

March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday in Lent

*Messe solennelle* - Louis Vierne

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

"Music is the divine way to tell beautiful poetic things to the heart."

- Pablo Casals

"When words leave off, music begins."

- Heirich Heine

PRELUDE

*Symphony No. 4, Op. 32—Romance*  
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

Louis Vierne  
(1870–1937)

CHIMES

INTROIT

*Out of the Depths I Cry to Thee*  
Chancel Choir

Martin Luther

WELCOME

Liz Nickerson

\* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: This is the day that our God has made.

**All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

One: We thank you, God, for every amazing day.

**All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

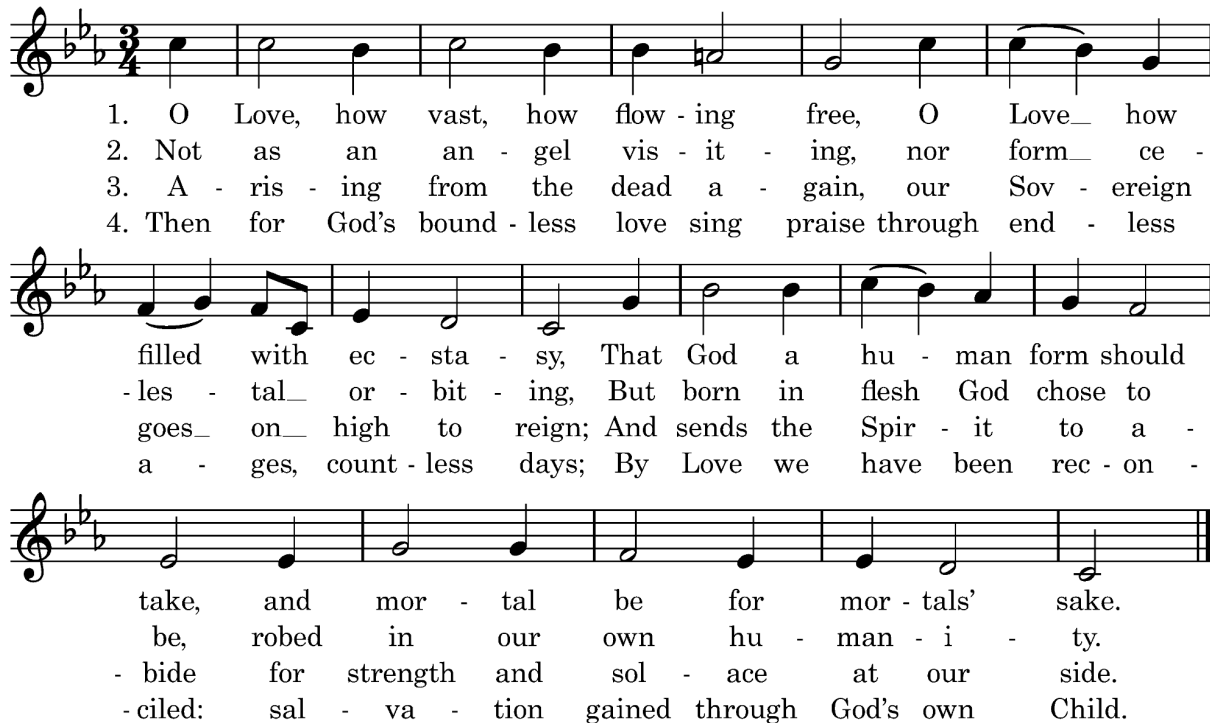
One: Rejoice in God always

**All: And again we say REJOICE!**

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

\* HYMN

*O Love How Vast, How Flowing Free*



1. O Love, how vast, how flow - ing free, O Love how  
2. Not as an an - gel vis - it - ing, nor form ce -  
3. A - ris - ing from the dead a - gain, our Sov - ereign  
4. Then for God's bound - less love sing praise through end - less

filled with ec - sta - sy, That God a hu - man form should  
- les - tal or - bit - ing, But born in flesh God chose to  
goes on high to reign; And sends the Spir - it to a -  
a - ges, count - less days; By Love we have been rec - on -

take, and mor - tal be for mor - tals' sake.  
be, robed in our own hu - man - i - ty.  
- bide for strength and sol - ace at our side.  
- ciled: sal - va - tion gained through God's own Child.

