

May 26, 2024
Trinity 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

It is only when the doctrine of the Trinity vanquishes the monotheistic notion of the great universal monarch in heaven that earthly rulers, dictators and tyrants cease to find any justifying religious archetypes any more. -- Jürgen Moltmann

PRELUDE *Prelude on Slane* Craig Phillilps
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

INTROIT *O God of Love, O God of Peace* Henry Williams Baker
Chancel Choir

CHIMES

WELCOME Liz Nickerson

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

**All: IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD,
AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD,
AND THE WORD WAS GOD**

One: In the beginning the Spirit of God swept over the face of the waters.

**All: IN THE BEGINNING GOD SAID,
"LET THERE BE LIFE!"**

One: And God saw that it was good!

All: LET US WORSHIP THE SOURCE OF ALL THAT IS GOOD!

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

* HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore thee,
3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide thee,
4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee;
Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
Though the eye of sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see;
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y;
Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
On - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y;

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
Which wert and art and ev - er - more shalt be.
Per - fect in power, in love, and pur - i - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, we confess that we forget you.

**We devote our lives to idols of our own making,
taking your good gifts and this good world for granted.**

Dear Jesus, we confess that we have trouble living as your disciples.

We stray from your way of love for God and neighbor.

**Spirit of God, we confess that we resist your work in our lives,
preferring our old habits to your fresh ways;
listening to our fears rather than to your voice.**

Beautiful Trinity, forgive us and heal us.

Plunge us into the depths of your mysterious and infinite love. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RESPONSE

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

vv. 1 & 2

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one de - sire:
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

That I may love the way you love and do___ what you would do.
Un - til with you I will one will, to do___ and to en - dure.
That ev - ery earth - ly part of me may glow with ho - ly fire.
But live with you the per - fect life of your e - ter - ni - ty.

SCRIPTURE

David Faulkner

John 3:1-9, 12-16

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God."

Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"

Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

*** 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**

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

vv. 3 & 4

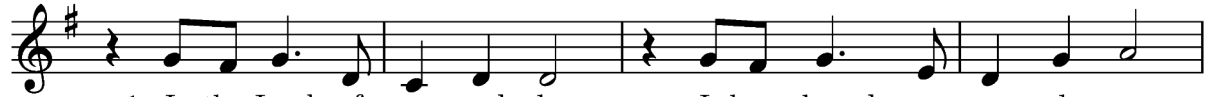
SERMON

"Born Again"

Jeff Carlson

* HYMN

Here I Am, Lord



1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in deep - est sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them, they turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.



I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?____
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?____
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?____



Refrain
 Here I am, Lord.____ Is it I, Lord?____ I have heard you



call - ing in the night.____ I will go, Lord,____ if you lead me._



____ I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

OFFERTORY

How Lovely Are the Messengers
from *St. Paul*
Chancel Choir

Felix Mendelssohn

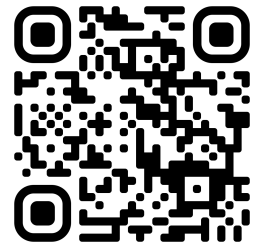
How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace,
To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words,
Throughout all the lands their glad tidings bring.
How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace!
Text from Romans 5: 15 & 16

You can give to St. Pauls electronically:

