

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 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.*

PRELUDE	<i>Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen</i>	Johannes Brahms
	Kevin Dzierzawski, organ	

CHIMES

INTROIT	<i>Advent Introit</i>	Chant
	Chancel Choir	

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE - The Candle of Peace	The Combs Family, Nate, Kristy, Chloe, Ivy
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WELCOME	Liz Nickerson
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* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: He was not born in nobility or wealth.

All: He was not announced by priests or kings.

One: Two women were the first to know:

All: The Messiah is coming!

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

* HYMN

Joy to the World!

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns: Let men their
3. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

- ceive her king; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room,
songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
na - tions prove The glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness,

And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his

And heav'n and na - ture sing, And
Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
And won - ders of his love, And

sing, And heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing.
- peat the sound - ing joy,
won - ders of his love,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God,
What can we possibly give to you at Christmas?
There is so much tension in our lives.
So much anxiety in our hearts.
So many confused thoughts.
So much that separates us from one another.
So much that runs directly against the good news of Christ's birth!
Yet, this is precisely what you want to receive from us!
You want to take away all of our mistakes, regret, fear and suspicion,
in order to give Jesus, your love and our savior,
hope for us and for all people.
We thank you for this immeasurable gift
even as we ready ourselves to be changed by it,
by him.
Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Sunday School students are invited to go to their classrooms.
If you would like to accompany your child(ren),
you are welcome to drop them off and return to worship.*

*RESPONSE

O God Whose Steadfast Love

verses 1 & 2

1. O God, whose stead - fast love true moth - er - hood has blessed;
2. Your prom - is - es, O God, so sure through - out the years,
3. In your great love, O God, full par - ent - hood is known:
4. May your house - hold of faith one fam - i - ly be - come,

who shields the in - fant small up - on its moth - er's breast;
have lived in moth - ers' hearts, have bloomed from moth - er's tears.
a fa - ther mourns his child, a moth - er's strength is shown.
that love may be in - creased and none may be a - lone;

Em - brace us, too, O God, our God, and hold us in your
So Sar - ah laughed, and Han - nah wept, and sing - ing Mar - y
Let par - ents' faith - ful lives un - bind your love that through them
That moth - er's love and fa - ther's care and chil - dren's joy we

lov - ing arms, and hold us in your lov - ing arms.
se - crets kept, and sing - ing Mar - y se - crets kept.
we might find Christ's deep - er love for hu - man - kind.
all may share, and chil - dren's joy we all may share.

SCRIPTURE

Nancy Voights Godinez

Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;
indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

*** A 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**

O God Whose Steadfast Love
See previous hymn

verses 3 & 4

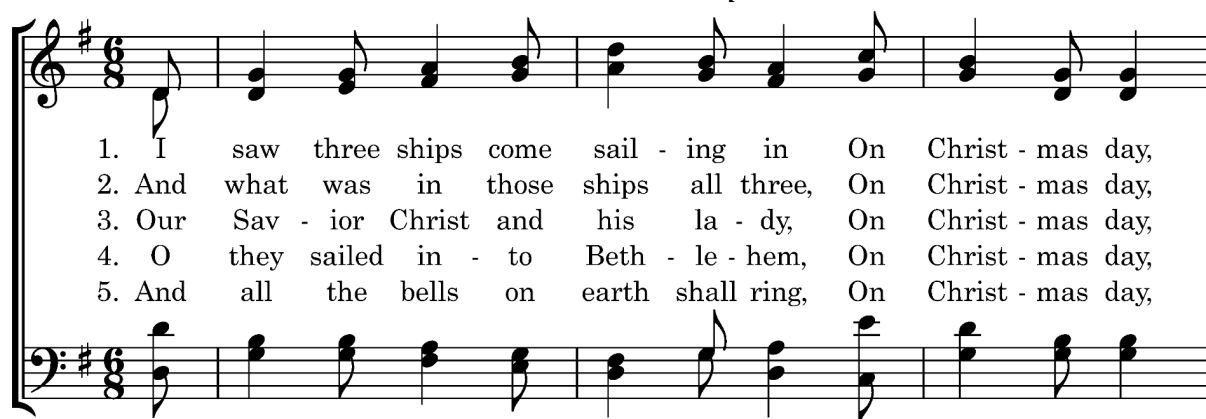
SERMON

"Metta World Peace"