*During the hymn, 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.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Matt Fitzgerald

**Why do we have to go through these 40 days and 40 nights of Lent?**

**Can't we just skip the death part and jump directly to the joy and victory of Easter?**

**Help us confront our impatience and unbelief.**

**Help us to work through all this preparation for an ending that becomes a new beginning.**

**Help us to lay our burdens down so we have more space for you.**

**Create in us clean hearts so we can revel in your love.**

**Help us to believe those words we say every Sunday,**

**"In life and death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us. We are not alone. "**

**Help us to say today and every day, "Thanks be to God;" and mean it.**

**Lord have mercy upon us.**

**Christ have mercy upon us.**

**Lord have mercy upon us.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM

***Messe solennelle in C Sharp Minor, Op. 16***

Louis Vierne

Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

Chancel Choir

Kurt R. Hansen, conductor

*Kyrie*

*Kyrie eleison.*

Lord have mercy upon us.

*Christe eleison.*

Christ have mercy upon us.

*Kyrie eleison.*

Lord have mercy upon us

SCRIPTURE

Mark Sancya

Psalms 51: 10–17

One: Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.

**All: Cast me not away from thy presence,  
and take not thy holy Spirit from me.**

One: Restore to me the joy of thy salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

**All: Then I will teach transgressors thy ways,  
and sinners will return to thee.**

One: Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,  
thou God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of thy deliverance.

**All: O Lord, open thou my lips,  
and my mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

One: For thou hast no delight in sacrifice;  
were I to give a burnt offering, thou wouldst not be pleased.

**All: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.**

## CHORAL RESPONSE

## *Gloria*

Pastor Jeff Carlson, cantor

Gloria in excelsis Deo  
Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis  
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.  
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.  
Gratias agimus tibi  
propter magnam gloriam tuam.  
Domine Deus, Rex coelestis,  
Deus Pater omnipotens.  
Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe  
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris  
Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
Miserere nobis.  
Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
Suscipe deprecationem nostram.  
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,  
Miserere nobis.  
Quoniam tu solus sanctus.  
Tu solus Dominus.  
Tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe.  
Cum Sancto Spiritu in gloria Dei Patris.  
Amen.

*Glory to God in the highest  
And on earth peace to all those of good will.  
We praise thee. We bless thee.  
We worship thee. We glorify thee.  
We give thanks to thee  
according to thy great glory.  
Lord God, Heavenly King,  
God the Father almighty.  
Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son.  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.  
Thou who takest away the sins of the world,  
Have mercy upon us.  
Thou who takes away the sins of the worlds,  
Receive our prayer.  
Thou who sits at the right hand of the Father,  
Have mercy upon us.  
For thou alone art holy.  
Thou alone art the Lord.  
Thou alone art the most high, Jesus Christ.  
With the Holy Spirit in glory of God the Father.  
Amen.*

## SCRIPTURE

Jeff Carlson

Mark 10: 35-45 (The Message)

James and John, Zebedee's sons, came up to him. "Teacher, we have something we want you to do for us."

"What is it? I'll see what I can do."

"Arrange it," they said, "so that we will be awarded the highest places of honor in your glory—one of us at your right, the other at your left."

Jesus said, "You have no idea what you're asking. Are you capable of drinking the cup I drink, of being baptized in the baptism I'm about to be plunged into?"

"Sure," they said. "Why not?"

Jesus said, "Come to think of it, you will drink the cup I drink, and be baptized in my baptism. But as to awarding places of honor, that's not my business. There are other arrangements for that."

When the other ten heard of this conversation, they lost their tempers with James and John. Jesus got them together to settle things down. "You've observed how godless rulers throw their weight around," he said, "and when people get a little power how quickly it goes to their heads. It's not going to be that way with you. Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not to be served—and then to give away his life in exchange for many who are held hostage."

