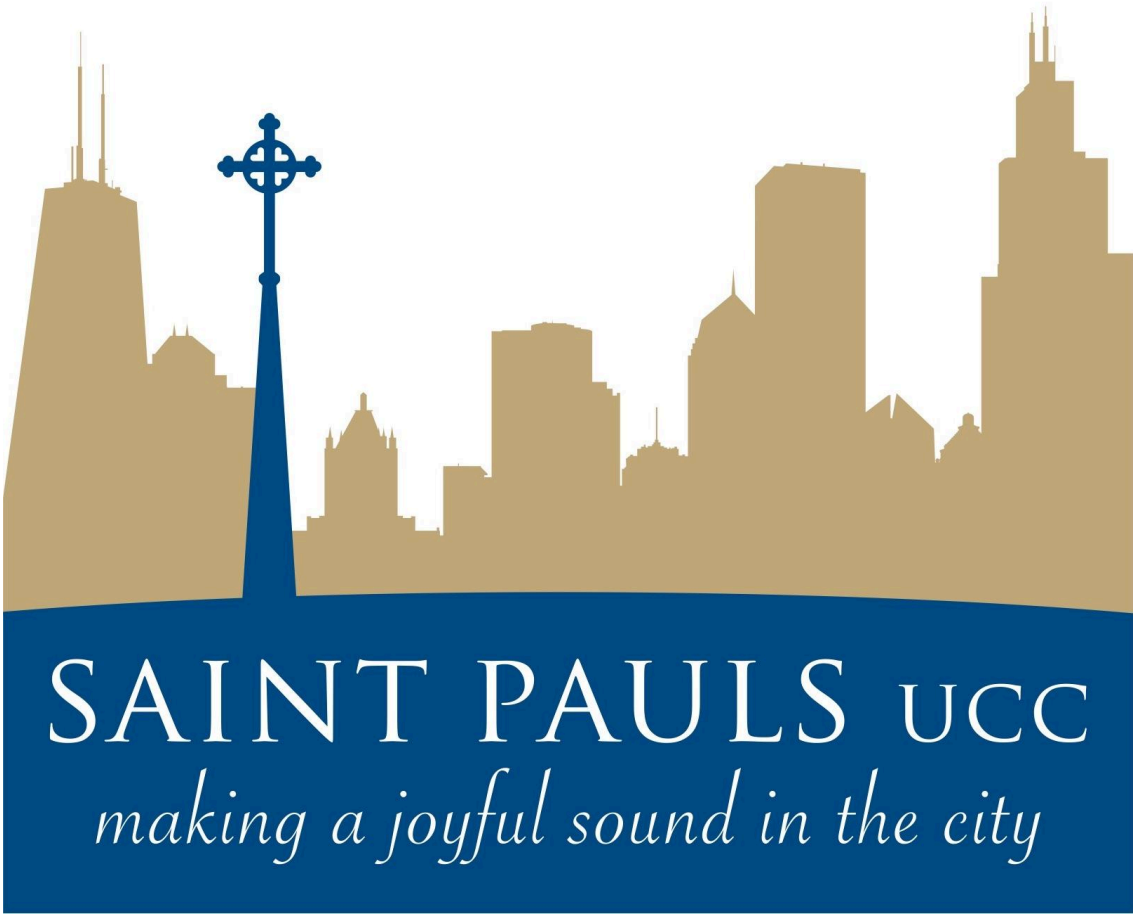


August 18, 2024

Baptism Sunday

No matter who you are,
No matter where you are
On life's journey,
You are welcome here.

Please silence cell phones.

Bibles for use during worship are available at each entrance to the Sanctuary.
Assisted listening devices and Bluetooth hearing aid guides are in the Narthex.
The Nursery and Toddler Room are open for children ages 0-5, from 10 to 11 a.m.

PRELUDE *Meditation* Russell Woollen
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

CHIMES

WELCOME Matt Fitzgerald

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Hallelujah!
All: Give thanks to God with your whole heart!
One: For God is gracious and merciful.
All: God is faithful and just.
One: God is completely trustworthy.
All: Let us praise God joyfully together!

