

June 23, 2024

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

"Will you refuse to recognize the divine because it is manifested in art and  
enjoyment and not just in conscience and action?" Hippolyte Taine

PRELUDE

*Adagio*  
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

Daniel Gawthrop

INTROIT

*The God of Abraham Praise*  
Chancel Choir

CHIMES

WELCOME

Jeff Carlson

\* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come to God with fears about our nation, our families and the future.

**All: *Follow me, says Jesus, and I will help you bear the load.***

One: We come to Christ all weariness, trying to be all things to all people.

**All: *Follow me, says Jesus, and I will give you rest.***

One: We come to worship trapped by regret and self-recrimination.

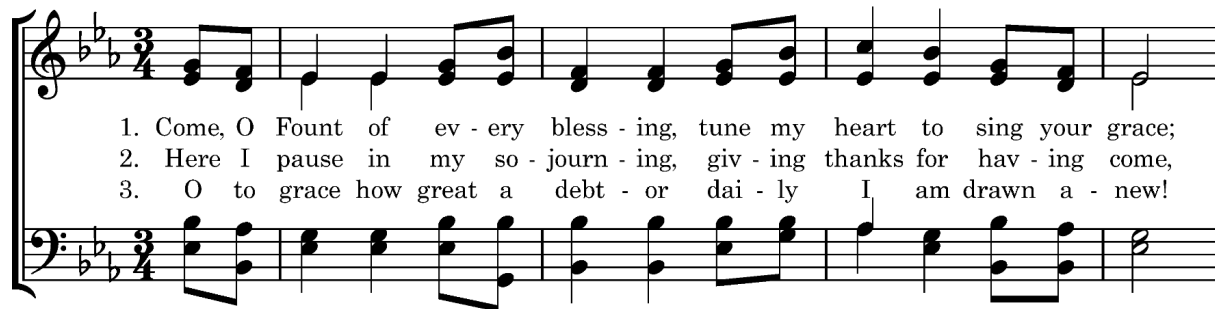
**All: *Follow me, says Jesus, and I will set you free.***

