

# September 29, 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

"God doesn't break things so God can fix them; God fixes broken things so God can use them."

- Bob Goff

PRELUD	E Einfach	Robert Schumann					
	from <i>Nachtstücke,</i> Opus 23 No. 4						
	Kevin Dzierzawski, piano						
INTROIT							
	Chancel Choir						
CHIMES							
WELCOM	IE	Jeff Carlson					
* WELCOM	IING EACH OTHER						
* CALL TO	WORSHIP						
One:	God calls us to use our power to bring the way of God's kingdom to earth.						
All:	We don't realize it, but God's power can flow through us.						
One:	God's power turns the power of the world on its head.						

All: Pressures in life cause us to stumble, but God's power steadies our steps.

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



### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jeff Carlson

God of all creation, we follow the ways of the world and then we stumble. We get off track and follow the wrong path. But you give us the words of life and redirect our steps. Help us to recognize and remove our stumbling blocks, oh Lord. Forgive us for our sins and guide our paths. Teach us how to serve you and serve others rather than ourselves. In Jesus' name we pray. 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

### Mark 9:38-50

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him, for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. "If any of you cause one of these little ones who believe in me to stumble, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to Gehenna, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into Gehenna. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into Gehenna, where their worm never dies and the fire is never quenched. "For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good, but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

### \* 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

*Guide My Feet* See previous hymn

Stanzas 3 & 4

**SERMON** 

"Stumbling Blocks"

Liz Nickerson

\* HYMN

God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak



#### MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

#### OFFERTORY

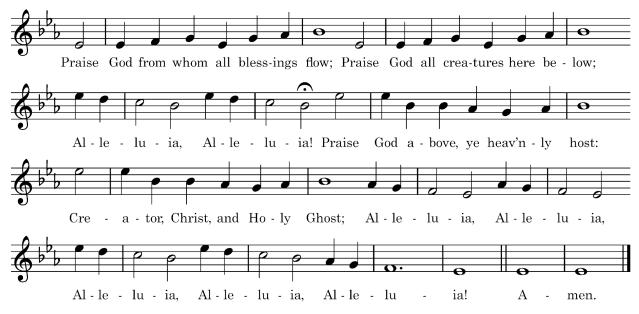
Sim shalom (Sung in Hebrew) Chancel Choir

Max Janowski

Grant us peace, goodness and blessing, Grace, kindness and mercy, To us and all your people.. Bless us our Father, all of us as one Through the light of your presence. Truly through the light of your presence, Adonai our God. You gave us a Torah of life – love of kindness, Justice, blessing, mercy, life, and peace. May you see fit to bless your people At all times, at every hour, with your peace. Praised are you Adonai, Who blesses your people Israel with peace. 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

### Jeff Carlson

### 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 How Firm a Foundation									
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# \* BENEDICTION

## \* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

*Keep Holding On!* St. Arbucks Quartet

Danniebelle Hall

### **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.

### **TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

Clergy: 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: Audrey Bettner Head Ushers: Beatrice Jaji Ushers: David Baker, David Faulkner Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown Camera Operators: Jim Alrutz, Marie Ankenman, Bob Ball, Brian Hafner, Trevor Hafner, Maurice Wallace Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

Today's altar flowers are in loving memory of Oscar and Dorothy Ekdahl and Armel and Melba Opp, parents of Jon Ekdahl and Marcia Opp.

### **BORN THIS WEEK IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER**

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 29 Andy Vahey, Hannah Fitzgerald, Jill Brennan, Jonathan Leaf, Miles Davidson
- Sept 30 Claire Teborg, Emily Wood, Layton Olson
- Oct 1 Amy Akers, Katlyn McVey, Paul Schrimpf, Theresa Herlevsen
- Oct 2 Derek De Haan
- Oct 3 Barbara Javorcic, Eve Lytal, Jesse Russell, Theo Lytal
- Oct 4 Cynthia Cata, Emily Cromwell, Garrett Keegan, Kirsten Hull, Paul Raiman, Robin Scott, Solveig Roverud, Tom Connolly

### **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.

- Matt Fitzgerald recovering from a concussion and stitches.
- 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 - 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 <u>https://tinyurl.com/kroger-scheduler</u> to book your appointment!

- 1. 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.

### OCT 1 & 8 - 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: tinvurl.com/Tuesday-Pickleball.

**OCT 22 - 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.

# OCT 30 - 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, October 30. 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 Wednesday, October 30. 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 <u>marcia@volkonline.com</u> or (773) 307-6866.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **REFUGEEONE: THEIR WINTER COAT AND BOOT DRIVE IS BACK!**

Given our warm weather lately, winter may seem years away, but RefugeeOne is already making plans to help their clients with warm winter clothes. There is an <u>Amazon gift registry</u> that lists the items RefugeeOne is looking for. If you're interested in participating, please use this list and have the items shipped directly to RefugeeOne by selecting the *RefugeeOne (Winter Coat Drive)'s Gift Registry Address* when you checkout. You can access the registry at <u>https://tinyurl.com/3hx7crny</u> or by scanning the

QR code. *Please order your items by Sunday, October 13,* so that RefugeeOne will receive them in time to distribute them. Thank you!

