

April 21, 2024  
Fourth Sunday of Eastertide  
Baptism and  
New Member Sunday

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

"Let the stars be a heaven of jelly rolls and babies laughing."

Anne Sexton

PRELUDE

*People Get Ready*  
St. Arbucks Quartet

Curtis Mayfield

INTROIT

*An Easter Carillon*  
Chancel Choir

W. Leonard Beck

The whole bright world rejoices now, Alleluia.  
The birds do sing on every bough, Alleluia.  
Then sing beneath the racing skies, Alleluia.  
To him who rose that we might rise, Alleluia.

WELCOME

Liz Nickerson

\* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We were ensnared and lost.

**All: Christ came down to be our Shepherd.**

One: Freeing us into stillness and green beauty.

**All: Chasing us with goodness and mercy.**

One: In the true Shepherd's care, the false just fades away.

**All: Let us dwell in God's house forever!**

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

\* HYMN

*The Lord's My Shepherd*



1. The Lord's my shep - herd, I'll not want, He makes me down to lie
2. My soul he doth re - store a - gain, And me to walk doth make
3. Yea, though I pass through shad-owed vale, Yet will I fear no ill;
4. My ta - ble thou hast fur - nish - ed In pres-ence of my foes;
5. Good - ness and mer - cy all my days Will sure - ly fol - low me;



In pas-tures green, he lead-eth me The qui - et wa - ters by.  
With - in the paths of bless-ed - ness, E'en for his own name's sake,  
For thou art with me and thy rod And staff me com - fort still.  
My head with oil thou dost a - noint, And my cup o - ver - flows.  
And in my Fa - ther's heart al - way My dwell-ing place shall be,



He lead-eth me, he lead-eth me, The qui - et wa - ters by.  
With - in the paths of bless-ed - ness, E'en for his own name's sake.  
Thy rod and staff me com - fort still, Me com - fort still.  
My head thou dost with oil a - noint, And my cup o - ver - flows.  
And in my heart for - ev - er - more Thy dwell-ing place shall be.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *based on Psalm 23*

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**Give us more. Our song is *more*.**

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

**You cannot make us rest!**

**We crave rapids and crashing waves.**

**Our souls thirst.**

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

**We drag our feet and resent being led.**

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

**You, Lord, have conquered death forever. Help our unbelief.**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

**Help us see the abundant life you give.**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.

**Follow us, Lord! Lead us!**

**Let us dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## RESPONSE

*Child of Blessing*

v. 1

1. Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap-tized with the Spir - it's sign;  
2. Child of love, our love's ex - pres-sion, love's cre - a - tion, loved in - deed!  
3. Child of joy, our dear - est trea-sure, God's you are, from God you came,

With this wa - ter God has sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.  
Fresh from God, re - fresh our spir - its, in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.  
Back to God we hum - bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Child of Blessing'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system contains three verses of the hymn. The second system contains the concluding lines of the hymn.

## THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM OF

Maximilian Blair Shirk Jones

Pastor: Max, receive now the Light of Christ. May you walk always as a child of light. May your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to God. Max is now received into the love and care of the church. See what love God has given us that we should be called children of God.

**All: Almighty God, giver of life, you have called us by name and pledged to each of us your faithful love. We pray for your child, Max. Inspire his life. May he sing many songs, know many joys, heal many wounds, and embrace many people in your name. We pray for his parents, that they may be guided by your love so that they may know your presence. May we walk together with this family as witnesses to your gospel, as those for whom you have lived and died and live again. Amen.**

Pastor: Max, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you always.

**All: Amen**

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

RESPONSE

*Child of Blessing*  
See previous hymn

vv. 2 & 3

SCRIPTURE

Mark Sancya

*John 10:1-17*


“I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd puts the sheep before himself, sacrifices himself if necessary. A hired man is not a real shepherd. The sheep mean nothing to him. He sees a wolf coming and he runs away, leaving the sheep to be ravaged and scattered by the wolf. He’s only in it for the money. The sheep don’t matter to him.”

“I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own sheep and my own sheep know me. In the same way, the Father knows me and I know the Father. I lay down my life for the sheep. You need to know that I have other sheep in addition to those in this pen. I need to gather and bring them, too. They’ll also recognize my voice. Then it will be one flock, one Shepherd. This is why the Father loves me: because I freely lay down my life. And so I am free to take it up again.”