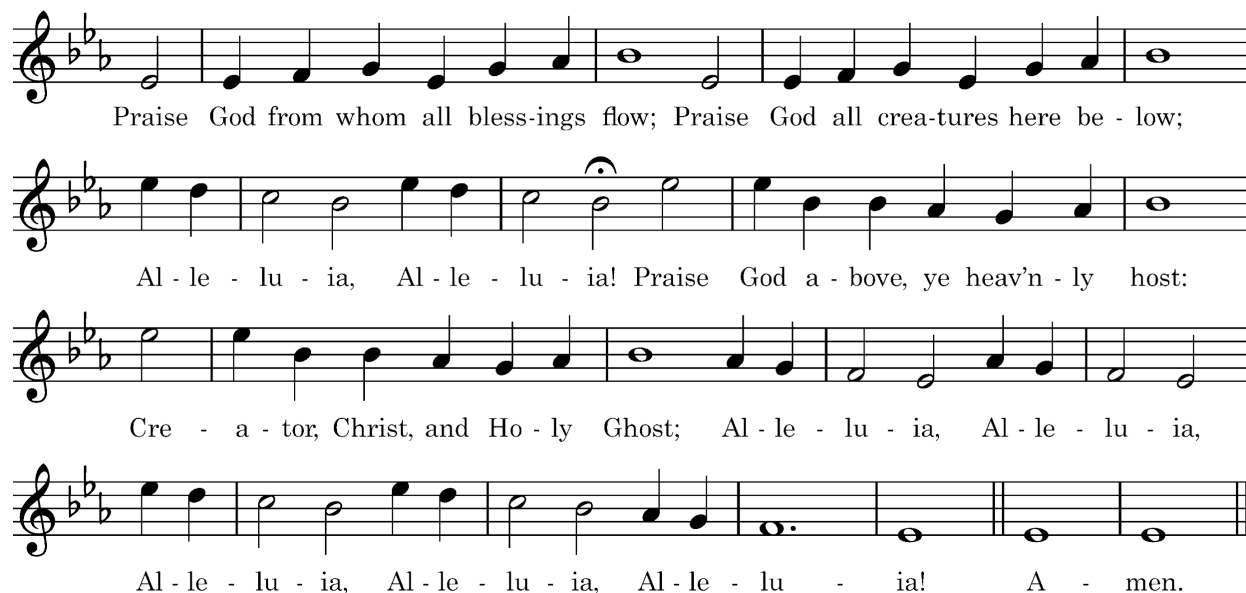
Scan this code with your cell phone camera,

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.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff ends with a whole note, the second with a half note, the third with a whole note, and the fourth with a double bar line.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Matt Fitzgerald

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**

* HYMN

O God Beyond All Praising



1. O__ God be - yond all prais - ing, We wor - ship you to - day
2. Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, Ac - cept the love we bring,
3. The flower of earth - ly splen - dor, In time must sure - ly die,



And sing the love a - maz - ing That songs can - not re - pay;
That we who know your fa - vor May serve you as our king;
Its__ fra - gile bloom sur - ren - der To you, the Lord most high;



For__ we can on - ly won - der At__ ev - 'ry gift you send,
And__ wheth - er our to - mor - rows Be__ filled with good or ill,
But__ hid - den from all na - ture The e - ter - nal seed is sown



At__ bless - ings with - out num - ber And mer - cies with - out end:
We'll tri - umph through our sor - rows And rise to bless you still:
Though small in mor - tal sta - ture, To heav - ens gar - den grown;



We__ lift our hearts be - fore__ you And wait up - on your word,
To__ mar - vel at your beau - ty And glo - ry in your ways,
For__ Christ, your son, from hea - ven From death has set us free



We__ hon - or and a - dore you, Our great and might - y Lord.
And make a joy - ful du - ty Our sac - ri - fice of praise.
And through him you have giv - en The fi - nal vic - to - ry!

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

A Gaelic Blessing
Chancel Choir

John Rutter

Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.
Moon and stars, pour their healing light on you.
Deep peace of Christ, the light of the world to you.

POSTLUDE

Rejoice!
St. Arbucks Quartet

Richard Smallwood

***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 WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Liz Nickerson, Jeff Carlson, Matt Fitzgerald

Music Director: Kurt R. Hansen

Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski

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

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Head Ushers: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Faulkner, Fred Pearson

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 Lynne Sprincz in loving memory of Joanne Bucher Sprincz by her family.

The second set of flowers are given by Mary and Dodd Brown to celebrate the 47th anniversary of their marriage at St. Pauls.

BORN THIS WEEK IN MAY/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.

May 26 Grady Clarke, Marinel Workman-Mandell, Mary Kay Campbell

May 27 Graham Roark, Libby Braband, Norman Beck

May 28 Christine Terborg, Kim Beck, Nancy Curotto, Tyler Holland

May 29 Alexandra Beck, Faye Johnson, Larry Kearns, Molly Terborg, Monty Kehl,
Noa Penniman

May 30 Angi Miller, Brooklyn Singles, Grayson Charlton, Leo Patton, Margaret Palm

May 31 Anaïs Jarzebowski, Charlotte Bunch, Marnee Lumm, Michael Mosley,
Terry Breitwiser

June 1 Alison Schwab, Clay Canfield, Phil Hamp, Thomas Mix

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 June 2 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

MAY 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

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 11th 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

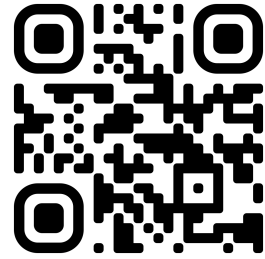
Celebrating Summer and Farmer's Markets

Farmer's Markets provide many benefits, including building a greater sense of community and providing access to produce that is usually fresher, better tasting and with an enhanced nutrient profile because the produce has spent more time on the vine, tree or ground. Usually, produce is local and seasonal (from Illinois or surrounding states) and has been picked within 24 hours to market. This also means that its transportation footprint is better than produce which is trucked across many states. Celebrate summer with a trip to your local market and look for recipes provided by the St. Paul's Green Team!

