

June 2, 2024
Confirmation and Communion
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

There is one Lord, one faith, and one baptism. One God who is God of us all, who is above all and in all and through all. In their confirmation, this morning, our youth affirm the promises made by their parents during their baptisms. With joy, they now claim the Christian faith as their own.

PRELUDE	<i>People, Get Ready!</i>	Curtis Mayfield
	St. Arbucks Quartet	

CHIMES

INTROIT	<i>Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face</i>	Chant
	Chancel Choir	

WELCOME	Matt Fitzgerald
---------	-----------------

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: How will they know that we are Christians?

All: They will know we are Christians by our love. As Jesus' beloved community, united by the Spirit, let's worship God with joy!

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

* 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.

MISSION TRIP COMMISSIONING

COMMENDING OUR GRADUATES



1. We are one in the Spir - it, We are one in the Lord,
2. We will walk with each oth - er, We will walk hand in hand,
3. We will work with each oth - er, We will work side by side,
4. All___ praise to the Fa - ther, From whom all things come,



We are one in the Spir - it, We are one in the Lord,
We will walk with each oth - er, We will walk hand in hand,
We will work with each oth - er, We will work side by side,
And all praise to Christ Je - sus, His___ on - ly___ Son,



And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.
And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
And we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save___ each one's pride.
And all praise to the Spir - it, who___ makes us___ one.

Refrain

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love,



Yes, they'll know_ we are Chris - tians by our love.

SCRIPTURE

Julian Chaiken

1 Cor. 12 (selected verses)

What I want to talk about now is the various ways God's Spirit gets worked into our lives... Each person is given something to do that shows who God is. The variety is wonderful... You can easily see how this kind of thing works by looking no further than your own body. Your body has many parts—limbs, organs, cells—but no matter how many parts you can name, you're still one body...A body isn't just a single part blown up into something huge. If Foot said, "I'm not elegant like Hand, embellished with rings; I guess I don't belong to this body," would that make it so? If Ear said, "I'm not beautiful like Eye, transparent and expressive; I don't deserve a place on the head," would you want to remove it from the body? If the body was all eye, how could it hear? If all ear, how could it smell? As it is, we see that God has carefully placed each part of the body right where God wanted it...An enormous eye or a gigantic hand wouldn't be a body, but a monster. What we have is one body with many parts, each its proper size and in its proper place. No part is more important on its own. Can you imagine Eye telling Hand, "Get lost; I don't need you"? Or, Head telling Foot, "You're fired; your job has been phased out"? The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance. You are Christ's body—that's who you are! Every one of you is a vital member.

* RESPONSE

We Are One in the Spirit
See previous hymn

vv. 2 & 3

SERMON

"Which Part Are You?"

Liz Nickerson

* RESPONSE

We Are One in the Spirit
See previous hymn

v. 4

THE SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Pastor Matt: Do you believe in God?

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

Pastor Jeff: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

Confirmands: *We believe that God has come to us in Jesus Christ to reconcile and make us new.*

Pastor Liz: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Confirmands: *We believe that God works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.*

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

Pastor Liz: Will you promise to support this congregation with your time, talent, and prayers, participating regularly in the worship, fellowship and work of Saint Pauls and contributing to our life in Chicago and beyond?

Confirmands: *We do promise.*

Pastor Matt: 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.

(Sponsors please rise and affirm your support of the confirmands.)

* Sponsors: Together with you, we will celebrate God's presence, love and serve others, care for creation, seek justice and resist evil.

(Congregation please rise and affirm your support of the confirmands.)

* Congregation: **Confirmands, we promise you our love, our care, and our Support.
With you, 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!**

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

THE PRESENTATION OF THE CANDLES

* THE CONFIRMATION COVENANT

All: **We covenant with God and with one another,
to walk together in God's ways,
known or to be made known, whatever it should cost us.
Amen.**

*HYMN

The Summons



1. Will you come and fol - low me, if I but call your name?
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind, if I but call your name?
3. Will you let the blind - ed see, if I but call your name?
4. Will you love the 'you' you hide, if I but call your name?
5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.



Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
Will you set the pris - oners free and nev - er be the same?
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the world a - round,
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.



will you let my life be grown in you, and you in me?
Will you let me an - swer prayer in you, and you in me?
and ad - mit to what I mean in you, and you in me?
through my sight and touch and sound in you, and you in me?
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you, and you in me.

OFFERTORY

Festival Te Deum
Nadia Jimenez, soprano
Chancel Choir

Benjamin Britten

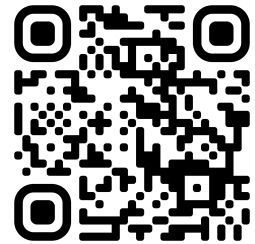
We praise Thee, O God; we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship Thee, the Father everlasting.
To Thee all angels cry aloud, the Heavens and all the Powers there in,
To Thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry
Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God of Sabaoth!
Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Thy glory.
The glorious company of the Apostles praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praise thee,
The noble army of Martyrs praise thee.
The Holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge Thee, the Father of an
infinite majesty;
Thine honorable, true, and only Son; also the Holy Ghost, the comforter.
Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.
When Thou tookest upon thee to deliver man,
Thou did'st not abhor the Virgin's womb.
When Thou had'st overcome the sharpness of death,
Thou did'st open the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.
Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father.
We believe that Thou wilt come to be our judge.
We therefore pray Thee, help Thy servants, whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy
precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with Thy Saints in glory everlasting.
O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine heritage.
Govern them, and lift them up forever.
Day by day, we magnify Thee; and we worship Thy name, ever world without end.
Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
Have mercy upon us, O Lord.
Let Thy mercy lighten upon us, as our trust is in Thee.
O Lord, in Thee have I trusted: let me never be confounded.

You can give to St. Pauls electronically:

Scan this code with your cell phone camera,

Church Center at spucc.churchcenter.com/giving,

PayPal at spucc.org/paypal, or Zelle 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.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Jeff Carlson

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

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.**

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

*Please come forward for communion.
Take the bread and eat it. Then take the cup and drink.
Deposit the cups in the baskets on the way back to your seat.
The outer ring of cups contains grape juice. The inner rings contain wine.
A gluten-free bread option is wrapped and available on a separate tray.
Return to your seat by the side aisles.
All are welcome to take part in communion.*

COMMUNION MUSIC

Rhapsody in D flat Op. 17 No. 1
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

Herbert Howells

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**O God, thank you for making us each a unique part of a greater whole.
In communion we understand our unity as a part of your body. Thank
you for the new purpose we find when we follow Christ. Amen.**

* HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3. Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;
4. So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,

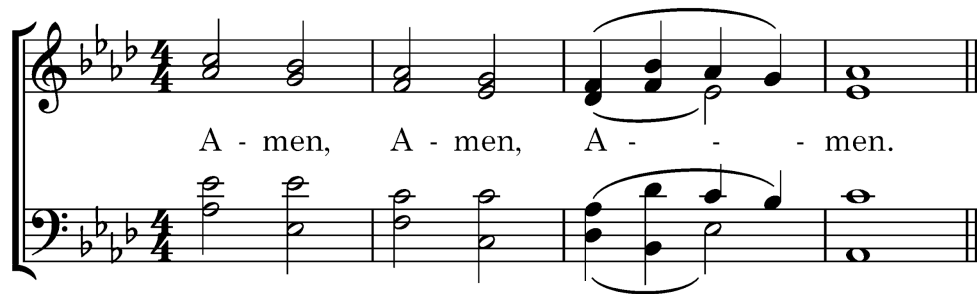
in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;
in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;
your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,
All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.
your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.
in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

Recessional

William Mathias

Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

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, directly below the Sanctuary.

CONFIRMANDS

Julia Paige Brizzolara - Julia lives with her parents and is the first of her family to be confirmed at St. Pauls. She will be attending Lane Tech High School in the fall. Her favorite things in school are geometry and chemistry. Outside of school, she loves to see her friends, play volleyball on her club team and go for bike rides. She also enjoys traveling to new places with her parents. Julia thinks she would like to pursue a career in medicine. She likes how St. Pauls is always inviting and that there are always fun activities going on. One of her favorite memories of St. Pauls was attending the mission trip last year to Tucson. Julia's sponsor is Katie Alrutz.

