

Second Sunday in Lent  
New Member Sunday  
February 25, 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

If we want to speak of heavenly things, we may begin by speaking about earthly things, and if we want to describe that which is beyond all words, we may begin with words we know such as: man, woman, field, seed, bird, air, bread, sea, fish, joy. . . . The kingdom is like these things; the kingdom is found in these things. . . . If we cannot find the kingdom here we will never find it anywhere, for earth is where the seeds of heaven are sown.

Barbara Brown Taylor  
*The Seeds of Heaven*

PRELUDE	<i>Impromptu Op. 90, No. 3</i> Kevin Dzierzawski, piano	Franz Schubert
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CHIMES

INTROIT	<i>To My Humble Supplication</i> Chancel Choir	Genevan Psalter
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WELCOME		Jeff Carlson
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\* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We are like mustard seeds, planted in the soil. No matter the size of our faith, a small amount is enough.

**All: Nourish us and help us grow Lord. Reveal the gifts that you have hidden within each one of us.**

One: Give us patience Lord, because growth takes time.

**All: Show us how to use our gifts to build your kingdom.**

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

\* HYMN

*For the Fruit of All Creation*



1. For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2. In the just re - ward of la - bor; God's will is done.
3. For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For God's gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor; God's will is done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
In our world-wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Ever present Lord, be with us today. We confess that we have allowed a host of worries and frustrations to crowd out your word for us. Cultivate in us your peace and love. Forgive all those times when we have been less than faithful disciples, letting our personal desires choke out your will for us and for our world. Restore our hope, courage, and joy. Strengthen us to plant your kingdom here. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Sunday School students are invited to go to their classrooms.  
If you would like to accompany your child(ren),  
you are welcome to drop them off and return to worship.*

RESPONSE

*I Love to Tell the Story*

v. 1

1. I love to tell the sto - ry Of un - seen things a - bove,  
2. I love to tell the sto - ry, For those who know it best

Of Je - sus and his glo - ry, Of Je - sus and his love.  
Seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing To hear it, like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, Be - cause I know it's true;  
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

It sat - is - fies my long - ings As noth - ing else would do.  
'Twill be the old, old sto - ry That I have loved so long.

I love to tell the sto - ry; 'Twill be my theme in glo - ry

To tell the old, old sto - ry Of Je - sus and his love.



## SCRIPTURE

Mark Sancya

*Mark 4:26-34*

Then Jesus said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. It’s as though someone scatters seed on the ground, then sleeps and wakes night and day. The seed sprouts and grows, but the farmer doesn’t know how. The earth produces crops all by itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full head of grain. Whenever the crop is ready, the farmer goes out to cut the grain because it’s harvest time.”

He continued, “What’s a good image for the kingdom of God? What parable can I use to explain it? It is like a mustard seed. When scattered on the ground, it’s the smallest of all the seeds on the earth; but when it’s planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all vegetable plants. It produces such large branches that the birds in the sky are able to nest in its shade.”

With many such parables he continued to give them the word, as much as they were able to hear. He spoke to them only in parables, then explained everything to his disciples when he was alone with them.

## \*RESPONSE

*I Love to Tell the Story*  
See previous hymn

v. 2

## SERMON

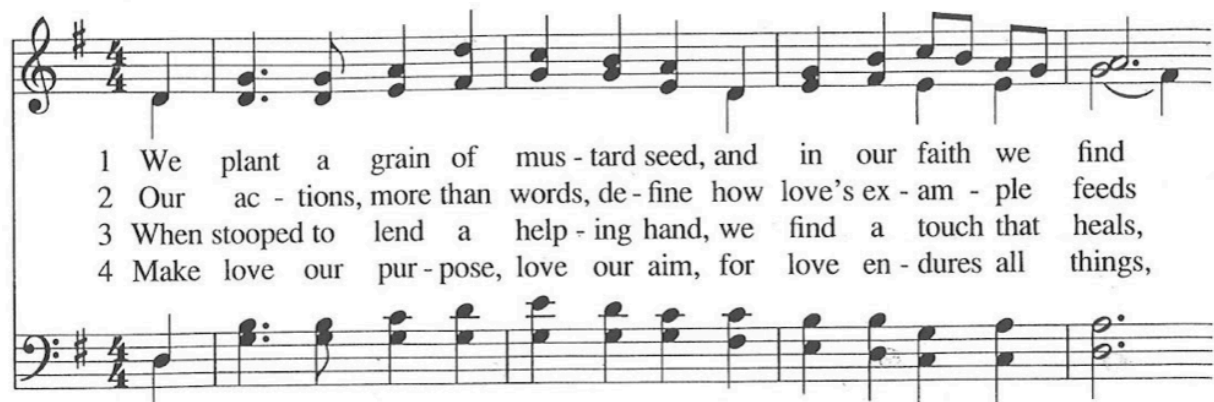
“The Seeds of the Kingdom”

