

May 5, 2024
Communion

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 not so much our friends' help that helps us
as it is the confident knowledge that they *will* help us." Epicurus

PRELUDE *I Don't Feel No Ways Tired* Rev. James Cleveland
St. Arbucks Quartet

I don't feel no ways tired,
I've come too far from where I started from
Nobody told me that the road would be easy
I don't believe he brought me this far to leave me...

INTROIT *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*
Chancel Choir

CHIMES

WELCOME Liz Nickerson

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Beautiful are the works of God!

All: Beautiful also are all of God's people!

One: Beautiful are the friends of God!

All: Beautiful also are the hopes of God's people!

One: Lord God, make us your friends today!

All: To God be the glory for the things God has done!

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

* HYMN

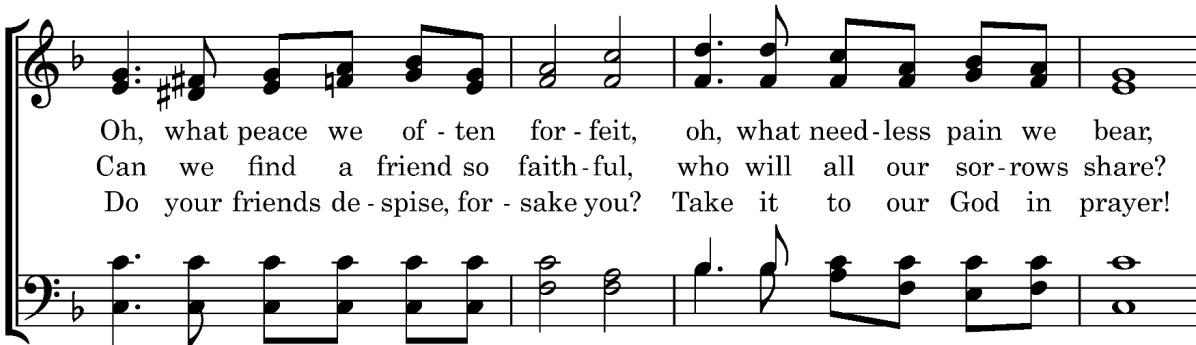
What a Friend We Have in Jesus



1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3. Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, bur - dened with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to our God in prayer!
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, take it to our God in prayer!



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need - less pain we bear,
Can we find a friend so faith - ful, who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to our God in prayer!



All be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer.
Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to our God in prayer!
Je - sus' arms will take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord God,
You want to call us “friends.”
But we know that no foe
can strike the painful blow
friendship can inflict.
So we prefer
our splendid isolation.
Forgive us for resisting
your friendship and
the truth within it.
Teach us to trust you
and to trust each other.
Make us friends.
Amen.**

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 participate in communion.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Vocalise

Sergei Rachmaninov

Сирень *Lilacs*

Rachmaninov

(Sung in Russian)

Kurt R. Hansen, tenor

Karina Kontorovitch, piano

At dawn, along the dewy grass,
I will breathe deeply in the fresh morning air;
And into the fragrant shade, where the abundant lilacs flourish,
I search for happiness, for the one I know is there,
That abides among the fragrant clusters on green branches;
There also will my joy bloom.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Thank you God, for turning strangers into friends
and making us a community at your table.**

Together met, together fed, let our hearts cry out in praise.

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.

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil - e - ad To make the wound - ed whole,
There is a balm in Gil - e - ad to heal the sin - sick soul.

1. Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged And think my work's in vain,
2. If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, If you can - not pray like Paul,
3. Don't ev - er feel dis - cour - aged, For_ Je - sus is your friend;

But_ then the Ho - ly Spir - it Re - vives my soul a - gain.
you can tell the love of Je - sus, And say, "He died for all!"
And_ if you lack for knowl - edge He'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

SCRIPTURE

Mark Sancya

John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

* 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

There Is a Balm in Gilead
See previous hymn

vv. 2 & 3

SERMON

"I Saw You at the Window of My Soul"

Matt Fitzgerald

* HYMN

My Song Is Love Unknown

1. My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to me,
2. God left the rich - est throne sal - va - tion to be - stow;
3. I sing my plain be - lief, one song my heart out - pours:

Love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.
But Christ as flesh and bone the world re - fused to know.
Nev - er was pain nor grief, nev - er was love like yours.

O who am I, that for my sake my God should take frail
But, O my Friend, my Friend in - deed, who at my need did
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could

flesh and die? My God should take frail flesh and die?
life ex - pend; who at my need did life ex - - pend.
glad - ly spend; I all my days could glad - ly spend.

