

May 19, 2024

Pentecost & Baptism Sunday

Gospel Mass

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

Music might be a perfect model for understanding the pervasive nature of the Holy Spirit. Music does not exist in space, and yet, it is everywhere and in each of us; so is the Holy Spirit. Music speaks in many "tongues" of not only language, but also style; so does the Holy Spirit. Music speaks to us as a community of faith and also to each of us individually; so does the Holy Spirit. Embrace music as a gift. Embrace the gift of the Holy Spirit to us and to you. SING!

Kurt R. Hansen

PRELUDE

Lord, Don't Move the Mountain!
St. Arbucks Quartet

Doris Mae Akers

Now Lord don't move my mountain
But give me the strength to climb
And Lord, don't take away my stumbling blocks
But lead me all around

Lord I don't bother nobody
I try to treat everybody the same
But everytime, I turn my back
They scandalize my name

But oh Jesus
You don't have to move my mountain ...

INTROIT

Lift Every Voice and Sing
Chancel Choir

J. Rosamond Johnson

Lift every voice and sing,
'Til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty,
Let our rejoicing rise,
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound, loud as the rolling sea. Amen.

CHIMES

WELCOME

Kurt R. Hansen

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let the wind of the Holy Spirit invade our souls!!

All: Come, Holy Spirit, come!!

One: Let the spirit of peace bring enemies together in love!

All: Grant us your peace!

One: Let the fire of Pentecost burn a renewal of our faith.

All: Glory to God in the highest and peace to all of good will!

* HYMN

This Is the Day



1. This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our
2. This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, Je - sus
3. This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came, when the



God has made; we will re - joice, we will re - joice and be
rose a - gain; we will re - joice, we will re - joice and be
Spir - it came; we will re - joice, we will re - joice and be



glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that our
glad in it, and be glad in it This is the day Je - sus
glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day when the



God has__ made, we will re - joice and be glad in__ it;
rose a - gain, we will re - joice and be glad in__ it;
Spir - it__ came, we will re - joice and be glad in__ it;



This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.
This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain.
This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Oliver James Dierkes son of Molly Elizabeth and Christopher William Dierks

Pastor: Oliver, 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. Oliver 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, Oliver. 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: Oliver, 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.*

ANTHEM OF CONFESSION

Gospel Mass

Dr. Robert Ray
(1946-2022)

Kyrie - Lord Have Mercy

Henry Pleas & Darshaya Oden, soloists

St. Arbucks Quartet

Chancel Choir

In the name of the Creator
In the name of the Redeemer.
In the name of the Sustainer,
The blessed Three in One...

Oh, Lord have mercy on me.

Kyrie eleison.

Send us a Savior and set my soul free.
Give us your word and teach us to pray.
I want to praise and serve You always.
Lord of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob
Look down, have mercy on us.

Oh, Christ have mercy on me.

Christe eleison.

Send us Your comfort.
Grant us your peace.
You are the way, the truth, and the light.
Jesus, the Rock of salvation,
The light of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Oh, Lord have mercy.

Kyrie eleison.

Oh, Christ have mercy.

Christe eleison.

Oh, Lord have mercy.

PRAYER IN RESPONSE

Liz Nickerson

Creator God, for all we have done and left undone have mercy upon us.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Darshaya Oden, soloist

Glory to God in the highest.
Peace to all souls of good will.

We praise Thee.

We bless Thee.

We adore Thee.

We glorify Thee.

We give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory.
Lord God, Ruler of Heaven, Creator Almighty.

Glory be to Jesus Christ,
Lamb of God,
The Creator's only Son.

Glory to God in the highest.
Peace to all souls of good will.

Thou who takes away all the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

Thou who takes away all the sins of the world,
Receive our prayers.

Thou who sits at the right hand of God
Creator Almighty in heaven.

Have mercy on us.

For only Thou art holy,

Only thou art the Lord.

Only Thou art most high.

We come to praise your name today.

We want to serve you in every way.

Let the loud hosannas ring,

Shouting praise to God our Sovereign

In the name of the Creator.

In the Name of the Redeemer.

In the Name of the Sustainer,

The Blessed Three in One.