Liz Nickerson

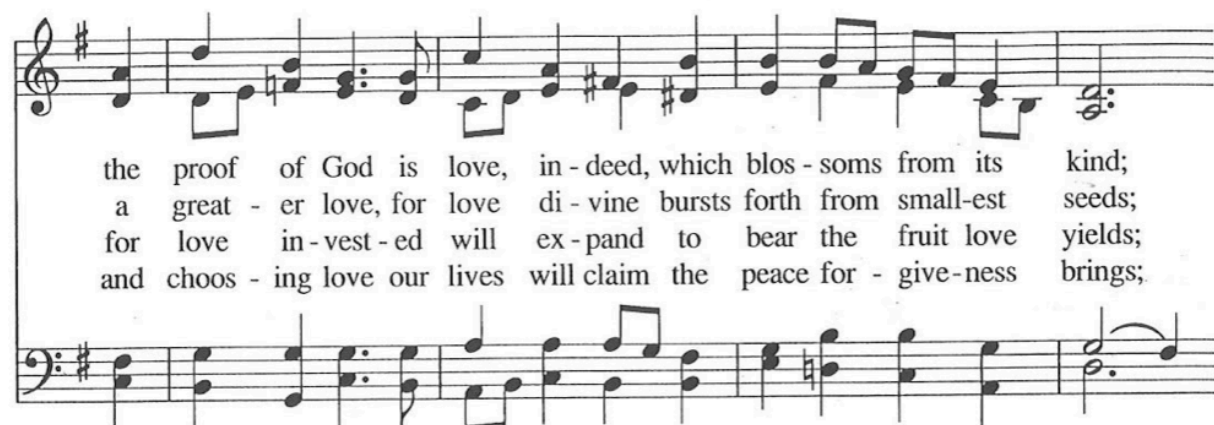
## We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed

Matt. 13:31-32; Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18-19;  
John 13:34-35; 15:12-17

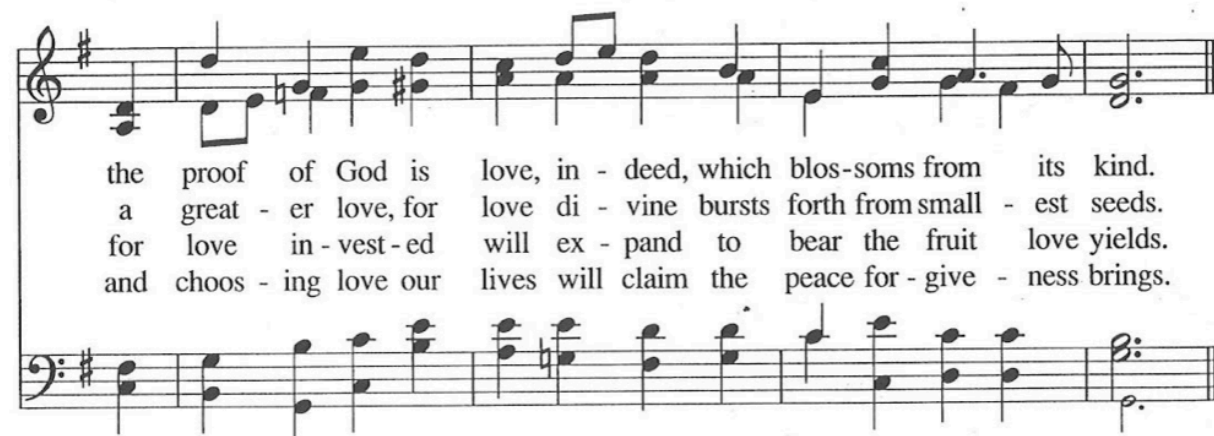
Mary Bryan Matney, 1990



1 We plant a grain of mus - tard seed, and in our faith we find  
2 Our ac - tions, more than words, de - fine how love's ex - am - ple feeds  
3 When stooped to lend a help - ing hand, we find a touch that heals,  
4 Make love our pur - pose, love our aim, for love en - dures all things,