Julian Thomas Chaiken - Julian lives with his parents and will attend Amundsen High School in the fall. In school, he enjoys studying history, but likes to spend his time playing sports, joking with his friends, playing video games, and especially watching his favorite soccer team, Tottenham Hotspur, play. In the future, Julian hopes to travel more and own a cool looking car. His favorite memories of St. Pauls revolve around the mission trips, especially hiking in Tucson during the trip last year. Julian's sponsor is Tim Reed.

Jennie Louise Hamm - Jennie lives with her parents and her 12-year-old brother, Everett. She will be attending Amundsen High School in the fall. Jennie enjoys hanging out with her friends, dancing and playing volleyball. In the future, Jennie wants to go to UNC and eventually become a corporate lawyer. Jennie likes the community and friendly people at St. Pauls. Her favorite St. Pauls memory is attending the Confirmation retreat and playing Sardines. Jennie's sponsor is Deb Bayly.

Annika Ekdahl Hull - Annika lives with her parents and her 12 year-old brother, Oscar. Her mother was also confirmed at St. Pauls. Annika will be attending Latin High School in the fall. She enjoys spending time with her friends and challenging herself to learn. She also participates in a number of sports. In the future, she wants to be successful and outgoing, but is unsure what she wants to do. Annika enjoys the sense of community she has found at St. Pauls and has especially enjoyed participating in Bible Off Broadway. Annika's sponsor is Marcia Volk.

Elise Josephine Prangley - Elise lives with her parents and three siblings, Pierce (age 8), Juju (age 11), and Ginger (age 12). She currently attends the University of Chicago Lab School and will continue there for high school starting next year. At school, Elise enjoys band and writing the most, as well as playing her flute and participating in soccer outside of school. In the future, she would like to play varsity soccer in high school and to eventually be an entertainment lawyer for musicians. Elise loves that St. Pauls is very welcoming and that there is food after the service. Her favorite memory of St. Pauls is painting rocks in the 4th grade class. Elise's sponsor is Lauren Cherney.

MISSION TRIP PARTICIPANTS

Charles Rodgriguez
Evie Drew
Michelle Drew Rodriguez
Nicolas Mutch
Hannah Mutch
Matt Fitzgerald
Ethan Fitzgerald
Sylvia Pine
Denzel Braimah
Julian Chaiken
Eliza Johnson
Henry Winking
Clark Tavas

BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY GRADUATES

High School Graduates

Julia Nickerson, *DePaul College Prep*
Valerie Schimp, *Amundsen High School*
Marinel Workman Mandell, *Northside College Prep*
Braden Van Zeyl, *Northside College Prep*

College Graduates

Elizabeth Johnston, *DePaul University*
Maegan Kaiser, *North Park University, Psychology Degree*
Charles Wilk, *Northwestern School of Communication, Theater Degree*
Michael Dunham, *Purdue University, Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering*

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Matt Fitzgerald, Liz Nickerson, Jeff Carlson

Music Director: Kurt R. Hansen

Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski

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

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Scripture Reader: Julian Chaiken

Communion Coordinator: Jana O'Brien

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, David Faulkner

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

Communion today will be served by our confirmands.

Communion bread baked by Marcia Knudson.

This week's altar flowers are given by Rachel Barton Pine.

BORN THIS WEEK IN JUNE

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.

June 2 Brendan Noonan, Jeffrey Whitridge, Mark Clark, Shane Gentzen

June 3 Amelia Baurer, Kimberlee Schmahl, Mark Mosley

June 5 Sarah Good Mosley

June 6 Rosa Schmahl, Zachary Jarzebowski

June 7 Amy Bashiti, Linda Lang

June 8 Colin Murray, Jack Kobak, Jean Weimer, Noah Bashiti

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 today and June 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

JUNE 4 AND 11 - 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.

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.