Amen

SCRIPTURE

Pastor Liz

John 15: 26- 27; 16: 4b-15

I will send a great Counselor to you from the Father, one known as the Spirit of truth. He comes from the Father and will point to the truth as it concerns Me. But you will also point others to the truth about My identity, because you have journeyed with Me since this all began... I'm telling you all this so that when it comes to pass you will remember what you have heard. It was not important for Me to give you this information in the beginning when I was with you. But now, I am going to the One who has sent Me, and none of you ask Me, "Where are You going?" I know that hearing news like this is overwhelming and sad. But the truth is that My departure will be a gift that will serve you well, because if I don't leave, the great Counselor will not come to your aid. When I leave, I will send Him to you. When he comes, he will show the world it was wrong about sin, righteousness, and judgment. He will show the world it was wrong about sin because they don't believe in me. He will show the world it was wrong about righteousness because I'm going to the Father and you won't see me anymore. He will show the world it was wrong about judgment because this world's ruler stands condemned. I have so much more to say, but you cannot absorb it right now. The Spirit of truth will come and guide you in all truth. He will not speak His own words to you; He will speak what He hears, revealing to you the things to come and bringing glory to Me. The Spirit has unlimited access to Me, to all that I possess and know, just as everything the Father has is Mine. That is the reason I am confident He will care for My own and reveal the path to you.

* STATEMENT OF FAITH

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

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

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

We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

(adapted from the United Church of Canada)

RESPONSE

Credo

Dr. Robert Ray

Darshaya Oden. soloist

I believe in God the Creator Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ
God's only Son our Lord.
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost;
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he arose!
He ascended into heaven;
From death, he was set free,
Now he sits at the right hand,
And He's waitin' for you and me.
God will judge all the world.
God will judge you and me.

I believe in the Holy spirit,
And the Church Universal on earth.
I believe, Lord, in one baptism
For the remission of sins and rebirth.

I believe in the resurrection,
And the communion of saints in this world.
I believe when my life is over,
I'm going home just to live with my God.
I believe in God;
And in the Holy Ghost.
I believe in God.

SCRIPTURE

Jen Kew

Acts 2: 1-21

One: When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building.

All: Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them. There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world. When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were blown away. They couldn't for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, "Aren't these all Galileans? How come we're hearing them talk in our various mother tongues? "They're speaking our languages, describing God's mighty works!" Their heads were spinning; they couldn't make head or tail of any of it. They talked back and forth, confused: "What's going on here?" Others joked, "They're drunk on cheap wine."

One: But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "People of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my servants, both women and men, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

RESPONSE

Acclamation

Dr. Robert Ray

Darshaya Oden, soloist

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!
Praise God with stringed instruments.
Praise God with dance.
Praise God with the psaltery and harp.
Everything that has breath ought to praise God.
Hallelujah! Let us praise the Lord!

GIVING MOMENT

Wayne Parman

OFFERTORY

Sanctus

Dr. Robert Ray

Henry Pleas, soloist

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts.
Hosanna be to thee in the highest.

There was a man sittin' by the roadside;
He was blind, he could not see.
Then the Master of the earth and skies
Touched his eyes and
He looked around sayin,'

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts...

Another man layin' by a poolside,
Thirty-eight years with his infirmity,
Then the Lord troubled the water;
The man arose and
Jumped for joy sayin,'

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts.
Hosanna be to thee in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God.
We will always sing Thy praise.
Hosanna be to thee in the highest.

Like the blind man and the lame man,
I was lost, livin' in sin.
Then I opened up my heart one day,
I let the Savior in;
Now I shout sayin'

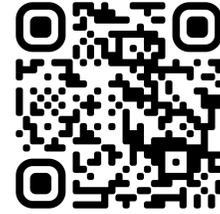
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts.
Hosanna be to thee in the highest.
Who gave me victory!
Holy, holy Lord Jesus, Holy!

You can give to St. Pauls electronically by:

Scanning this code with your cell phone camera,

At spucc.churchcenter.com/giving,

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



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Jeff Carlson

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.

RESPONSE

Agnus Dei

Dr. Robert Ray

Darshaya Oden & Henry Pleas, soloists

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world
Have mercy on us.

For you came to die for me,
Suffered, bled, and died,
Died on Calvary.

Lamb of God, ...

In Your word, You showed us how
We are trying, Lord;
Hear our prayer right now.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world
Grant us Thy peace.
Amen.

BENEDICTION

Jeff Carlson

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Amen from *Agnus Dei*

Dr. Robert Ray

The Gospel Mass is offered in blessed memory of Ron McCowan, beloved bass soloist and section leader of the Chancel Choir for many years.

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.

TODAY'S MUSIC

Lyrics and music for ***Lord, Don't Move the Mountain*** were written by Doris Mae Akers (1923-1995), a famous African American gospel composer, arranger and singer. This is another gospel song that Mahalia Jackson sang, and this arrangement is by Brendan Henry.

The Introit, ***Lift Every Voice and Sing***, is the joyous refrain of a longer hymn that is the unofficial anthem of black churches and the civil rights movement. J. Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954), the composer, and James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938), the poet, were brothers who crafted this wonderful hymn together. They also wrote Broadway musicals and edited song collections as a team.

