

Palm Sunday
March 24, 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.
There is no Sunday School today.*

PRELUDE *Processional* William Mathias
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

CHIMES

INTROIT *Ride On! Ride On in Majesty*
Chancel Choir

WELCOME Jeff Carlson

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Born into poverty, a carpenter
and friend to children,
he turns toward Jerusalem.

All: Hosanna! Hosanna!

One: King of kings and Lord of Lords!
He rides into our lives.

All: Hosanna! Hosanna!

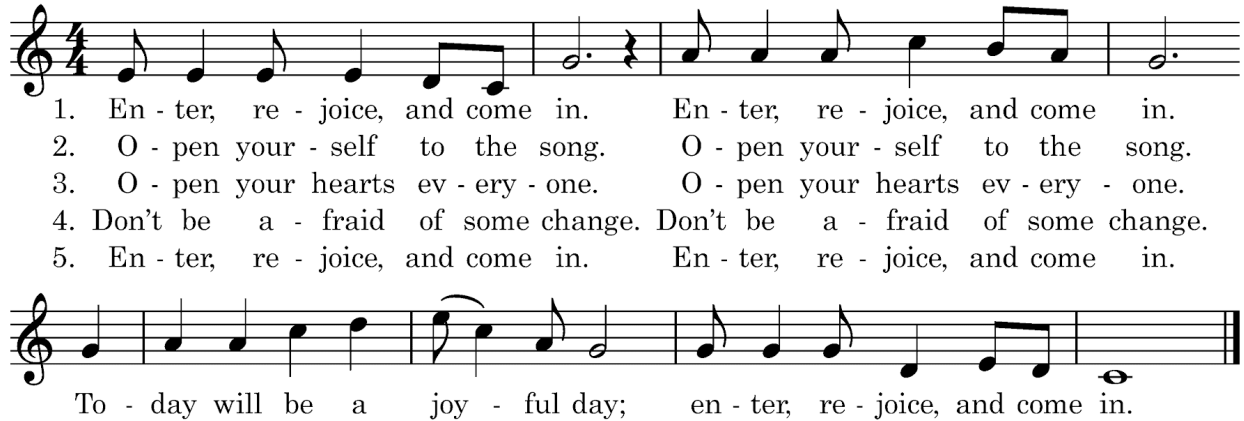
One: He is riding on a donkey.

All: Hosanna in the Highest!

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

* PALM PROCESSIONAL

Enter, Rejoice and Come In



1. En - ter, re - joice, and come in. En - ter, re - joice, and come in.
2. O - pen your - self to the song. O - pen your - self to the song.
3. O - pen your hearts ev - ery - one. O - pen your hearts ev - ery - one.
4. Don't be a - fraid of some change. Don't be a - fraid of some change.
5. En - ter, re - joice, and come in. En - ter, re - joice, and come in.

To - day will be a joy - ful day; en - ter, re - joice, and come in.

Please be ready to repeat stanzas if needed for the length of the processional.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God,
we love you so much
that when Jesus rides into our lives
we shout "Hosanna"
like children on the last day of school.
And then we betray you.
We deny Jesus,
ignore Jesus,
run from Jesus,
muttering "crucify, crucify"
in tones that are less dramatic
than our biblical ancestors',
but no less devastating for their subtlety.
Have mercy upon us.
Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

1. "Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na," the lit - tle chil - dren sang;
2. From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed a - mid a cheer - ing crowd,
3. "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song is ours.

through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang;
the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud.
We hail our great Re - deem - er and sing with all our powers:

To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,
The one whom an - gels wor - ship rode on in low - ly state,
"Ho - san - na, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.

the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.
and glad to see the chil - dren, slowed down the don - key's gait.
Ho - san - na! In your pres - ence for - ev - er we'll re - joice!"

SCRIPTURE

Denise Beitelschmidt

John 12:12-16

The next day the huge crowd that had arrived for the Feast heard that Jesus was entering Jerusalem. They broke off palm branches and went out to meet him. And they cheered:

Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in God's name!

Yes! The King of Israel!

Jesus got a young donkey and rode it, just as the Scripture has it:

No fear, Daughter Zion:
See how your king comes,
riding a donkey's colt.

The disciples didn't notice the fulfillment of many Scriptures at the time, but after Jesus was glorified, they remembered that what was written about him matched what was done to him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

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

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

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

We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

(adapted from the United Church of Canada)

* RESPONSE

Hosanna Loud Hosanna

vv. 2-3

See previous hymn

SERMON

“The Drum Major of the Jesus Parade”

Matt Fitzgerald

* HYMN

All Glory, Laud and Honor



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To thee, Re - deem - er King,

To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring!