MISSION MOMENT

Mary Stainton

OFFERTORY

Ave verum corpus

W. A. Mozart

(Sung in Latin)

Chancel Choir

Karina Kontorovitch, piano

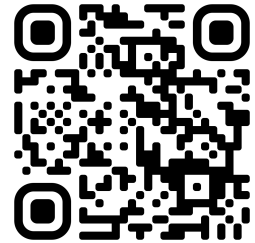
Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary.
Who has truly suffered, was sacrificed on the cross for mortals,
Whose side was pierced, whence flowed water and blood:
Be for us a foretaste of heaven during our final examining.
O Jesus sweet, O Jesus pure, O Jesus, Son of Mary,
Have mercy upon me. Amen.

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 blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here be - low;

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

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

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

* HYMN

How Firm a Foundation



1. How_ firm a foun - da - tion for you has been laid,
2. "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3. "When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go,
4. "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,
5. "The_ soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose,



by_ God in the Word, in the sac - ri - fice paid!
for_ I am your God, I will still give you aid;
the_ riv - ers of woe shall not o - ver you flow;
my_ grace all - suf - fi - cient shall be your sup - ply;
I_ will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;



What more can God say than to you has been said,
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand
For I will be with you, your trou - bles to bless,
the flame shall not hurt you; for I have de - signed
That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake.



to_ you, who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
up - held by my gra - cious, om - ni - po - tent hand."
de - liv - er - ing you from your deep - est dis - tress."
your_ soul to make pure just as gold is re - fined."
I'll_ nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!"

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

I Saw the Light
St. Arbucks Quartet

Hank Williams

Old Friends

Old friends are a steady spring rain,
or late summer sunshine edging into fall,
or frosted leaves along a snowy path—
a voice for all seasons saying, I know you.
The older I grow, the more I fear I'll lose my old friends,
as if too many years have scrolled by
since the day we sprang forth, seeking each other.

Old friend, I knew you before we met.
I saw you at the window of my soul—
I heard you in the steady millstone of my heart
grinding grain for our daily bread.
You are sedimentary, rock-solid cousin earth,
where I stand firmly, astonished by your grace and truth.
And gratitude comes to me and says:

"Tell me anything and I will listen.
Ask me anything, and I will answer you."

Freya Manfred

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

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

PEACE CANDLE - We have added a peace candle to the Chancel. Jesus said blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Liz Nickerson, Matt Fitzgerald

Music Director: Kurt R. Hansen

Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski

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

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Scripture Reader: Mark Sancya

Communion Coordinator: Jana O'Brien

Communion Servers: Jennifer Heiney, Jill Wachholz

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Faulkner, Fred Pearson

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

Communion bread baked by Marcia Knudson.

This week's altar flowers are given by Jan Bail.

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 5 Frank Schmitz, Jennifer Stuart, Madeline Hurlbutt, Maia Sanders

May 6 Ben Lytal, Dave Bueschel, Denise Beitelschmidt, Kent Davidson, Matt Wood

May 7 Carri Johnson, Myers Emmrich, Owen Waldschmidt

May 8 Doug Clark, Francois Millard, Joel Grachan,

May 9 Adam McElhinney, Dave Verduin, Jill Wachholz, John Balevic, Lydia Murray

May 10 Steve Singles

May 11 Alec Riportella, Doug Dobmeyer

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 5, 19; June 2, 16. High schoolers meet immediately following the service downstairs in the Youth Lounge. Parents and teens should join the High School GroupMe for up-to-date information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 7 and 14 - 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 19 - 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.

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.

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

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!

WINDY CITY WINDS CONCERT - FRIDAY MAY 17 - "THE GREAT OUTDOORS"

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

LITTLE LIGHTS SUMMER CAMP - REGISTRATION IS OPEN

For ages 3-5, Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., June-August. Camp includes themed and structured fun inside our classrooms, in the gym and outside in the sun. There will be water games, arts & crafts, music, sports, and more! Register here: tinyurl.com/Little-Lights-Summer-Camp.

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 on Friday, May 14 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/bdcqvdy](https://open.spotify.com/album/1bdcqvdy) and Apple Music [tinyurl.com/39skfy9k](https://music.apple.com/album/1bdcqvdy). Share the links with your friends; no account needed to listen.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

Happy Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month! This year's theme is "Advancing Leaders Through Innovation." Learn more about the history, struggles and contributions of our AAPI siblings at [tinyurl.com/3a5drvkc](https://open.spotify.com/album/1bdcqvdy). Find ways to celebrate and experience the wide range of AAPI cultures at [tinyurl.com/43t33ak8](https://open.spotify.com/album/1bdcqvdy).

