berryman

PRELUDE

*Synergy*  
St. Arbucks Quartet

Kris Hansen

CHIMES

INTROIT

*Morning Has Broken*  
Chancel Choir

WELCOME

Jeff Carlson

\* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

\* CALL TO WORSHIP *based on Psalm 111*

One: Hallelujah!

**All: I will give thanks to God with everything I've got.**

One: God's works are worth a lifetime of endless enjoyment!

**All: Splendor and beauty are God's signature.**

One: Her generosity never gives out.

**All: Hallelujah!**

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

\* HYMN

*God Is Working His Purpose Out*



1. God is work - ing his pur - pose out As year suc -
2. From ut - most east to ut - most west, Wher - e'er man's
3. March we forth in the strength of God With the ban - ner of
4. All we can do is noth - ing worth Un - less God



-ceeds to year; God is work - ing his pur - pose out, And the  
foot hath trod, By the mouth of man - y mes - sen - gers Goes  
Christ un - furled, That the light of the glo - rious gos - pel of truth May  
bless - es the deed; Vain - ly we hope for the har - vest - tide Till



time is draw - ing near; Near - er and near - er draws the time, The  
forth the voice of God; Give ear to me, ye con - ti - nents, Ye  
shine through - out the world; Fight we the fight with sorrow and sin To  
God gives life to the seed; Yet near - er and near - er draws the time, The



time that shall sure - ly be, When the earth shall be filled with the  
isles, give ear to me, That the earth may be filled with the  
set their cap - tives free, That the earth may be filled with the  
time that shall sure - ly be, When the earth shall be filled with the



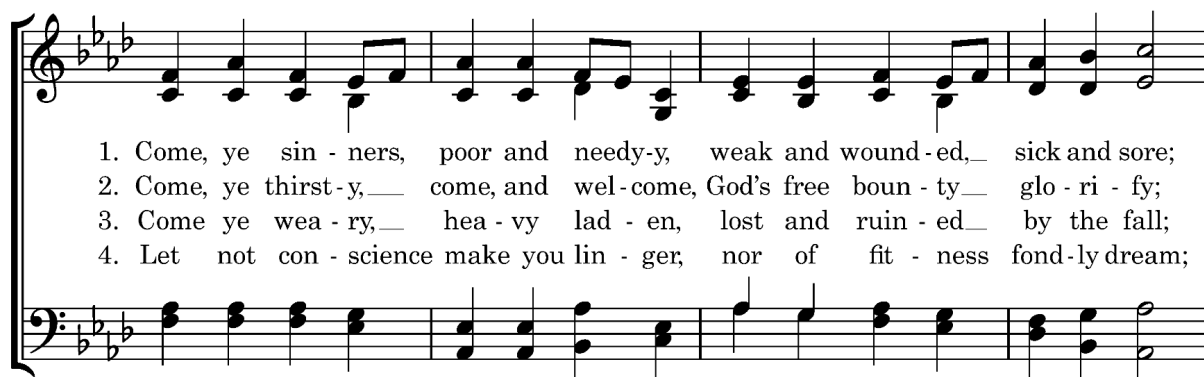
glo - ry of God As the wa - ters cov - er the sea.  
glo - ry of God As the wa - ters cov - er the sea.  
glo - ry of God As the wa - ters cov - er the sea.  
glo - ry of God As the wa - ters cov - er the sea.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

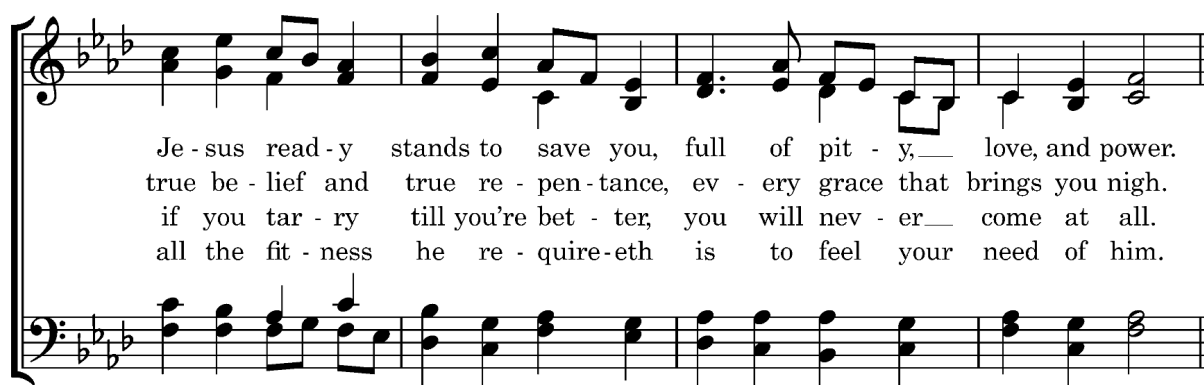
**Lord, there is so much greed in our hearts.  
So much suspicion in our minds.  
So much self interest in our love.  
So much sin to cherish and protect.  
You have promised to break in  
and steal our treasures.  
Do it! Take them!  
Remake us!  
Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

