

August 11, 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.

PRELUDE I Expect to See Him Jessy Dixon

St. Arbucks Quartet

INTROIT To Testify Becky Gaunt

The Altos

Breanna Coe, conductor

While we can, before we die, We are here to testify.

WELCOME Liz Nickerson

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Dear God, today we thank you for our congregation!

All: And for all who came before us.

One: Draw us together and pull us toward you.

All: We cannot be the church on our own.

One: Empower our prayer, our song,

our speech and our ears.

All: Let us be your joyful church today! Amen.

^{*} WELCOMING EACH OTHER

^{*} Please stand if you are able to do so.

* HYMN Spirit Spill, Let Church Begin in - side 1. Storm of joy our walls, 2. Dust made bold as $wild_{-}$ flow'rs Al -- le - lu - ia! 3. Blood and fire and smok - y mist, 4. Spir - it spill, let church be - gin, Tongues of fire en - flame, en - thrall, Sing - ing of God's wild_____pow'r, Al -- le lu - ia! Maj - es - ty be - yond our midst, white lin - en, Dark red wine on We are dust but not a - lone, Dust-brained yet der-stand, we un -Al -- le - lu - ia! Time - less love in in fan - cy, Fire fill our dreams and our eyes, Un - tamed Spir - it fills our home, ev - ery land, Eve - ry tongue from

here and free,

par - a - dise,

Ho - ly Ghost, both

dust

with

Drench our

Al -

- le - lu - ia!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liz Nickerson

Oh God, we give you all that we are carrying. Our cares, please care for them. Our fears, please quiet them. Our thoughts, please direct them. Our sins, oh, forgive them. Our lives, that you may guide them. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM

Love is Love is Love
The Altos

Abbie Betinis

Love is love is love is love.

Love is love is love is love.

Oh, love is love is love is love.

Oh, love is love is love. Oh...

Love, love, love. All we need is love, love, love.

All we need is....

Ubi caritas et amor, where there's love,

Love is love.

SCRIPTURE James Rowley

Ephesians 2:20-22

You're no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You *belong* here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He's using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.

* 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.

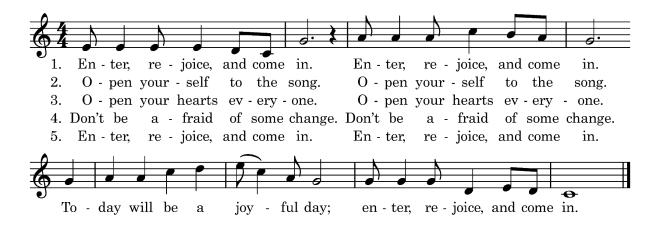
In life and death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

(adapted from the United Church of Canada)

* RESPONSE

Enter, Rejoice and Come In



SERMON

"Stone by Stone"

Matt Fitzgerald



Andrea Ramsey

We Are Blessed
The Altos
St. Arbucks Quartet

Come on down rain ...
And water this ground.
Clean and cold
Come on down rain ...
And water my soul.

We are blessed by God.
We are blessed with good friends.
We are blessed by our families.
We are blessed.

Come on down rain ...

We are blessed with rest.
We are blessed with sweet dreams.
We are blessed with a bed to sleep in.
We are blessed.

Come on down rain ...

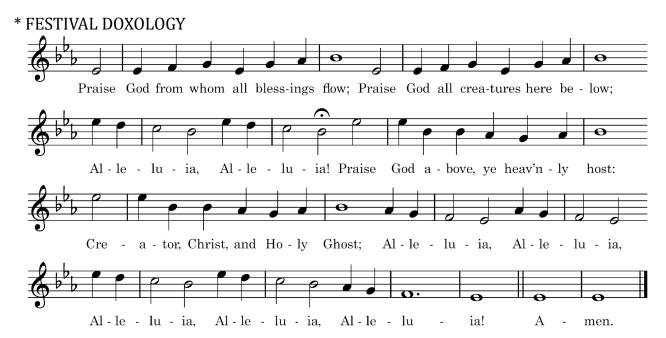
You can give to St. Pauls electronically:

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.