1. The peo - ple of the He - brews With palms a - dorned your way;
2. As you re - ceived their prais - es, re - ceive our prayers to - day,

Our praise and prayer and an - thems we of - fer you this day.
whose jus - tice and whose mer - cy and sov - ereign - ty hold sway.

REBUILDING TOGETHER

Gerald Wilk

OFFERTORY

Ride On King Jesus

Black Spiritual

Breanna Coe and Kecia Waldschmidt, soloists arr. Moses Hogan
Chancel Choir

Ride on, King Jesus, the conquerin' King.
Oh ride on, King Jesus, ride on. No man can-a hinder thee.

I was but young when I begun.
No man can-a hinder thee.
But now my race is almost run.
No man can-a hinder thee.
Oh ride on,.....

King Jesus rides a milk white horse.
No man can-a hinder thee.
The ribber of Jordan he did cross.
No man can-a hinder thee.
Oh ride on.....

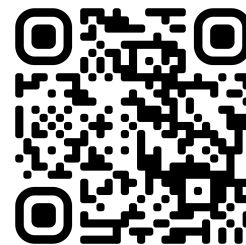
He's the King and the Lord.
He's the first and the last.
He's the Lord of Lords.
Jesus is the Prince of Peace.
No man can-a hinder thee.
Oh ride on.....

You can give to St. Pauls electronically by:

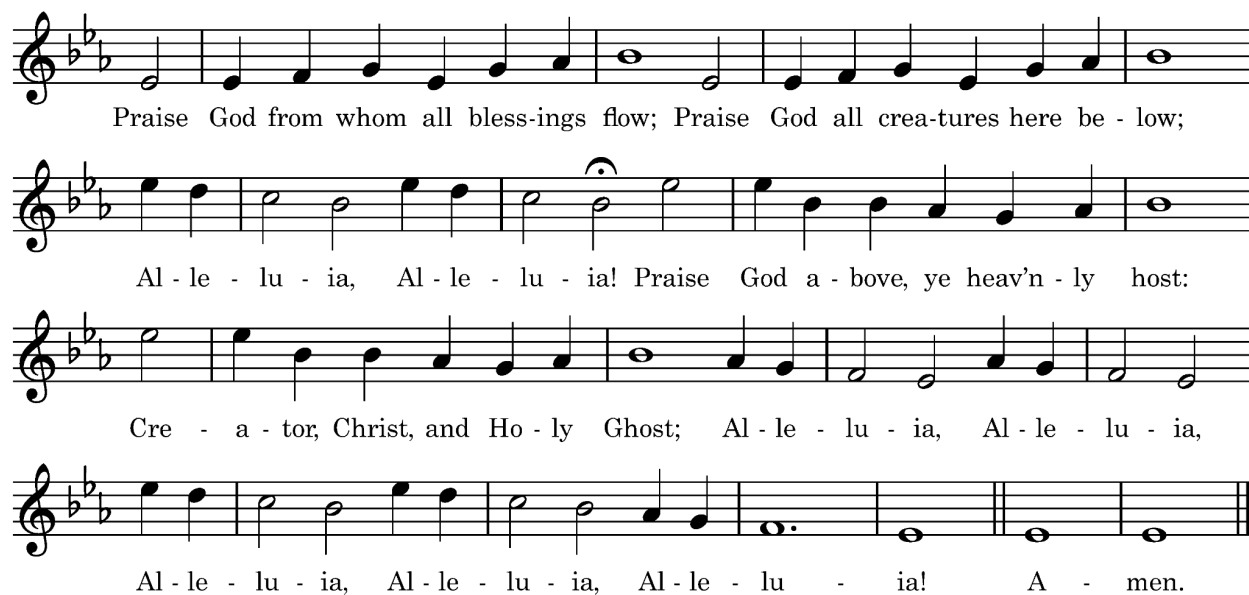
Scanning this code with your cell phone camera,

At spucc.churchcenter.com/giving,

Or through Zelle or PayPal to giving@spucc.org.



* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia! Praise God above, ye heav'nly 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! A-men.'