**And so, we come to church with joy!**

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

\* HYMN

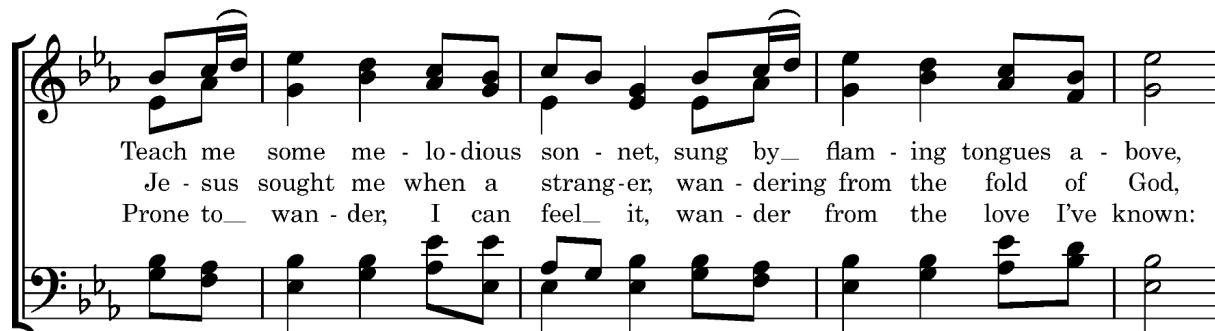
*Come, O Fount of Every Blessing*



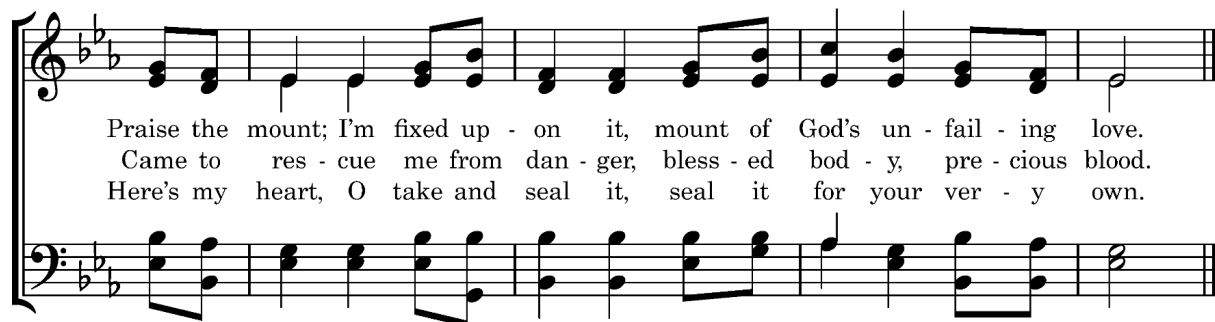
1. Come, O Fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;  
2. Here I pause in my so - journ - ing, giv - ing thanks for hav - ing come,  
3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of end - less praise.  
come to trust, at ev - ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe - ly home.  
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to you.



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove,  
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - dering from the fold of God,  
Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan - der from the love I've known:



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail - ing love.  
Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless - ed bod - y, pre - cious blood.  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of truth,  
stop us from making promises  
and then feeling good,  
as if a promise were an action.  
Give us the faith to act.  
Let our yes to you be real.**

**If that is not possible  
give us the honesty to  
Look you in the face  
and say *no* to your way,  
your wisdom, your call.**

**And then give us the wisdom  
to cry out for your mercy.  
Amen.**

## MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RESPONSE

*Over My Head*

vv. 1 & 2



1. O - ver my head\_\_\_\_\_ I hear mu - sic in the air.\_\_\_\_\_
2. O - ver my head\_\_\_\_\_ I hear sing-ing the in air.\_\_\_\_\_
3. O - ver my head\_\_\_\_\_ I see trou-ble in the air.\_\_\_\_\_
4. O - er my head\_\_\_\_\_ I see Je - sus in the air.\_\_\_\_\_



- O - ver my head\_\_\_\_\_ I hear mu - sic in the air.\_\_\_\_\_
- O - ver my head\_\_\_\_\_ I hear sing-ing in the air.\_\_\_\_\_
- O - ver my head\_\_\_\_\_ I see trou-ble in the air.\_\_\_\_\_
- O - ver my head\_\_\_\_\_ I see Je - sus in the air.\_\_\_\_\_



- O - ver my head\_\_\_\_\_ I hear mu - sic in the air,\_\_\_\_\_
- O - ver my head\_\_\_\_\_ I hear sing-ing in the air,\_\_\_\_\_
- O - ver my head\_\_\_\_\_ I see trou-ble in the air,\_\_\_\_\_
- O - ver my head\_\_\_\_\_ I see Je - sus in the air,\_\_\_\_\_



there must be a God some - where.\_\_\_\_\_

## SCRIPTURE

Carrie Bruggers

*Matthew 21:28-32*

Tell me what you think of this story: A man had two sons. He went up to the first and said, "Son, go out for the day and work in the vineyard."

The son answered, "I don't want to." Later on he thought better of it and went. The father gave the same command to the second son. He answered, "Sure, glad to." But he never went.

Which of the two sons did what the father asked?

They said, "The first."

Jesus said, "Yes, and I tell you that crooks and whores are going to precede you into God's kingdom. John came to you showing you the right road. You turned up your noses at him, but the crooks and whores believed him. Even when you saw their changed lives, you didn't care enough to change and believe 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