## \* A 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.**

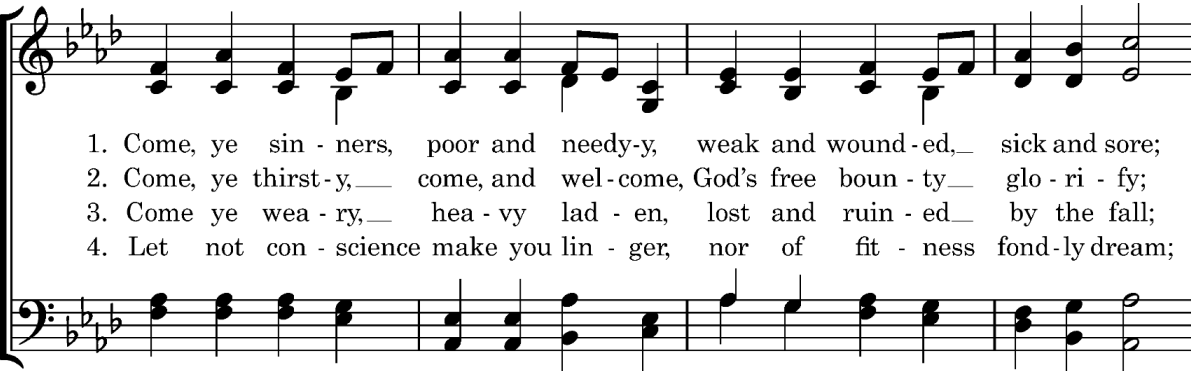
**In life and death, in life beyond death, God is with us.**

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

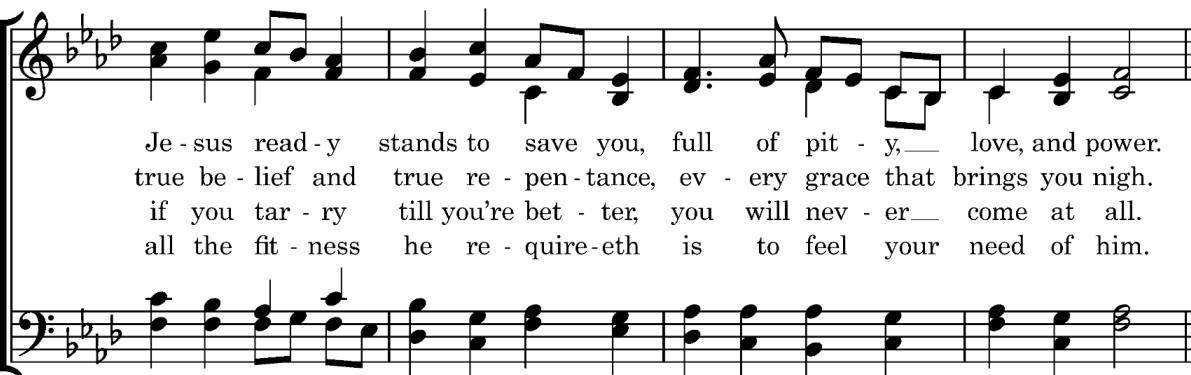
*(adapted from the United Church of Canada)*

\* RESPONSE

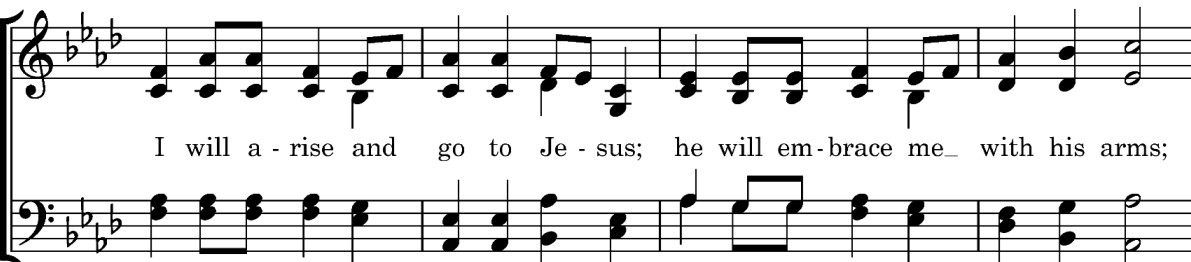
*Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy*