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be - low;

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:

Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost; Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Liz Nickerson

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

* HYMN

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

1. In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tower - ing
2. When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
3. When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
4. Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the
5. In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tower - ing

o'er the wrecks of time; All the light of sa - cred
- ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -
love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance
cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no
o'er the wrecks of time; All the light of sa - cred

sto - ry gath - ers 'round its head sub - lime.
- sake me: Lo! it glows with peace and joy.
stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.
sto - ry gath - ers 'round its head sub - lime.

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To thee, Re - deem - er King,

To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring!

POSTLUDE

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
St. Arbucks Quartet

Ludwig van Beethoven
arr. Craig Curry

***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, children and their parents are invited for an egg hunt
downstairs in the classrooms by the Social Hall. Join us for coffee and
refreshments in the Social Hall with a special visit from the Easter Bunny.***

TODAY'S MUSIC

ProceSSIONal was composed in 1964 by William Mathias (1934-1992). He was a Welsh composer who composed opera, chamber music, choral music, and works for orchestra. He was a child prodigy, beginning piano at age 3 and composing at age 5. One of his best known works, *Let the People Praise Thee, O Lord*, was written on commission for the wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana in 1982. It is an anthem that our Chancel Choir has often sung in worship.

The powerful Palm Sunday text for ***Ride On! Ride On in Majesty*** was penned in 1827 by Henry Hart Milman (1791-1868). In addition to being a poet, he was also a distinguished court physician and theologian. The stately tune, THE KING'S MAJESTY, was composed in 1939 by Graham George (1912-1993). A Canadian of English birth, he was also an organist, choir and orchestra director, and professor of music theory. He studied composition with Paul Hindemith at Yale University.

Enter, Rejoice and Come In was composed in the 1970s by Louise Ruspini (1900-2000), who also provided the text, and is based on Psalm 100. The tune borrows from the first line of the refrain: ENTER, REJOICE.

Hosanna! Loud Hosanna is a rousing Palm Sunday text written in 1873 by Jeanette Threlfall (1821-1880). She led a difficult life. She was orphaned at a very early age and suffered an accident which left her an invalid for the rest of her days. She became a lay minister to many and exuded grace. The tune, ELLACOMBE, is of German origin, but unattributed and was first published in a hymnal in 1784. In the 19th century, the tune was named for a village in Devonshire.

The text for ***All Glory, Laud and Honor*** is attributed to Theodulph, Bishop of Orléans (750-821). He was Italian by birth and was brought to the French court by Charles the Great. The familiar translation we sing was written in 1854 by J.M. Neale (1818-1866), who translated many hymn texts into English, including *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*. He was a member of the British clergy and struggled with ill health his entire life. The tune name was dedicated to ST. THEODULPH at a later date. The tune was composed by German composer Melchior Teschner (1584-1635). One of the places he studied was Wittenberg, the birthplace of the Lutheran faith.

In his all too brief life, Moses Hogan (1957-2003) continued and added to the great tradition of spiritual arrangement that includes William Dawson. He recorded a number of compact discs and wrote solo arrangements for singers like Kathleen Battle. ***Ride On, King Jesus*** is a well-known spiritual that was made memorable across decades of St. Pauls Palm Sunday services by the Chancel Choir's beloved long-term bass soloist, Ron McCowan. This

arrangement by Moses Hogan was a gift to the choir in Ron's honor from Jana O'Brien and Wayne Parman. Mr. Hogan was also commissioned by St. Pauls to write *I Gotta Home in-a Dat Rock* in honor of Ron McCowan's 25 years of service to this congregation. Sadly, Ron passed away earlier this month. Before retiring from St. Pauls' Chancel Choir, Palm Sunday was not complete without Ron's singular rendition of this same spiritual. The Chancel Choir offers it today in memory of Ron.

In the Cross of Christ I Glory is a text written in 1825 by John Bowring (1792-1872). He was an English Unitarian and became a member of Parliament. His text is decidedly Christian. RATHBURN was composed in 1851 by Ithamar Conkley (1815-1867). An American of Scottish descent, he became a professional bass and organist in New York City.

The music for ***Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*** (ODE TO JOY) was composed by Beethoven (1770-1827) and is the chorale melody from the final movement of his *Ninth Symphony* (1824). The original German text (1785) was by the famous poet and dramatist Friedrich Schiller (1759-1805), and the English text was composed in 1907 by Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933). Van Dyke was an American author and clergyman. He was appointed ambassador to the Netherlands by President Woodrow Wilson prior to the outbreak of World War I. Craig Curry, who arranged this great hymn tune, is a graduate of Wheaton College Conservatory of Music and the University of Miami. He is an active composer whose arrangements and compositions have been widely performed.