# **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 October 3 at 191 N. Clark Street and 69 W. Washington Street. 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: <u>spucc.org/new member classes</u>.

# **CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION**

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



# **CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

Youth Choirs are in session! 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.

# PALESTINE STUDY GROUP

Broaden your understanding of the Israel-Palestine conflict in this thoughtful and supportive group. All are welcome. Contact David Burnett at <u>burnett.db@gmail.com</u>.

## **"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 <u>tinyurl.com/healing-hearts-support</u>. 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 2024 "Our Faith, Our Vote" campaign asks the church to answer the call of 1 John 3:18 to "let us not love with words or speech, but in action and in truth" by "voting with love." Vote with love for creation, for our neighbors both here and abroad, for a just peace, for repair and reconciliation of the brokenness of our nation. Get all the information you need to make a plan to vote and to encourage your family, friends, and community to do the same during coffee hour on Sunday, **September 29, at our non-partisan "Get Out the Vote" table.** 

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

# REUSE IN YOUR YARD

The key to successfully saving seeds from annual flowers/plants is to let the blooms completely mature and dry while still on the mother plant. The longer old flower heads wither and dry, the better. To harvest:

- Cut off the flower head.
- Spread collected seeds and flower heads in an airy container for a few days to thoroughly dry.
- Transfer the seeds into small packages paper bags work well.
- Label bags with the type of plant seeds look very similar when dry!
- Store away from direct light.
- Seeds saved from annual flowers are best if used the following year.

### **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**

*Einfach* (Simply) is the fourth movement from *Nachtstücke*, Opus 23, composed in 1839 by Robert Schumann (1810-1856). Schumann was a genius who might have been bipolar. He went through almost manic periods of incredible artistic output and periods of deep depression. His last days were in a sanitorium. He was a champion of Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) and his wife, Clara (1819-1896), who had been a piano student of Robert and was a gifted pianist and composer in her own right. The melody of this movement is heard in our sermon hymn today.

The text for *O God of Love! O God of Peace* was written in 1861 by Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877). The son of a British Admiral, he was ordained, became Vicar of Monkland, and later knighted. Sir Henry composed many hymn texts. The tune HESPERUS, also known as QUEBEC, was composed in 1854 by another Henry Baker (1835-1910). He was also an English clergyman and a civil engineer.

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God* is a text by Issac Watts (1674-1848), the eminent English poet who set the entire books of Psalms as poetry, including Psalm 90, *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past.* His poetry has inspired many composers. The tune, ELLACOMBE, is unattributed and of German origin first published in a hymnal in 1784. In the 19th century, the tune was named for a village in Devonshire.

*Guide My Feet* is another uplifting spiritual in the African American tradition. It is one of the many songs sung during marches during the civil rights movement in the 1960s. The believer asks God to guide them on the path of life.

*God Speak to Me That I May Speak* is a text written in 1872 by Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879). She was born in Devonshire, England, and her father was a minister. She composed more than 50 hymn texts and spoke a number of European languages in addition to Hebrew and Greek. The tune CANONBURY is derived from the fourth piano piece in Robert Schumann's (1810-1856) *Nachtstücke*, Opus 23 (1839). CANONBURY first appeared as a hymn tune in J. Ireland Tucker's *Hymnal with Tunes, Old and New* (1872).

**A note for our time** - This prayer for peace not only calls for peace for Israel, it also calls for Israel and all faithful in and beyond Israel to work toward and support efforts toward peace wherever there is conflict. This prayer ardently has a universal message of striving always toward peace.

*Sim shalom* (Grant us peace) was composed by Max Janowski (1912-1991). He was Cantor and Director of Music at KAM-Isaiah Israel Congregation in Chicago for 50 years. Kurt and Terry Hansen sang with him for his last 17 years. Mr. Janowski was truly one of the 20th century's "great lights" of Jewish music. *Sim shalom* is one of his most performed works and is a prayer for peace made on *Rosh Hashanah*.

*How Firm a Foundation*, although of anonymous origin, is a true American hymn first published in Funk's *Genuine Church Music* in 1832. That hymnal is part of what is often referred to as the Sacred Harp, or shape-note hymnal, tradition in our country which began in the early 19th century. These treasures gained a rebirth during the 1976 bicentennial celebrations. Did you know that before the revival of this tune, FOUNDATION, this text was most often sung to the tune *Adeste Fideles (O Come All Ye Faithful)*? The text is also unattributed, but first discovered by John Rippon (1751–1836), who was an English Baptist clergyman. He noted the author as "K."

Danniebelle Hall (1938-2000) was a deeply committed Gospel artist who sought to evangelize through her singing and composing. She formed her own group, The Danniebelles, and was also a member of Andraé Crouch's Disciples. She recorded several solo albums and toured around the world. *Keep Holding On* was composed and recorded in the 1980s.

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

## 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 LGPTQ+ people. Welcome to each and to everyone. We are blessed by your presence and we are glad you are here.