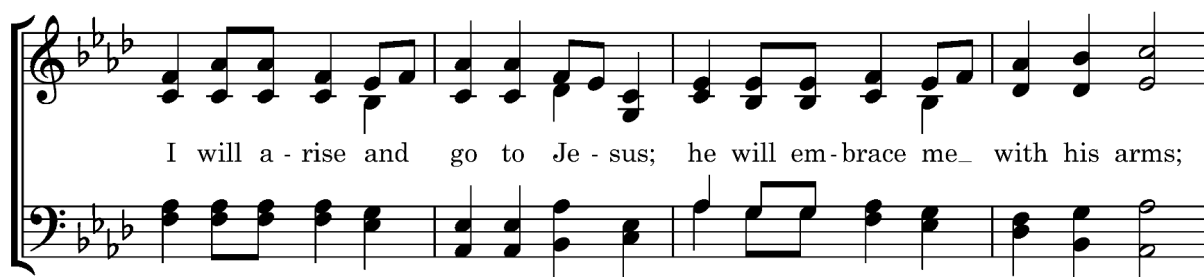
WORDS OF ASSURANCE



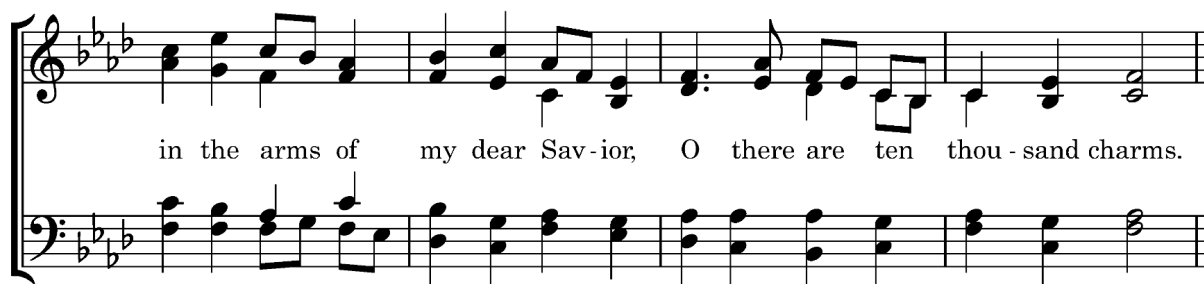
1. Come, ye sin - ners, poor and needy-y, weak and wound-ed, sick and sore;  
2. Come, ye thirst-y, come, and wel-come, God's free boun - ty glo - ri - fy;  
3. Come ye wea - ry, hea - vy lad - en, lost and ruin - ed by the fall;  
4. Let not con - science make you lin - ger, nor of fit - ness fond-ly dream;



Je - sus read - y stands to save you, full of pit - y, love, and power.  
true be - lief and true re - pen - tance, ev - ery grace that brings you nigh.  
if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter, you will nev - er come at all.  
all the fit - ness he re - quire-eth is to feel your need of him.



I will a - rise and go to Je - sus; he will em-brace me with his arms;



in the arms of my dear Sav-ior, O there are ten thou - sand charms.

## SCRIPTURE

Emma Peterson

### *Psalms 111*

Praise the Lord!

I will praise the Lord with my whole heart,  
In the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.  
The works of the Lord are great,  
Studied by all who have pleasure in them.  
His work is honorable and glorious,  
And His righteousness endures forever.  
He has made His wonderful works to be remembered;  
The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.  
He has given food to those who fear Him;  
He will ever be mindful of His covenant.  
He has declared to His people the power of His works,  
In giving them the heritage of the nations.  
The works of His hands are verity and justice;  
All His commandments are sure.  
They stand fast forever and ever,  
And are done in truth and uprightness.  
He has sent redemption to His people;  
He has commanded His covenant forever:  
Holy and awesome is His name.  
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who practice it have a good understanding.  
His praise endures forever.