*Over My Head*  
See previous hymn

vv. 3 & 4

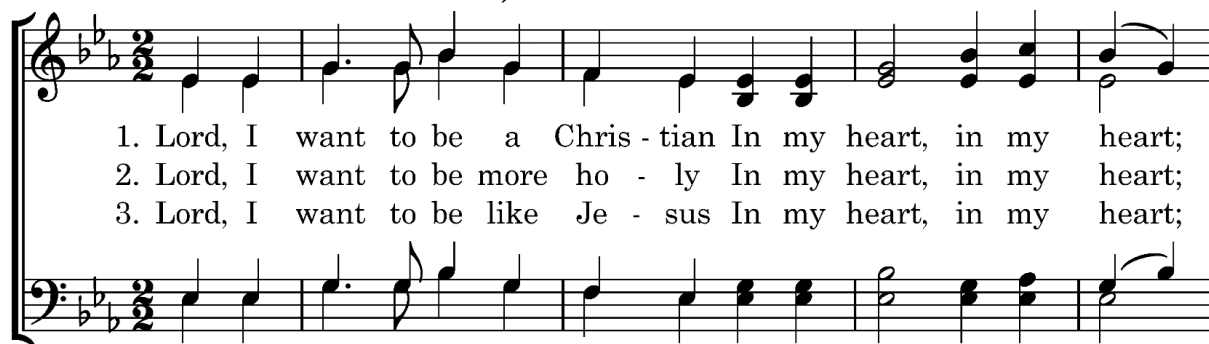
SERMON

"The Missing Sibling"

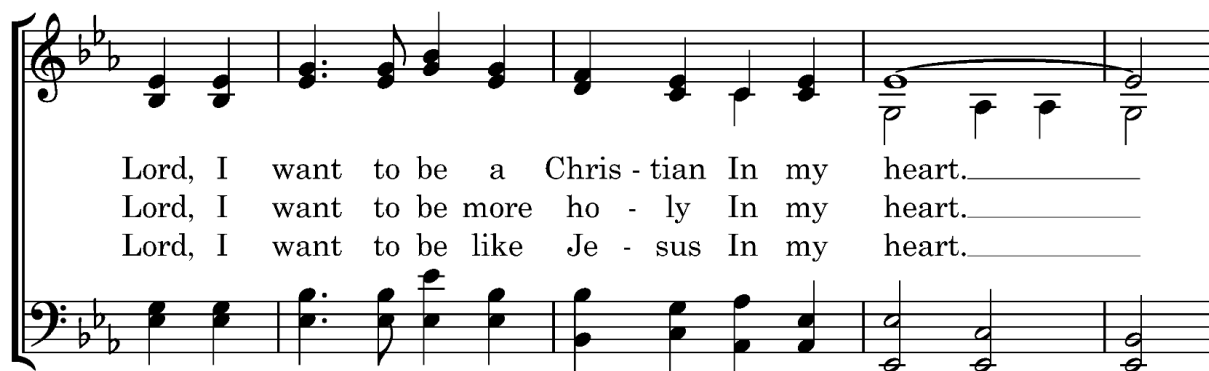
Matt Fitzgerald

\* HYMN

*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*



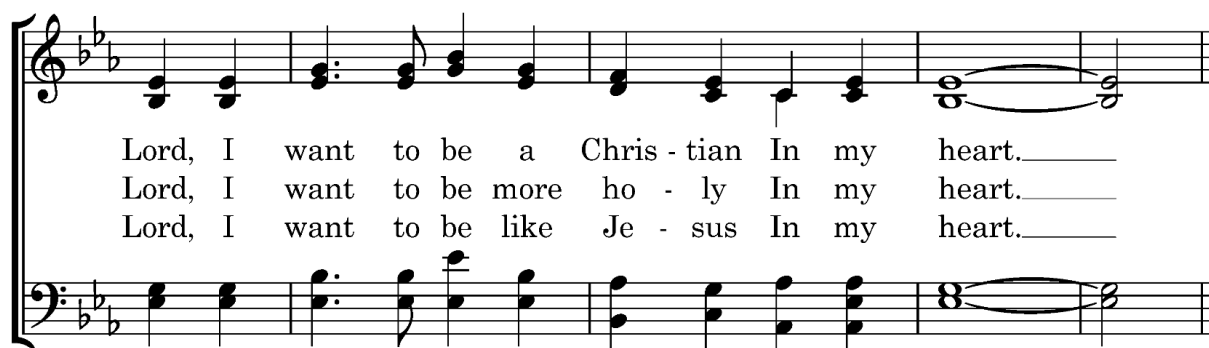
1. Lord, I want to be a Chris - tian In my heart, in my heart;  
2. Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In my heart, in my heart;  
3. Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In my heart, in my heart;



Lord, I want to be a Chris - tian In my heart.\_\_\_\_\_  
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In my heart.\_\_\_\_\_  
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In my heart.\_\_\_\_\_



In my heart, In my heart,  
In my heart, In my heart,



Lord, I want to be a Chris - tian In my heart.\_\_\_\_\_  
Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In my heart.\_\_\_\_\_  
Lord, I want to be like Je - sus In my heart.\_\_\_\_\_