## RESPONSE

*Called as Partners in Christ's Service*


vv. 1 &amp; 2




1. Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min - is - tries of\_\_ grace,  
2. Christ's ex - am - ple, Christ's in - spir - ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,  
3. Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob - al\_\_ sense,  
4. So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or - der hu - man life



We re-pond with deep com - mit - ment fresh new lines of faith to\_\_ trace.  
Let us fol - low, nev - er\_\_ fal - tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on\_\_ earth.  
Help us bear each oth - er's\_\_ bur - dens, break - ing down each wall or\_\_ fence.  
That sur-round each per - son's sor - row with a calm that con - quers strife.




May we learn the art of\_\_ shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,  
Men and wom - en, rich - er,\_\_ poor - er, all God's peo - ple, young and\_\_ old,  
Words of com - fort, words of\_\_ vi - sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,  
Make us part-ners in our liv - ing, our com - pas - sion to in - crease,



E - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.  
Blend-ing hu - man skills to - geth - er gra - cious gifts from God un - fold.  
Bring new power and strength for ac - tion, make us col - leagues, free and fair.  
Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv - ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

## \* HYMN

*My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*


1. My\_ shep - herd will sup - ply my\_ need; Je - ho - vah  
 2. When I walk through the shades of\_ death Thy pres - ence  
 3. The sure pro - vi - sions of my\_ God At - tend me

is his name: In\_ pas - tures fresh he makes me\_ feed, Be -  
 is my stay; One word of\_ thy sup - port - ing\_ breath Drives  
 all my days; O\_ may thy\_ house be my a - bode, And

-side the liv - ing stream. He brings my\_ wan - dering spir - it\_  
 all my fears a - way. Thy hand, in\_ sight of all my\_  
 all my work be praise. There would I\_ find a set - tled

back, When I for - sake his ways; And\_ leads me,\_  
 foes, Doth still my\_ ta - ble spread; My\_ cup with  
 rest, While oth - ers\_ go and come; No\_ more a\_

for his mer - cy's\_ sake, In\_ paths of truth and grace.  
 bless - ings o - ver - flows, Thine oil a - noints my head.  
 stran - ger, nor a\_ guest, But\_ like a child at home.

## OFFERTORY

*Alleluia*

Randall Thompson

Chancel Choir

Alleluia!

*Means Praise the Lord! in Greek.**Hallelujah! means the same thing in Hebrew*

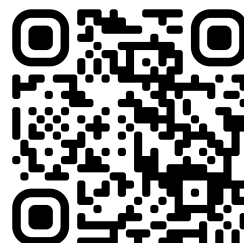


*You can give to St. Pauls electronically by:*

*Scanning this code with your cell phone camera,*

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

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



**\* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY**

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

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

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

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

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

## A Dialogue on Our Statement of Faith

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**All: Together we will proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life and death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### 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

*Thank Our God for Christian Siblings*



1. Thank our God for Chris-tian sib - lings, one by grace, in har - mo - ny,
2. Praise to God for con - gre - ga - tions, keep-ing faith with Christ as guide;
3. Ho - ly is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re-main;



Join - ing heart to heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.  
Man - y tongues of man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.  
Bless the church's new en - deav - ors; make our wit - ness one a - gain.



With the cross of Christ our stan-dard, let us sing as with one voice,  
Sweet the psalm and sweet the car - ol, when our song is raised as one.  
One in Christ and in Christ's gos-pel, make us one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the prom-ise: we who are the church re - joice.  
Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.  
Glo - ry, glo - ry, yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

\* BENEDICTION

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

*Fugue in C Major, BuxWV 174*

Dietrich Buxtehude

Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

*The rose in the Chancel this morning signifies the birth of Felix Goddard De Haan, born on April 5, 2024 to Blair and Derek De Haan.*

*If you would like someone to pray with you today, Stephen Ministers are present after the postlude at the right front of the Sanctuary.*

*Following Worship, all are invited for coffee and snacks in the Social Hall, downstairs, directly beneath the Sanctuary.*

**PEACE CANDLE** - We have added a peace candle to the Chancel. Jesus said blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God. Please pray for peace daily for all the current wars raging in the world and in our hearts.