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.

Our final offering of MASS APPEAL will be Sunday, May 19, 2024 - *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. *Gospel Mass* will be offered in memory of Ron McCowan, our beloved Chancel Choir bass section leader for more than 25 years, who entered that eternal "home in that Rock" on March 4, 2024.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Jeff Carlson, Matt Fitzgerald, 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: Denise Beitelschmidt

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, John Balevic, David Faulkner

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

This week's altar flowers are given by Mercedes Ridao.

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. 24 Kristen Lightfoot

Mar. 26 Andrew Hein, Anna Titcomb, Bill Rodriguez, Mark Swanson, Matthew Scholes, Molly Dierks, Nick Richardson

Mar. 27 Ivy Combs, Melinda Morrissey, Michael Weiskirch

Mar. 28 Adam Houser, Charlotte Crouch

Mar. 29 Jennifer Poynton

Mar. 30 Brendan Henry, Mark Pellegrino



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. - 9 p.m.

Dramatic Presentation of Mark's Gospel

RSVP <https://tinyurl.com/2p92a2ud> 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 - EASTER EGG HUNT - 11 a.m., Social Hall

Following worship, children and their parents are invited for an egg hunt downstairs in the classrooms by the Social Hall. Join us for coffee and refreshments in the Social Hall with a special visit from the Easter Bunny.

TODAY - 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.

MARCH 26 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL LUNCH GROUP - 12-1:30 pm., Social Hall

Program facilitated by Senior Pastor Matt Fitzgerald. Adults of all ages are invited. Make new friends and connect with old ones with lunch (please bring your own), fellowship, fun and faith. You may register here: tinyurl.com/2p3w8jnf.

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 or contact David Burnett at burnett.db@gmail.com

APRIL 7 - PANCAKE CHURCH - 10 a.m., Gym

Our April 7, worship moves to the Gym for the return of Pancake Church! We'll sit at tables, have breakfast and worship together. Our youth, who are going to Tulsa in June for a week of service and learning with ministries doing the work of racial reconciliation, will cook and serve. Our free will offering that Sunday will go to support their fundraising goal of \$10,000. You can also support their trip online on our giving page by selecting "Youth Mission Trip."

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

Join us for Rebuilding Together Day on April 27! 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. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER WEEKEND COMMUNION SERVERS STILL URGENTLY NEEDED!

Good Friday and Easter are this coming weekend! 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 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). Register here: tinyurl.com/Little-Lights-Summer-Camp.

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 or contact David Burnett at burnett.db@gmail.com for updates.

"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. 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.

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

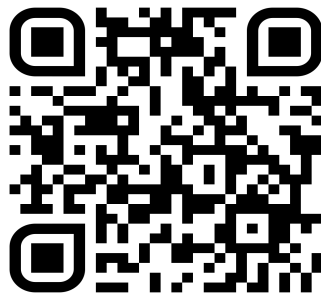
RECYCLE, REPURPOSE, REUSE

It is a long-standing tradition to buy something new to wear on Easter Sunday. As you think about your Easter “look” remember that most retailers base their business on getting trendy looks into stores quickly. Their focus is on speed and low prices; this combination translates into clothes which have a short life span in your closet and to poor working conditions in distant places such as Bangladesh or Vietnam. In addition, this type of manufacturing takes a heavy toll on the local environment, particularly on energy and water usage. Before buying anything new, consider what you already have in your closet and repurpose and reuse. If you must buy something new, do so at a secondhand shop, remembering to also give away or sell unwanted clothing. (*adapted from Green America’s “Green Your Life”*)



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.



GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

ACTIVISM & ADVOCACY MINISTRY – Do you have a passion for reaching out to others? The St. Pauls Activism & Advocacy Ministry would love you to join us in keeping our church engaged in community outreach. For more information, contact Jennifer Kew, JenniferLKew@gmail.com, or Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org.

BASKETBALL – Join us for a weekly Wednesday 7 p.m. pickup game! All skill levels welcome. Email Pastor Matt to get on the updates list, mfitzgerald@spucc.org.

THE BOOK NOOK – Find your next good read or drop off books to share in the Social Hall. Donations are welcome – just add them to the shelf for “New Arrivals” or leave them on the floor next to the bookcase. We appreciate all genres, including books for kids. Questions, contact Linda Nitzsche, lindanitz@yahoo.com.