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 cindyzinn11@gmail.com.

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS – If you're in need of support through a tough time and would like to be matched with someone who would support you with companionship and prayer, or you're feeling called to offer support, speak to Pastor Jeff Carlson (jcarlson@spucc.org), 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

Prelude on Slane is based on the hymn tune we know as *Be Thou My Vision*. SLANE is the proper name of the tune and it is a lovely Irish folk melody. Craig Phillips (b. 1961) is a well respected composer and organist who currently is Associate Director of Music and Composer-In-Residence at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Beverly Hills, California. He received both his master's degree and doctorate in Musical Arts from the Eastman School of Music. He has performed with major symphony orchestras and also won prizes for his compositions.

The text for ***O God of Love, O God of Peace*** was written in 1861 by Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877). The son of a British admiral, he was ordained, became Vicar of Monkland, and was later knighted. Sir Henry composed many hymn texts. The tune HESPERUS, also known as QUEBEC, was composed in 1854 by another Henry Baker (1835-1910).

Holy, Holy, Holy - It is interesting to note that the text for this hymn draws from both Jewish and Catholic liturgy. The Jewish prayer for every Shabbat service is *Kadosh, kadosh, kadosh*, and the Catholic prayer is *Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus*. Reginald Heber (1783-1826) penned this text in 1826 just before his death. He won poetry contests at Oxford in his student days, became a member of the clergy, and took over his father's parish. The tune, NICAIA, was named after the Council of Nicaea (325 CE) when the Church formulated the concept of the Trinity. It was composed by John Dykes (1823-1876) who created many famous English hymn tunes.

Breathe on Me, Breath of God is a text composed in 1878 by Edwin Hatch (1835-1889). He was educated at Oxford, held educational appointments in Canada, and returned to England to lead a school and also a parish ministry. The tune, TRENTHAM, was composed by Robert Jackson (1842-1914) and, as so often happens, was composed for another text, but is permanently associated with this text. The tune was named for a town near where Jackson grew up.

Here I Am Lord/I The Lord of Sea and Sky, tune HERE I AM LORD, does not appear in either of our hymnals but has become a favorite of ours over the years. The composer and author, Daniel Schutte (b. 1947), wrote this hymn in 1981. He has composed more than 150 hymns, this one being his most popular, for Catholic worship services. He was born in Elm Grove, Wisconsin, and is a Jesuit priest.

Felix Mendelssohn, (1809–1847), composed his oratorio *St. Paul*, Op. 36 between 1834 and 1836. It includes the chorus ***How Lovely Are the Messengers***. Like Mozart, Mendelssohn had a very short and artistically productive life. He was born in Germany, but a great source of his popularity lay outside his home country. He was especially beloved in England. Amongst his greatest accomplishments was the revival of the works of J.S. Bach, and the first “modern” performance of Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion* since his death. *St. Paul* is performed much less often than the more popular *Elijah*, Op. 70, composed a decade later. *St. Paul* is the story of the Apostle Paul’s conversion and ministry told from the Book of Acts. This chorus is sung in the oratorio when Paul calls Barnabas and Saul to go out and preach the Gospel to all the nations.

O God Beyond All Praising is by Gustav Holst (1874–1934). The tune is called THAXTED, which is the main theme of the Jupiter movement from Holst’s *The Planets*. It is truly a majestic hymn. Thaxted is the village where Holst grew up. It was Ralph Vaughan Williams who adapted “Thaxted” as a hymn. The author of our text is Michael A. Perry (1942–1996). He began studies as a physicist and changed to theology.

A Gaelic Blessing was composed in (1978) by John Rutter (b.1945). The text is from an old Gaelic rune. It is another work that was commissioned by Mel Olson, the church choir director with whom Kurt R. Hansen grew up in Omaha. He was also largely responsible for introducing John Rutter and his music to this country.

Rejoice! - Richard Smallwood (b. 1948) is one of the top composers and performers of Gospel music. His group, The Richard Smallwood Singers, has toured the world. He is a graduate of Howard University, which also counts Vice President Kamala Harris and so many other luminaries as alumni. He was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 2006.

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.



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.