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

**Clergy:** Liz Nickerson, 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

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

**Head Ushers:** Doug Clark, Beatrice Jaji

**Ushers:** Doug Clark, David Faulkner, Mary Hoffman, Fred Pearson

**Gatekeeper:** Dodd Brown

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

**Custodian:** Vincent Luri

*This week's altar flowers are given by Candace Huber.*

## **BORN THIS WEEK IN APRIL**

*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.*

April 21 Aileen Schloerb, Alex Baker, Bennett Grosshans, Mason Saltarelli,  
Tahra Workman Mandell  
April 22 Jack Lyons, Kyle Nitzsche  
April 23 Preston Schwab  
April 24 Debra Kent, Mary Heffernan  
April 25 Caroline Heffernan, Isaac Broderick, Rick Bail  
April 26 Julien Braun, Kate DeMonte, Kecia Waldschmidt, Oscar Hull  
April 27 Elizabeth Clarke

## **INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES**

- Childcare is available for babies and toddlers up to age 5 during worship from 10 to 11 a.m. downstairs in the Nursery and Toddler Room. Activity “busy bags” are available in the Narthex for children to use during the service.
- SUNDAY SCHOOL and CONFIRMATION classes are in session. Students are dismissed with their teachers during the worship service and parents pick up children after the service in their classrooms.
- High School Sunday School class meets on the first and third Sundays of the month. Remaining spring dates are: April 21; May 5, 19; June 2, 16. High schoolers meet immediately following the service downstairs in the Youth Lounge. Parents and teens should join the High School GroupMe for up-to-date information.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Our names are **Tara and Tom Stephenson**. We recently returned to Chicago after a 40-year absence, having spent our professional careers and raising our two sons in the Philadelphia suburbs. Tom is a retired college professor (chemistry) and Tara is a retired corporate finance consultant. We met in Chicago while we were both in graduate school and currently live in Lakeview East, although we spend summers in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. As active participants in the worship and outreach ministries of our former congregation (Swarthmore Presbyterian Church), we look forward to joining a vital faith community, some of the many service opportunities at Saint Pauls, and sharing our lifelong interests in hiking, travel, learning, cooking (eating!) and reading.



My name is **Chris Frumkin**. I grew up in the city of Hayward, a suburb of San Francisco California. In 1996, I met my wife while living in San Francisco and followed her to Chicago where she grew up. We married in 1998 and bought a two-flat (real fixer-upper!!) in Andersonville where we raised two wonderful children. I was a stay-at-home dad until they were in middle school. Back then, I also had a handyman/contractor business while my wife focused on her law career. Our kids attended Chicago public schools and have both graduated college. My thing is music, both playing and listening. I also love to cook. I swim a few miles per week and enjoy walking in the morning. My wife, with two partners, started a law firm in 2016 and I have been working there part time as an office coordinator since the first day.



**Tahra Workman-Mandell and Keith Mandell** met in German class at Northwestern University many decades ago. Tahra is from Philadelphia and Keith is from Chicago. They got married on December 31, 1999, in Philadelphia and then moved to Chicago where they first had two cat children (Socks and Suave), and then welcomed three human children (Marinel, who is graduating from Northside College Prep High School in May, Maura who is a second grader and four-year-old Mark). They are joined by canine son Chewy, feline son Bolt, and leporine daughter Snow Soft Bunny Boots. Keith's dream job is to become a

filmmaker, while Tahra would love to organize fun parties for kids like she has enjoyed creating for her own kids.



I'm **Elaine Filus**. After spending my childhood years in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, I came to the Midwest to attend Wheaton College. I've now spent my entire adult life (so far) in Chicago, and have lived in Andersonville for many years. A retired financial professional, I love reading, power walks on the lakefront and forest preserves, traveling, scuba diving, yoga, cooking, movies, and playing with friends in any of the above activities. I'm excited to find such a warm, comfortable community at St. Pauls and look forward to sharing with you the work and the joy of Christ's kingdom.



My name is **Audrey Bettner** and I grew up in Brownsburg, Indiana (just outside of Indianapolis). I am an Indiana University alum (Go Hoosiers!) and currently work as a supply chain consultant. I travel a lot for work and most recently have been to Cambridge, London and Dublin. I moved to the Lincoln Park area in October 2022. Over the past year and a half that I've lived in Chicago, I've loved trying new restaurants, playing softball and volleyball, and enjoying Chicago summers as much as possible.





with our children, we are excited to make new connections, and continue our journey of spiritual growth here at St. Pauls.