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.

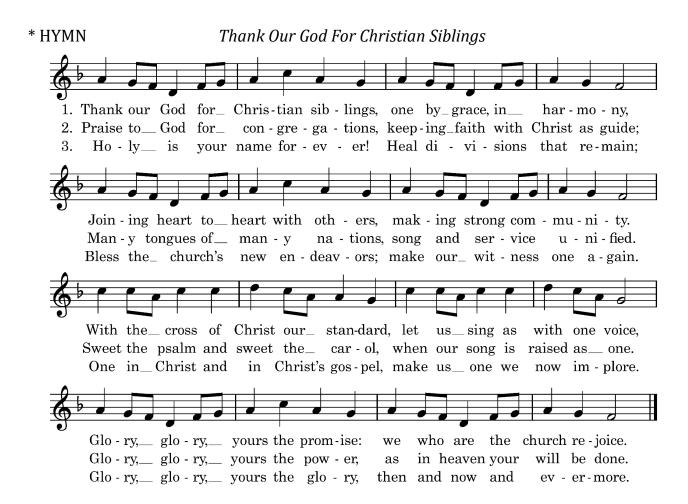
Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

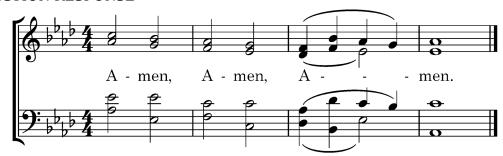
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.



* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

Sunshine Day
St. Arbucks Quartet

Howard McCrary

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.

We welcome Scott Banjavcic today, who is filling in for Kevin Dzierzawski. We are very grateful for Scott sharing his talents with us. Kevin is on vacation and will return on August 18.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Liz Nickerson, Matt Fitzgerald, Jeff Carlson

Music Director: Kurt R. Hansen Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski

St. Arbucks Quartet: Brendan Henry, piano; Alex Austin, bass; Matt Plaskota,

drums; Kris Hansen, trumpet & vocals

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Head Ushers: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, John Balevic

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Hafner

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

This week's altar flowers are given by James Rowley.

BORN THIS WEEK IN AUGUST

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.

- August 11 Anna Kate Trubilowicz, Ben Smith, Nathan Streeter, Steve Schwartzberg
- August 12 Natalie Douglass Grana, Rick Newbury
- August 14 David Burnett, Justin DuPont, Lorri Gunn Wirsum, Olivia Kearns, Scott Jackson
- August 15 Winnie Castle
- August 17 Felix Hecht, Karl Darin, Kevin O'Brien, Winnie Kearns, Zach Murray

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

Childcare is available for babies through 5-year-olds from 10 to 11 a.m. downstairs in the Nursery and Toddler Room. Activity "busy bags" for children to use during the service are available in the Narthex and children's Bibles are in the pews.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY - SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - 11:30 a.m., Sanctuary & Zoom As announced at the Annual Congregational Meeting on March 3rd, a Special Congregational Meeting is required this year, which the Council has scheduled for today following worship. Only two items will be voted on: the proposed revisions to Bylaws of St. Pauls Church and the slate of the Nominating Committee for the new or revised Standing Ministries and other positions. Due to the timing of final design, bidding and construction considerations, we will *not* be voting on the Phase II final plans or financing today, but rather at another Special Congregational Meeting to be scheduled in the fall. Members and Friends are invited to participate in person and via streaming, but only Members may vote. Please plan to join us on this important date of St. Pauls history.

AUGUST 13 & 20 - 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.

AUGUST 14 - 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: https://tinyurl.com/45rv6kfm.

AUGUST 18 - RACHEL BARTON PINE AT RAVINIA - 5 p.m., Ravinia Park Join St. Pauls Social and Doug Clark at Ravinia to see the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and our own Rachel Barton Pine! A limited number of lawn tickets are free at your local library or purchase a lawn ticket at www.ravinia.org and RSVP to Doug using this link: tinyurl.com/bdhrrukt. Metra tickets are free with a Ravinia ticket. We will meet at Ravinia. For more information about the concert, go to Ravinia.org/Online/Article/081824-CSORushPine.

