

September 15, 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 one who does not fear death is outside the tyranny of the devil."

John Chrysostom

PRELUDE Gaelic Air Kieth Chapman

Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

INTROIT Morning Has Broken
Chancel Choir

CHIMES

WELCOME Matt Fitzgerald

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: This is the day that our God has made!

All: Let us rejoice, and be glad!

One: This is the world that God has made!

All: Thank God for the gift of life!

One: You are the people that God has made!

All: God's love and faithfulness are new every morning!

* Please stand if you are able to do so.



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.



SCRIPTURE Todd Coe

Mark 8:27-36

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and lose their soul? Indeed, what can they give in return for their soul?

* 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)

SERMON

"The Crucial Eccentricity"

Jeff Carlson

* HYMN

I Come to the Garden Alone



With a voice of singing
Declare ye this, and let it be heard,
Alleluia.

Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.
The Lord hath delivered his people,
Alleluia.

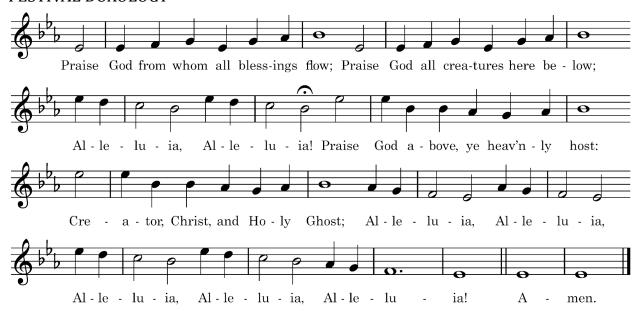
O be joyful in God, all ye lands, O sing praises to the honor of his name, Make his praise to be glorious.

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

Amen.

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.



* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

from The Top of My Head St. Arbucks Quartet Roy Hargrove

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

- Childcare is available for babies and toddlers up to age 5 during worship from 10-11 a.m. in the Nursery and Toddler Room downstairs. Activity "busy bags" are available in the Narthex for children to use during the service and children's Bibles are in the pews.
- REGULAR SUNDAY SCHOOL & CONFIRMATION CLASSES are in session. Confirmation class meets at 10 a.m. in the downstairs High School Room. Elementary-age students are dismissed with their teachers during the worship service and parents pick up children after the service in their classrooms.
- High School students, bring a friend to our kickoff party on Friday, September 13th (yes indeed, Friday the 13th!), from 7-9 p.m. in the Youth Lounge. Join Pastor Matt and others as we feast on good food, enjoy games and conversation, and plan for an excellent year.

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: Todd Coe **Head Ushers:** Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, Fred Pearson

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Hafner

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

The altar flowers celebrate Mark and Sarah Mosley's 15th wedding anniversary.

BORN THIS WEEK IN SEPTEMBER

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.

- Sept 15 Janet Musich, Linda Nitzsche, Sean Atkinson
- Sept 16 Marcel Baumann, Melinda Stinnett, Sylvia Pine
- Sept 17 Jeff Johnson
- Sept 18 John Weldon, Mead Gifford, Sean Patton
- Sept 20 Ethan Ashley-Ferguson, Joe Harrington, Steve Peterson
- Sept 21 Grace Stauskas, Julian Jarzebowski, Lindy McGuire, Pam Pifer

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.

- Annie Johnson's uncle Rick, diagnosed with a brain tumor.
- Bob Ball's brother, Phil, being treated for leukemia.
- Nancy Bingaman's niece struggling with anxiety.
- Dobmeyer Huber family following the sudden loss of a loved one.
- Jayla Williams, relative of Aubraea Cleveland, as she continues chemo treatment for leukemia.
- Pat Kirby, dealing with a housing crisis.
- 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.
- Judy Johnson, friend of Bobbi Ganello, recuperating from cancer treatments.
- 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.
- The family of Rose Stone, who passed away, a 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.
- 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY - 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 17 & 24 - 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.