Our names are **David Shu** and **Suisui Song**. We were both born in China and immigrated to the United States in the early 1990s. We met and got married in Chicago. We have two girls ages 8 and 10 and live in Lincoln Park. We were drawn to St. Pauls because of its uplifting sermons and music. Moreover, the community here is exactly what we were looking for. As we come from a different cultural background, it is important for us to be part of a community that embraces and promotes diversity and acceptance. We feel this is a place where love, support and fellowship are abundantly shared among its members. Together



My name is **Trevor Sidewand**. I hail from a small rural community outside of Cleveland and have lived all over the United States and Europe. I am currently living full-ish in Chicago with my partner! Professionally, I've been educated as a biomedical engineer, worked as a journalist and VC, and have owned my own company for the last three years. I enjoy playing basketball, golf, pickleball, watching sports (especially Cleveland sports), writing, watching documentaries, traveling, spending time with great friends, and cooking/eating great food. I look forward to meeting each and every one of you. Don't hesitate to say hey!



**Helen** and **Paul Chang** have been living in Lincoln Park for 17 years. Helen is a healthcare executive consultant and coach; Paul is a physician and professor at the University of Chicago School of Medicine. They have two grown children and two granddaughters. Helen and Paul are avid golfers and love traveling. Paul also enjoys photography, FPV drone racing and spends too much time taking care of his reef tank. Helen loves reading and outdoor activities.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **APRIL 23 and 30 - 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).

### **APRIL 23 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL LUNCH GROUP** - 12-1:30 pm., Social Hall

“What Does Vinegar Have To Do with Creation Justice?” facilitated by Barbara Kaiser and Marcia Knudson. 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](http://tinyurl.com/2p3w8jnf). Remember, **April** is Earth Month! Earth Day is April 22 and this year's theme is "Planet vs. Plastics." Let's all take action to protect our planet from plastic pollution.

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

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to join us for Rebuilding Together Day on Saturday, April 27. The response was wonderful. We are currently fully staffed for this year. If you did not get a chance to join us but you think that you might like to be involved next year, or if you want to be on our waitlist for this year, please send an email to Volunteer Coordinator Pat Ruch at [pmr.ruch@gmail.com](mailto:pmr.ruch@gmail.com). The home we work on is chosen in December; if we have enough interest, we might get a second house next year!

### **MAY 3 - SILENT MOVIE WITH ORGAN ACCOMPANIMENT - FREE** - 7:30 p.m.,

In our Sanctuary, the Chicago Chapter of the American Guild of Organists presents a silent film: Buster Keaton's “The Navigator” accompanied by Jason Roberts, nationally known recitalist, on our Phoenix Aeolian-Skinner Organ.

### **MAY 4 - WORLD LABYRINTH DAY** - 12-2 p.m., Gym

(Come any time to allow completion by 2 p.m.)

World Labyrinth Day takes place every first Saturday in May, when thousands of people participate in meditation for world peace and a celebration of the labyrinth experience. Founded by The Labyrinth Society (TLS) in 2009, participants "Walk as One at 1" in their time zone, creating a rolling wave of peaceful energy passing from one time zone to the next. You can join the event at St. Pauls, where finger and floor labyrinths will be available. If you would like a short introduction to the labyrinth, join Pastor Liz Nickerson at noon in the Oscar Mayer Room. Invite someone to join you!

## **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**

### **WINDY CITY WINDS CONCERT – FRIDAY MAY 17 – “THE GREAT OUTDOORS”**

Windy City Winds, “Chicago’s Community Band,” invites you to our spring concert, “The Great Outdoors,” in the Sanctuary at 7:30 pm on Friday evening, May 17. The music will include Aaron Copland’s *An Outdoor Overture*, Ron Nelson’s *Rocky Point Holiday*, other works by Michael Daugherty and Cait Nishimura, and the world premiere of a new work written for Windy City Winds by Douglas Brandt (son of Jim and Nancy Brandt). Admission is free, and the concert will be livestreamed.