CAREGIVERS' GROUP – A caregiving role can be a source of love, joy and considerable stress, but it's easier when it doesn't feel like you're the only one. The St. Pauls Caregivers' Group is an informal support group of people who are responsible for the care of parents, partners, friends, or children with illnesses or disabilities. We gather via Zoom the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 10 to 11 a.m. Contact Pam Woll pamelawoll@sbcglobal.net with questions, or info@spucc.org to be added to the email list.

CHURCH CENTER – spucc.churchcenter.com is our portal for St. Pauls members and friends. See our calendar, register for events, update your information, join our photo directory, manage your online donations, see your giving history, and more!

CHURCH SCHOOL – God created us to be creative and to create! This is our theme for Church School this year. Each child will learn that they were created in God's own image. They will learn to love and value all people and to love themselves. Please fill out the one-time registration for the '23-'24 school year below. We have a nursery for children under 2, Preschool Child Care for children 2-5, and Sunday School/Confirmation I & II for 5-year-olds to high school. Email questions to Children's Program Coordinator Danielle Mayfield at danielle.mayfield@spucc.org. Register here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1850397.

CONNECTORS reach out providing networking and support for members and friends of St. Pauls. Membership is open to all who have the time and the inclination to help. Contact Marcia Volk at marcia@volkonline.com.

EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM & CARDS – Follow this link for additional information: spucc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/178271.

GREEN TEAM – As people of faith, members of St. Pauls are called to “Care for Creation.” To that end, the Green Team is seeking new members, particularly young adults and youth, as we become a Creation Justice church recognized by the UCC. We would love to have you! If you are interested, please contact either of the new interim Green Team co-chairs, Ninon Freeman at nlanda05@yahoo.com or Rick Peterson at rnpeterson2017@gmail.com.

HANDWORK MEET-UP – If you enjoy handwork, you’re invited to sit together and stitch in community on the first Sunday of the month at our drop-in handwork group. We gather in a corner of the Social Hall for one hour after the worship service. New to handwork? We have expert knitters, crocheters, embroiderers, and sewers to help you get started with a project. We also welcome admirers of handwork should you wish to pull up a chair and join the conversation!

LITTLE LIGHTS is a St. Pauls early childhood program with classes for 2, 3, and 4-year-olds. We have limited spots remaining for the 2023/24 school year. Check out www.littlelightslp.org. If you would like to schedule a tour or have additional questions, contact Little Lights Director Erin Fitzgerald at littlelights@spucc.org.

MOMS’ GROUP – Being a mom is the hardest job in the world! So come to the Youth Lounge after worship on the second Sunday of each month to gather with other moms with newborns through 10 years and support each other! Each month will have a helpful theme for us to explore so we can become the best moms possible and form a tight-knit community. Free 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 or contact Pastor Liz at lnickerson@spucc.org.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES – Join pastors, members, and others curious about St. Pauls for an upcoming New Member Class. Together we'll talk about faith and our community, and we'd love for you to be part of the conversation! We'll meet after worship, and child care will be provided as needed (please let us know in your registration). See upcoming dates here: spucc.org/new_member_classes.

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.

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

SPARC (St. Pauls Anti-Racism Cluster) meets monthly to discern how we as a congregation can answer the call to live our faith in an age of injustice. We invite you to join us in identifying the educational opportunities, resources and actions to take on our journey toward racial justice. To participate or share your ideas, contact Cindy Ball at cindyzinn11@gmail.com.

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS – If you're in need of support through a tough time and would like to be matched with someone who would support you with companionship and prayer, or you're feeling called to offer support, speak to Pastor Jeff Carlson (jcarlson@spucc.org), Marti Pechnyo (mpechnyo@gmail.com), or Barb Kaiser (bkaiser2213@gmail.com).

UCC DAILY DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDE – Every day there is a scripture passage and reflection that you can sign up to receive in your inbox! This is a great way to make time to reflect on God each day and grow in your faith. To sign-up, visit ucc.org/daily-devotional.

YOUNG ADULTS – A group for fun and fellowship for folks in their twenties and thirties. Join our GroupMe group with the QR code or email us at youngadults@spucc.org.



YOUTH & FAMILY NEWSLETTER – Make sure you stay in the know with youth events! A weekly email is sent to parents to share activities, including Sunday School lessons and other useful news. Please contact Erin Fitzgerald at erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org to be added to the list.

