

Pancake Church

April 7, 2024

No matter who you are,
No matter where you are
On life's journey,
You are welcome here.

Please silence cell phones.

If you have special dietary needs, sugar-free, gluten-free, vegetarian, and vegan items are available on a separate table by the door closest to the kitchen.

The Nursery and Toddler Room are open for children ages 0-5, from 10 to 11 a.m.

There is no Sunday School today.

*We will remain seated throughout worship today
because we are eating together at the table.*

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"I do not understand, but I believe.

Jonquils respond with wit to the teasing breeze."

John Berryman

PRELUDE

I Expect to See Him
St. Arbucks Quartet

Jessie Dixon

WELCOME

Matt Fitzgerald

WELCOMING EACH OTHER

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on a poem by Christina Rossetti)

One: Mix a pancake! Stir a pancake! Pop in the pan!

All: Fry the pancake! Toss the pancake - catch it if you can!

One: Pray at daybreak! Feast at daybreak! Breakfast is God's plan!

All: Sing at daybreak! Lord of daybreak, we are in your hands!

HYMN

Enter Rejoice and Come In



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




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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION



**God the Giver,
in the name of Jesus
who fed his hungry friends
breakfast on the beach,
we confess that our abundance
costs others gravely.
Show us what we can do
to help those who have no breakfast.
Help us bless the work of those who
strive to feed the hungry,
welcome the stranger,
and comfort the afflicted.
Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE



PANCAKE PROCESSIONAL *God We Thank You for Our Pancakes* Tune: Holy Manna





1. God, we_ thank you for our pan - cakes, made of_ wheat from your own soil
 2. Thank you_ God for all the hands that har - vest - ed the feast we share
 3. For when we take time to_ thank you, our own faith is mul - ti - plied
 4. By your Spir - it keep us_ grate - ful_ for each per - son here to - day


Eggs, wa - ter and laugh - ter_ mix - ing_ in - to_ bat - ter with some oil
 Good church peo - ple who woke ear - ly, food by_ lov - ing hands pre - pared
 Grate - ful_ hearts can see the_ Giv - er, grate - ful hearts lead to clear eyes
 Friend and_ stran - ger, sis - ter, broth - er, each be - lov - ed by Yah - weh

Don't for - get the ma - ple_ tree whose sug - ar makes our break - fast sweet
 Thank you for the sac - ri - fic - es be - hind all our joy - ous meals
 So we thank you for our pan - cakes, and for ve - gan ba - con_ too,
 An - cient God but al - so_ liv - ing, youth - ful Christ you love us_ all

Sau - sage, too, for in Chi - ca - go, with - out_ pork, no meal's com - plete.
 Let our_ grat - i - tude be_ more than emp - ty_ words, let it be real.
 Flow - er_ blos - soms, jeans and T - shirts, budd - ing leaves all come from You.
 So we_ thank you for our pan - cakes, for each oth - er, for Saint Pauls!



PANCAKE QUESTIONS:

*As you eat, we invite you to enjoy each other's company!
Be sure to introduce yourself to new friends at your table.
If you'd like, please discuss this question:
Is there a person in your life that helped your faith grow?*

SCRIPTURE

John 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them.

Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

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)

SERMON

“I Do Not Understand, but I Believe”

Matt Fitzgerald

OFFERTORY

Ain-a That Good News
Chancel Choir

arr. William Dawson

I got a crown up ina the Kingdom,
Ain'a that good news!
I got a crown up ina the Kingdom,
Ain'a that good news!
I'm goin' to lay down this worl'
Goin'a shoulder up-uh my cross,
Goin'a take it home-a to my Jesus,
Ain'a that good news, good news.

I got a harp up in-a the Kingdom,
Ain'a that good news!
I got a harp up in-a the Kingdom,
Ain'a that good news!
I'm a-goin' to lay down this worl'.....,

I got a robe up in-a the Kingdom,
Ain'a that good news!
I got a robe up in'a the Kingdom,
Ain'a that good news!
I'm going to lay down this worl'.....,

I got a Saviour in-a the Kingdom,
Ain'a that good news,
I got a Saviour in-a the Kingdom,
Ain'a that good news!

Today's open offering goes to support our youth mission trip to Tulsa for service and learning with Racial Reconciliation Ministries.