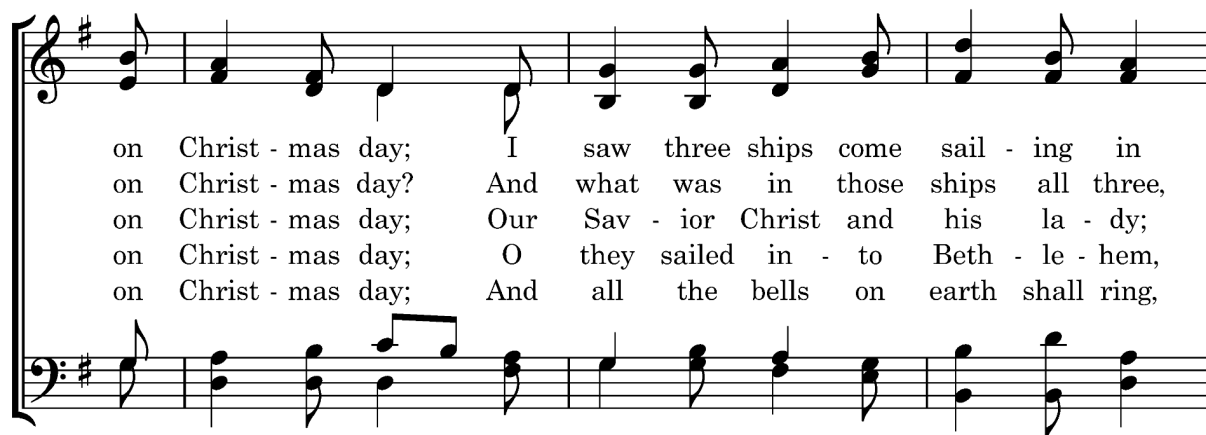
Matt Fitzgerald

* CAROL

I Saw Three Ships



1. I saw three ships come sail - ing in On Christ - mas day,
 2. And what was in those ships all three, On Christ - mas day,
 3. Our Sav - ior Christ and his la - dy, On Christ - mas day,
 4. O they sailed in - to Beth - le - hem, On Christ - mas day,
 5. And all the bells on earth shall ring, On Christ - mas day,



on Christ - mas day; I saw three ships come sail - ing in
 on Christ - mas day? And what was in those ships all three,
 on Christ - mas day; Our Sav - ior Christ and his la - dy;
 on Christ - mas day; O they sailed in - to Beth - le - hem,
 on Christ - mas day; And all the bells on earth shall ring,



On Christ - mas day in the morn - ing.
 On Christ - mas day in the morn - ing.
 On Christ - mas day in the morn - ing.
 On Christ - mas day in the morn - ing.
 On Christ - mas day in the morn - ing.

OFFERTORY

Glory, Glory, Glory to the New Born King
Kecia Waldschmidt & Katie Alrutz, soloists
Chancel Choir

Moses Hogan

What will we call that pretty little baby?
Baby born in Bethlehem.
Where was he born, this pretty little baby?
Christ the Lord the newborn King.

Down in a lowly manger.
Where His birth was in a stable.
Christ the Lord the newborn King.
Born this night, the Son of Mary,
Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace.
Glory to the newborn King.

Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King.
Children, go and tell it on the mountain.
Lord, over the hills and everywhere,
That Jesus Christ is born.
See the new born baby.

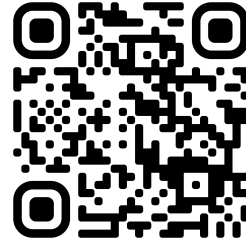
Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King...
All praise to the newborn King.
We're singin'
All praise to the newborn King.
Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King.

You can give to St. Pauls electronically by:

Scanning this code with your cell phone camera,

At spucc.churchcenter.com/giving,

Or through Zelle or PayPal to giving@spucc.org.



*** FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be - low;

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:

Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost; Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

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

Hark the Herald Angels Sing



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, — “Glo - ry to the new-born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav’n born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild — God and sin - ners rec - on-ciled!”
Late in time be - hold him come, Off-spring of the Virgin’s womb.
Light and life to all he brings, Risen with heal - ing in his wings,



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, — Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; — Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty, —
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, — Born that man no more may die, —



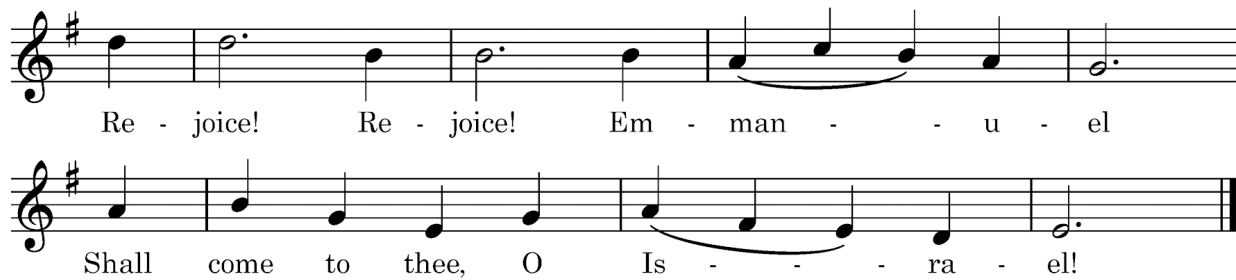
With the an - gel - ic host pro-claim, “Christ is — born in Beth - le-hem!”
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to — give them sec-ond birth.



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry — to the new-born King!”

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

Christmas Is Coming
St. Arbucks Quartet

Vince Guaraldi

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, downstairs, directly beneath the Sanctuary.

ADVENT WREATH - Each week during Advent we light another candle in our Advent wreath to anticipate the coming of Christ, the light of the world. These candles symbolize the gifts of hope, love, joy and peace that Christ's coming brings. Today, we light the candle of peace.

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. 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: 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

Scripture Reader: Nancy Voights Godinez

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, Fred Pearson

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

Camera Operators: Jim Alrutz, Marie Ankenman, Bob Ball, Brian Hafner, Trevor Hafner, Maurice Wallace

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

BORN THIS WEEK IN DECEMBER

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.

Dec. 22 Krixbel y Fausto Jr Velazco Navarro, Lexi Patton

Dec. 23 Jim Alrutz, Kristy Combs, Megan Behnke, Steve Hansen, Valerie Schimp

Dec. 24 Steve Garrett

Dec. 25 Chuck Mize, Kevin Tavas, Matthew Burns

Dec. 26 Sarah Zelonis, Sue Holt

Dec. 27 Debbie Ballard

Dec. 28 Jennifer Kohler, Mary Beth Canfield

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.

- Marcia Knudson as she begins treatment for lung cancer.
- Char Damron asks for prayers for Vicki Kendall and her family following Vicki's recent surgery.
- Thank you for the prayers of resolution for Pat Kirby.
- Juanita Barlow being treated for health problems.
- David Faulkner at the death of his mother.
- Wayne Bradley, recovering from surgery.
- The family of Don Johnson, beloved uncle of Jim Waldschmidt, who passed away after a long illness.
- Bob Ball's brother, Phill, being treated for complications associated with leukemia, and Jane, who is Phill's primary caregiver.
- David Folkes's daughter, Sarah Philomena, who has entered hospice.
- Cheryl Kennedy at the death of Bill Kennedy. A service is being planned for January 11 at 1 p.m. at St. Pauls.
- Sally Acker, recovering from a fall.
- Jen Kew's father, Jim, diagnosed with a progressive lung disease.
- Jessica Ashley, recovering from breast cancer surgery.
- Dan Von Bargen, being treated for multiple myeloma.
- Nancy Bingaman's niece struggling with anxiety.
- Karen Johnson and Nancy Barnett's father, Len, recovering from a fall.
- Judy Johnson, friend of Bobbi Ganello, recuperating from cancer treatments.
- David Baker's brother-in-law, Roger Robert, as he deals with the onset of Parkinson's disease.
- Prayers for peace - in our city, nation and world.
- 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.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAULS

TODAY	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, <i>LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE</i> 10 a.m. - Worship
TUES, DEC 24	CHRISTMAS EVE 5 p.m. - Family Service, Sanctuary 9 p.m. - Candlelight Service, Sanctuary Christmas story, carols, candles, and choir