the proof of God is love, in - deed, which blos - soms from its kind;  
a great - er love, for love di - vine bursts forth from small - est seeds;  
for love in - vest - ed will ex - pand to bear the fruit love yields;  
and choos - ing love our lives will claim the peace for - give - ness brings;



the proof of God is love, in - deed, which blos - soms from its kind.  
a great - er love, for love di - vine bursts forth from small - est seeds.  
for love in - vest - ed will ex - pand to bear the fruit love yields.  
and choos - ing love our lives will claim the peace for - give - ness brings.

OFFERTORY

*Beautiful Savior*  
Terry Hansen, soloist  
Chancel Choir

Silesian Folk Melody  
arr. F. Melius Christiansen

Fair are the meadows,  
Fairer the woodlands,  
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer,  
Jesus is purer,  
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

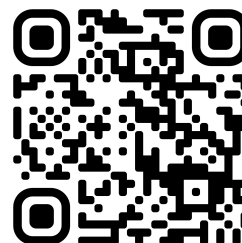
Beautiful Savior!  
Lord of the nations!  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor,  
Praise, adoration,  
Now and forevermore be Thine.

*You can give to St. Pauls electronically by:*

*Scanning this code with your cell phone camera,*

*At [spucc.churchcenter.com/giving](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/giving),*

*Or through Zelle or PayPal to [giving@spucc.org](mailto:giving@spucc.org).*



\* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY

Musical notation for the Festival Doxology, featuring four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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.

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

## A Dialogue on our Statement of Faith

Jeff : Let us affirm together our faith as we receive these new members into our church.

**Congregation: We believe in God who has created and is creating.**

President: God has come to us in Jesus Christ to reconcile and make us new. God works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation: We trust God. God calls us to be the church.**

Liz: Will you promise to support this congregation with your time, talent and resources, participating regularly in the worship of Saint Pauls United Church of Christ and contributing to our life and ministry in the city?

New Members: We do promise. With you, we will celebrate God's presence, love and serve others, care for creation, seek justice and resist evil.

Jeff: With your love, God will love. With your hands, God will touch the city. With your lives, God will bring justice and compassion to the world.

**Congregation: We promise you our love, support and care.**

**All: Together we will 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!**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Jeff Carlson

