

Third Sunday in Lent
Intergenerational Orchestra
Annual Meeting
March 3, 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

PRELUDE

Allegro giocoso
Symphony No.4 in E Minor, Op. 98
Intergenerational Orchestra
Mark Mosley, conductor

Johannes Brahms

CHIMES

INTROIT

Creator God, Creating Still
Chancel Choir

WELCOME

Liz Nickerson

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We ask ourselves, "Who am I to be brilliant, talented, fabulous?"

All: Actually, who are you not to be?

One: You are a child of God, redeemed by Christ!

All: Our playing small doesn't serve the world.

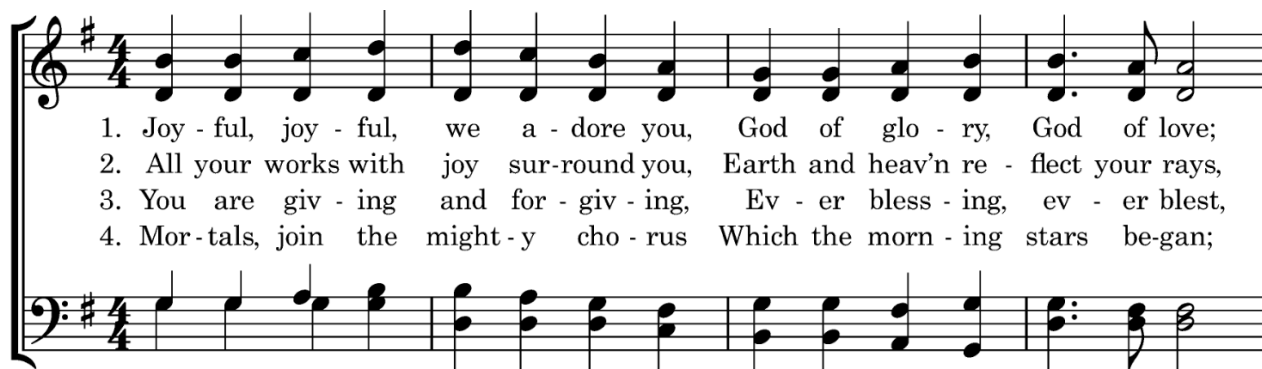
One: We are born to manifest the glory God has given us.

All: Saint Pauls exists to be Christ's body!

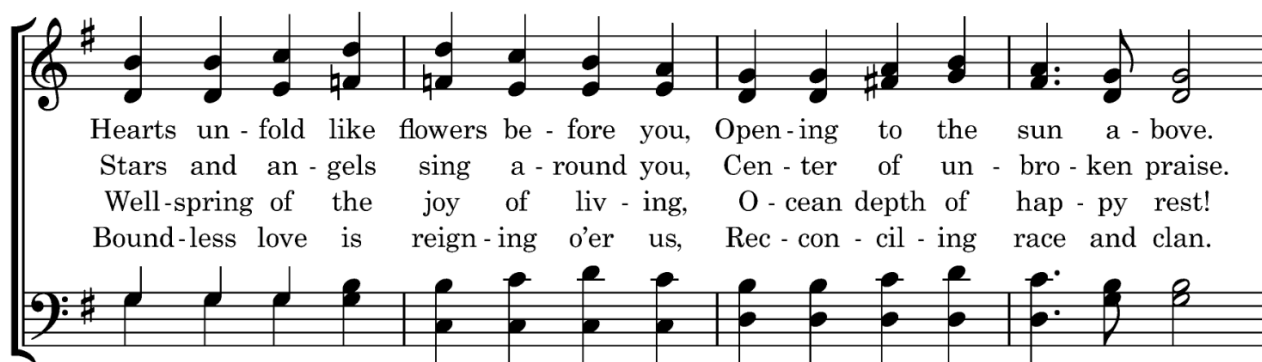
** Please stand if you are able to do so.*