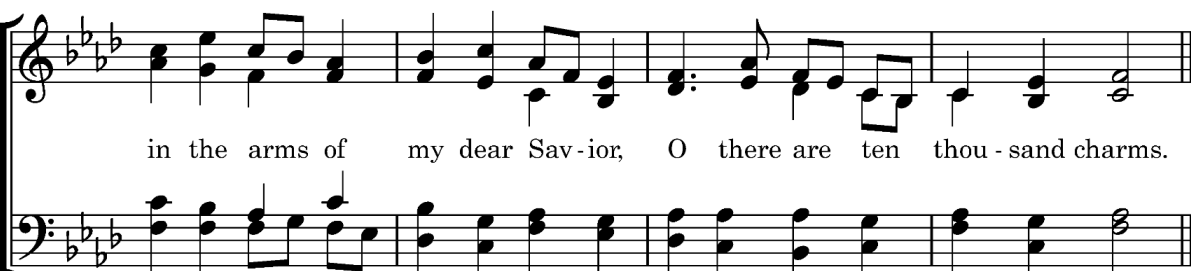
1. Come, ye sin - ners, poor and needy-y, weak and wound - ed, sick and sore;  
2. Come, ye thirst-y, come, and wel - come, God's free boun - ty glo - ri - fy;  
3. Come ye wea - ry, hea - vy lad - en, lost and ruin - ed by the fall;  
4. Let not con - science make you lin - ger, nor of fit - ness fond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

GIVING MOMENT

Lorne Frank

OFFERTORY

*Sanctus*

*Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus,  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.  
Hosanna in excelsis.*

Holy, Holy, Holy,  
Lord God of Hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.

*Benedictus*

*Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.  
Hosanna in excelsis.*

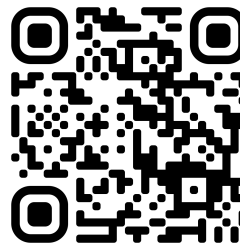
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

*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).*



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.**



## RESPONSE

## *Agnus Dei*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
Miserere nobis.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
Dona nobis pacem.*

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.

## \* BENEDICTION

Matt Fitzgerald

## \* CHORAL BENEDICTION

*Amen* from *Gloria* movement

Louis Vierne

## POSTLUDE

*Marche triomphale*  
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ  
St. Pauls Brass

Louis Vierne

## **SPECIAL MUSIC 2023-2024** **"MASS APPEAL"**

**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. This morning, we look at a setting of the mass ordinary that is much more traditional and Romantic than our December offering of *St. Francis in the Americas: A Caribbean Mass*.

Our final offering of **MASS APPEAL** will be **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.

## **TODAY'S MUSIC**

The ***Romance*** from *Symphony No. 4 in G minor, Op. 32* was composed in 1914 by Louis Vierne (1870-1937), just two months before the outbreak of World War I. It is the fourth movement in a five-movement symphony for organ. Interestingly, Vierne dedicated this symphony to an American organist, William C. Carl (1865-1936). If you listen carefully to the *Messe solennelle* in the service, you will hear moments that influenced this later work. Along with Charles-Marie Widor, Vierne was one of the great Romantic symphonists for organ. He was born blind. He studied with César Franck. He composed six symphonies for the organ. He was also the organist of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris from 1900 until his death. In fact, Vierne collapsed and died at the console at Notre Dame at the close of a recital there. His student, Maurice Duruflé, was at his side as an assistant that day. The ***Romance*** shows Vierne's harmonic brilliance as a composer, his use of the many colors in organ registration, and his own talent as a performer.

***Out of the Depths I Cry to Thee*** is a text written in 1524 by Martin Luther (1483-1546). The original German of the first line is the tune name, AUS TIEFER NOT. The translation was done in 1863 by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878). Although born in England, her mother was German. Winkworth moved to Dresden where she developed a deep interest in Lutheran chorales. She translated hundreds of German hymns.

The text for ***O Love How Vast, How Flowing Free*** is a free translation of an anonymous 15th century Latin poem. The tune, DEO GRACIAS, is also known as AGINCOURT. It is an English ballad that also dates from the 15th century.