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

**Give us this day our daily bread,**

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

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

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

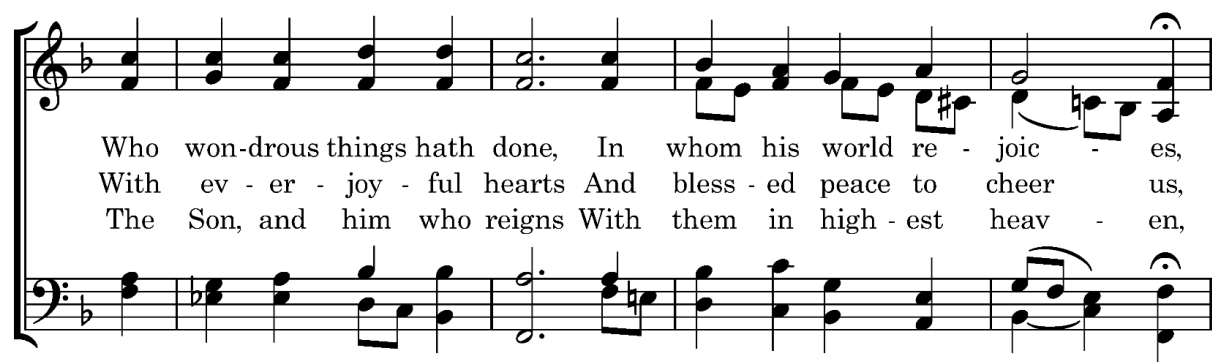
**Amen.**

\* HYMN

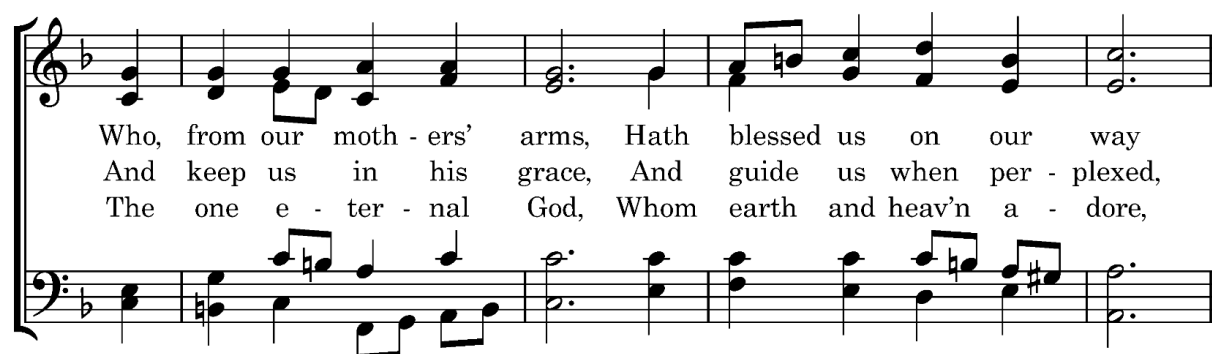
*Now Thank We All Our God*



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



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



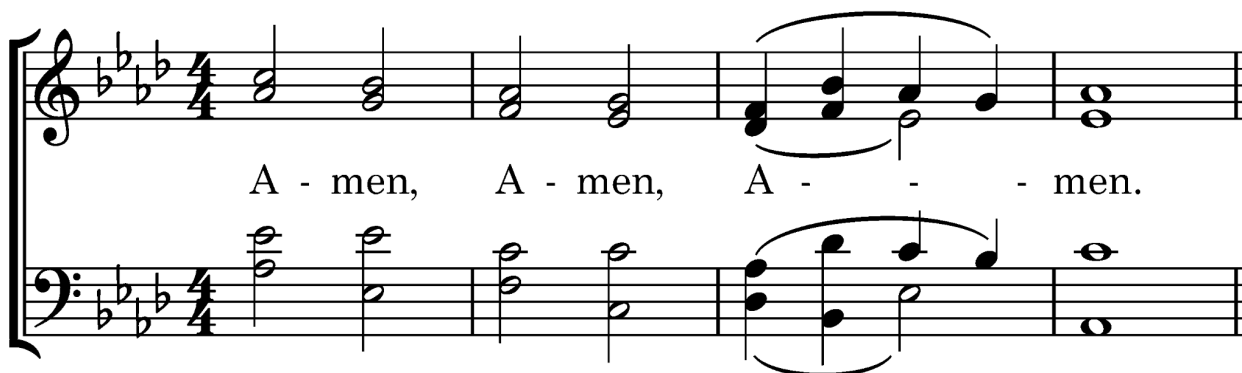
Who, from our mothers' arms, Hath blessed us on our way  
And keep us in his grace, And guide us when perplexed,  
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heaven adore,



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

\* BENEDICTION

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

*Sunshine Day*  
St. Arbucks Quartet

Howard McCrary

***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.

**Pastor Matt** is in Edinburgh, Scotland this week with The Ministry Collaborative. He is traveling as one of five American preachers in a cohort of Scottish and American clergy exploring the state of the church in our two countries, looking for ways we can help make preaching more compelling.

## 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 in session. Students are dismissed with their teachers during the worship service and parents pick up children after the service in their classrooms.
- High School Sunday School class meets on the first and third Sundays of the month. Remaining winter dates are: March 3 and 17. High schoolers meet immediately following the service downstairs in the Youth Lounge. Parents and teens should join the High School GroupMe for up-to-date information.