* HYMN

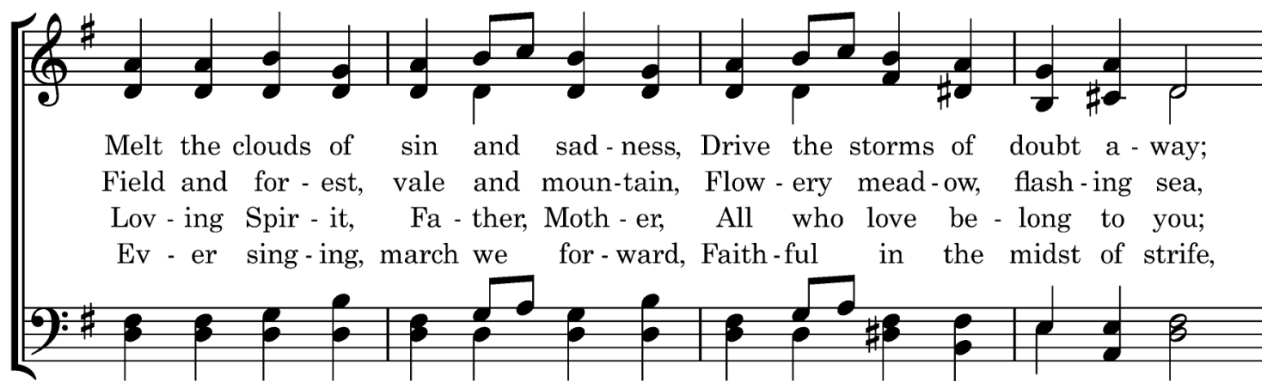
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



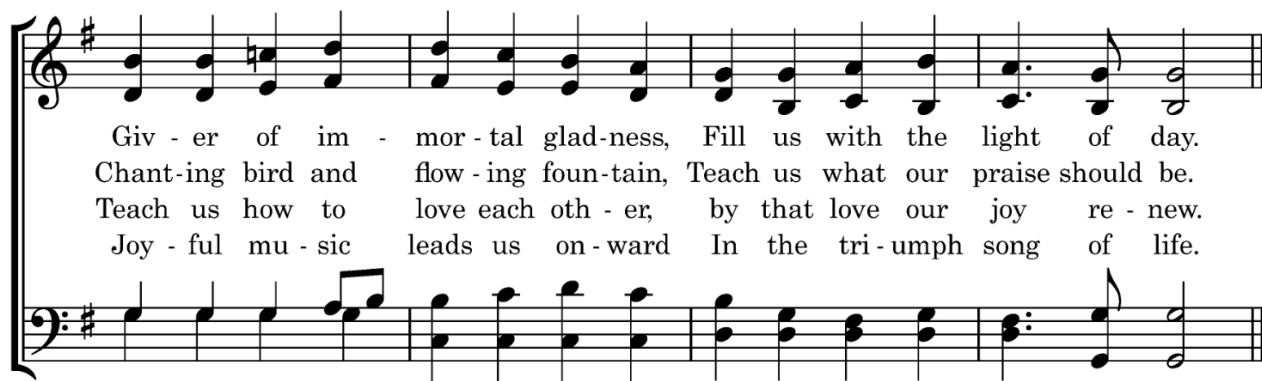
1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;
2. All your works with joy sur-round you, Earth and heav'n re - flect your rays,
3. You are giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
4. Mor - tals, join the might - y cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be-gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round you, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Bound-less love is reign - ing o'er us, Rec - con - cil - ing race and clan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the storms of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Lov - ing Spir - it, Fa - ther, Moth - er, All who love be - long to you;
Ev - er sing - ing, march we for - ward, Faith - ful in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant-ing bird and flow - ing foun-tain, Teach us what our praise should be.
Teach us how to love each oth - er, by that love our joy re - new.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us on - ward In the tri - umph song of life.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jeff Carlson