AUGUST 21 - YOUNG ADULT CUBS GAME AT WRIGLEY FIELD - 7 p.m. Cheer on the Cubs, make new friends, bring a friend, as we enjoy a Cubs game together. They will face the Detroit Tigers. This is a great first event to attend to meet the YA group at St. Pauls! RSVP https://tinyurl.com/ya3zv2y9 or at youngadults@spucc.org.

AUGUST 21 - MOM'S NIGHT OUT - PAINTING PARTY AT BOTTLE & BOTTEGA - 6:30 p.m.

Let's gather for a fun evening of socializing, painting and refreshments at Bottle and Bottega, 2900 N. Lincoln Avenue. No experience is necessary and you will come home with a fun piece of art! Socialize from 6:30-7 p.m.; lesson starts at 7 p.m. Please BYOB, light snacks provided. RSVP: linckerson@spucc.org; pay at: tinyurl.com/2kft83me.

AUGUST 27 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL LUNCH GROUP - 12-1:30 p.m., Social Hall Jenny Benefield will facilitate a conversation about prayer. Adults of all ages are invited. Make new friends and connect with old ones with lunch (please bring your own), fellowship, fun and faith. Please join us.

AUGUST 28 - COOKIES FOR A CAUSE (BAKE YOU FAVORITE COOKIES AT HOME NOW!) - 5:30 p.m., Kitchen

Join the St. Pauls cookie bakers for dinner, socializing and cookie making on Wednesday, August 28. Meet us in the kitchen at 5:30 p.m. or whenever you can make it. We eat around 6:30. Cookies go to A Just Harvest and the Lincoln Park Community Shelter. If you can't join us, but would like to participate, you may drop off cookies, with your name on them and marked MARCIA, at the church on or before the 28th. Please get in touch with Marcia Volk to reserve a spot and she will let you know what dinner/baking supplies are still needed. Contact Marcia at marcia@volkonline.com or (773) 307-6866.

SEPT 28 - ST. PAULS OKTOBERFEST - 1-8 p.m., Courtyard

It's Munich meets Chicago as St. Pauls hosts its annual Oktoberfest in celebration of its German heritage! What better way to tap into the excitement of this Bavarian tradition than with authentic German food, local Oktoberfest beers, live music and dancing, a jumpy-house, and games for all ages. This year's live entertainment will once again include acclaimed children's entertainer, Laura Doherty (1:30–3 p.m.), and the Midwest's premier oompah band, Die Musikmeisters (3:30–7:30 p.m.). This free event is open to the public and is family-friendly, so invite your neighbors and friends and join us at the



corner of Fullerton and Orchard. In the case of inclement weather, the event will be held in our gymnasium. Stay tuned for volunteer opportunities in the coming weeks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW MEMBER CLASS

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 childcare will be provided as needed (please let us know in your registration). See upcoming dates here: spucc.org/new_member_classes.

PALESTINE STUDY GROUP

Broaden your understanding of the Israel-Palestine conflict in this thoughtful and supportive group. All are welcome. 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, 30 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.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

The UCC's "Voting with Love" campaign has officially begun. As people of faith, it is our duty to "speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves and for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy" (Proverbs 31:8-9). Let's use our vote to protect and provide for those around us. During coffee hour on Sunday, September 15, join our non-partisan Get Out the Vote table to register to vote online, apply online for a mail-in ballot, learn about Illinois election laws, confirm your polling location, and much more.

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

We are at the peak of summer, an early beginning to hurricane season and, equally important, a volatile political season. Whatever your beliefs might be on conservation and global warming, keep yourself informed and vote your opinions.