## TODAY’S WORSHIP LEADERS

**Clergy:** Jeff Carlson, Liz Nickerson

**Music Director:** Kurt R. Hansen

**Organist:** Kevin Dzierzawski

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

**Scripture Reader:** Karen E. Johnson

**Lay Liturgical Administrator:** Kevin O’Brien

**Head Usher:** Beatrice Jaji

**Ushers:** David Baker, John Balevic, Gloria Joseph

**Gatekeeper:** Dodd Brown

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

**Custodian:** Ramiro Gonzalez

*This week's altar flowers are given by Mark Huddle.*

## BORN THIS WEEK IN FEBRUARY/MARCH

*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.*

FEB. 25 Blair De Haan, Cathy Clarke, Martha Phillips, Tracy Taylor

FEB. 26 Tom Klein

FEB. 27 Geneine VanSomerén, Mia Pensinger- Sok, Patrick Sensenbrenner, Ted Tetzlaff

FEB. 28 Chris Roark, Cindy Razeghi, Molly Canfield

MAR. 1 Drew Brinkoetter, Kent Carter, Tommy Demery

MAR. 2 Chip Moehrke, Fred Pearson, Mahalia Henry, Sue Moulton.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



My name is **Matt Ross** and I'm happy to finally join St. Pauls after attending for almost two years. I'm a chemical engineer and work as a project manager for a specialty chemicals company. My partner, Sam, and I moved to Lincoln Park from Old Town three years ago, and I'm glad to find a church home so close to home. For fun, we enjoy traveling to somewhere with a beach, going to Bears games, and playing golf and pickleball.



Our names are **Sherry and Ken Smith** and we both grew up in downstate Illinois. After raising our children in the northern suburbs, we've made our home in the Lincoln Park/Old Town Triangle neighborhood for the past two years. Sherry works as Director of Physician Payment Policy at the American Medical Association, and Ken has taught 5th graders for more than 30 years in Lake Forest. We love being involved in our neighborhood and are especially excited about becoming a part of the St. Pauls community!





My name is **Norma Borcharding**. I grew up in northern Illinois, currently living in the Gold Coast. My professional career, more than 30 years in the financial services industry, led me to relocate to Ohio, California, New York City, and finally Chicago. These days I am active volunteering with Open Books, a Chicago non-profit focusing on the transformative impact of literacy. In addition, I work with local non-profits to transform their accounting functions. In my spare time, I enjoy international travel, yoga, biking the lakefront, theater and, most recently, pickleball. I look forward to serving St. Pauls, my faith journey and continued fellowship with the welcoming congregation that is St. Pauls UCC.



My name is **Whitney Shirk**. I grew up in South Bend, Indiana, and moved to Chicago more than 15 years ago. I live with my partner and son in Humboldt Park. We are so excited to be here.



My name is **Liz Kurman**. A native Hoosier, I've spent most of my adult life in Chicago and now live in the Lincoln Park neighborhood. I retired from a career as a relationship manager in the realm of private wealth management. My retirement pastimes include travel and various volunteer, church-related and fitness activities.



My name is **Gustavo Mirabal**. I was born and raised in Venezuela. I am 26 years old and recently became a father. I work as a construction assistant, but I can dedicate myself to other work with a little bit of assistance. However, I would really like to have my own business to be able to manage my life well, and have time to be with my family. I wouldn't want to dedicate myself to just one thing for the rest of my life. I feel that from time to time we have to change the routine and rhythm of life. I like sports, motorcycles and learning about the countries of the world and their cultures. I also enjoy a good meal and the

company of my wife and son.

My name is **Armanyelis Hernandez** and I was born and raised in Venezuela. I am 23 years old and my favorite hobby is playing with and singing to my son and cooking delicious food. I like to travel and learn about new cultures. I would like to be able to visit many countries and take good photographs of landscapes. We came to the United States a year ago, and I am truly grateful to St. Pauls Church and its members for helping us.



My name is **Luisa Graciela**. I am from Venezuela and came to the United States with my husband, son and three daughters. We live in Humboldt Park and are excited to join St. Pauls.

## LENT & EASTER AT ST. PAULS

- TUES, MAR 12 LENTEN TAIZÉ - 7 p.m.  
Service of meditation and prayer
- SUN, MAR 24 PALM SUNDAY - 10 a.m.  
Palm branches, songs, and Egg Hunt
- THU, MAR 28 MAUNDY THURSDAY - 7 p.m.  
Dramatic Presentation of Mark's Gospel
- FRI, MARCH 29 GOOD FRIDAY - 7:30 p.m.  
Communion, Tenebrae with choir
- SUN, MARCH 31 EASTER SUNDAY - 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.  
Communion, choir, brass

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **TODAY – PRE-ANNUAL MEETING BUDGET REVIEW -11 a.m., Comet Room**

The pre-annual meeting budget review will be after worship today, February 25, in the Comet Room (across from Social Hall entrance). 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., Gym**

Prayer Labyrinth (walking or finger labyrinth) facilitated by Pastor Liz Nickerson. Join us for this special spiritual event sponsored by St. Pauls Social. Adults of all ages are invited. Make new friends and connect with old ones at lunch (please bring your own lunch). You may register here: [tinyurl.com/2p3w8jnf](https://tinyurl.com/2p3w8jnf).

