

June 9, 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

"The godforsaken Son of God stands shoulder to shoulder with all those who feel
godforsaken"

- Jürgen Moltmann

PRELUDE	<i>The Peace May Be Exchanged</i>	Dan Locklair
	Kevin Dzierzawski, organ	

INTROIT	<i>Alleluia</i>	Henry Purcell
	Chancel Choir	

CHIMES

WELCOME	Liz Nickerson
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* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The spirit of the Lord God is upon us, because God has anointed us.

**All: God sends us to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives.**

One: To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor; to comfort all who mourn.

**All: To give to those who mourn a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of joy instead of mourning.**

One: A garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

All: May the Spirit of the Lord God be upon us.

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

* HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

1. For the beau - ty of the earth, for the splen - dor of the skies,
2. For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3. For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child.
4. For the good that love in - spires, for a world where none ex - clude,

For the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
For a faith that nev - er tires, and for ev - ery heart re - newed,

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the final line. Each system has a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment line. The piano part is primarily chordal, providing harmonic support for the voices. The key signature is G major, and the time signature is 4/4. The hymn concludes with a final chord in the piano part.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*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.*

RESPONSE

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

vv. 1 & 2

1. Lord, I want to be a Chris - tian In my heart, in my heart;
 2. Lord, I want to be more lov - ing In my heart, in my heart;
 3. Lord, I want to be more ho - ly In my heart, in my heart;
 4. 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 lov - ing 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 lov - ing 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. _____

SCRIPTURE

Julia Ehrhardt

Mark 3, excerpts

Jesus went up the mountain and called to him those whom he wanted, and they came to him. And he appointed twelve to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message, and to have authority to cast out demons.

Then he entered a house; and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for they were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.' And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.'

Then his mother and his brothers and sisters came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.' And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers and sisters?' And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers and sisters! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'

* 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

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian
See previous hymn.

vv. 3 & 4

SERMON

"Homecoming"

Jeff Carlson

* HYMN

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this lost world's Light,
Lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
The liv - ing wa - ter; thirst - y one, draw near, and drink, and live."
Look un - to me; your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."
I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad,
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found my guid - ing Star, my Sun;
And there I found a rest - ing place, where Je - sus made me glad!
My thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I am re - deemed.
And in that light of life I'll go till trav - eling days are done.

OFFERTORY

Hallelujah, Amen!
from *Judas Maccabeus*
Chancel Choir

G.F. Handel

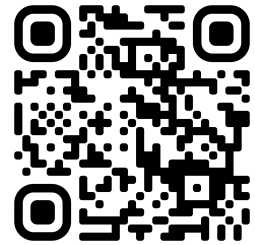
Hallelujah, amen.
Rejoice, O Judah, in songs divine,
With cherubim and seraphim harmonious join.

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

Musical notation for the Festival Doxology, consisting of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below each staff.

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 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

Thank Our God for Christian Siblings

1. Thank our God for_ Chris-tian sib - lings, one by_ grace, in__ har - mo - ny,
2. Praise to__ God for__ con - gre - ga - tions, keep-ing_faith with Christ as guide;
3. Ho - ly__ is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re-main;



Join - ing heart to__ heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
 Man - y tongues of__ man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
 Bless the_ church's new en - deav - ors; make our_ wit - ness one a - gain.



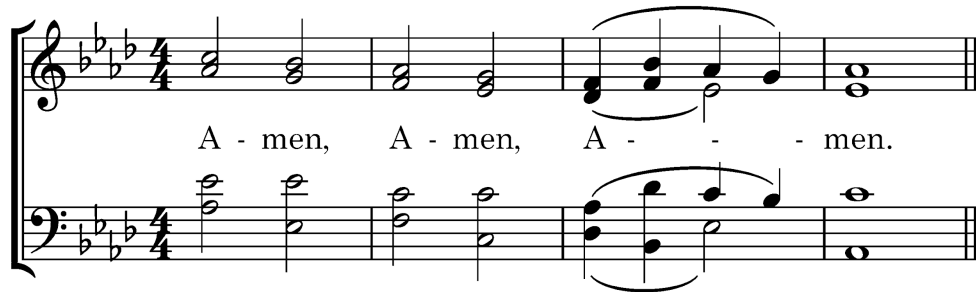
With the__ cross of Christ our__ stan-dard, let us__sing as with one voice,
 Sweet the psalm and sweet the__ car - ol, when our song is raised as__ one.
 One in__ Christ and in Christ's gos-pel, make us__ one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry,__ glo - ry,__ yours the prom-ise: we who are the church re - joice.
 Glo - ry,__ glo - ry,__ yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
 Glo - ry,__ glo - ry,__ yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er-more.