OFFERTORY

*Know That the Lord Is God*  
Chancel Choir

George Frideric Handel

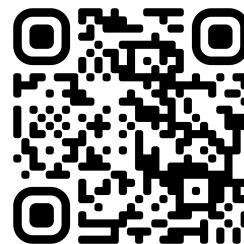
Know ye now that the Lord He is God  
It is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves  
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture  
Know ye now that the Lord He is God  
It is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves  
*based on Psalm 100: 3*

*You can give to St. Pauls electronically:*

*Scan this code with your cell phone camera,*

*Church Center at [spucc.churchcenter.com/giving](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/giving),*

*PayPal at [spucc.org/paypal](http://spucc.org/paypal), or Zelle to [giving@spucc.org](mailto: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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Liz Nickerson

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

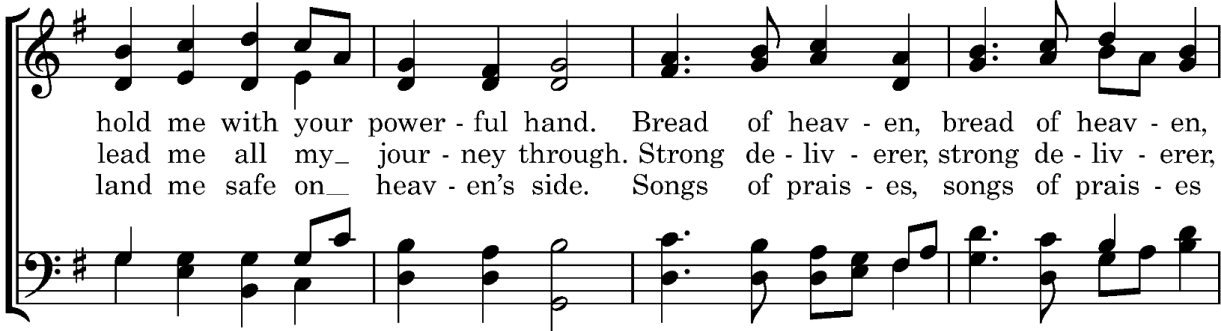
*Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer*



1. Guide me, O my great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, where the heal - ing  
3. When I reach the Riv - er Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land; I am weak, but you are might - y;  
wa - ters flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar  
fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,



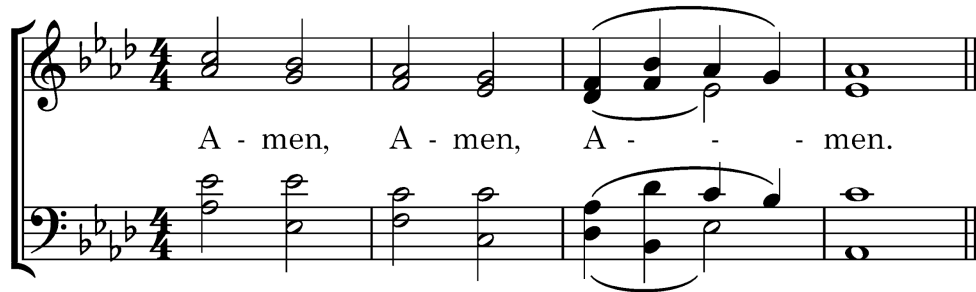
hold me with your power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,  
land me safe on heav - en's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es



feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.  
ev - er be my strength and shield, ev - er be my strength and shield.  
I will ev - er sing to you, I will ev - er sing to you.