*Scan here for more
information about
Advent events*



UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN 20, 2025 - MLK: A DAY OF HEALING AND REMEMBRANCE AT UCAN -

11 a.m.-1 p.m., UCAN Nichol's Center, 3605 W. Fillmore Street

Join Pastor Matt who will emcee a powerful program honoring the life and legacy of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Hear first-hand stories from families of victims of gun violence and how UCAN is making a difference and how to help. Lunch will be provided. ucanchicago.org/

JAN 26, 2025 - A POW PILGRIMAGE - 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Oscar Mayer Room

Please join Music Director Kurt R. Hansen, for a 30-minute presentation of a documentary about his pilgrimage last winter to Poland, Germany and France to follow the journey of his father, Kermit Hansen, as a German POW in 1944 and 1945. A Q & A time will follow.

FEB 2, 2025 SPORTS EQUIPMENT DRIVE - Oscar Mayer Room

(before and after BOB performance)

In an effort to support UCAN's youth sports programs, we're collecting gently used sports equipment. Sift through your closets and garage for sporting goods your family is no longer using - we'll take them! Most needed equipment: baseball, soccer, basketball, tennis, volleyball, kickball, and rugby. Organizer: Jill Lawrence jill_lawrence@yahoo.com, 773-573-9306

FEB 8, 2025 - SING ALONG SOUND OF MUSIC - 4 p.m., Youth Lounge

Join St. Pauls Adult Social and host Jen Luerksen for "Sing-along Sound of Music" in our own St. Pauls parlor. Bring your singing voice as we watch the movie and sing along with the bouncing ball. Bring a drink and snack to share. The movie will start at 4:30 p.m. with fellowship before and afterward. RSVP here: tinyurl.com/4hxjezm7

FEB 9, 2025 - NEW MEMBER CLASS - 11 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room

Join pastors, members and others curious about St. Pauls for our next 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 other upcoming dates here: spucc.org/new_member_classes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAITH AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE – THE NEW BOOK GROUP

Artificial Intelligence raises important questions for Christians. If you are interested in how faith and technology intersect, our new book group is for you. Join Pastor Matt, Helen Chang and others for two sessions to discuss *God, Human, Animal, Machine* by essayist Megan O'Gieblyn. The New York Times calls the book "A rigorously thoughtful collection of meditations on technology, humanity and religion, and crucially, a memoir." Meetings will be in late January and February, dates will be determined once registration is complete. Register here: tinyurl.com/ms5wuwma

URBAN POVERTY IN PITTSBURGH – JUNE 15-21

2025 Youth Mission Trip Special Meeting January 26th

Teens and parents, please attend a special meeting after worship on Sunday, January 26, in the High School Room. Come learn more about this year's trip, travel plans, cost, fundraising efforts, and more. We are excited to invite our youth on the summer 2025 trip to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 15-21. Youth will work with activists and church leaders from the Christian Church of Wilkinsburg, a dynamic interracial congregation in the heart of the community. We will stay at the church, joining youth and young adults from the Wilkinsburg Church in a weeklong effort called "Project Peace." We will do carpentry, urban gardening, and other projects in the neighborhood. Lessons learned will be brought home and put to work at St. Pauls and in Chicago. If you are already planning to join the adventure, you can register here: tinyurl.com/mrxmed3c

ADVENT MARKET THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Advent Market. We raised more than \$4,000 to send to Three Angels Children's Relief in Haiti! Many thanks to Carrie Bruggers and her team of elves who organized the market.

NEW SMALL GROUPS! SHORT CIRCLES: REGISTER TODAY

Short Circles are small groups for people who want to experience growth in their spiritual lives. In circles of 6-8 people, we will connect to God and one another. We will meet for 50-60 minutes once a week for six weeks beginning in early February. Each week, your Short Circle will focus on a few short verses of scripture using the ancient method of "lectio divina" or "spiritual reading." The aim is for you to discover what God is calling you to do or to become in 2025. Upon registration, you will indicate whether you prefer to meet in person or via Zoom, along with your day/evening preferences. Register here: tinyurl.com/mry4acbf

BIBLE OFF BROADWAY 2025 IS COMING!