JUNE 9 - EMPANADA COOKING CLASS + KITCHEN ITEMS – 3-4:30 p.m., Kitchen
On Sunday, June 9, from 3-4:30 p.m., our Venezuelan cooks Yorleth and Luisa, along with Chef Molly McGrath, will gather in the St. Pauls kitchen to cook (and eat!) traditional empanadas and arepas. We will also learn a little more about the foods of Venezuela, and hear about these families' experiences over the past year. Kids are welcome, as long as they are accompanied by an adult. \$20 per person will cover the cost of ingredients. Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/59txh87y> by Wednesday, June 5. Can't make it? Please consider donating a requested kitchen item off of this list: <https://tinyurl.com/2s49tz59> Thank you!

JUNE 12 - NEW BIBLE STUDY BEGINS - REVELATION

The last book of the Bible is one that many have found confusing or frightening. Some Christians completely ignore it. Others have been obsessed with it. We'll look at Revelation as a wake-up call, not a blueprint, for the final apocalypse. Revelation spotlights corrupt human politics and nationalistic religion while celebrating the hopeful coming of Christ, the Lamb of God, into the world. In light of the renewed prominence of Christian Nationalism in our own time, Revelation will be a timely book. Led by Pastor Jeff every Wednesday. Sign up here: <https://spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/bible-study>

JUNE 25 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL LUNCH GROUP - 12-1:30 p.m., Social Hall
Program facilitated by Pastor Liz Nickerson. 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 if you wish: tinyurl.com/2p3w8jnf.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REFUGEEONE

Our Summer Fun Drive is back! Help make this summer a blast for refugee youth. We are seeking NEW swimsuits and towels for 200+ participants in our youth program. Order items direct to our office using our Amazon wish list at <https://tinyurl.com/39mwzfve>, and the RefugeeOne team will distribute them to refugee youth. The drive runs through June 8, 2024. **Please note:** we can only accept items from our wish list — there are no drop off days!



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.

STEPHEN MINISTERS CARE

We are planning a training for new Stephen Ministers in July and August. Stephen Minister training is an engaging, interactive experience that fully equips you to provide high-quality, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. St. Pauls Stephen Leaders will use presentations, discussions, readings, videos, skill practices, and spiritual growth activities to equip and empower you with practical caregiving and relational skills. In addition, the training provides many opportunities for building Christian community and experiencing personal and spiritual growth. Stephen Ministers often say that their training is life-transforming—helping them to grow in faith and learn relationship principles and skills that deepen and enhance all the relationships in their life. Might God be calling you into this ministry of compassion? Contact Stephen Leader Marti Pechnyo to learn more at mpechnyo@gmail.com.

PALESTINE STUDY GROUP

Join us next Tuesday, June 11, at 7 p.m. for a discussion on *"Hundred Years' War on Palestine: A History of Settler Colonialism and Resistance, 1917–2017"* by Rashid Khalidi. All are welcome! Connect with us through tinyurl.com/Palestine-Study-Group or contact David Burnett at 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. 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 and Apple Music tinyurl.com/39skfy9k. Share the links with your friends; no account needed to listen.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

Chicago School Board Elections

The Chicago Board of Education, the governing board that oversees the Chicago Public Schools (CPS), is undergoing a historic transition from being a seven-member board appointed by the mayor to a much larger board elected by the citizens of Chicago. Starting January 2025, the Board of Education will consist of 21 members, elected from 10 districts within Chicago with one elected board member and one board member appointed by the mayor in each district, and one additional board member appointed by the mayor. The elected Board of Education members will be selected in the November 5, 2024 general election. Individuals seeking election to the Board of Education must submit nominating petitions with the signatures of at least 1,000 voters living within their election district by June 24, 2024. Some candidates have already filed paperwork with the Illinois State Board of Elections. For more information, see www.cpsboe.org. and www.chalkbeat.org.