\* BENEDICTION

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

*From the Top of My Head*  
St. Arbucks Quartet

Roy Hargrove

***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:** Jeff Carlson, Matt Fitzgerald, Liz Nickerson

**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, Fred Pearson

**Gatekeeper:** Dodd Brown

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

**Custodian:** Ramiro Gonzalez

## **BORN THIS WEEK IN JUNE**

*We give thanks for your life at St. Pauls. A perfect way to celebrate is by giving one dollar for each year of your life to our Birthday Fund, which supports A Just Harvest.*

- June 23 Benn Hamm, Chris Kohler, Elise Prangle, Nancy Kintzel, Paul Chang, Quinn Houser, Whitney Shirk
- June 24 Doug Hoerr
- June 25 Deborah Bayly, Dianne Witkowski, Jack Clarke, Renae Bradshaw, Robin Burnett
- June 26 Annabel Jackson, Lucas Lippert, Patricia Calore
- June 27 Genevieve Anderson, Jill Minetz, Julia Nickerson, Milana Jozwiak, Patricia Kirby, Theo Gonzalez-Greenberg
- June 28 Gale Landem
- June 29 John Busker, Raph Wiser, Rebecca Gonzalez, Renee Hardt

## **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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **JUNE 25 - 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 any time during that window.) If you have questions, call or text Steve Garrett at (312) 208-0636. To join us, visit: [tinyurl.com/Tuesday-Pickleball](https://tinyurl.com/Tuesday-Pickleball).

### **JUNE 25 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL LUNCH GROUP** - 12-1:30 p.m., Social Hall

Program facilitated by Pastor Liz Nickerson. Adults of all ages are invited. Make new friends and connect with old ones with lunch (please bring your own), fellowship, fun and faith. You may register here if you wish: [tinyurl.com/2p3w8jnf](https://tinyurl.com/2p3w8jnf).

### **JUNE 26 - WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - REVELATION** - 12-12:45 p.m., Zoom

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

### **JUNE 30 - ST. PAULS SOCIAL/PRIDE PARADE COOKOUT** - 2 p.m., Courtyard

Adults of all ages are invited to join St. Pauls Social and hosts Rick Peterson and Doug Heyboer for a cookout after the Pride Parade in the St. Pauls courtyard (or in the church in case of rain). Whether you're marching or not, you're invited to join this fun cookout. Please bring your own food and beverages. A grill will be provided for all to share. You may leave your food at the church during the march. RSVP here: [tinyurl.com/w5k4bkjj](https://tinyurl.com/w5k4bkjj)

### **JUNE 30 - PRIDE PARADE**

Four lucky members of St. Pauls will be walking in the parade this year along with others in the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches (CCWC). Because of new restrictions, each church is limited to only four representatives. If you're at the parade, look for them as they pass by! *We have one spot left to fill for St. Pauls.* Let Pastor Jeff know if you'd like to take it.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION'S 5TH ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER**

We're excited to support Lighthouse Foundation's (LF) 5th Anniversary Fundraiser on July 13 as a proud member congregation of LF's Coalition of Accomplices for Racial Equity (CARE)! Join us at Meeting House Tavern from 12 PM—2 PM to honor a Black LGBTQ+-founded and led organization providing healing and liberation at the intersection of Blackness and Queerness. Enjoy dynamic entertainment and joyful community. Enjoy Drag Bingo (\$20 a card), dazzling drag performances by Kenya J. Sanchez and Olaysia, and inspiring keynote speeches. Tickets start at \$35 for entry. Visit [bit.ly/LF5Fund](https://bit.ly/LF5Fund).

Let's celebrate Lighthouse Foundation's remarkable work over the past five years and join their ongoing efforts to empower Black LGBTQ+ individuals in Chicago. See you there!

### **WINDY CITY WINDS SUMMER CONCERTS**

Come hear Windy City Winds outdoors this summer performing music of POP STARS – FROM SOUSA TO TAYLOR SWIFT, plus The Beatles, Paul Simon, Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Chicago!, and "Chicago's Community Band" with guest stars from the St. Pauls Chancel Choir! Two more performances: Saturday evening, July 13 at 7 p.m. at Churchill Field for the Bucktown Garden Walk (1825 N. Damen), and Saturday afternoon, July 20 at 3 p.m. at Washington Square Park (Clark and Walton). Clap, sing and dance along with us!

### **WOMEN'S FARM/STARVED ROCK WEEKEND AT MARCIA VOLK'S FARM**

Please join us at the Volk farm the weekend of July 27-28! Come for Saturday only or the weekend. Carpool to farm (about two hours southwest) and spend Saturday hiking at Starved Rock and/or enjoy the farm trails, pick wildflowers, ride in our 4-wheeler and zip line. On Saturday night we'll have a potluck dinner and bonfire. On Sunday, we'll attend Marcia's summer Congregational church in Lacon (optional.) Breakfast and lunch are at the farm Sunday. Please bring \$10 for expenses, if possible. First 12 people who respond get the beds, two to a bed. All beds require the ability to climb stairs. For more information, contact Marcia Volk (773) 307-6866 or [marcia@volkonline.com](mailto:marcia@volkonline.com).