**Oh God, we give you all that we are carrying.
Our cares, that you may care for them.
Our fears, that you may quiet them.
Our thoughts, that you may cleanse them.
Our sins that you may forgive them.
Our lives, that you may guide them.
Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM

Schaffe in mir, Gott, ein rein Herz
(Sung in German)
Chancel Choir

Johannes Brahms

Create in me, O God, a pure heart,
And grant anew, grant a right spirit within me.
Psalm 51: 10

THE BIBLICAL WORD FOR THE DAY

Mark Huddle

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 MSG, NRSV

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are hellbent on destruction, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written:

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
and I will thwart the cleverness of the clever."

Where can you find someone truly wise, truly educated, truly intelligent in this day and age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of what we preach, to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called - Jews and Greeks - Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

*** 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

Were You There

v. 1

1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?_____ Were you
2. Were you there when he rose up from the tomb?_____ Were you

there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Oh!
there when he rose up from the tomb?

Some-times it cau - ses me to trem-ble, trem - ble, trem - ble._____

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?_____
Were you there when he rose up from the tomb?_____

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. It features two systems of staves. The first system contains the first two verses of the hymn. The second system contains the third verse, a response line, and the final verse. The lyrics are printed below the staves, with blank lines for the response lines. The music includes various chords and melodic lines for each voice part.

SERMON

"Stronger than Strength"

Matt Fitzgerald

* HYMN

Were You There
See previous hymn

v. 2

GIVING MOMENT

Micki Fayhee

OFFERTORY

Allegretto grazioso
Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 73
Intergenerational Orchestra

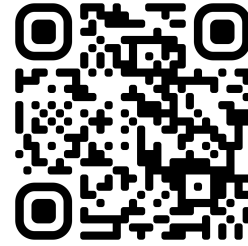
Johannes Brahms

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

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 THANKSGIVING

* HYMN

A Mighty Fortress



1. A might - y for - tress is — our God, a bul - wark nev - er
2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
3. And though this world with dev - ils filled should threat - en to un -
4. That word be - yond all earth - ly powers for - ev - er is a -



fail - - ing, Our pres - ent help — a - mid the flood of
 los - - ing, But there is one — who takes our side, the
 - do — us, We will not fear — for God — has willed the
 - bid - - ing; The spir - it and — the gifts — are ours, for



mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe does
 One of God's own choos - ing. You ask who that may be? Christ
 truth to tri - umph through us. The powers of e - vil grim, we
 Christ is with us sid - ing. Let goods and kin - dred go, this



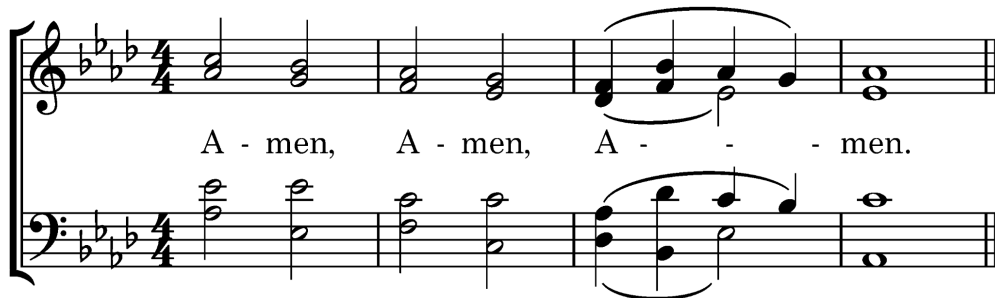
seek to work us woe with craft and pow - er great, and
 Je - sus sets us free! With might - y power to save, vic -
 trem - ble not for them; their rage we can en - dure, for
 mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may kill; God's



armed with cru - el hate, on earth with - out an e - - qual.
 - to - rious o'er the grave, Christ will pre - vail tri - um - phant.
 lo, their doom is sure: one lit - tle word shall fell — them.
 truth shall tri - umph still; God's reign en - dures for - ev - - er.