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

* HYMN

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

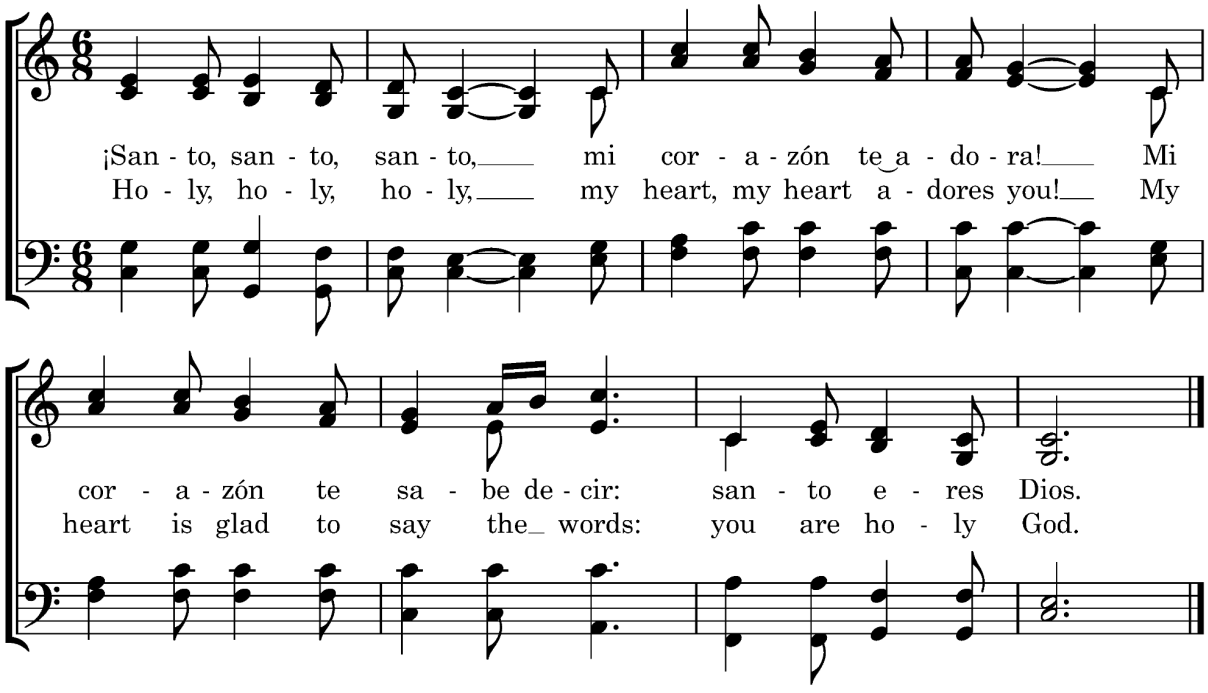
PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Fount of every blessing, forgive our foolish ways.
We confess that we are easily irritated and angered.
With our words, we wound.
With our tongues, we tear down.
With our silence we build walls.
Soften the hard places of our hearts.
Illuminate the dark corners of our minds.
Heal our lives and heal our relationships with your friendship and love.
Through the grace of Jesus Christ, Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RESPONSE *Santo, Santo, Santo*