### **LITTLE LIGHTS SUMMER CAMP**

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](https://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 Ministers Leader Marti Pechnyo to learn more at [mpechnyo@gmail.com](mailto: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](https://tinyurl.com/Palestine-Study-Group) or contact David Burnett at [burnett.db@gmail.com](mailto: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](https://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: [tinyurl.com/wuphf495](https://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://tinyurl.com/bdcpvedv) and Apple Music [tinyurl.com/39skfy9k](https://tinyurl.com/39skfy9k). Share the links with your friends; no account needed to listen.

### **JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC**

**Petition Drive:** Special Meeting of the CCPSA (Community Commission for Public Safety) on Pretextual Traffic Stops

Each day, the Chicago Police Department makes more than 1,000 traffic stops, with more than 44 percent of these stops involving minor traffic offenses (e.g., expired registration, an unlit headlight) rather than moving violations, such as speeding or driving under the influence. Officers use such stops as pretexts to investigate non-traffic-related criminal activity. However, contraband such as narcotics, weapons, guns, and alcohol are recovered in less than 1 percent of the stops. Please consider signing a petition sponsored by the Community Renewal Society and the Free2Move Coalition asking the CCPSA to hold a special meeting regarding pretextual traffic stops. If you would like to sign the petition and learn more about the issue, please seek out SPARC members who can point out Julia Ehrhardt, petition coordinator. She will be available after church in the Narthex and at coffee hour during June and July.

### **CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team**

**Avoid Single-Use Water Containers**

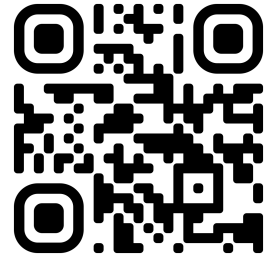
According to the Climate Prediction Center and AccuWeather, this summer's long-term Chicago forecast projects more 90-degree days than last year. The historic average is 17 days, whereas this year experts are predicting between 22 and 27 days in excess of 90 degrees.

Consequently, during these heat waves, one should carry water at all times, making a special effort to avoid single-use plastic water containers. Eighty-five percent of this plastic ends up in landfills and the rest is incinerated. Please buy aluminum or glass containers, which can be reused and also recycled.

## 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](https://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:JenniferLKew@gmail.com), or Pastor Jeff, [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:pamelawoll@sbcglobal.net) with questions, or [info@spucc.org](mailto:info@spucc.org) to be added to the email list.

**CHURCH CENTER** – [spucc.churchcenter.com](http://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](mailto:danielle.mayfield@spucc.org). Register here: [spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1850397](http://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](mailto:marcia@volkonline.com).

**EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM & CARDS** – Follow this link for additional information: [spucc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/178271](http://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](mailto:nlanda05@yahoo.com) or Rick Peterson at [rnpeterson2017@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/mom-s-group) or contact Pastor Liz at [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org)), Marti Pechnyo ([mpechnyo@gmail.com](mailto:mpechnyo@gmail.com)), or Barb Kaiser ([bkaiser2213@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](https://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](https://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](mailto: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](mailto:lilies@spucc.org) or register here: <http://tinyurl.com/team-lilies>.

**DRIVERS/TRANSPORTATION AIDES NEEDED** – We need volunteers to drive individuals needing assistance or accompany a congregant 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 questions or more information, please contact Pastor Liz at [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto: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](mailto:lynnebrenan@yahoo.com) or (630) 542-7012. Learn more here: [tinyurl.com/4sfbcmpx](http://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](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1967800).

### **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

For St. Pauls-sponsored events, send to [info@spucc.org](mailto: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

Our prelude today, ***Adagio***, was composed by Daniel E. Gawthrop (b. 1949). He was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and is known for his compositions for choirs and the organ. He has received more than 100 commissions for his works. He attended both Michigan State University and Brigham Young University, and currently resides in southern Idaho with his wife.