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

Hornpipe
from *Water Music*
Intergenerational Orchestra

G. F. Handel

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 to stay in the Sanctuary for the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Congregation of St. Pauls.

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.

Members have voice and vote; Friends have voice.

Scan this code with your cell phone camera to view the meeting packet, or pick up a paper copy at an entrance to the sanctuary.



ABOUT THE INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA

Our Intergenerational Orchestra has been “Making a Joyful Sound in the City” since 2002. This is our 26th performance in worship. The orchestra is composed of musicians of all ages and abilities from the congregation. More than 200 people have performed in the group, and 33 families have had two or more members participate.

TODAY'S MUSIC

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) was one of the leading composers of the Romantic era. Born in Hamburg, he spent most of his life in Vienna. Brahms was both a respectful traditionalist and a subtle innovator; his music expresses romantic motifs within traditional structures.

Prelude: His *Symphony No. 4 in E Minor, Op. 98* is the last of his symphonies, written in 1884. The third movement is in C major, full of bright and vigorous energy.

Creator God, Creating Still is a text created in 1977 by well known contemporary hymn writer Jane Parker Huber (1926-2008). Her parents were Presbyterian missionaries. Her husband became a Presbyterian pastor and she served on a number of Presbyterian national committees including a three-year term as president of the Council on Women. She wrote more than 30 new hymn texts, often to familiar traditional tunes. The tune, ST. ANNE, was likely composed in 1708 by William Croft (1677-1727) in London. He became the organist at Westminster Cathedral. As a side note, Bach's famous *Prelude and Fugue in E Flat Major BWV 552* (1735-36) is often referred to as "St. Anne," because Bach seems to quote that tune in the final theme of the "triple fugue." There is no way Bach would have heard or known that tune, but it certainly is an interesting apocryphal story.

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.

Anthem: Brahms composed ***Schaffe in mir, Gott (Create in Me, O God), Op. 29 No. 2*** in 1860 based on verses from Psalm 51. This motet was composed during the very long gestation of his *Symphony No. 1 in C Minor* (1856-1876). The second motet employs the text from Psalm 51:10. Brahms also uses a contrapuntal device, augmentation, in this piece. The bass part is exactly the same notes as the soprano part but "augmented" or stretched out over double the length of the soprano melody. The fact that Brahms is able to use a compositional tool but make it sound effortless and beautiful is a tribute to his skill and artistry as a composer. Brahms was a disciple of Bach in that he was steeped in the beauty of the structure of harmony and counterpoint in composition.

Offertory: His *Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 73* was written in 1877. The third movement is a graceful and idyllic minuet in G major, very similar in character to some of Dvorak's *Slavonic Dances*.

A Mighty Fortress is arguably the greatest Martin Luther (1483-1546) hymn and encapsulated the theology of the Lutheran Church. The tune name, EIN FESTE BURG, are the first three words of the original German text. Luther's original version is almost dance-like in rhythm. The recessional hymn presents a more majestic march.

Postlude: Baroque composer George Frideric Handel (1685–1759) was born in Halle, Germany in the same year as J. S. Bach. Handel worked as a composer in Hamburg and Italy before settling in London in 1712. He is most famous for his English oratorios, especially *Messiah*. Handel wrote his *Water Music* in 1717 in response to King George I's request for a public concert on the River Thames. Its 18 movements were performed three times by 50 musicians on a floating barge – first while docked for the concert, again while accompanying the king traveling from Whitehall Palace to Chelsea, and a third time on their return (about four hours of performance).

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

Once again, there is a theme for special music during the 2023-2024 season offered by our Chancel Choir during our 10 a.m. Sunday morning worship services. Please add these remaining dates to your calendar and please invite your friends to join us in person or online at spucc.org/streaming.

Mass Appeal is a way to look at one of the oldest forms of Christian liturgical worship in three very different ways. The goal is to share how the words of the liturgical Mass can be expressed in varied musical styles but always with the same goal: expressing the spiritual joy, longing, majesty, and supplication.