This Is the Day employs a folk melody and unattributed words from Fiji. It was first published in 1967 in a hymnal in Australia. It also lends itself to be sung in a call and response style.

Gospel Mass was composed in 1981 by Dr. Robert Ray (1946-2022). Dr. Ray said that it was composed as an experimental work for a one-off performance. In a flurry of inspiration, he composed the entire *Mass* in two weeks. He sought to marry the traditional works of the Mass Ordinary in English with the energy and inspiration of gospel music. It was the first work he had ever written! Little did he know that it would be embraced by churches and concert venues around the world. In a 2009 interview, he said, "God controls everything that I do!"

A native of St. Louis, Dr. Ray completed his Bachelor of Music Degree in Piano Performance at Northwestern University. Our music director, Kurt R. Hansen, sang with him in the Alice Millar Chapel Choir and counted him as a friend.

Professionally, Dr. Ray founded the In Unison Chorus in St. Louis, which he led until 2010. He was on the music faculty first at the University of Illinois, and then at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. As a pianist, he concertized around the United States and abroad. At his death, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra musicians and administration lionized his contributions to the community, and especially his *Gospel Mass*, which they premiered in the orchestral version in 1996.

OUR SOLOISTS

Darshaya L. Oden, soprano, hailing from Detroit, Michigan, is celebrated for her rich musical background and dynamic performances. Holding a master's degree in music (Voice and Opera Performance) from Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music, as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from Claflin University, Ms. Oden has honed her craft under the guidance of such esteemed mentors as Nancy Gustafson, Lori Hicks, Virginia Davis, and Pamela Hinchman. She has graced the stage in several notable performances, including her portrayal of Madame Lidoine in Francis Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, Cathleen in Ralph Vaughn Williams' *Riders to the Sea* at Northwestern University, and her captivating rendition of Mimi in Giacomo Puccini's *La Bohème* at Southern University.

Beyond her classical repertoire, Ms. Oden has embraced innovative musical expressions, blending opera with gospel and jazz influences, and transcended borders, as evidenced by her European debut at the esteemed Klangwolke Festival in Linz, Austria, alongside the Adrian Dunn Singers. In addition to her stage performances, Ms. Oden has lent her voice to various cinematic endeavors, contributing background vocals to films such as *Honk for Jesus. Save Your Soul* and *Sacred Soil: The Piney Woods School Story*. Ms. Oden's dedication to her craft has been recognized nationally with commendable achievements in such competitions as the National Association for Negro Musicians (NANM) Vocal Scholarship Competition, where she secured first place at both district and regional levels, and placed second at the national level. She remains an active member of the Adrian Dunn Singers, contributing her exceptional talents to collaborative endeavors that continue to captivate audiences worldwide.

Henry Pleas has been a frequent and popular soloist and performer in the Chicago area for more than 35 years. He has sung professionally for Lyric Opera of Chicago, Chicago Opera Theater, Chicago Symphony Chorus, and Sinfonietta Bel Canto. He earned his bachelor's degree at Brown University and his Master of Music degree from Northwestern University.

Additionally, he works as an artistic producer, administrator and teacher. In the 2022-23 term, he joined the voice faculty at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois. He is President of the Chicago south side not-for-profit **New Rhythm Arts Collaborative (NRAC; newrhythmarts.org)**, whose mission is to collaborate with artists to bring music education and productions to the South Side of Chicago. Learn more about Henry Pleas at www.henrypleas.com.

St. Arbucks Quartet

Brendan Henry, piano and leader
Alex Austin, bass
Matt Plaskota, drums
Kris Hansen, trumpet and vocals

Chancel Choir

Kurt R. Hansen, Music Director
Kevin Dzierzawski, Organist

Sopranos

Katie Alrutz
Lenore Ettinger
Nadia Jimenez
Gay Kelly
Jennifer Kew
Kathleen Kew Lee
Karin Magnuson +
Nancy Pifer *
Ashley Saluga
Grace Stauskas
Meg Tazelaar
Kecia Waldschmidt
Pam Woll

Altos

Cindy Ball
Amy Barton
Lois Basil
Terry Brancaccio Hansen
Carrie Bruggers - Librarian
Breanna Coe *
Micki Fayhee
Karen Johnson
Winnie Kearns
Jana O'Brien +
Amy Petersen Beck
Pat Ruch Jade Luo Santos
Lola Stevenson

Tenors

Todd Coe
Andy Davis
Doug Heyboer +
Joe JaQuay
Rick Peterson
Nathan Streeter *

Basses

Bill Borden
Jim Brandt +
Jeff Carlson
Nathan Chamberlain
Allen Heineman
Graham Hicks
Mark Huddle
Julian Jarzebowski
Lee Lichamer *
Mark Mosley
Mark Swanson
Doug Walters

* Section leader
+ Advisory Committee

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: 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

Head Ushers: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, John Balevic

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

This week's altar flowers are given by Annie Johnson in honor of Charlie Johnson's graduation from DePauw University today.