You can donate to their trip electronically by:

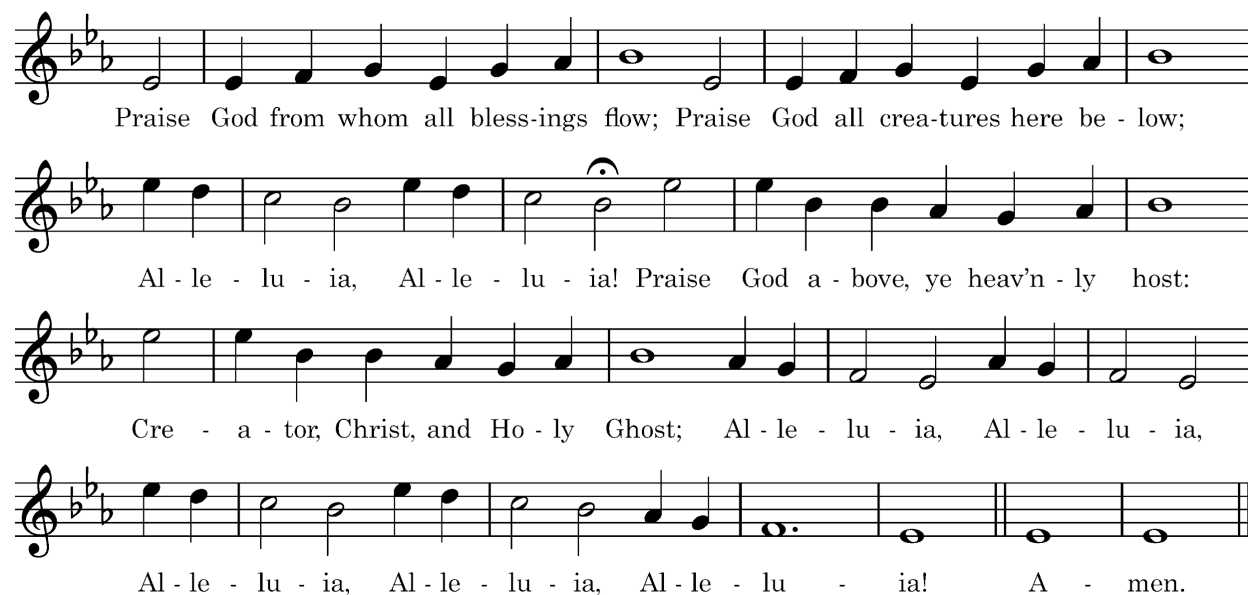
Scanning this code with your cell phone camera,

At spucc.churchcenter.com/giving/to/youth-mission-trip-donations,

Or through Zelle or PayPal to giving@spucc.org, memo: Youth Mission Trip



FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here be - low;
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:
Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost; Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

Let Us Talent and Tongues Employ



1. Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2. Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,
3. Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
give us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!

Refrain (first time p, second time f)



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

For the Beauty of the Earth
St. Arbucks Quartet

arr. Craig Curry

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: 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: David Faulkner, Fred Pearson

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: David Mosley

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 7 Jason Wu, Lois Basil, Nancy Hanson, Nick DeMonte

April 9 Andrea Koepke, Audrey Malnick, Gay Kelly, Mikaela Noonan

April 10 Asher Malnick, Jonathan Beck, Margarita DiMonte

April 11 Annie Johnson, Ella Vincent, Eva Bartels, Kate Beck, Kelly Singles

April 12 Marcia Opp

April 13 Leo Pensinger -Sok, Tim Reed

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 7, 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY - PANCAKE CHURCH - 10 a.m., Gym

Today, worship moves to the gym for the return of Pancake Church! We're sitting at tables, having breakfast and worshipping together. Our youth, who are going to Tulsa in June for a week of service and learning with ministries doing the work of racial reconciliation, have been cooking and are serving. Today's free will offering goes to support their fundraising goal of \$10,000. You can also support their trip online on our giving page by selecting "Youth Mission Trip."

TODAY - GAZA PANEL DISCUSSION -11:30 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room

What is the responsibility of the church amidst the current conflict in Israel & Palestine? Participating are Palestinian American physician and population health expert Yasser Said on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, as well as author, retired professor and minister Rev. Don Wagner on the history and consequences of Christian Zionism.

APRIL 9 and 16 - 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.

APRIL 23 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL LUNCH GROUP - 12:00 - 1:30 pm., Social Hall
"What Does Vinegar Have To Do with Creation Justice?" facilitated by Barbara Kaiser & 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. Remember, **April** is Earth Month! Earth Day is on April 22nd 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.

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

MAY 4 - WORLD LABYRINTH DAY - 12:00 -2:00 p.m., Gym

World Labyrinth Day takes place every first Saturday in May, where thousands of people participate in a moving 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 local 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 for use. Pastor Liz Nickerson will provide a 10-minute introduction in the Oscar Mayer Room at noon. 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.

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.

CONSIDER BECOMING A STEPHEN MINISTER

A new Stephen Minister Training Class is coming in July and August. In Stephen Ministry, members of our congregation are trained and equipped to meet once a week one on one with someone going through a difficult time. Stephen Ministers provide a caring presence, a listening ear and comforting words—supporting care receivers throughout their journey. Might God be calling you into this ministry? Here are some reasons to consider it:

1. You'll make a real difference in the lives of hurting people.
2. You'll help St. Pauls ensure that no one suffers alone.
3. Through thorough training, you'll learn what to say and do – and what *not* to say and do – to care effectively for people who are suffering.
4. You'll be using your gifts in an important and meaningful ministry.
5. You'll deepen your faith as you see God at work in and through you.
6. You'll be a part of a Stephen Ministry team that supports each other.