The ***Messe solennelle*** (Solemn Mass) was composed in 1899 to be accompanied by two organs. The choir organ would have been in the chancel of a French cathedral, and, as the name suggests, was to accompany the choir. The “grand organ” would have been in a balcony in the rear of the cathedral. It would have provided a dialogue with the choir and a bigger, more colorful sound than the choir organ. Kevin Dzierzawski has arranged the two original organ parts to be able to perform them on our Phoenix, Aeolian-Skinner Organ. Vierne's score asks for many colors and levels of volume and brilliance that highlight the organ as a worthy “symphonic partner” to the choir's text and music.

**Louis Vierne (1870-1937)**, along with Charles Marie Widor (1845-1937), were the great French late romantic organ symphonists. Both wrote works for the organ on the same scale as orchestral symphonies. (It is Widor's *Toccata* from his *Fifth Symphony for Organ* that opens our candlelight procession on Christmas Eve.) Both wrote only one mass for choir and organ. Both chose to set a *missa brevis*, that is the Mass Ordinary without the *Credo*, the Nicene Creed. Vierne was organist at Notre Dame in Paris. Widor was organist at St. Sulpice, also in Paris. Vierne was blind and served as an inspiration to a generation of organist/composers such as Jean Langlais, who shared Vierne's visual impairment, talent and indomitable spirit.

***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 complete title of the ***Marche triomphale*** is *Marche triomphale pour le centenaire de Napoléon I in F-Sharp Minor, Op. 46*, composed in 1921 by Louis Vierne to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Napoleon's death. It is originally scored for organ, three trumpets, three trombones and timpani. This transcription has been made by Mark Swanson.

## **Chancel Choir**

Kurt R. Hansen, Music Director

Kevin Dziersawski, Organist

### **Sopranos**

Katie Alrutz  
Shannon Banjavcic  
Lenore Ettinger  
Nadia Jimenez  
Gay Kelly  
Jennifer Kew  
Karin Magnuson  
Nancy Pifer\*  
Ashley Shaluga  
Grace Stauskas  
Meg Tazelaar  
Kecia Waldschmidt  
Pam Woll

### **Altos**

Cindy Ball  
Amy Barton  
Lois Basil  
Denise Beitelschmidt  
Terry Brancaccio Hansen  
Carrie Bruggers - Librarian  
Breanna Coe\*  
Micki Fayhee  
Karen Johnson  
Winnie Kearns  
Jana O'Brien  
Amy Petersen Beck

Pat Ruch  
Jade Luo Santos  
Lola Stevenson  
Pam Woll

### **Tenors**

Todd Coe  
Andy Davis  
Doug Heyboer  
Rick Peterson  
Nathan Streeter\*

### **Basses**

Bill Borden  
Jim Brandt  
Jeff Carlson  
Nathan Chamberlain  
Allen Heineman  
Graham Hicks  
Mark Huddle  
Julian Jarzebowski  
Lee Lichamer\*  
Mark Mosley  
Mark Swanson  
Doug Walters

\* Section leader

## **St. Pauls Brass**

Jake Nitzsche, Jeanine Woodman, Jim Brandt, trumpets;  
Tom Clancy, Rick Peterson, French horns;  
Nancy Pifer, tenor horn;  
Mark Swanson, Lorne Frank, trombones;  
Sarah Good Mosley, timpani

***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 downstairs in the Social Hall, directly below 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.

### **TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

**Clergy:** Liz Nickerson, Matt Fitzgerald, Jeff Carlson

**Music Director:** Kurt R. Hansen

**Organist:** Kevin Dzierzawski

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

**Scripture Reader:** Mark Sancya

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

**Head Usher:** Beatrice Jaji

**Ushers:** Doug Clark, Fred Pearson

**Gatekeeper:** Dodd Brown

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

**Custodian:** Ramiro Gonzalez

*This week's altar flowers and coffee hour are in celebration of the 40th wedding anniversary of Andrew and Lynn Davis, hosted by their children, Paul, Eve and Seth.*



### **PLEDGE TO EXPAND AND ELEVATE OUR OPENNESS!**

Please remember to submit your three-year Capital Campaign pledge to help fund the six-stop elevator and open-air courtyard at our church.