YOUTH CHOIRS – If your child has any interest in music, please join us! Kecia Waldschmidt is leading Paul's People for 4th-8th graders. Breanna Coe and Karen Johnson are leading the Children's Choir for kids K-3rd grade. Rehearsals are 9:30 on Sunday mornings during the school year.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

ALTAR FLOWERS – Providing flowers for the altar is an excellent way to celebrate a special event in your life: an anniversary, a birthday, a holiday, or just because you like flowers. Sign up here: tinyurl.com/alter-flowers-2024.

COMMON PANTRY COMMUNION SUNDAYS – We're collecting food for the Common Pantry every communion Sunday - usually the first Sunday of the month. See their wish list for most-needed items here: commonpantry.org/donations. Modest sized products are best for distribution (e.g., a few 24 oz. containers of cooking oil are preferable to a 64 oz. container). Leave items in the Narthex bin.

CALL FOR LIVE STREAM VOLUNTEERS – Love all things digital, especially fancy devices? Got a knack for capturing special moments on camera? Love to chat with family, friends and others? Want to contribute to a key outreach effort of St. Pauls? If you answered yes to any of the above questions, the St. Pauls Streaming Team needs you. Our team is expanding its mission and can use your help. If interested, come see us in the balcony after the service or reach out to Brian Hafner (bhafner2@att.net) or Bob Ball (Robert.f.ball@outlook.com).

CONSIDER THE LILIES – Are you looking for a way to get involved with the life of St. Pauls? Join the team that delivers our Sunday altar flowers to members and friends who need to know St. Pauls is thinking of them. The flower ministry is flexible and meant to be an easy and rewarding experience. Team members sign up for approximately one Sunday every three months. It is amazing how this simple gesture brings such joy and feelings of love to the recipient – not to mention the joy and love experienced by the deliverer. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please email lilies@spucc.org or register here: <http://tinyurl.com/team-lilies>.

DRIVERS/TRANSPORTATION AIDES NEEDED FOR OLDER ADULTS – We are looking for volunteers to drive some older adults to church and accompany one of our congregants to church on Sunday mornings on the Pace bus round trip from their nursing facility. This is a great way for you to make a real difference for a fellow member. For questions or more information, please contact Pastor Liz at lnickerson@spucc.org.

GREETING TEAM – Would you consider being one of our Sunday morning greeters? Arrive at 9:30 a.m. and meet with ushers in the Narthex for quick announcements and a prayer. Then stand at the church doors and say "Hello" to attendees, greeting them with a smile, warm welcome and cheerfulness. The ushers are inside continuing to welcome attendees and distribute worship bulletins. Sign up here: <https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2003286>.

LPCS VOLUNTEERING – Lincoln Park Community Services has a new volunteer opportunity on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., or 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. You will prepare LPCS-provided lunches for their street outreach program and welcome folks coming for drop-in services. To learn more about this program, contact volunteer coordinator Lynne Brenan at lynnebrenan@yahoo.com or (630) 542-7012. Learn more here: tinyurl.com/4sfbcmpx.

POP TAB PROGRAM: RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITY – Help support the Ronald McDonald Charities by saving aluminum tabs from all kinds of cans: soda, canned foods, pet food, etc. Find a container and start collecting. Bring your pop tab donations to the Social Hall and add them to our collection bin. This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce young children to helping others and recycling. Little things like pop tabs can make a big difference!

SCRIPTURE READER VOLUNTEERS – Volunteers are needed for the 10 a.m. in-person worship service each week to read the scripture passage of the day. Learn more and sign up here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1967800.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

For St. Pauls-sponsored events, send to info@spucc.org by 10 a.m. on Wednesdays for publication in the Friday email and next Sunday bulletin. Share personal announcements/ events on our Facebook group 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.

- Prayers for the family and friends of Ron McCowan at his death.
- Prayers for peace - in our city, nation and world.
- Prayers for Donn Schimp and his family as Donn begins cancer treatment.
- 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):*

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

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

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

Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, jcarlson@spucc.org

Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, lnickerson@spucc.org

For a complete list of St. Pauls Staff, Governance, and Lay Leadership
Please visit www.spucc.org/contact

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

Free Parking is available Sundays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
at the Lincoln Common Parking Garage, 2316 N. Lincoln Ave.
Parking validation is available in the Narthex.



WELCOME TO SAINT PAULS UCC!

Welcome to those whose hearts are on fire with faith,
and to those who bring their doubt inside our doors.

Welcome to our first time guests and
our longtime members.

Welcome to single people, tiny children,
grandparents and families of all configurations.

Welcome to those who rejoice and to those who grieve.

Welcome to LGBTQ+ people.

Welcome to each and to everyone.

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