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

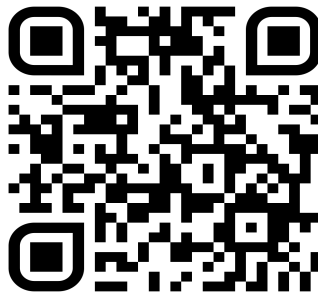
RESTORE OUTDOORS

Reduce the grass in your yard. Instead, consider planting a rain garden, pollinator garden, ground cover, or wildflower meadow. Don't mow in May. "No Mow May" began with the awareness that the loss of nearly 97% of wildflower meadows has resulted in great losses of pollinators. Reverse the trend. Allow four weeks between cuts; cut at 3–5 inches, leave a patch to grow long, or mow just the front yard if community ordinances or neighbors are a factor. Switch to a reel or push mower. Switching to a non-gas-powered mower not only saves you money, but also means fewer toxic gasses going into the air. Plus, it's great exercise!



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 '23-'24 school year below. We have a nursery for children under 2, Preschool Child Care for children 2-5, and Sunday School/Confirmation I & II for 5-year-olds to high school. Email questions to Children's Program Coordinator Danielle Mayfield at danielle.mayfield@spucc.org. Register here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1850397.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPARC (St. Pauls Anti-Racism Cluster) meets monthly to discern how we as a congregation can answer the call to live our faith in an age of injustice. We invite you to join us in identifying the educational opportunities, resources and actions to take on our journey toward racial justice. To participate or share your ideas, contact Cindy Ball at cindyball11@gmail.com.

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

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

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



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

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

TODAY'S MUSIC

I Don't Feel No Ways Tired was composed in 1980 by the Reverend James Cleveland (1931-1991), inspired by the exclamation of an elderly woman in his congregation. She'd had a hard life with pain, disappointment, and mistreatment "just because of who she was." She found strength in her faith, redemption in Christ, and liberation in the Holy Spirit. Her words and fortitude inspired the Reverend Cleveland. He also carried on the tradition, begun by Thomas A. Dorsey, of fusing the spirit-filled music of gospel with the energy and drive of jazz. Muzette Morgan, our longtime alto section leader and member of St. Pauls, introduced us to this song.

The text for ***Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*** was written in 1931 by Percy Dearmer (1867-1936). He was ordained into ministry in the Church of England and was also one of the editors of *English Hymnal 1906*. The tune, UNION SEMINARY, was composed in 1957 by Harold Friedell (1905-1958), an American organist, choirmaster, teacher, and composer. He was also a member of the faculty of Union Theological Seminary in New York City, which explains his choice for the name of the tune.

Joseph Medicott Scriven (1819-1886) wrote the famous text for ***What a Friend We Have in Jesus*** in 1855. An Irish immigrant to Canada, his life was full of ill health and grief, which he worked out in Christian poetry. The tune, ERIE, is also known as CONVERSE, and was composed in 1868 by John C. Converse (1832-1918), who grew up in Erie, Pennsylvania, which explains both tune names. He was an attorney who also composed "church songs." He studied both law and music in Leipzig before returning to this country.

There Is a Balm in Gilead is a Black Spiritual. In the Hebrew Bible, Gilead was the name of the mountainous region east of the Jordan River. This region was known for having skillful physicians and an ointment made from the gum of a tree indigenous to that area. Many believed that this balm had miraculous powers to heal the body. In the book of Jeremiah, God tells the people of Israel that though many believe in the mysterious healing power of this balm, they can't trust in those powers for spiritual healing or as a relief of their oppression. For slaves in our country, crossing the Jordan River was code for escaping their bondage by escaping to the North, traversing rivers such as the Potomac and Ohio.

Vocalise Op. 34, No. 14 was composed in 1915 by Sergei Rachmaninov (1873-1943). Rachmaninov was an incredibly gifted pianist in addition to being an unashamed Romantic 20th century composer when most composers were breaking away from melody and lush harmony. He was born in Russia, but moved with his family to

America in 1918 following the Russian Revolution. A *vocalise* is usually considered a warm-up exercise for the voice, similar to physical stretching before running. Other famous composers, such as Chopin, made beautiful music out of musical exercises, often called *etudes*. The **Vocalise** has no text, which allows the listener and performers to be moved in an individual and spiritual way.

Сирень Lilacs, Op 21, No. 5 was composed by Rachmaninov in 1902 to a poem by Ekatarina Beketova (1855-1892), who also wrote children's literature. Sadly, she died as a result of complications during childbirth. Rachmaninov, while most often known for his works for piano, also composed many beautiful songs, chamber music, choral music, symphonies, and opera. Although trends of "modern" music had moved on during his lifetime, his deeply romantic style will always speak to the listener.