Sunday, March 17, 2024 - *Messe solennelle* by Louis Vierne. This French Romantic setting in Latin was composed for choir and organ in 1899. It showcases beautiful and majestic writing for both choir and a pipe organ with the breadth of colors available on our Phoenix and the talents of Kevin Dzierzawski.

Sunday, May 19, 2024 - *A Gospel Mass* was composed in 1982 by Robert Ray. This wonderful setting, largely in English, marries the spiritual energy and uplift of Gospel music with the timeless words of the Mass ordinary. This gives us a chance to showcase not only the Chancel Choir, but also our incredible St. Arbucks Quartet.

INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA

Mark Mosley, conductor

Violin

Sylvia Pine
Ashley Pensinger-Sok
Mark Roschen
Julian Jarzebowski
Mia Pensinger-Sok
Leo Pensinger-Sok
Rachel Barton-Pine*

Viola

David Berghoff
Fanny Hothan

Cello

Owen Waldschmidt
Ross Penniman
Sue Finkle
Bobbi Gannello

String Bass

Pete Mazzeri

Flute

Penny Trowbridge
Shannon Banjavcic
Kecia Waldschmidt
Solveig Roverud

Oboe

Julie Schneider+

Clarinet

Greg Clemons*
Kurt Hansen
Zach Plata+
Kevin Moran+

Bass Clarinet

Erik Juhl+

Bassoon

Katy Reed+

Trumpet

Jake Nitzsche
Jim Brandt
David Baker
Marie Ankenman
Max Waldschmidt
Lee Waldschmidt*

Horn

Tom Clancy
Rick Peterson
Nancy Pifer

Trombone

Lorne Frank
Nathan Chamberlain
Lola Stevenson*

Baritone Horn

Mark Swanson

Timpani

Ralph Wiser

Percussion

Sarah Good Mosley
Anna Mariani+
Cecilia Chamberlain

* First time participant

+ Guest participant

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Liz Nickerson, Jeff Carlson, Matt Fitzgerald

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 Huddle

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: Doug Clark, David Faulkner, Fred Pearson

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are from Char and Larry Damron in recognition of the volunteers who make St. Pauls a Community of Faith. Without them, we would be in chaos.

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. 3 David Schmahl, Lothar Wiebe, Matthew Molvar, Roger Fannin, Terrill Stumpf

MAR. 4 Martha Sanders, Sue Finkle

MAR. 5 Arlo Brinkoetter, Sherry Smith, Winona Koldyke

MAR. 6 Jameson Beck, Marcia Gulbrandsen

MAR. 7 Amy Barton, Rick Perterson

MAR. 8 Kat Baumann

MAR. 9 Beth Wiser, Greg Basil, Kimberly Carter, Sean Banjavcic

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

*Scan here
for Lent Info:*



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 10 - WHAT'S HAPPENING AT UCAN? - 11:15, Oscar Mayer Room
Stephanie Franklin, Senior Vice President of Family and Transition Services at UCAN will be with us to tell us 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>.

MARCH 10 - MOMS' GROUP - 11:15 -12:30 p.m., Youth Lounge - Gather with other moms with newborns through 10-year-olds to support each other! Each month will have a helpful theme for us to explore so we can become the best moms possible and form a tight-knit community. Free childcare provided. Contact Pastor Liz at lnickerson@spucc.org.

MARCH 11 - PIE BAKING CLASS - 5:45 p.m., Kitchen
In preparation for π (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>.

MARCH 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 \$115 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 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 tinyurl.com/SPUCC-blood-drive 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 or (312) 848-5400.



MAR. 17 - PRESENTATION ON BRING HOME CHICAGO - 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary
Representatives from One Northside will be hosting a meeting after church to present the Bring Home Chicago transfer tax referendum to address homelessness. Contact St. Pauls hosts Peg Wander, peg_wander@yahoo.com, or Carrie Bruggers, crbruggs@gmail.com, for more information. Let them know you're coming by registering here: <http://tinyurl.com/36sj5hn2>.