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

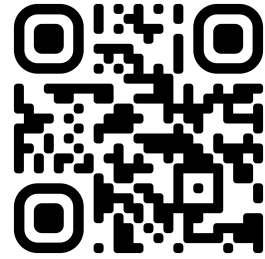
"They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither and they prosper in all they do." Psalm 1:3

Oak trees are a keystone species to Chicago ecology. They provide habitat for birds, insects and mammals. Their roots are well-adapted to absorbing water and thereby mitigating flooding. Oaks are struggling in Illinois and the oak corridors in the city are disappearing. Assess your backyard or neighborhood this summer: is an oak in distress in your yard or neighborhood? Ensure that they have plenty of water and the roots are protected. Are there invasive species competing with oaks? Clear them out. For more information, see Chicago Region Trees Initiative, Oak Ecosystems Recovery Project: <https://tinyurl.com/h4pev5dt>

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 Allen Heinemann 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 are 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 '24-'25 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

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. He started as a gospel choral singer on the North Side of Chicago, 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 was the soundtrack he composed for the movie *SuperFly* 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.

Our Introit, ***Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face*** is a chant from the Latin, ADORO TE DEVOTE, from the 13th century attributed to the Benedictines at the monastery at Solesmes, France. Its English text is by Horace Bonar (1808-1889), a Scottish minister, who wrote many poetic hymn texts. This setting is especially appropriate for a communion Sunday.

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 the from the first line of the refrain: ENTER, REJOICE.

We Are One in the Spirit is a popular contemporary hymn especially in Roman Catholic churches. The text and music are authored by Peter Scholtes (1938-2009), who was born in Evanston and grew up in Oak Park. He wrote this hymn in the 1960s while he was the parish priest at ST. BRENDAN'S on the South Side of Chicago. The tune, obviously, was the given name of his church. The text holds us to high aspirations: *We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, and we pray that our unity may one day be restored.*

The text for ***Will You Come and Follow Me*** was written by John Bell (b. 1949). He was born in Scotland, and after considering a career as a music teacher, went into ministry. He has enjoyed serving as a youth minister in impoverished areas of Scotland. THE SUMMONS is a folk melody, KELVINGROVE, which derives its name from a park in Glasgow, Scotland.

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976) composed this truly majestic and mysterious setting of ***Festival Te Deum***, the great 6th century Latin hymn, in 1944 for a centennial celebration of St. Mark's Church, Swindon, England. It contrasts chant-like melodic lines at the beginning with an "outburst" from the choir on *Thou art the King of glory, O Christ*. The serene soprano solo is followed by a full-voiced plea from the choir, *Let me never be confounded*. The text is of anonymous origin. An interesting note is that the *Te Deum* was one of the very few non-biblical prayers to survive and be retained in the review by the Council of Trent held between 1545 and 1563. One of the main objectives of that Council, beyond sparking a counter-Reformation movement, was to reduce or eliminate non-biblical parts of liturgy. It is a tribute to the power of this prayer that it survived that review.

Rhapsody in D flat Op. 17 No. 1 was composed in 1925 by Herbert Howells (1892-1983). Howells is probably the most famous Anglican church composer and musician of his time. His father was a plumber and also the organist at the local Baptist church. Howells showed early promise as an organist when at age 11 he became both a choir boy and also deputy organist of his local Anglican church. Howells composed not only for the church, but also symphonic works and chamber music. He received many honors and was a long-time faculty member of the Royal College of Music.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise, tune ST. DENIO, is based on an early 19th century traditional Welsh ballad. The text was composed in 1867 by Walter C. Smith (1824-1908), who was the pastor of the Scottish Church in London.

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

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 Karen L. Johnson at the death of her husband Leroy Johnson. A memorial service will be held on June 29 at 11 a.m.
- Prayers for the family and friends of Ron McCowan at his death.
- Prayers for Creighton Hartanov and family at the death of her grandfather.
- Prayers for Luis Velez and Tim Ward at the death of Luis's mother.
- David Baker's brother-in-law, Roger Robert, as he deals with the onset of Parkinson's disease.
- Prayers for Pastor Liz's high school friend, Joe, who has ALS.
- Prayers for Gloria Joseph's dear friend, Betsy, as she begins a rigorous treatment program for a new cancer diagnosis.
- Prayers for Nathan Chamberlain's family on the death of his father, Larry.
- Leroy Johnson, husband of Karen L. Johnson, in hospice care.
- Prayers for peace - in our city, nation and world.
- Prayers for Donn Schimp and his family as Donn continues cancer treatment.
- Betty Voice being treated for sepsis.
- Alex Doty and her mother who is in hospice.
- 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.