### **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 here: [tinyurl.com/Little-Lights-Summer-Camp](https://tinyurl.com/Little-Lights-Summer-Camp).

### **STEPHEN MINISTERS CARE**

When was the last time someone really listened to you, paying full attention to your needs? We need more Stephen Ministers at St. Pauls to provide that kind of care for those journeying through a life crisis. A training course is being planned for July and August in which Stephen Ministers are given all the tools they need for compassionate listening and knowing what - and what not - to say or do. Stephen Ministers provide care for care receivers, i.e., people in the congregation or community who are experiencing difficulties in life, such as grief, job loss, divorce, major illness, spiritual struggles, and so on. In the midst of challenging times,

receiving care from a Stephen Minister can make a significant difference. Pray about whether God might be calling you into this powerful ministry and if you're interested in learning more, contact Stephen Ministry Leader Marti Pechnyo, [mpechnyo@gmail.com](mailto:mpechnyo@gmail.com).

### **PALESTINE STUDY GROUP**

We will be discussing chapter two of Rashid Khalidi's *The Hundred Years' War on Palestine*, which covers the founding of the state of Israel and the Palestinian Nakba. All are welcome! Next meeting is Tuesday, April 23 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. 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).

### **"HEALING HEARTS" PET SUPPORT GROUP: ST. PAULS PET LOSS COMMUNITY**

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

### **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!**

Listen to our St. Arbucks Quartet's album, *Mid-Winter Gifts*, featuring the music played during our worship services. It's free on both Spotify [tinyurl.com/bdcpvedv](https://tinyurl.com/bdcpvedv) and Apple Music [tinyurl.com/39skfy9k](https://tinyurl.com/39skfy9k). Share the links with your friends; no account needed to listen.

### **USE OF CHURCH REVENUE TASK FORCE**

We are looking to increase the revenue the church receives from building rentals and user fees for events. We need your talent and creative ideas and are looking for people to serve on this task force to devise a plan. Interested? Contact Larry Damron at [lawrencedamron@gmail.com](mailto:lawrencedamron@gmail.com).

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

Please join Jim Brandt in discussing Robert P. Jones' book, *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy: and the Path to a Shared American Future*. Jones' reframing of American origins explains how the founders of the United States built the philosophical framework for a democratic society on a foundation of mass racial violence—and why this paradox survives today in the form of White Christian nationalism. How might we move beyond this to finally fulfill the promise of a pluralistic democracy? This presentation is in two parts, April 14 and April 28. Register for either or both at <https://tinyurl.com/yt7z4rwe>.

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

Take the Pledge: Give Up Single-Use Plastics

Have you ever considered how long it takes for single-use plastic to fully biodegrade? Single-use plastics such as straws, cups, plastic bags, account for half of the plastics we use. They have an average useful life of 12-15 minutes, yet they can take hundreds of years to degrade:

- Drinking straws - 200 years
- Plastic cutlery - 400 years
- Plastic cups - 100 years
- Plastic bags - 400 years

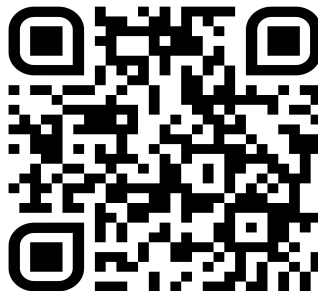
There are viable alternatives: natural cloth for plastic bags; paper and bamboo cutlery and cups for plastic ones; and durable drinking straws now made of recyclable materials such as stainless steel.

[Adapted from materials produced by the National Defense Council and Iberdola.]



**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](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 are welcome. Email Pastor Matt to get on the updates list, [mfitzgerald@spucc.org](mailto:mfitzgerald@spucc.org).

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

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

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

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

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

**EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM & CARDS** – Follow this link for additional information: [spucc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/178271](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/178271).

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

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

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

**MOMS’ GROUP** – Being a mom is the hardest job in the world! So come to the Youth Lounge after worship on the second Sunday of each month to gather with other moms with newborns through 10 years and support each other! Each month will have a helpful theme for us to explore so we can become the best moms possible and form a tight-knit community. Free child care by trained professionals is available in the church nursery on the south wall of the Social Hall. RSVP at [spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/mom-s-group](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/mom-s-group) or contact Pastor Liz at [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org).