**\* STATEMENT OF FAITH**

**We believe in God who has created and is creating,  
who has come to us in Jesus Christ to reconcile and make us new,  
who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.**

**We trust God. God calls us to be the Church,  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to love and serve others,  
to care for creation,  
to seek justice and to resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

**In life and death, in life beyond death, God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**

*(adapted from the United Church of Canada)*

**\* RESPONSE**

*Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy*  
See previous hymn

vv. 3 & 4

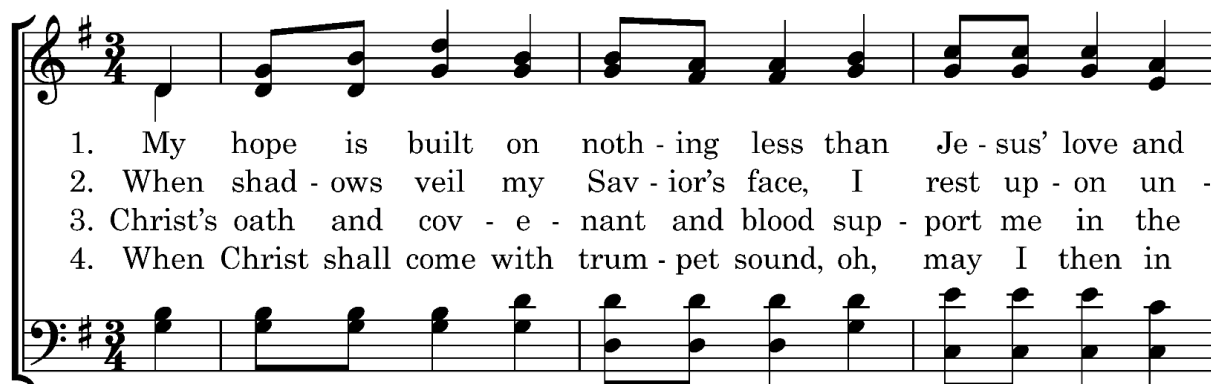
**SERMON**

**"To Live With Substance and Direction"**

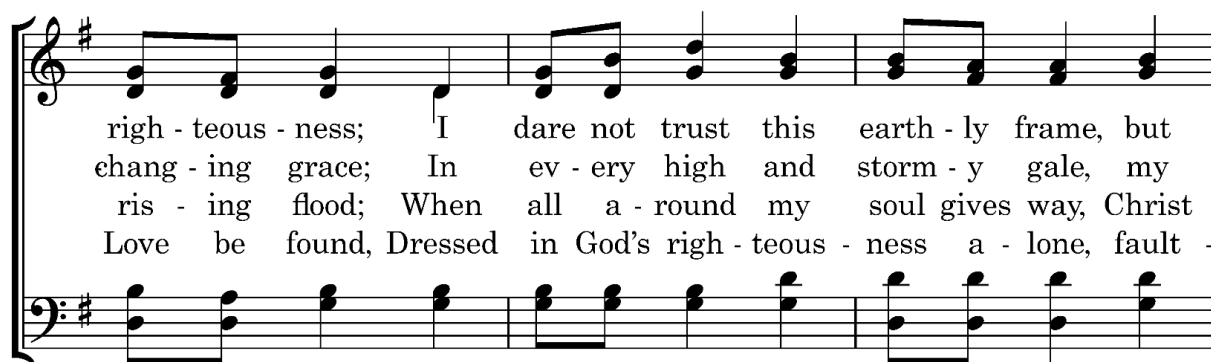
**Matt Fitzgerald**

\* HYMN

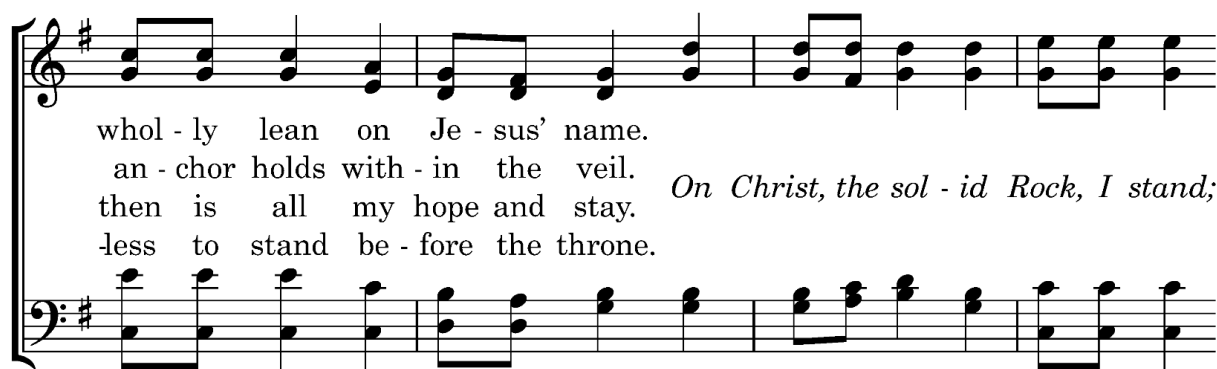
*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*



1. My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' love and  
2. When shad - ows veil my Sav - ior's face, I rest up - on un -  
3. Christ's oath and cov - e - nant and blood sup - port me in the  
4. When Christ shall come with trum - pet sound, oh, may I then in



right - teous - ness; I dare not trust this earth - ly frame, but  
chang - ing grace; In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my  
ris - ing flood; When all a - round my soul gives way, Christ  
Love be found, Dressed in God's right - teous - ness a - lone, fault -



whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
an - chor holds with - in the veil. *On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand;*  
then is all my hope and stay.  
less to stand be - fore the throne.



*all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand, all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.*

OFFERTORY

*Spaseniye sodelal*  
(Sung in Old Church Slavonic)

Pavel Chesnokov

Chancel Choir

Breanna Coe, conductor  