If you'd like to explore whether or not Stephen Ministry would be a good fit for you, contact Stephen Ministry leader Marti Pechnyo, mpechnyo@gmail.com.

PALESTINE STUDY GROUP

We will be discussing the introduction and chapter one of Rashid Khalidi's *The Hundred Years' War on Palestine*, which covers the historical period 1917-1947. All are welcome! Meeting time is TBD. To join us, visit:

tinyurl.com/Palestine-Study-Group or contact David Burnett at burnett.db@gmail.com for updates.

“HEALING HEARTS” PET SUPPORT GROUP: ST. PAULS PET LOSS COMMUNITY

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

FAITH IN ACTION MESSAGING GROUP

Some people call it showing up for a protest or marching against a government policy. Others call it public witnessing for the values inherent in our faith. Most of us appreciate being able to do both with like-minded members of our congregation. Members and friends of St. Pauls can join this group. If you'd like to receive advance email notice of such protests, gatherings or advocacy opportunities – frequently on short notice due to swift governmental action - or to invite others in the group to join you in an advocacy opportunity, join Faith in Action. Register here: <http://tinyurl.com/wuphf495>.

A MUSICAL GIFT FOR YOU!

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://open.spotify.com/album/39skfy9k) and Apple Music [tinyurl.com/39skfy9k](https://open.spotify.com/album/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.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

You are invited to UCAN's "Caring Artfully Exhibit" on Wednesday, April 17, from 5:30-7 pm. Youth from across UCAN's programs will showcase their talents in the visual and performing arts and proceeds from the sale of artwork will go directly to the artist. This is a community celebration of beauty and healing. Learn more about how you can participate at <https://ucanchicago.org/ucanartshow>.

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

Take the pledge to avoid single-use plastic!

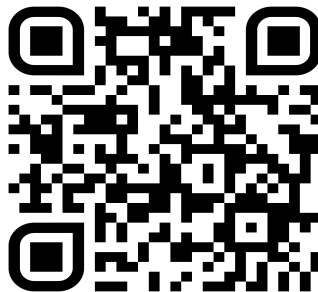
Curtailling the use of plastic – particularly single-use plastic – is the focus of many ecological initiatives for 2024, including the St. Pauls Green Team! Single-use plastic items include: polystyrene food and beverage containers, straws, cups, cutlery, and disposable plastic bags. We use these items every day, but they are intended to be used once and then discarded, where they end up in landfills and waterways.

However, individual and collective choices can add up quickly. For example, making one simple swap – such as purchasing a reusable water bottle – can spare the environment hundreds of bottles per year! Similarly, using reusable bags for shopping will obviate the need for plastic grocery bags.



PLEDGE TO EXPAND AND ELEVATE OUR OPENNESS!

Please remember to submit your three-year Capital Campaign pledge to help fund the six-stop elevator and open-air courtyard at our church. Submit your special pledge via the Letter of Intent available in the church office or via the church website's homepage link or the QR code here. We need every household to help us reach our bold campaign goal! And watch for the short weekly video messages about the campaign from our pastors and members.



GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

TODAY'S MUSIC

I Expect to See Him is by Jessy Dixon (1938-2011), another gospel artist and composer with deep roots in Chicago. His music was beloved outside his own community and he received seven Grammy nominations during his career. He toured the world with Paul Simon after Mr. Simon heard him and the Jessy Dixon Singers at a concert at Radio City Music Hall in New York City. He also wrote music for artists as varied as Diana Ross and Cher.

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

The text for ***God We Thank You for Our Pancakes*** is a respectful and lighthearted adaptation by Pastor Matt Fitzgerald of a text by Ruth Duck (b. 1947), *God We Thank You for Our People*. HOLY MANNA is an unattributed melody from the great American series of shaped-note hymnals from the early 19th century including *The Sacred Harp*.

Ain-a That Good News is a great spiritual from the Black American tradition. The arranger, William L. Dawson (1898-1990), was choral director for many years at the Tuskegee Institute of Alabama. He was responsible along with others of his generation, such as Hall Johnson, for making beautiful arrangements of spirituals that spread the performance and popularity of that music within and beyond the African American community. The Tuskegee Choir gained international stature under Dr. Dawson's leadership.

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ uses a tune, LINSTEAD, of Jamaican origin. Fred Kaan, (1929-2009) wrote this text in 1975. Born in The Netherlands, Kaan became a committed pacifist after surviving the horrors of occupation during WWII (his parents were active in the Dutch resistance). He emigrated to England after the war where he became a member of the United Reform Church.

Craig Curry, who arranged this great hymn tune, ***For the Beauty of the Earth***, is a graduate of Wheaton College Conservatory of Music and the University of Miami. He is an active composer whose arrangements and compositions have been widely performed. In 1838, Conrad Kocher (1786-1872) composed the original tune, DIX. He composed 25 German hymns, among them *Praise to the Lord the Almighty*.

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 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
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.