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

For the Beauty of the Earth
St. Arbucks Quartet

arr. Craig Curry

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

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: Mary Hoffman, 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 William McAlpine.

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 9 Alex Hansen, Craig Wilbanks, Don Camp, Sue Lannin, Will Shirey
June 10 Chris Keller, Liam Baumann, Todd Beeson
June 11 Augustus Schmitt, Jennie Hamm, Malcolm Hoerr, Steve Terborg
June 12 Norma Borcherdin
June 13 Sergio Sanz
June 14 Gary Ashley, Jessica Vahey, Karin Abercrombie, Kathy Hall
June 15 Debbie Edwards, Lee Waldschmidt, Suisui Song

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.
- Today is the last day of SUNDAY SCHOOL classes. 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 date is 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

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

JUNE 11 AND 18 - TUESDAY NIGHT PICKLEBALL – 5:30-8 p.m., Gym
Have you tried the growing sport of Pickleball yet? We hold regular adult pick-up games in the St. Pauls gym every Tuesday night, separate from the Young Adult group games on Monday nights. Sign up at the Church Center link below or just show up at the Church gym! All ages and skill levels are invited. Game Time: Tuesdays: 5:30-8 p.m. (Come anytime during that window.) If you have questions, call or text Steve Garrett at (312) 208-0636. To join us, visit: tinyurl.com/Tuesday-Pickleball.

JUNE 12 - NEW BIBLE STUDY BEGINS - REVELATION

The last book of the Bible is one that many have found confusing or frightening. Some Christians completely ignore it. Others have been obsessed with it. We'll look at Revelation as a wake-up call, not a blueprint, for the final apocalypse. Revelation spotlights corrupt human politics and nationalistic religion while celebrating the hopeful coming of Christ, the Lamb of God, into the world. In light of the renewed prominence of Christian Nationalism in our own time, Revelation is a timely book. Led by Pastor Jeff every Wednesday. Sign up here: tinyurl.com/5hbehxrm

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.

JUNE 30 - PRIDE PARADE - after worship, Courtyard

Express our welcome by walking together with St. Pauls and members of the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches (CCWC) in the 2024 Pride Parade on Sunday, June 30. Because of new restrictions, only four people from each church can walk in the parade. If you are interested in being one of them, please let Pastor Jeff know: jcarlson@spucc.org for more details.

JUNE 30 - ST. PAULS SOCIAL PRIDE 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.

<https://tinyurl.com/w5k4bkjj>

ANNOUNCEMENTS**WINDY CITY WINDS SUMMER CONCERTS**

Come hear Windy City Winds, "Chicago's Community Band," outdoors this summer performing music of POP STARS – FROM SOUSA TO TAYLOR SWIFT, plus The Beatles, Paul Simon, Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Chicago, and guest stars from the St. Pauls Chancel Choir! Three performances: Friday, June 21, at 7 p.m. at Chicago Women's Park and Gardens in the South Loop (18th and Indiana); Saturday evening, July 13, at 7 p.m. at Churchill Field for the Bucktown Garden Walk (1825 N. Damen); and Saturday, July 20, at 3 p.m. at Washington Square Park (Clark and Walton). Clap, sing and dance along with us!

GREEN TEAM CHURCH GARDENING ACTIVITIES

The Green Team invites all interested parishioners to help keep church grounds weeded and tidy. Weather permitting, every Thursday between 9 a.m. and noon, and every Sunday after church, Green Team members will be working on church grounds. This work begins today, June 9, and will continue through the fall when bulbs will have to be relocated. Initially, emphasis will be on keeping the areas facing North Orchard weed free.

LITTLE LIGHTS SUMMER CAMP - REGISTRATION IS OPEN

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

STEPHEN MINISTERS CARE

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

PALESTINE STUDY GROUP

Join us next Tuesday, June 11, at 7 p.m. for a discussion on *"Hundred Years' War on Palestine: A History of Settler Colonialism and Resistance, 1917–2017"* by Rashid Khalidi. All are welcome! Connect with us through tinyurl.com/Palestine-Study-Group or contact David Burnett at burnett.db@gmail.com.

"HEALING HEARTS" PET SUPPORT GROUP: ST. PAULS PET LOSS COMMUNITY

Are you struggling with losing a beloved furry friend/companion/animal assistant? Losing a pet can be one of the most heart-wrenching experiences in life. At St. Pauls, we understand the deep bond you shared with your beloved pet/family member and we're here to offer support, understanding and a virtual shoulder to lean on. To join, visit tinyurl.com/healing-hearts-support. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 7-8 p.m. Age 18+ only, 15 participants maximum.