BORN THIS WEEK IN MAY

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.

May 19 Dede Koldyke, James Keller, James Mix, Jeff Calore, Mike Penchnyo,
Nancy Voigts Godinez

May 20 Gustav Schmidt, Laura Brinkoetter, Nate Gallagher, Ryan Braun,
Samuel Crowley

May 21 Amelia Holland, Nate Combs, Scarlett England, Scott Moehrke

May 22 Julian Chaiken, Leslie Chamberlain

May 23 Julie Walker

May 24 David Wu, Josiah Smedley

May 25 Carlos Cata, Spencer Ward, Spencer Weldon

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: May 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 - HOSPICE PRESENTATION - 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary

There will be a “Hospice” presentation following church service for the whole congregation. It is the warmest thing you can do for a family member or a friend when they are at the end of their life. Join Lynn Dykstra Davis, John Balevic and Mary Anne Brown as they discuss the beauty of hospice and answer any questions. Presented by Stephen Ministry.

TODAY - YOUNG ADULT SUMMER KICK-OFF PICNIC - 5-7 p.m., Oz Park

Join other 22-32-year-olds for food, kickball, games, and fun at Oz Park. We’ll provide pizza and soda, but feel free to bring other food or drinks to share. Look for the red balloons, or text us on GroupMe <https://tinyurl.com/482jjud5> and follow us on instagram @stpauls.youngadults. For more info: youngadults@spucc.org

MAY 19 - 21 - SPRING POLO SWAP – 9 a.m. -12 p.m., Social Hall

It’s spring cleaning season! Gather your gently used children's items to donate to community members in need and swap some clothes! Accepting clothes, toys, games, books. Drop off items in the main office during business hours now through May 15. Visit and browse May 15-21 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. in the Social Hall. For questions, contact erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org.

MAY 21 and 28 - 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.

MAY 28 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL LUNCH GROUP - 12-1:30 p.m., Social Hall
Program facilitated by Senior Pastor Matt Fitzgerald. Adults of all ages are invited. Make new friends and connect with old ones with lunch (please bring your own), fellowship, fun and faith. You may register here if you wish:
tinyurl.com/2p3w8jnf.

MAY 29 - COOKIES FOR A CAUSE - 5:30 p.m., Kitchen
(Baking your favorite cookies from home is now also an option.)
Join St. Pauls cookie bakers for dinner, socializing and cookie making on Wednesday, May 29. Meet us in the kitchen at 5:30 p.m., or whenever works for you. We eat around 6:30 p.m. Our cookies (more than 1,000) go to a Just Harvest and their various shelters and the Lincoln Park Community Shelter (LPCS). If you can't join us but would like to participate, you may drop off any homemade cookies labeled MARCIA and your name at the church by Sunday, May 26.

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

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!



CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

Do you have a high school, college, or graduate school graduate? Please email their name and school to Erin Fitzgerald at erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org. They will be recognized in worship on June 2 during the youth mission trip commissioning on Baccalaureat Sunday!

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

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.

PALESTINE STUDY GROUP

Join us 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](https://open.spotify.com/album/1bdcqvdy) and Apple Music [tinyurl.com/39skfy9k](https://music.apple.com/album/39skfy9k). Share the links with your friends; no account needed to listen.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

What is the historic and ongoing economic cost of racism? Historians Charisse Burden-Stelly and Andrew W. Kahrl will discuss how capitalism costs black people more than any other group during a panel at 1:30 p.m. today at the Harold Washington Library. Admission is free and the panelists and moderator Arionne Nettles will have their works available for purchase. Learn more about the program and participants at <https://tinyurl.com/33j3yk5>.

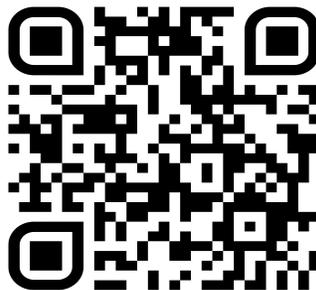
CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

“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. This summer, assess your backyard or neighborhood. Is an oak in your yard or neighborhood in distress? 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/546fwxxv>.



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 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!

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 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.