### **FEB. 28 - WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - 12 p.m., Zoom**

We're 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. 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 Lincoln Park Community Services (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."

**MAR. 3 - ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary**

Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation of St. Pauls after worship on Sunday, March 3. We will vote on the 2024 budget, new members of the Church Council, and learn about the activities of 2023 and plans going into 2024.

**MAR. 10 - WHAT'S HAPPENING AT UCAN? - 11:15 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room**

Stephanie Franklin, UCAN Sr. Vice President of Family and Transition Services, will be with us to talk about the great work UCAN is doing. She'll present a review of UCAN and its programs, highlighting foster care, transitional teen services, violence intervention, and prevention and workforce development. St. Pauls founded UCAN more than 150 years ago and they are still going strong. If you're new to St. Pauls, or would simply like to get reacquainted with UCAN, please join us for an hour after worship! Let us know you're coming here: <http://tinyurl.com/4s8xfprd>.

**MAR. 11 - PIE BAKING CLASS - 5:45 p.m., Kitchen**

In preparation for  $\pi$  (pi)Day, adults of all ages are invited to join St. Pauls Social and professional chef Molly McGrath on Monday, March 11 at 5:45 p.m. for an in-person pie baking class in our own St. Pauls kitchen. We will learn and practice baking a few different pies. Cost is \$15/person and space is limited to 10 participants. Register by March 7 at: <http://tinyurl.com/3x7brdzt>

**MAR. 15-16 - SUPERSTART YOUTH RETREAT**

We are so excited to take our 4th-6th graders on an overnight retreat, SuperStart 2024! It starts Friday, March 15 at 6 p.m. in Naperville Community Christian Church and we will be back at the church by 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 16. They will join about 200 kids from all over the state. SuperStart is a high-energy event for preteens to hear the gospel and be called to help build God's kingdom. On Saturday, we will have lunch and fun at Main Event (bowling, laser tag, arcade games, and food, etc). The cost includes transportation, accommodations at a local church, retreat fee, breakfast, lunch, and all activities. Pastor Liz is chaperoning and parent volunteers are welcome to come. Please contact [danielle.mayfield@spucc.org](mailto:danielle.mayfield@spucc.org) with questions.

**MAR. 17 - BLOOD DRIVE** - 8 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room and Gym

See Green on St. Patrick's Day, give Red at St. Pauls' Blood Drive on Sunday, March 17. Scan the QR code with your cell phone or go to [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) to sign up. Drive will be in the St. Pauls gym from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tell your friends and neighbors! Must be 110 pounds and 16 years old. Call (866) 236-3276 (option 3) with your eligibility questions. If you are unable to donate, contact Sally to volunteer to help. Phone or email Sally Fletcher at [sfletcher1443@gmail.com](mailto:sfletcher1443@gmail.com) or (312) 848-5400.



**MAR. 21 - ARGUMENTS OVER GENOCIDE** - 7 p.m., Parlor

What would justice for the peoples of the Native nations look like? What stands in the way? Does it help to think in terms of "Arguments Over Genocide" that have been going on for centuries? Lighthouse and St. Pauls member Steve Schwartzberg has sought to answer these questions in a recently published book. He will share his thoughts and welcome the opportunity to listen to yours. RSVP (not necessary, but appreciated) to [steven.schwartzberg@gmail.com](mailto:steven.schwartzberg@gmail.com).

**MAR. 24 - CLEAN SLATE TEACH-IN** - 11:15 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room

Members from Live-Free Illinois will be with us to present on the Clean Slate Initiative, which is looking to create automatic record relief in Illinois. There are an estimated 3.3 million people currently living in Illinois with an arrest or conviction record. With expungements and automatic sealing of records, these individuals can get a second chance at life without their records posing a barrier to basic human needs, such as housing, education or employment. Join us to learn how our congregation can be supportive of ending permanent punishments in Illinois. Let us know you're coming: <http://tinyurl.com/yj7sssk5>.