FAITH IN ACTION MESSAGING GROUP

Some people call it showing up for a protest or marching against a government policy. Others call it public witnessing for the values inherent in our faith. Most of us appreciate being able to do both with like-minded members of our congregation. Members and friends of St. Pauls can join this group. If you'd like to receive advance email notice of such protests, gatherings or advocacy opportunities – frequently on short notice due to swift governmental action - or to invite others in the group to join you in an advocacy opportunity, join Faith in Action. Register here: <http://tinyurl.com/wuphf495>.

A MUSICAL GIFT FOR YOU!

Listen to our St. Arbucks Quartet's album, *Mid-Winter Gifts*, featuring the music played during our worship services. It's free on both Spotify tinyurl.com/bdcpvedv and Apple Music tinyurl.com/39skfy9k. Share the links with your friends; no account needed to listen.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

Long celebrated in African American communities, Juneteenth (the federal holiday celebrated on June 19) is known as “second Independence day.” Juneteenth commemorates the date in 1865—two and a half years after the Emancipation proclamation—when Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to free more than 250,000 enslaved people in the state. The holiday is credited to an organizing campaign started by Opal Lee (“the grandmother of Juneteenth”), who at the age of 86 began a movement in several U.S. cities to raise awareness about the day. For a comprehensive list of Chicagoland Juneteenth events, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/yvtxyakt>

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

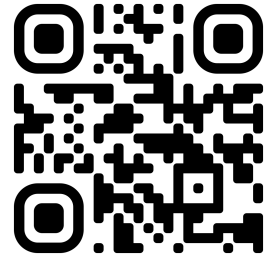
Moving From Single-Use Outdoor Supplies

The time for picnics and eating outdoors has arrived. As you prepare for these activities, we suggest you inventory your supplies and try to reduce the number of single-use items. Create a supply box for multiple-use, plastic-free tableware, including tablecloths, flatware, napkins and beverage containers. This will help you avoid last-minute purchases involving single-use items. Lighter, multiple-use plates, utensils and cups made from bamboo can now be purchased in most grocery stores in case it is not practical to carry heavier tableware.

PLEDGING & GIVING INFORMATION

PLEDGE WITH BOLD GRATITUDE FOR 2024

Thank you to everyone who has already made a pledge for 2024! Your generous support of St. Pauls is greatly needed and much appreciated. If you have yet to pledge your time, talents or treasures for 2024, you can fill out a paper pledge form and put it in the offering tray or return it to the office. Or, you can pledge online at spucc.org/pledge or by scanning this QR code.



Making a pledge shares with us your intention to donate your time, talents and financial support. This information helps us plan and budget for the upcoming year.

Important Note: If your pledged financial support for 2024 is changing from this year, and you have a current recurring donation set up through one of our donation options, please adjust your recurring donation accordingly. Pledge forms do not authorize St. Pauls to create or update recurring donations. Email bookkeeper@spucc.org with questions or for help.

IRA QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

If you have an IRA and are required, or will be required, to take a minimum annual distribution (RMD) from your account, you may be interested to know that there are tax advantages to taking your distribution as a direct contribution to a charitable organization such as St. Pauls.

If the distribution is made directly from your IRA to St. Pauls, then you enjoy two tax benefits: 1) the distribution does not count as taxable income and 2) the distribution does count towards satisfying your RMD if over age 73. The gift, called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), must go directly from your IRA to the organization, and your total gifts cannot exceed \$100,000 per year. You can make QCDs after you reach age 70 ½, which is earlier than the current RMD age of 73. You cannot make QCDs from your 401K; it has to be rolled into an IRA first.

With the 2017 changes in the tax law, some have lost the ability to itemize their deductions, including charitable contributions, and are now taking the higher standard deduction. Making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a great way to still get a tax benefit for charitable giving. If you have questions about QCDs, consult your tax or financial advisor. Members of the Finance Committee are able to provide more information as well. Reach out to committee chair Allen Heinemann at Treasurer@SPUCC.org.

GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

ACTIVISM & ADVOCACY MINISTRY – Do you have a passion for reaching out to others? The St. Pauls Activism & Advocacy Ministry would love you to join us in keeping our church engaged in community outreach. For more information, contact Jennifer Kew, JenniferLKew@gmail.com, or Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org.

BASKETBALL – Join us for a weekly Wednesday 7 p.m. pickup game! All skill levels are welcome. Email Pastor Matt to get on the updates list, mfitzgerald@spucc.org.

THE BOOK NOOK – Find your next good read or drop off books to share in the Social Hall. Donations are welcome – just add them to the shelf for “New Arrivals” or leave them on the floor next to the bookcase. We appreciate all genres, including books for kids. Questions, contact Linda Nitzsche, lindanitz@yahoo.com.