SEPT 20 - 25 - FALL SWAP - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Social Hall

It's swap time! Drop off gently used children's clothing and toys now through 9/18. Come to the swap and "shop" for FREE (no need to donate to take) Friday 9/20 through Wednesday 9/25 in the Social Hall, 9am-12pm.

SEPT 21 - OPEN GYM & OPEN HOUSE - 9:30 -11:30 a.m.

Families are invited for free play and socialization in the gym. Mini-bounce house, coffee and snacks provided. Little Lights classrooms will be open to visit for current and prospective families. Bring a friend! Everyone is welcome.

SEPT 24 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL LUNCH GROUP - 12-1:30 p.m., Social Hall Pastor Jeff Carlson will discuss selected aspects of St. Pauls history and what it might mean for today. Adults of all ages are invited. Make new friends and connect with old ones with lunch (please bring your own), fellowship, fun and faith.

SEPT 25 FAMILY POTLUCK_- 5 - 6:30 p.m., Oscar Mayer Room All are welcome at this table. The Little Lights Board is hosting a family potluck on Wednesday, September 25, in the Oscar Mayer Room from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Please bring an appetizer, main dish or dessert to share. Mark what you plan on bringing here: Potluck Signup. If you cannot contribute with food but still would like to join us, you are free and encouraged to! We hope you can join us.

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.

SEPT 29 - VACCINATION CLINIC BY MARIANO'S PHARMACY- 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Gym Vaccinations will be provided by Mariano's pharmacy, including COVID boosters, shingles, pneumonia, and flu shots. **Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.** Don't forget to bring your COVID vaccine card and your Medicare or insurance card!

Register now at https://tinyurl.com/kroger-scheduler to book your appointment!

- Enter the Benefit Code: Use SPUCCVAC24 when prompted.
- 2. Find an Appointment:
 - Choose "Vaccines" for Appointment Type.
 - Enter **Chicago** for the City.
 - Select **09/29/2024** for the Date.
 - For "Add travel vaccines," choose
 No.
- 3. **Select Your Vaccines**: Choose which vaccines you want to receive.

- Unique Scheduler: You'll be routed to a special scheduler labeled "St. Paul's UCC."
- 5. **Pick Your Time**: Choose your preferred time slot. There are 5 slots available every 15 minutes.
- 6. **Complete Consent**: Finish by filling out and electronically signing the consent form.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENERAL ELECTION FOR CHICAGO AND SUBURBS- NOVEMBER 5

Please don't ignore this very important election! On November 5, voters will elect the President, Vice President and local candidates. Early voting starts September 26 at 191 N. Clark St. and 69 W. Washington St. Early voting in all Chicago wards begins October 21. Mail-in ballots will be sent starting September 26 for those who requested them. All voting sites are ADA compliant. For more information on races, voter registration, mail-in ballots, and voting locations, scan the QR code.



WINDY CITY WINDS SEASON 10 - SAVE THE DATES!

Windy City Winds, "Chicago's Community Band," announces their Season 10 concerts:

- Friday, November 22, 2024, 7:30 p.m. "By Request: Music Suggested by Band Members"
- Friday, March 14, 2025, 7:30 p.m. "Looking Upward: Music Inspired by Stars and Planets"
 - with guest conductor Dr. Kevin Geraldi, Director of Bands, University of Illinois
- Friday, May 16, 2025, 7:30 p.m. "Looking Back: Favorite Music From Our First Three Seasons"

Each concert will be in the St. Pauls Sanctuary, admission is free and each will be livestreamed. Come help us celebrate this milestone season!

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.

CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Please register your K-6th Sunday School students, 7th and 8th grade Confirmation students, and High School class members by scanning this QR code.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR RESUMES

Youth Choirs will resume on September 15! Any musically inclined kids, please join us! Kinderchapel Singers (*Preschool*) Sundays 9:50-10 a.m. in the Social Hall with Tom Clancy; Children's Choir (*grades K-3*): Sundays 9:30-9:55 a.m. in the Chapel with Breanna Coe; Paul's People (*grades 4-8*): Sundays 9:30-9:55 a.m. in the Parlor with Kecia Waldschmidt.