My Song Is Love Unknown is a hymn text written in 1664 by Samuel Crossman (1623-1684). Very little is known about his life beyond the fact that he was clergy. The one observation is how clearly this text speaks to us across over four centuries. The tune, RHOSYMEDRE, was composed in 1840 by John David Edwards (1806-1885). He was an Anglican priest and the tune name is taken from one of the parishes he served in Wales.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) composed this communion motet, **Ave verum corpus**, to a text from the 13th century by Pope Innocent III or IV. This prayer recalls Christ's sacrifice on the cross and where that sacrifice leads us as believers.

How Firm a Foundation, although of anonymous origin, is a true American hymn first published in Funk's *Genuine Church Music* in 1832. That hymnal is part of what is often referred to as the Sacred Harp, or shape-note hymnal, tradition in our country which began in the early 19th century. These treasures gained a rebirth during the bicentennial celebrations in 1976. Did you know that before the revival of this tune, FOUNDATION, this text was most often sung to the tune *Adeste Fideles (O Come All Ye Faithful)*? The text is also unattributed, but first discovered by John Rippon (1751-1836), who was an English Baptist clergy. He noted the author as "K."

I Saw the Light was composed and recorded in 1952 by Hank Williams (1923-1953). He was a beloved country music singer and composer. In his all-too-short life, he recorded 35 singles, 11 of which reached No. 1 on the Country & Western charts.

SPECIAL MUSIC 2023-2024
"MASS APPEAL"

Mass Appeal is a way to look at one of the oldest forms of Christian liturgical worship in three very different ways. The goal is to share how the words of the liturgical Mass can be expressed in varied musical styles, but always with the same goal: expressing the spiritual joy, longing, majesty, and supplication.

Our final offering of MASS APPEAL will be Sunday, May 19, 2024 - *Gospel Mass* was composed in 1982 by Robert Ray. This wonderful setting, largely in English, marries the spiritual energy and uplift of Gospel music with the timeless words of the Mass ordinary. This gives us a chance to showcase not only the Chancel Choir, but also our incredible St. Arbucks Quartet. *Gospel Mass* will be offered in memory of Ron McCowan, our beloved Chancel Choir bass section leader for more than 25 years, who entered that eternal "home in that Rock" on March 4, 2024.

ST. PAULS PRAYS

Please clip this page and pray for those who are named below. To have your prayer request included, simply ask a pastor in person, on the phone or by email.

Our practice is to run each prayer request for four weeks and then remove it.

If you would like to continue a prayer request after four weeks, let a pastor know.

- Prayers for the family and friends of Ron McCowan at his death.
- David Baker's brother-in-law, Roger Robert as he deals with the onset of Parkinson's disease.
- Prayers for an enriching sabbatical for Pastor Jeff, away until May 19.
- 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 has been hospitalized and is now in rehab.
- Deborah's friend, Anita Smith, recovering at Paul House and Health Care Center following a lengthy hospitalization.
- Carole Crowley, recovering from a stroke.

Prayer, Support, Mental Health Resources

Even when you walk through the valley of shadows, God is with you. Help is available for every kind of issue. Contact one of the pastors today for support, referrals, and information that can help you and your loved ones.

ABOUT ST. PAULS

Making a Joyful Sound in the City!

St. Pauls UCC has a vibrant history in the city of Chicago. Founded in 1843, we are one of the city's oldest churches. In 1989, we became one of America's first congregations to declare ourselves "Open and Affirming" of LGBTQ+ people.

From founding Chicago's largest provider of social services to at-risk children to starting a home for the elderly, from housing protestors at the 1968 Democratic Convention to hosting Lincoln Park's first MLK day march against violence on Chicago's streets, we are proud to make a joyful sound in the city.

Most important, during the past 180 years we are glad to have introduced thousands of children and adults to the amazing, inclusive, life changing, uplifting love of God. We do so in worship that is traditional, but far from conventional.

Senior Pastor Matt Fitzgerald, mfitzgerald@spucc.org
Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, jcarlson@spucc.org
Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, lnickerson@spucc.org

For a complete list of St. Pauls Staff, Governance, and Lay Leadership
Please visit www.spucc.org/contact

St. Pauls United Church of Christ
2335 N Orchard St. | Chicago, IL 60614
(773) 348-3829 www.spucc.org

Free Parking is available Sundays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
at the Lincoln Common Parking Garage, 2316 N. Lincoln Ave.
Parking validation is available in the Narthex.



WELCOME TO SAINT PAULS UCC!

Welcome to those whose hearts are on fire with faith,
and to those who bring their doubt inside our doors.

Welcome to our first time guests and
our longtime members.

Welcome to single people, tiny children,
grandparents and families of all configurations.
Welcome to those who rejoice and to those who
grieve.

Welcome to LGBTQ+ people.

Welcome to each and to everyone.

We are blessed by your presence and
we are glad you are here.