Submit your special pledge via the Letter of Intent available in the church office or via the church website's homepage link or the QR code here. We need every household to help us reach our bold campaign goal! And watch for the short weekly video messages about the campaign from our pastors and members.



## **BORN THIS WEEK IN 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.*

MAR. 17 Julia Spainhour

MAR. 18 Ross Penniman

MAR. 19 Samer Bashiti

MAR. 20 Andrew Winking, Ben Johnson, David Campbell, Elena Cata

MAR. 21 Joe Kornick, Laura Grosshans

MAR. 22 Brooks Beeson, Robert Colosi- McCann, Scott Lawrence

MAR. 23 Marti Pechnyo, Mike Vahey, MJ Rogers

## **LENT & EASTER AT ST. PAULS**

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  
When the first disciples told the story of Jesus, they went to town squares and explained the entire Gospel story from start to finish. Come and watch the Gospel of Mark as it was meant to be heard, in its entirety! St. Pauls member Mark Huddle will bring the Gospel to life. You will be moved, inspired, and will gain new insight by hearing the Gospel from beginning to end. Let us know you're coming: <https://tinyurl.com/2p92a2ud>

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

*Scan here  
for Lent Info:*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**TODAY - PRESENTATION ON BRING HOME CHICAGO** - 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary  
Representatives from One Northside are hosting a meeting after church to explain the Bring Home Chicago transfer tax referendum to address homelessness.

**MARCH 18 - 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).

**MARCH 19 - RETIREMENT GROUP** – 10 a.m., Parlor  
The Retirement Group meets 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).

**MARCH 19 and 26 - TUESDAY NIGHT PICKLEBALL** – 5:30-8 p.m., Gym  
Have you tried the growing sport of Pickleball yet? We hold regular adult pick-up games in the St. Pauls gym every Tuesday night, separate from the Young Adult group games on Monday nights. Sign up at the Church Center link below or just show up at the Church gym! All ages and skill levels are invited.  
Game Time: Tuesdays: 5:30-8 p.m. (Come anytime during that window.) If you have questions, call or text Steve Garrett at (312) 208-0636. To join us, visit: [tinyurl.com/Tuesday-Pickleball](http://tinyurl.com/Tuesday-Pickleball).

**MARCH 19 - C.S. LEWIS IN A YEAR: *THE MAGICIAN'S NEPHEW*** - 7 p.m., Zoom  
In 2024, St. 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. Read them all or join for some. This month we're starting the Narnia series with *The Magician's Nephew*. A complete reading list will be shared upon registration. Join this exciting adventure by registering here: <http://tinyurl.com/bdzda6u7>.

**MARCH 19 - MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT IN THIS IMPORTANT PRIMARY!**  
Voters will select nominees for their party (Democrat or Republican) for U.S. president, delegates to the national nominating conventions, and nominees for public offices. Additionally, there are important local races. For example, Chicago and Cook County voters who choose a Democratic ballot will select a nominee in the Cook County State's Attorney and the Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court races. You can find all the information you need to plan your vote in Chicago at [www.Chicagoelections.gov](http://www.Chicagoelections.gov) and suburban primary races on your jurisdiction's website.

**MARCH 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).

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

Members from Live-Free Illinois will be with us to explain 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>.

**APRIL 7 - GAZA PANEL DISCUSSION -11:30 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room**

Featuring Palestinian American physician Dr. Yasser Said on the public health crisis in Gaza, and retired professor & Presbyterian minister Donald Wagner on the responsibility of Christians. Light lunch and refreshments provided. Please RSVP at [tinyurl.com/Gaza-panel](http://tinyurl.com/Gaza-panel) or contact David Burnett at [burnett.db@gmail.com](mailto:burnett.db@gmail.com)

**APRIL 27 - REBUILDING TOGETHER DAY - 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

Join us for Rebuilding Together Day on April 27 from 8:30 a.m. to about 2:30 p.m. We will be working on a home in Englewood near 66th and Damen. We'll be painting a back porch (4-6 people) and a couple of bedroom ceilings (4-6 people). In addition, we will be removing lots of garbage bags from the basement (6-10 people), and there is also some minor handyman stuff like installing smoke detectors and some knobs on the kitchen cabinets (2-3 people). Anyone 10 and older can participate. House Captain Gerald Wilk could also use the help of a volunteer co-coordinator. Contact Gerald for more information: [gcjwilk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gcjwilk@sbcglobal.net). Sign up to volunteer here: <http://tinyurl.com/49dpkm38>.