Karina Kontorovitch, piano

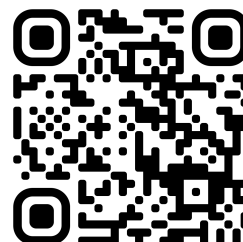
Salvation is created,  
In midst of the earth,  
O our God.  
Alleluia.

*You can give to St. Pauls electronically:*

*Scan this code with your cell phone camera,*

*Church Center at [spucc.churchcenter.com/giving](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/giving),*

*PayPal at [spucc.org/paypal](http://spucc.org/paypal), or Zelle to [giving@spucc.org](mailto:giving@spucc.org).*



\* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY

A musical score for a four-part setting of the Festival Doxology. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below each staff.

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

Liz Nickerson

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

\* HYMN

# What a Covenant

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

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

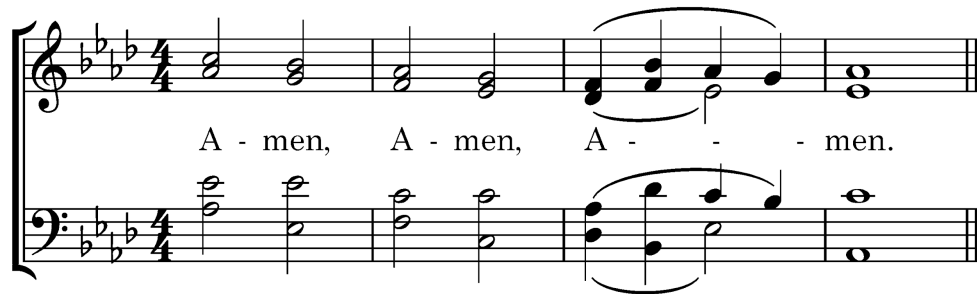
what a peace is mine, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
grows from day to day, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

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

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

\* BENEDICTION

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

*I Saw the Light*  
St. Arbucks Quartet

Hank Williams

**Our Music Director, Kurt R. Hansen**, is in Europe and will return on February 6. He is following the path that his dad, Kermit Hansen, marched as a POW in 1945 from Poland some 500 miles into Germany.

**Our Organist, Kevin Dzierzawski**, is not with us this morning because of the sudden passing of his father, Dennis, in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday morning. Our prayers go out to him and his family.

We are grateful to **Breanna Coe** for leading the Chancel Choir this morning, and also to **Karina Kontorovitch** for playing for the Offertory, as well as for the Chancel Choir rehearsal on Wednesday night in Kevin's absence.