**JUNE 8-15 - YOUTH MISSION TRIP**

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

We are excited to invite our youth on the summer 2024 trip - a Tulsa Race and Reconciliation Week, June 8-15. This will be our second experience with youth service and learning between the UCC and the Disciples of Christ in a nationwide program called "Be the Neighbor." Tulsa Race and Reconciliation weeks are centered around a justice-focused biblical curriculum based on Luke and Matthew. Youth will have opportunities to serve with local ministries and social service organizations. Drawing from Tulsa's history of racial violence in the Trail of Tears and the burning of "Black Wall Street," youth will learn from activists and church leaders who are determined to find hope and seek reconciliation and growth rather than simply lamenting the past. Youth will look back at the history of racism to understand why and how to address racism today and into the future. They 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. Register here: [tinyurl.com/2024-youth-mission-trip](http://tinyurl.com/2024-youth-mission-trip).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### NEW GROUP FORMING - 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 this 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.

### NEW GROUP FORMING - "HEALING HEARTS" PET SUPPORT GROUP: ST. PAULS PET LOSS COMMUNITY

Are you struggling with losing a beloved furry friend/companion/animal assistant? Losing a pet can be one of the most heart-wrenching experiences in life. At St. Pauls, we understand the deep bond you shared with your beloved pet/family member and we're here to offer support, understanding and a virtual shoulder to lean on. To join, visit [tinyurl.com/healing-hearts-support](https://tinyurl.com/healing-hearts-support). We meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 7-8 p.m. Age 18+ only, 15 participants maximum.

### 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 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! Our next rehearsal is immediately after worship for about an hour today, February 25, in the Oscar Mayer Room. 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 [lawrencedamron@gmail.com](mailto:lawrencedamron@gmail.com).

## **JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC**

Many Chicagoans are familiar with A RAISIN IN THE SUN, Lorraine Hansberry's searing 1959 drama about racial discrimination in housing. However, Chicago-born Hansberry's career as a writer and social activist spanned the decades before and after her play. She wrote for a pan-Africanist newspaper published in New York City, contributed columns to the nation's first lesbian periodical, and advised national political leaders at the height of the Civil Rights Movement before dying from pancreatic cancer at just 34. See a documentary on Hansberry's multifaceted contributions to American literature, racial justice, and gay rights, SIGHTED EYES/FEELING HEART, on many streaming services, including Kanopy, Amazon Prime, and PBS. View the trailer at: <https://tinyurl.com/2av8prez>

## **CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team**

Lenten Traditions: The Humble Bean is Ecological and Delicious!

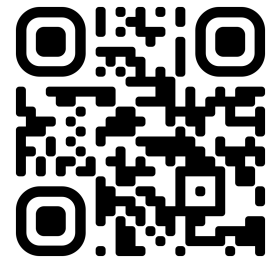
In those Christian denominations observing Lent, the 40 days before Easter Sunday are often associated with deep prayer, fasting and refraining from luxuries. This is an identification with Christ's sacrifice during his 40 days wandering in the desert.

Lenten meals have traditionally been humble and based on legumes and pulses with little or no animal protein. During Lent, the Green Team will be featuring Lenten dishes which happen to be vegetarian and can be adapted to all seasons. This week we will feature red beans and rice.

## **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).

**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 child care 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 child care 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).

**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](http://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 information, 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](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/st-pauls-social).

**SPARC (St. Pauls Anti-Racism Cluster)** meets monthly to discern how we as a congregation can answer the call to live our faith in an age of injustice. We invite you to join us in identifying the educational opportunities, resources and actions to take on our journey toward racial justice. To participate or share your ideas, contact Cindy Ball at [cindyball11@gmail.com](mailto:cindyball11@gmail.com).

**STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS** – If you're in need of support through a tough time and would like to be matched with someone who would support you with companionship and prayer, or you're feeling called to offer support, speak to Pastor Jeff Carlson ([jcarlson@spucc.org](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](https://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](https://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](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: <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](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](https://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 page, St. Pauls Together. **Please limit announcements to 100 words.** Thank you!