***The God of Abraham Praise*** is a text paraphrased from the original Hebrew and attributed to Daniel ben Judah. His dates are uncertain, but he was a Jewish liturgical poet who lived in 14th century Rome. The English paraphrase was constructed in 1770 by Thomas Olivers (1725-1799). Olivers was a profligate youth, but was converted and became an assistant to Charles Wesley. The tune, YIGDAL, that we know is also based on the Hebrew song. YIGDAL is the first word of the hymn in Hebrew and means *be exalted*.

***Come O Fount of Every Blessing***, to the tune NETTLETON, is from the rich American tradition of the Sacred Harp hymnals, specifically *Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music*. The text was written by Robert Robinson (1735-1790), who began his professional life as an apprentice to a hairdresser before committing himself to a religious life.

***Over My Head*** is another text and melody from the great wealth of spirituals. Its current version was arranged in 1981 by Verolga Nix (1933-2014), a world-class pianist and graduate of Oberlin Conservatory; and J. Jefferson Cleveland (1937-1986), one of the most important scholars of African American spirituals. Cleveland and Nix collaborated on a seminal work about African American music, *Songs of Zion*. It is actually a shortened version, including only the very catchy refrain of a longer song.

***Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*** is another in a long line of great African American spirituals. Neither the tune or text are attributed. The origin may go as far back as 1750. The first publication to include it was *Folk Songs of the American Negro* (1907), compiled by brothers Frederick Work (no dates) and John Work (1871-1925). John Work was also the music director of the famous Fisk Jubilee Singers.

***Know That the Lord Is God***- About Handel's (1685-1759) name: It was common up until the late Baroque era for composers to alter their name depending on the country in which they lived and worked. Handel was born in Germany, and his given name was Georg Friedrich Händel. (Pronounced ***gay-org free-drish hehn-del***). He

kept that name when he lived and worked in Italy, but upon moving to England, he Anglicized his name to that in the Offertory. In general, when listing a work of his in German or Italian, his original name in German is given. When one of his many works in English is performed, his Anglicized name is used.

The text for ***Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer*** was written in Welsh in 1745 by William Williams (1717-1791). He was called the “Issac Watts of Wales.” He studied medicine, but became a Calvinist Methodist clergy. The translation to English was made in 1771 by Peter Williams (1722-1796), who was also Welsh and became a Calvinist Methodist. The tune, CWM RHONNDA, is a great Welsh melody composed in 1905 by John Hughes (1873-1932). Hughes composed this for a Baptist song festival in Wales.

***From the Top of My Head*** was composed by Roy Hargrove (1969-2018). In his all too short life, Hargrove became one of the greats in the jazz performing and recording world. He was a composer whose principal instruments were trumpet and flugelhorn. In addition to jazz, he also performed and recorded hip-hop, R & B, gospel, funk, and alternative rock. Born in Waco Texas, he attended the Berklee College of Music in Boston for one year, but a very active performing and recording career ended his formal training. He made and contributed to numerous recordings. His 14-year battle with kidney disease ended with his death in 2018.

## **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.*

- Maureen Reilly at the death of her mother, Rita Reilly.
- Jessica Ashley's client and her young son as they grieve the loss of three-year-old, Sarah.
- Alex Doty at the death of her mother, Nancy Jane Woolley.
- Juanita Barlow's brother-in-law, Jerry, has health problems.
- Karen L. Johnson at the death of her husband, Leroy Johnson. A memorial service will be held on June 29 at 11 a.m.
- Creighton Hartanov and family at the death of her grandfather.
- 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.
- Pastor Liz's high school friend, Joe, who has ALS.
- Gloria Joseph's dear friend, Betsy, as she begins a rigorous treatment program for a new cancer diagnosis.
- Prayers for peace - in our city, nation and world.
- Donn Schimp and his family as Donn continues cancer treatment.
- Betty Voice being treated for sepsis.
- 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](mailto:mfitzgerald@spucc.org)  
Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org)  
Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org)

For a complete list of St. Pauls Staff, Governance, and Lay Leadership  
Please visit [www.spucc.org/contact](http://www.spucc.org/contact)

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