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM OF

Valentina Fabiana Vera Navarro & Valeryn Fabiola Vera Navarro

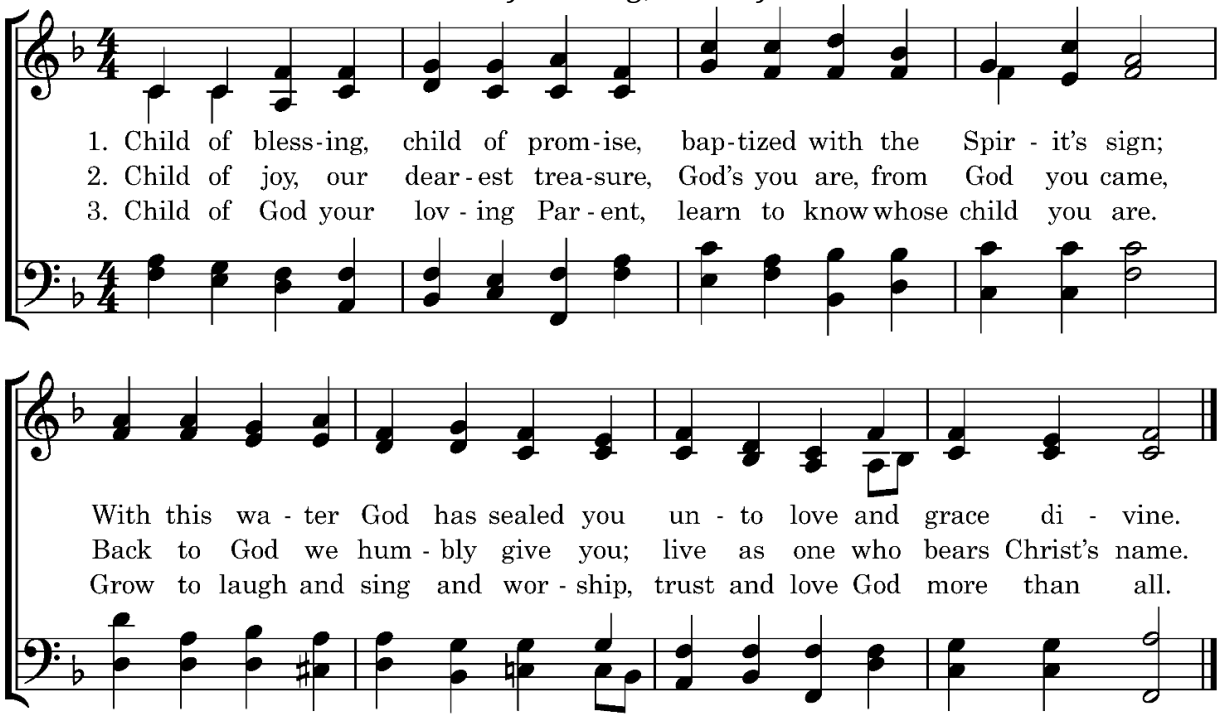
Pastor: Valentina and Valeryn, receive now the Light of Christ. May you walk always as children of light. May your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to God. Valentina and Valeryn are now received into the love and care of the church. See what love God has given us that we should be called children of God.

All: Almighty God, giver of life, you have called us by name and pledged to each of us your faithful love. We pray for your children, Valentina and Valeryn. Inspire their lives. May they sing many songs, know many joys, heal many wounds, and embrace many people in your name. We pray for their parents, that they may be guided by your love so that they may know your presence. May we walk together with this family as witnesses to your gospel, as those for whom you have lived and died and live again. Amen.

Pastor: Valentina and Valeryn, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you always.

All: Amen

RESPONSE *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise* verses 1-2



SCRIPTURE Joel Chaiken

Ephesians 4-5, excerpts

Now this I affirm, and witness to it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the nations do, in the futility of their thinking. That is not the way you learned Christ. You were taught the truth that is in Jesus.

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. Be angry, but do not sin: Do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil a foothold. Thieves must steal no longer, but must work, doing something good with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any rotten talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, so that your words may give grace to those who listen.

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children, and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

* 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 *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise* verse 3

See previous hymn

SERMON "A funny thing happened at St. Pauls last week." Jeff Carlson

* HYMN *All Are Welcome*

OFFERTORY *En prière* Gabriel Fauré

(Sung in French)
Kurt R. Hansen, tenor
Kevin Dzierzawski, piano

In prayer

If the voice of a child can reach up to you,
O my Father,
listen to this prayer from Jesus,
kneeling before You!

If you have chosen me to teach your laws
here on earth,
I shall know how to serve You, mighty King of kings,
O Light!

Place the salutary truth upon my lips, Lord,
So that he who doubts, may revere you
with humility!

Do not abandon me, give me the gentleness needed
To lessen pains, to relieve suffering and misery!

Reveal Yourself to me, O Lord, in whom I believe
and I hope:
For You I wish to suffer and die upon the cross
at Calvary!