VOLUNTEER FOR OKTOBERFEST

St. Pauls Oktoberfest is just a few weeks away and we are looking forward to tapping into the excitement of this Bavarian tradition with authentic German food, local Oktoberfest beers, live music and dancing, a jumpy-house, and other fun activities. 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.). It takes more than 100 volunteers to pour 700 beers, serve 500 brats and hot dogs, and run kids' activities for seven hours. Can we count on you to join our team? As a volunteer, you will work a 2-hour shift and receive a free food/drink ticket. You will also enjoy the opportunity to meet new friends and to support St. Pauls' neighborhood outreach efforts. Please sign up at tinyurl.com/4b4j2dr6.

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

SPARC "Get Out the Vote!" Postcard Party, September 22nd during Coffee Hour Do you know someone who needs encouragement to vote in the upcoming election? Someone who has recently moved or a new college student who needs a reminder to register to vote in their new location? Do you want to let a friend or relative know that you are going to vote in November? Send a "Get Out the Vote!" postcard courtesy of SPARC! We will provide cards, pens, postage, and sample messages. All you need to do is bring an address or two! Please plan to participate in this fun event!

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

"You crown the year with Your Goodness,
And your paths drip with abundance They drop on the pastures of the Wilderness
And the little hills rejoice on Every side."
Psalm 65, v11-12, NKJ

We are exhorted to celebrate God's goodness during the harvest. However, as God's stewards, we are also required to treat abundance with respect: 40% of food produced ends up as waste, half during production and distribution and the other half at home. So, plan your shopping, share your abundance and recycle through composting!

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



TODAY'S MUSIC

Gaelic Air was composed by Keith Chapman (1945-1989), an American concert organist and composer. He was the Principal Organist of the famous Wanamaker Organ in Philadelphia.

The text for *Morning Has Broken* was written by Elinor Farjeon (1881-1965), who also wrote children's books. The tune we know so well, BUNESSAN, is a Gaelic melody.

The text for *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* was written by Charles Wesley (1707-1788), whose brother, John, was the founder of the Methodist faith. The words were set to the famous Welsh tune, HYFRYDOL, by Rowan Hugh Prichard (1811-1887) when he was only 19. We also sing this tune to the text *Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven*. This text is one of the few that is the source of a "hymn battle" over which tune to sing. The other well known tune for this text is BEECHER.

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 its 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.

Both the text and tune, GARDEN, for *I Come to the Garden Alone* were composed in 1913 by C. Austin Miles (1868-1946). An American pharmacist from Pennsylvania, he abandoned that career to compose gospel songs. He composed hundreds of them and eventually owned a publishing company that printed song books.

Martin Shaw, (1875-1958), was a campaigner for better church music and English opera. He was co-editor with Ralph Vaughan Williams of the *Oxford Book of Carols* (1928). *With a Voice of Singing* was composed in 1923 for a festival of church choirs in Rochester, New York. Shaw also wrote the text.

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say, tune KINGSFOLD, first appeared in a 19th century collection of English folk melodies, but may date 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.

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

Special Music Theme for 2024-2025 HEAR Ye! + Bach

Enjoy another year of special music during worship services.

H- Hebrew

E - English

A - Austrian

R - Russian

November 3, 2024 - Reformation Sunday - Lobet den Herrn - Bach

December 8, 2024 - Christmas Cantata (Hebrew & English)

Nachamu, nachamu ami - Max Janowski (*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*) **Fantasia on Christmas Carols** - Ralph Vaughan Williams with guest artist William Buchman, from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra

February 16, 2025 - Northwestern University Chapel Choir - Guest choir in worship

March 9, 2025 - Komm, Jesu, komm - Bach

April 6, 2025 - (Austria) - Requiem - Mozart

May 18, 2025 - (Russian) - Symphony of Psalms - Stravinsky/Shostakovich

Mark these dates in your calendar!

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, over 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 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 LGPTQ+ people.

Welcome to each and to everyone.

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