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

**RETIREMENT GROUP** – The Retirement Group meets at 10 a.m. in the Parlor on the third Tuesday of the month. Please join us to discuss our transition paths, ways we found ourselves here, what’s meaningful, and what’s next with or without planned health, funds or companionship. For more information, contact Marcia Knudson at [marciaknudson@gmail.com](mailto:marciaknudson@gmail.com).

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**ALTAR FLOWERS** – Providing flowers for the altar is an excellent way to celebrate a special event in your life: an anniversary, a birthday, a holiday, or just because you like flowers. Sign up here: [tinyurl.com/alter-flowers-2024](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](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1967800).

### **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

## TODAY'S MUSIC

***People Get Ready*** was composed in 1965 by Curtis Mayfield (1942-1999) for The Impressions, who made it a hit. Mayfield couldn't have had a more varied career. Starting as a gospel choral singer on the North Side of Chicago, he became a professional football player in the Canadian Football League and then returned to music as a singer-songwriter, guitarist and record producer. His most famous music is the soundtrack he composed for the movie *Super Fly* in 1972. In 1990, he became paralyzed from the neck down when lighting equipment from a stage show he was preparing fell on him. It didn't stop him from singing and he was able to play the guitar laying down. Before his death in 1999, he was elected to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The author of the text for ***The Lord's My Shepherd*** is Francis Rous (1679-1569), an English cleric, lawyer and Member of Parliament. It is a poetic setting of Psalm 23. BROTHER JAMES AIR was composed by James Leith Macbeth Bain (c. 1840-1925) and was first published in 1915. Born in Scotland, he was a mystic, healer and poet. Although born into a devout Christian home, he rejected his traditional upbringing.

The text for ***Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*** was written in 1981 by a UCC pastor and teacher of Theology, Ronald Cole-Turner (b. 1948). The tune, STUTT GART, was composed in 1715 by Christian Friederich Witt (1660-1716). Witt completed a huge hymnal, *Psalmodia Sacra*, the year before his death. Of the 774 hymns (!!!), he composed nearly 100. He was Kapellmeister of the Gotha court in Stuttgart at the same time that Bach was in Leipzig, just 300 miles north. An interesting side note is that Nathan Laube, world renowned organist and friend of St. Pauls, was until recently on the organ faculty at the Hochschule für Musik in Stuttgart. He has since returned to the faculty at the Eastman School of Music.

***My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*** employs a text by the great English poet and hymnodist, Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Watts set the entire book of Psalms poetically, many of which we still sing today, notably *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*. RESIGNATION is another hymn melody whose composer is unattributed and is from the great early American hymnal, *The Sacred Harp*.

Randall Thompson, (1899-1984), wrote the ***Alleluia*** in 1940 on a commission from Serge Koussevitsky, music director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. It was performed by the entire student body for the opening exercises of the Berkshire Music Center, summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. A historical note: this anthem was sung to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the night before he was assassinated. A high school choir that was supposed to have sung for the meeting in Memphis that evening was delayed by bus trouble and missed the

meeting. The students were upset, and when Dr. King found out they had arrived late, he asked them to please sing for him in his motel room. The students crowded into that small space and sang this inspiring work, the last music in this world that Dr. King would hear.

The original text for ***Thank Our God for Christian Siblings*** was written in 1948 by Roger K. Powell (1914-2003) as a rallying song for The National Council of Churches meeting in 1952. The text was updated for our *New Century Hymnal*. PLEADING SAVIOR was first published in 1830 and is attributed to Joshua Levitt (1794-1873). Levitt was a Yale graduate and became a Congregational minister. He aided a slave to escape the South and raised funds for the defense of the Armistad captives.

The ***Fugue in C Major BuxWV 174***, was composed by Dietrich Buxtehude (1637?-1707). Buxtehude's music and his skill as an organist had a profound effect on Bach. A true story is that Bach, at age 20, walked (!) nearly 250 miles from Arnstadt to Lübeck just to hear and work with Buxtehude. That would be like walking from St. Pauls to Toledo, Ohio.

### **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.

## **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 an enriching sabbatical for Pastor Jeff, away until May 19.
- Prayers for Nathan Chamberlain's parents Larry and Mary Lou Chamberlain as Larry recovers from surgery complications.
- 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.

## **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.