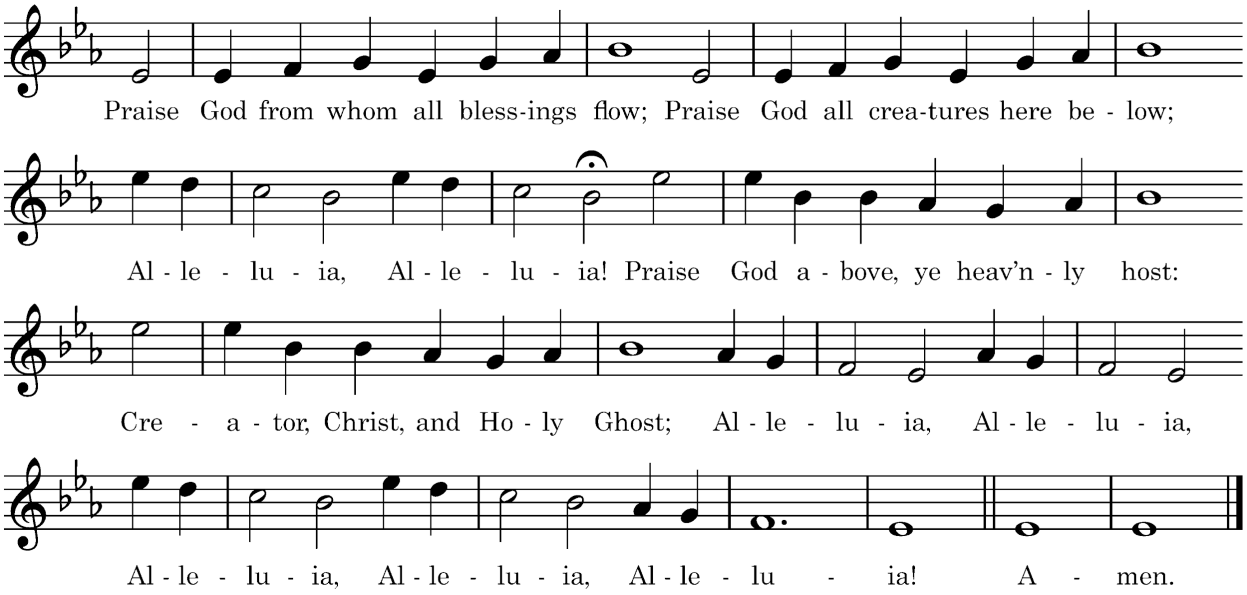
You can give to St. Pauls electronically:

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

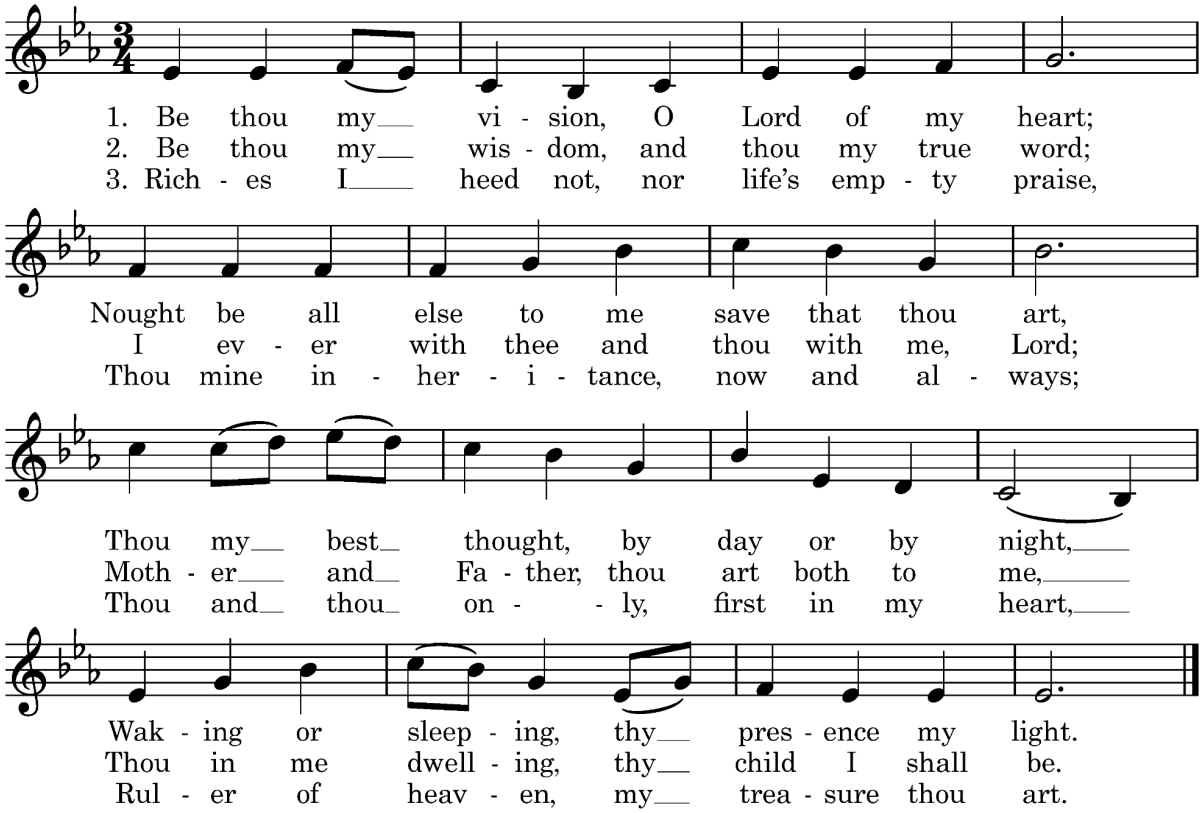


PRAYER OF THE CHURCH — Liz Nickerson

THE LORD'S PRAYER

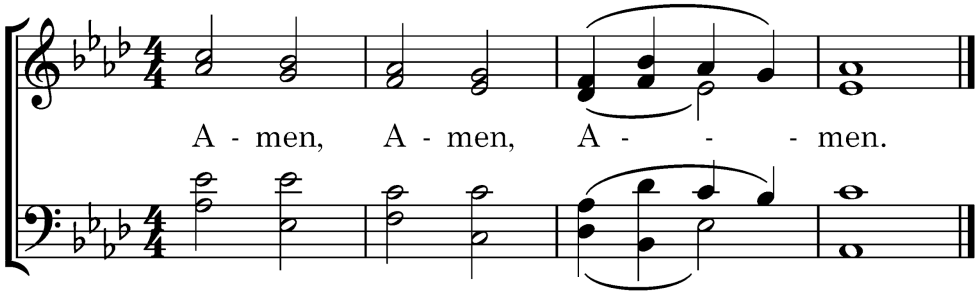
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,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

* HYMN *Be Thou My Vision*



* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE *Rejoice!* Richard Smallwood

St. Arbucks Quartet

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: Matt Fitzgerald, Jeff Carlson, 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
Scripture Reader: Joel Chaiken
Head Ushers: Beatrice Jaji
Ushers: Doug Clark, 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 Matt Ross.

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 18 Irem Metin, Mark O'Brien
August 19 Jeremy Liabo, Jide Jaji
August 20 Asha Gidwani, Jude Gonzalez-Greenberg, Maeve Gleason
August 21 Ken Travers, Michael Van Zeyl
August 22 Anne Mathew, Cece Chamberlain, David Poynton, Karen Lyons, Maurice Wallace
August 24 Chistopher McGuire, Cres Roewer, Doug Heyboer, Paige Terborg

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 - 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.

AUG. 20 & 27 - 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.

AUG. 21 - 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: tinyurl.com/45rv6kfm.

AUG. 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 tinyurl.com/ya3zv2y9 or at youngadults@spucc.org.

AUG. 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: lnickerson@spucc.org; pay at: tinyurl.com/2kft83me.

AUG. 25 - GREEN TEAM LPCS DINNER
The Green Team is putting together a LPCS dinner for 35 on Sunday, August 25. The meal will emphasize vegetable-rich summer dishes and will also include some type of BBQ. Costs, recipes and friendship will be shared. Three additional volunteers are needed. For additional information, please contact Ninon Freeman of the Green Team at nlanda05@yahoo.com or Jen Kew at jennniferkew@gmail.com.

AUG. 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.

AUG. 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. 8 - KICKOFF SUNDAY
Our church year kicks off on Sunday, September 8. Church School begins, the Chancel Choir returns. Don't miss this powerful Sunday!

SEPT. 15 - COURTYARD PICNIC - 5 p.m.
For adults of all ages, join St. Pauls Social and host Jen Luerssen for a courtyard picnic in the St. Pauls front courtyard. Bring your own chair, food and drink and enjoy fellowship with others. The church will be open to use the restrooms, if needed. Please RSVP using this link: tinyurl.com/3hhrk633.