CAREGIVERS' GROUP – A caregiving role can be a source of love, joy and considerable stress, but it's easier when it doesn't feel like you're the only one. The St. Pauls Caregivers' Group is an informal support group of people who are responsible for the care of parents, partners, friends, or children with illnesses or disabilities. We gather via Zoom the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 10 to 11 a.m. Contact Pam Woll pamelawoll@sbcglobal.net with questions, or info@spucc.org to be added to the email list.

CHURCH CENTER – spucc.churchcenter.com is our portal for St. Pauls members and friends. See our calendar, register for events, update your information, join our photo directory, manage your online donations, see your giving history, and more!

CHURCH SCHOOL – God created us to be creative and to create! This is our theme for Church School this year. Each child will learn that they were created in God's own image. They will learn to love and value all people and to love themselves. Please fill out the one-time registration for the '24-'25 school year below. We have a nursery for children under 2, Preschool Child Care for children 2-5, and Sunday School/Confirmation I & II for 5-year-olds to high school. Email questions to Children's Program Coordinator Danielle Mayfield at danielle.mayfield@spucc.org. Register here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1850397.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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

CONSIDER THE LILIES TEAM– 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 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.

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

Our Prelude, ***The Peace May Be Exchanged***, was composed by American composer Daniel Locklair (b. 1949). He received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Eastman School of Music and currently holds the position of Composer-in-Residence and Professor of Music at Wake Forest University. Locklair became a professional organist at age 14.

Our Introit, ***Alleluia***, is by Henry Purcell (1659-1695). One of the great English Baroque composers, he spent his entire short life in London. His father was a musician and singer in the King's court. After his father's death, Henry was raised and encouraged musically by his uncle. Among his famous works is the opera *Dido and Aeneas*. His music is used in film scores and his most popular work is his *Canon in C*.

The text for ***For the Beauty of the Earth*** was written by Folliott S. Pierpont (1835-1917). In the spring of 1863, Pierpont sat on a hill above his home in Bath, England, with this text flowing from his gratitude for the wonders of nature. The tune DIX was composed by German composer Konrad Kocher (1786-1872). He was trained as a teacher and eventually founded the School for Sacred Song in Stuttgart.

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian is another in a long line of great African American spirituals. Neither the tune nor text are attributed, but 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.

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say, tune KINGSFOLD, first appeared in a 19th century collection of English folk melodies, but may date back to the Middle Ages. The text was composed by Scottish clergyman Horatius Bonar (1808-1889). He came from a long line of ministers and composed many hymn texts and religious poems.

The composition of *Judas Maccabeus* (1746) came five years after George Friderick Handel (1685-1759) penned *Messiah*. Hebrew Bible stories were very popular as concert dramas, more properly called oratorios, in England. It relates the story of Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, found in the Apocryphal book of First Maccabees. In the story, Judah Maccabee fights against the idol worship commanded by King Antiochus. Judah cleanses the altar in the Temple. This ***Hallelujah, Amen!***, often fondly referred to in the musical community as the “Jewish Hallelujah Chorus,” is the finale of *Judas Maccabeus*, and expresses the thanksgiving of the Israelites. Of some local interest, KAM-Isaiah Israel Synagogue in Hyde Park sponsors a “Do-it-Yourself” *Judas Maccabeus* each Chanukah season.

The original text for ***Thank Our God for Christian Siblings*** was written in 1948 by Roger K. Powell (1914-2003) as a rallying song for The National Council of Churches meeting in 1952. The text was updated for our *New Century Hymnal*. PLEADING SAVIOR was first published in 1830 and is attributed to Joshua Levitt (1794-1873). Levitt was a Yale graduate who became a Congregational minister. He aided a slave to escape the South and raised funds for the defense of the Armistad captives.

Craig Curry, who arranged this great hymn tune, ***For the Beauty of the Earth***, is a graduate of Wheaton College Conservatory of Music and the University of Miami. He is an active composer whose arrangements and compositions have been widely performed. This Postlude bookends our service musically, as we sang this hymn for our Processional, thus permitting us to experience the music in two distinct ways.

ST. PAULS PRAYS

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

Our practice is to run each prayer request for four weeks and then remove it. If you would like to continue a prayer request after four weeks, let a pastor know.

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

Prayer, Support, Mental Health Resources

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

ABOUT ST. PAULS

Making a Joyful Sound in the City!

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

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

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

Senior Pastor Matt Fitzgerald, mfitzgerald@spucc.org

Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, jcarlson@spucc.org

Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, lnickerson@spucc.org

For a complete list of St. Pauls Staff, Governance, and Lay Leadership

Please visit www.spucc.org/contact

St. Pauls United Church of Christ
2335 N Orchard St. | Chicago, IL 60614
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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.