***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. Remaining winter dates are: 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:** Jeff Carlson, Matt Fitzgerald, Liz Nickerson

**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 Baker, David Faulkner

**Scripture Reader:** Emma Peterson

**Gatekeeper:** Dodd Brown

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

**Custodian:** Ramiro Gonzalez

*This week's altar flowers are given by Jan Bail with gratitude for Fernando and Ramiro and all they do to keep our building warm and our sidewalks safe.*

## **BORN THIS WEEK IN JANUARY/FEBRUARY**

*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. 28 Candi Huber, David Duvall, Dennis Kmetz, Magnolia DeMonte

Jan. 29 Veronica Tong

Jan. 30 Carrie Gleason, Jana O'Brien, Steve Winters

Jan. 31 Lisa Rowley, Vanya Welglarz

Feb. 1 Clayton Root, Rick Sensenbrenner

Feb. 2 Rod Sippy

Feb. 3 Christie Ward, Izzy Smith- Ritchie, Katie Moutlon, Lexi Miller, Matt Ross, Niels Peterson

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**TODAY - YOUTH MISSION TRIP SPECIAL MEETING - 11:15 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room**

*Learn to Be the Neighbor From Leaders on Race and Reconciliation*

Teens and parents, please attend a special meeting after worship today, 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](https://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](mailto: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](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org).

**FEB. 19 - 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](mailto:youngadults@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. 25 - PRE-ANNUAL MEETING BUDGET REVIEW -11 a.m., Comet Room**

The pre-annual budget review will be Sunday, February 25, in the Comet Room (across from Social Hall entrance) after worship. It is a deeper dive into St. Pauls finances. Treasurer Sally Fletcher and the Finance Committee will be on hand to present and answer your questions.

**FEB. 27 - 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](http://tinyurl.com/2p3w8jnf).

**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, as well as 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](mailto: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**

### **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOLDER PICK- UP**

The fundraising campaign for Phase II of our "Campaign to Expand and Elevate Our Openness at Saint Pauls" accessibility and courtyard project is underway! Please be sure to pick up your campaign information folder in the church narthex. Envelopes are alphabetized in labeled boxes; if you don't find one, put your name on the list and we will get one to you. The folders will provide details about the campaign and how to pledge your support. Save us the cost of postage by picking up your folder so every dollar we raise can be put into bricks, mortar, and an elevator!

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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**

Small Changes With Big Results: Making Perishables Visible in the Refrigerator

In the U.S., about one-third of the food produced is wasted, which is both a waste of money and leads to increasing greenhouse gases.

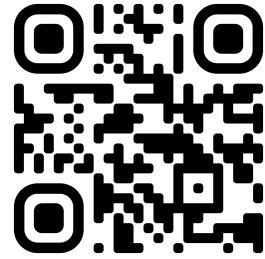
Jiaying Zhao, a behavioral scientist at the University of British Columbia states, "The human mind is limited in terms of capacity, and one limitation is 'out of sight, out of mind.'" If perishables are tucked away in crisper drawers or in the back of the fridge, they are more likely to go unused. She suggests placing perishable items in front or in the refrigerator door where one will see and use them.

Adapted from a *Washington Post* article by Nicolas Rivero, November 21, 2023.

## 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](https://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:JenniferLKew@gmail.com), or Pastor Jeff, [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:pamelawoll@sbcglobal.net) with questions, or [info@spucc.org](mailto:info@spucc.org) to be added to the email list.

**CHURCH CENTER** – [spucc.churchcenter.com](http://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](mailto:danielle.mayfield@spucc.org). Register here: [spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1850397](http://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](mailto:marcia@volkonline.com).

**EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM & CARDS** – Follow this link for additional information: [spucc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/178271](http://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](mailto:nlanda05@yahoo.com) or Rick Peterson at [rnpeterson2017@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/mom-s-group) or contact Pastor Liz at [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto: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](http://spucc.org/new_member_classes).

### **PALESTINE STUDY GROUP**

Let's learn together through literature, film and guest speakers. We begin with the book, *The Hundred Years' War on Palestine: A History of Settler Colonialism and Resistance, 1917–2017* by Rashid Khalidi. The book is available at [tinyurl.com/4e6dacz7](https://tinyurl.com/4e6dacz7).