MAR. 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.

MAR. 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>.

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.

MAR. 24 - CLEAN-SLATE TEACH-IN - 11:15, 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>.

APR. 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. 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

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/4e6dac7. Khalidi, a Palestinian American professor at Columbia University, is one of the foremost historians on the Middle East. This book offers a necessary reframing of the current crisis in Gaza, and illuminates paths not taken to a just peace. First discussion via Zoom Tuesday, February 27 at 7 p.m. All are welcome! To sign up, visit: tinyurl.com/Palestine-Study-Group. Contact David Burnett at 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. 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.

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.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

Make your vote count in this important primary on March 19! Voters will select their party (Democrat or Republican) nominees for 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 and suburban primary races on your jurisdiction's website.

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

Giving Up Plastic for Lent

During Lent it is appropriate to give up all manner of things, including plastics.

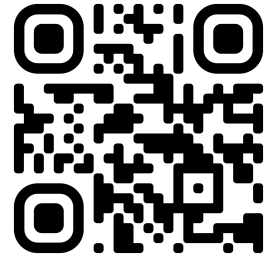
During Lent, increase your consciousness about how much plastic you are using. As you plan Easter celebrations, announce to your guests that your celebration will be plastic-free by:

- Using washable plates, utensils and cups;
- Or, use bamboo-based products, which are compostable or biodegradable;
- Use cloth napkins and tablecloths;
- Choose beverages which come in glass or aluminum containers; or, better yet, have beverages which you make yourself;
- Send guests home with food wrapped in wax paper, paper boxes and in paper bags.

PLEDGING & GIVING INFORMATION

PLEDGE WITH BOLD GRATITUDE FOR 2024

Thank you to everyone who has already made a pledge for 2024! Your generous support of St. Pauls is greatly needed and much appreciated. If you have yet to pledge your time, talents or treasures for 2024, you can fill out a paper pledge form and put it in the offering tray or return it to the office. Or, you can pledge online at spucc.org/pledge or by scanning this QR code.



Making a pledge shares with us your intention to donate your time, talents and financial support. This information helps us plan and budget for the upcoming year.

Important Note: If your pledged financial support for 2024 is changing from this year, and you have a current recurring donation set up through one of our donation options, please adjust your recurring donation accordingly. Pledge forms do not authorize St. Pauls to create or update recurring donations. Email bookkeeper@spucc.org with questions or for help.

IRA QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

If you have an IRA and are required, or will be required, to take a minimum annual distribution (RMD) from your account, you may be interested to know that there are tax advantages to taking your distribution as a direct contribution to a charitable organization such as St. Pauls.

If the distribution is made directly from your IRA to St. Pauls, then you enjoy two tax benefits: 1) the distribution does not count as taxable income and 2) the distribution does count towards satisfying your RMD if over age 73. The gift, called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), must go directly from your IRA to the organization, and your total gifts cannot exceed \$100,000 per year. You can make QCDs after you reach age 70 ½, which is earlier than the current RMD age of 73. You cannot make QCDs from your 401K; it has to be rolled into an IRA first.

With the 2017 changes in the tax law, some have lost the ability to itemize their deductions, including charitable contributions, and are now taking the higher standard deduction. Making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a great way to still get a tax benefit for charitable giving. If you have questions about QCDs, consult your tax or financial advisor. Members of the Finance Committee are able to provide more information as well. Reach out to Committee chair Sally Fletcher at Treasurer@SPUCC.org.

GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

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

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

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 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), Marti Pechnyo (mpechnyo@gmail.com), or Barb Kaiser (bkaiser2213@gmail.com).

TUESDAY NIGHT PICKLEBALL – 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: 5:30-8:00 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.

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

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



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

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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.

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.