## TODAY'S MUSIC

***Impromptu Op. 90 (D. 899), No. 3 in G flat Major*** was published in 1827, the year before the death of Franz Schubert (1797-1828) at the age of 31. *Op. 90* comprises four impromptus, and Nos. 3 and 4 were actually published after Schubert's death. The *G flat Major Impromptu* is characterized by long meditative melodic lines. Both the vast amount and quality of work that Schubert composed in his all too short life is almost impossible to fathom. It is also worth mentioning that Kevin Dzierzawski played this work at his father's memorial service this week. We are grateful that he has shared this piece with us during Lent.

***To My Humble Supplication*** is a text composed in 1620 by Joseph Bryan (dates unknown). The tune, GENEVAN 86, derives its name from a famous psalter published in Geneva, Switzerland in 1551. Each psalm setting was assigned its number corresponding to the same number in the Book of Psalms. Among other tunes we still sing from the *Genevan Psalter* is *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*.

***For the Fruit of All Creation*** is a slightly updated version of the original 1970 Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000) text. One of the most prominent hymnodists in Britain, he was born in Liverpool and became a Methodist minister. AR HYD Y NOS is a traditional Welsh melody first found in *Musical Relics of the Welsh Bands* published in Dublin in 1784.

***I Love to Tell the Story*** has multiple authors. The familiar refrain was written in 1866 by Kate Hankey (1834-1911) and the verses were penned and the music composed in 1869 by William G. Fisher (1835-1912). Although Hankey was born into privilege in London, she spent her life working with the poor and teaching Bible classes. Fisher was an American who had a lifelong interest in music. Although he was a businessman, he composed more than 200 "spiritual songs," and conducted mass choirs at Dwight L. Moody revivals. The tune name, HANKEY, takes its name from Ms. Hankey.

***We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed*** is a text written in 1990 by Mary Bryan Matney (1955-2010). The tune, NEW BEGINNINGS, was composed for this text also in 1990 by Sally Ann Morris (b. 1952), who was also Matney's life partner. Morris only began composing in 1990 and has created more than 100 hymn tunes since then. This hymn received its first publication in our *New Century Hymnal* (1995).

***Beautiful Savior*** is an unattributed Silesian folk song that was first found in the *Münster Gesangbuch* of 1677. The hymn tune name, SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, is drawn from the first line of German text. The translation was done by Augustus Seiss (1823-1904). The arranger, F. Melius Christiansen (1871-1955), was the founder of the St. Olaf College Choir. Along with Peter Christian Lutkin at Northwestern University, Christiansen inspired a huge new interest in *a capella* singing in this country. *Beautiful Savior* is the unofficial anthem of St. Olaf in much the same way that the *Lutkin Benediction* is for Northwestern. Kurt R. Hansen's maternal grandfather, John Mahard Rosborough (1878-1969), worked with Christiansen extensively and studied at Northwestern with Lutkin.

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

***Sunshine Day*** was released in 1972 on Portrait Records and sung by Black American singer and actor Howard McCrary with four other family members. In 1986, McCrary was nominated for a Grammy for his album *So Good*. He also guest starred on the TV series *Amen* and *Martin*.

## **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.*

- Prayers in celebration of the life of Rebecca Blank and upholding her husband, Hanns and daughter, Emily.
- Jill Minetz and family at the death of her brother, Arthur Scott Aronson.
- Prayers for peace - in our city, nation and world.
- Prayers for the Song Shu family, for the best surgical outcome and a speedy recovery.
- Betty Voice being treated for sepsis.
- Alex Doty and her mother who has been hospitalized and is now in rehab.
- Deborah's friend Anita Smith recovering at Paul House and Health Care Center following a lengthy hospitalization.
- 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.

## EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS ORDER FORM

Celebrate or remember a loved one by ordering a flowering plant for the Easter Festival Altar. Flowers may be picked up after the 11 a.m. Easter Sunday service. Remaining flowers will be donated to our senior members and neighbors. Please enclose \$30 or more per plant with this order form, or order and pay online here: [spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1648145](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1648145).

**Please print legibly.**

**In Celebration of** *(print name(s) as you wish to appear):*

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**In Memory of** *(print name(s) as you wish to appear):*

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**From** *(your name(s) as you wish to appear):*

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**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Tear out this form and drop it in the offering plate or mail it to:

St. Pauls UCC

Attn: Easter Flowers

2335 N. Orchard St., Chicago, IL 60614

Completed orders must arrive **by March 25** to appear in the Easter Bulletin

## **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.