Khalidi, a Palestinian-American professor at Columbia University, is one of the foremost historians on the Middle East. This book offers a necessary reframing of the current crisis in Gaza, and illuminates paths not taken to a just peace.

First discussion via Zoom Tuesday, February 27 at 7 p.m. All are welcome! To sign up, visit: [tinyurl.com/Palestine-Study-Group](https://tinyurl.com/Palestine-Study-Group). Contact David Burnett at [burnett.db@gmail.com](mailto:burnett.db@gmail.com) with questions.

**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](https://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](https://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](mailto: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](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org)), Marti Pechnyo ([mpechnyo@gmail.com](mailto:mpechnyo@gmail.com)), or Barb Kaiser ([bkaiser2213@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto:bhafner2@att.net)) or Bob Ball ([Robert.f.ball@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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: <http://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](mailto:lynnebrenan@yahoo.com) or (630) 542-7012. Learn more here: [tinyurl.com/4sfbcmpx](http://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](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1967800).

## **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

For St. Pauls-sponsored events send to [info@spucc.org](mailto: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**

***Synergy*** was composed in 2023 by Kris Hansen (b. 1995). The music expresses a collective experience of support. Kris is a member of our St. Arbucks Quartet. Raised, baptized and confirmed at St. Pauls, Kris is an active singer, music producer, composer, trumpet player, and keyboard player in his own group, Semi-Cycle. He also performs regularly with other bands, including The Walters, Kweku Collins and Othersides.

The text for ***Morning Has Broken*** was written by Elinor Farjeon (1881-1965), who also wrote children's books. The tune, BUNESSAN, we know so well is a Gaelic melody.

***God Is Working His Purpose Out*** is a favorite hymn of our recently deceased Pastor Emeritus Tom Henry. The text was written by Arthur Campbell Ainger (1841-1919) in 1894. The text demanded a muscular tune, which Martin Shaw (1916-1999) provided in 1951.

***Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy***, to the tune RESTORATION, is mined from the wonderful early 19th century American shape-note hymnals, including *Southern Harmony*. Its composer and lyricist are unknown, but it was first published in 1835. The melody is characterized by a folk-like swing.

The text for ***My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*** was written in 1834 by Edward Mote (1797-1874). British-born Mote wrote a number of hymn texts after a spiritual awakening resulting from the preaching of an evangelical preacher. He also authored a number of Christian pamphlets. SOLID ROCK was composed in 1863 by the prolific hymn writer, William Bradbury (1816-1868). Raised on his father's farm in Maine, he developed a love for music as a child and began playing the organ in church by age 15. Among Bradford's best known hymns is the children's hymn, *Jesus Loves Me, This I Know*.

***Spaseniye sodelal*** Op. 25, No. 5 was composed by Pavel Chesnokov (1877-1944). One of the most prolific composers of the Moscow Synodal School, these “hymns” were based on Russian Orthodox chant melodies. Old Church Slavonic is the language of the Russian Orthodox Church and liturgy, and has the same relationship to modern Russian that Latin, the traditional language of the Catholic Church and liturgy, has to Italian. **A note for this time** - The Russian Orthodox Church was said to be founded by St. Andrew, one of the 12 disciples, when he journeyed from Greece to what became Kiyv, Ukraine, but was then known as *Kiyvan Rus'* (land of the Rus').

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

***I Saw the Light*** was composed and recorded in 1952 by Hank Williams (1923-1953). He was a beloved country music singer and composer. In his all-too-short life, he recorded 35 singles, 11 of which reached No. 1 on the Country & Western charts.

## **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](https://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.*

- Dan Lias' mother in hospice care.
- Brother-in-law of Julia Ehrhardt, recovering from complex PTSD.
- Prayers for peace - in our city, nation and world.
- Betty Voice being treated for sepsis.
- David Sr., father of David Faulkner, who is dealing with cardiac and dehydration health concerns.
- Prayers for Donna Dunham and her family on the death of her father, Jan Sopiarcz
- Pat Kirby, getting rehab at Citadel in Wilmette.
- 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](mailto:mfitzgerald@spucc.org)

Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org)

Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org)

For a complete list of St. Pauls Staff, Governance, and Lay Leadership  
Please visit [www.spucc.org/contact](http://www.spucc.org/contact)

**St. Pauls United Church of Christ**  
**2335 N Orchard St. | Chicago, IL 60614**  
**(773) 348-3829   [www.spucc.org](http://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.