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
Do you know someone who has not voted in a while, or someone who has lost faith in the democratic process? Someone who has recently moved, or a new college student? Sending a postcard encouraging someone you know to vote in the November 5 election is an easy and effective way to increase voter turnout. On Sunday, September 22, SPARC will host a nonpartisan "Get Out the Vote" postcard-writing party during coffee hour after church. Postcards, stamps, pens, and sample messages will be provided. All you need to bring are addresses. Please plan to join us!

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team
"Take What You Need, But Eat What You Take"
Army mess halls used to have a sign at the beginning of the mess stating, "Take What You Want, But Eat What You Take." We would change the saying to "Take What You Need." When buying food we often order too much or buy more than we need. "Globally 31 percent of all food gets wasted, enough to feed a billion hungry people. Food waste is estimated to cause 6 to 8 percent of global emissions. " (Washington Post, August 8, 2024). A single American produces 304 pounds of food waste! As you order in restaurants and shop, ask yourself, "How much will I really need?" And always compost spoiled food.

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 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.

TODAY'S MUSIC

Russell Woollen (1923-1994), who composed ***Meditation***, was a Connecticut born pianist, organist and composer. In his works, he combined elements of Medieval music with a more modern harmonic vocabulary. He was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1947, but the "pressures of secular life" caused him to leave the priesthood in the 1960s. However, he continued to compose and perform until his death. One of his works, *In martyrum memoriam* (1968-69), was performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus under the direction of Margaret Hillis in 1979. It was composed as a memorial tribute to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Come Thou 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.

Santo, Santo, Santo (Holy, Holy Holy) is originally in Spanish and is an unattributed Argentine folk melody. It is so simple and popular that it has been translated into at least five languages and published in 45 hymnals… so far.

The text for ***Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*** was written in 1981 by a UCC pastor and teacher of theology, Ronald Cole-Turner (b. 1948). The tune, STUTTGART, was composed in 1715 by Christian Friederich Witt (1660-1716). Witt completed a huge hymnal, *Psalmodia Sacra*, the year before his death. Of its 774 hymns (!!!), he composed nearly 100. He was Kapellmeister of the Gotha court in Stuttgart at the same time that Bach was in Leipzig, just 300 miles north.

All Are Welcome is a recently composed hymn and one of our favorites from a past hymn fest. The tune is TWO OAKS. Dating from 1994, the words and music were both created by Marty Haugen (b. 1950), an American composer of numerous hymns and liturgical music. This hymn was shared with Kurt R. Hansen by a college friend, Alisa Kasmir, and it quickly became an anthem of St. Pauls' Open and Affirming ministry.

En prière (In prayer) was composed in 1889 by Gabriel Fauré on a text by Stéphan Bordèse (1847-1919). Fauré was one of the great lights of French Romanticism along with such other composers as Berlioz, Gounod and Saint-Saëns, who was one of his teachers. He was also an accomplished organist, pianist and teacher of composition and harmony. Among his most performed works is his non-traditional setting of the *Requiem*, which bypasses the bombast of other settings for a more serene and gentle view of that Latin text. Bordèse was a French poet whose father, Louis, was an Italian who became a famous voice teacher in Paris. The poem imagines Jesus in prayer, perhaps in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Be Thou My Vision is a lovely Irish folk tune, SLANE. The translation was made in 1905 from the original Gaelic by Mary E. Bryne (1880-1931), who was born in Ireland. She was a respected university level academic in Dublin.

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

ST. PAULS PRAYS

Please clip this page and pray for those who are named below. To have your prayer request included, simply ask a pastor in person, on the phone or by email.
Our practice is to run each prayer request for four weeks and then remove it.
If you would like to continue a prayer request after four weeks, let a pastor know.

- Karen Johnson and Nancy Barnett's father, Len, recovering from a fall.
- Deon Fayhee at the death of his father, Michael Ray.
- 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, mfitzgerald@spucc.org
Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, jcarlson@spucc.org
Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, lnickerson@spucc.org

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

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

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

Welcome to Saint Pauls UCC!

Welcome to those whose hearts are on fire with faith,
and to those who bring their doubt inside our doors.
Welcome to our first time guests and
our longtime members.
Welcome to single people, tiny children,
grandparents and families of all configurations.
Welcome to those who rejoice and to those who
grieve.
Welcome to LGBTQ+ people.
Welcome to each and to everyone.
We are blessed by your presence and
we are glad you are here.