## **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](https://tinyurl.com/2024-youth-mission-trip).

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **EASTER WEEKEND COMMUNION SERVERS URGENTLY NEEDED!**

Good Friday and Easter are two weeks away! As in recent years, we urgently need communion servers for each of the following services:

**Good Friday, March 29 @ 7:30 p.m. – 2 servers**

**Easter Sunday, March 31 @ 9 a.m. – 2 servers**

**Easter Sunday, March 31 @ 11 a.m. – 16 servers**

If you can serve communion for any or all of these services, **please sign up in the Narthex or email Kevin O'Brien at [kkobrien48@hotmail.com](mailto:kkobrien48@hotmail.com)** ASAP. Thank you!

### **LITTLE LIGHTS SUMMER CAMP - REGISTRATION IS OPEN**

For ages 3-5, Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., June-August. Camp includes themed and structured fun inside our classrooms, in the gym and outside in the sun. There will be water games, arts & crafts, music, sports, and more! Register by March 31 to lock in Early Rate (10% discount). There is also a 10% sibling discount and 20% Church Member discount (contact Erin for the code [erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org](mailto:erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org)). Register here: [tinyurl.com/Little-Lights-Summer-Camp](https://tinyurl.com/Little-Lights-Summer-Camp).

### **NEW GROUP FORMING - PALESTINE STUDY GROUP**

We will be discussing the introduction and chapter one of Rashid Khalidi's *The Hundred Years' War on Palestine*, which covers the historical period 1917-1947. All are welcome! Meeting time is Thursday, March 21 at 7 p.m. To join us, visit: [tinyurl.com/Palestine-Study-Group](https://tinyurl.com/Palestine-Study-Group) or contact David Burnett at [burnett.db@gmail.com](mailto:burnett.db@gmail.com) for updates.

## **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](http://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.

## **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).

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

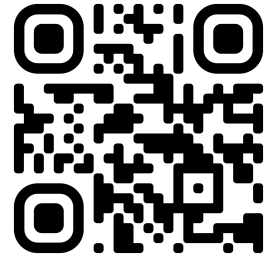
Giving Up Plastic Wrap Is Doable!

The plastic wrap we use in the kitchen is prized for being water resistant and ideal for keeping food and leftovers fresher. The big problem is that plastic wrap is difficult to recycle under our current recycling systems. In addition, as the film breaks down, plastic wraps release dioxin into the food system by means of fish and fowl eating the microplastic in landfills and streams. Alternatives to plastic film are readily available: wax paper, parchment paper, aluminum foil, and better yet, glass containers. In addition, one can buy and store less or give leftovers to neighbors in need.

## 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

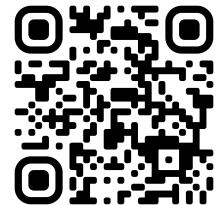
**ACTIVISM & ADVOCACY MINISTRY** – Do you have a passion for reaching out to others? The St. Pauls Activism & Advocacy Ministry would love you to join us in keeping our church engaged in community outreach. For more information, contact Jennifer Kew, [JenniferLKew@gmail.com](mailto:JenniferLKew@gmail.com), 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** – Church Center 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! Download the app and get connected at [spucc.churchcenter.com/setup](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/setup)



**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](https://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](https://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](https://spucc.org/new_member_classes).

**ST. PAULS SOCIAL** – Get better acquainted with other adults at St. Pauls. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Jen Luerksen at [jenluerksen@yahoo.com](mailto:jenluerksen@yahoo.com). Subscribe to the distribution list below, or look out for future events in the bulletin calendar: [spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/st-pauls-social](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 [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](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: <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!



## **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.*

- Joy Groth hospitalized for tests.
- Prayers for the family and friends of Ron McCowan at his death.
- 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: <https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2155978>.

**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.