According to David Konisky, a professor at Indiana University, "Energy, environment and climate policies haven't historically been important to the majority of voters, unless they get framed alongside concerns about the economy or foreign conflict...many voters do not have strong opinions about the benefits of various energy sources." –"Climate Forward" column, Manuela Andreoni, The New York Times, August 6, 2024.

WELCOME TO SAINT PAULS!

Thank you for coming to worship with us today! Help us get to know you better by scanning the QR code below.



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Scan the QR codes to discover ways to connect with others.

JOIN A GROUP



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



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 $70 \, \frac{1}{2}$, which is earlier than the current RMD age of 73. You cannot make QCDs from your $401 \, \text{K}$; 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.

TODAY'S MUSIC

I Expect to See Him is by Jessy Dixon (1938-2011), another gospel artist and composer with deep roots in Chicago. His music was beloved outside his own community and he received seven Grammy nominations during his career. He toured the world with Paul Simon after Mr. Simon heard him and the Jessy Dixon Singers at a concert at the Radio City Music Hall in New York City. He also wrote music for artists as varied as Diana Ross and Cher.

To Testify is a round, like *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*, in four parts composed in 2017 with words by Brian Laidlaw and music by Becky Gaunt. Brian Laidlaw is an active songwriter, poet and novelist with a Ph.D. in literature from the University of Denver. He is also an avid rock climber. Becky "Bex" Gaunt is an award-winning performer, composer and conductor. She also played fiddle in the Grammy Award winning band, The Okee Dokee Brothers. She has toured the United States and performed with the Minnesota Orchestra.

Spirit Spill, Let Church Begin is a new hymn text composed in 2023 by our Senior Pastor Matt Fitzgerald. Matt is a lover of poetry, especially as it relates to faith, so it is natural for him to create new words appropriate from Pentecost. The tune LLANFAIR was composed in 1817 by Robert Williams (1782-1821). Williams was a blind basket weaver with innate musical talent. It was said that he could write down a tune having heard it only once.

Abbie Betinis (b. 1980) dedicated the composition *Love is Love* "to the victims, and survivors, of hate crimes everywhere, and specifically for those at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando on June 12, 2016. Love is often the bravest thing we do. May love prevail." She is Composer-in-Residence at the Schubert Club in Minneapolis, and also an Adjunct Professor of Composition at Concordia University, St. Paul.

Enter, Rejoice and Come In was composed in the 1970s by Louise Ruspini (1900-2000), who also provided the text, which is based on Psalm 100. The tune borrows from the first line of the refrain: ENTER, REJOICE.

The text for *God, We Thank You For Our People* was written in 1986 by Ruth Duck (b. 1947). She is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, and has written four volumes of hymn texts. HOLY MANNA is an unattributed melody from the great American series of shaped-note hymnals from the early 19th century, including *The Sacred Harp*.

We Are Blessed was composed in 2016 by Andrea Ramsey. Her compositions had garnered both praise and international performances before she graduated from Arkansas Tech University. She went on to earn her Ph.D. in music education from Michigan State University. If her education and career as a composer, conductor and clinician isn't impressive enough, Joe JaQuay would also want you to know that she took third place in season five of Hell's Kitchen.

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, a Yale graduate, became a Congregational minister. He aided a slave to escape the South and raised funds for the defense of the Armistad captives.

Sunshine Day was released in 1972 on Portrait Records and sung by Howard McCrary with four other family members. He is an Black American singer and actor. In 1986, he was nominated for a Grammy for his album *So Good*. He also guest starred on the TV series *Amen* and *Martin*.

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.

- Bill Kennedy in therapy following a series of strokes.
- Diane Massie and family at the death of her brother, Ira.
- Loved ones and friends of Dave Verduin at his death.
- Mike Stensaas, dealing with health problems.
- Scott Hibbard at the death of his father, John.
- 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.
- Rose Stone relative of Juanita Barlow
- 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, <u>mfitzgerald@spucc.org</u> Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, <u>jcarlson@spucc.org</u> Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, <u>lnickerson@spucc.org</u>

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 <u>www.spucc.org</u>

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.