Get your kids aged 3 to 18 ready to shine, because our in-service production of *"SHE-roes of the Bible"* will start rehearsals on Sunday, January 5, and run each Sunday through January 26, all in preparation for the always-inspiring February 2 annual BOB service. Whether your kids want to sing, dance, or play an instrument on stage or work behind the scenes, we hope all will participate.

Watch for a parent survey in the coming week to capture your kids' interest in participating.

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to our annual gift drive for the youth at UCAN. Because of your generosity, St. Pauls donated 113 gifts this year! A special shoutout to the Activism and Advocacy Ministry for organizing this effort as part of their outreach mission. We also want to recognize Lovely Carter and Pauline Taylor for their amazing work coordinating the drive. Your dedication makes a real difference—thank you!

JOIN OUR INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA

Do you play an orchestral string, woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument? If so, please join the St. Pauls UCC Intergenerational Orchestra as we prepare to perform in worship on Sunday, March 16. Orchestra members range in age from 10 to 100! Rehearsals are immediately after church for about an hour in the Oscar Mayer Room on February 23, March 2 and March 9. If you are interested, please contact our conductor Mark Mosley at (773) 732-0625 or mwmosley@gmail.com. Please join us as together we "Make a Joyful Sound in the City!"

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

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 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.

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

How to Know Whether Wrapping Paper Is Recyclable

Regular wrapping paper (including the glossy stuff) is often recyclable as long as it does not have non-paper additions. This includes paper that has been dyed, laminated, and contains metals, plastics or glitter embedded within it or anywhere on it. If your paper is not labeled recyclable, it is safe to try the scrunch test: if you are able to scrunch up a piece of wrapping paper that stays scrunched up, it's likely safe to recycle. Adapted from *Popular Mechanics*, December 18, 2021, authored by Daisy Hernandez.

Reducing Food Waste (Suggestions from Pete Peterson, World Wildlife Fund) – The EPA estimates that during the holidays food waste increases by about 25%. Perhaps we are driven by images of bountiful tables filled with family favorites and specialty products. This holiday season consider:

- Plan just enough and let go of the image of the groaning board;
- Emphasize vegetarian offerings;
- Look for biodegradable containers to distribute leftovers;
- Freeze what you cannot use for later enjoyment;
- Share with neighbors!

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS

Our Stephen Ministers are here for you if you are going through a tough time. Extensively trained in compassionate Christian caregiving, Stephen Ministers are matched confidentially with someone in our congregation who is going through a crisis, such as the death of a loved one, a diagnosis, a divorce, a job loss, etc. They meet with you once a week for an hour to offer support through listening, companionship and prayer. If you wonder whether having a Stephen Minister might be helpful for you, please speak with Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org. Every one of us could benefit from a Stephen Minister at some point in our lives.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send announcements for St. Pauls-sponsored events to info@spucc.org no later than 10 a.m. on Wednesdays, for publication in the Friday email and next Sunday bulletin. You are welcome to share personal announcements and other event invitations in our Facebook Group, St. Pauls Together.

Please limit announcements to 100 words. Thank you!

St. Pauls UCC
Giving Campaign 2025
October 27, 2024 - January 14, 2025

\$1,000,000
\$950,000
\$900,000
\$800,000
\$700,000
\$600,000
\$500,000
\$400,000
\$300,000
\$200,000
\$100,000

Embrace, Nurture, Inspire

UPDATE ON 2025 PHASE II CONSTRUCTION PLANS TO “EXPAND AND ELEVATE SAINT PAULS’ OPENNESS”

On October 20, our members unanimously and joyfully approved moving forward with Phase II of our long-awaited capital construction project. In disciplined planning and thoughtful review since 2016, the endorsed final work phase will make our entire public building complex more welcoming and fully accessible through the installation of a five-stop elevator and a beautiful open-air courtyard with a new north-end building access ramp.

Project general contractor Bulley & Andrews, St. Pauls owner’s rep Lorne Frank, and architect Larry Kearns have met regularly to lay out a work plan for 2025. To maximize efficiency and minimize costs, work on the exterior and interior will happen concurrently from March through early November. The planned schedule for the phases of work is summarized in the following table:

"CAMPAIGN TO EXPAND AND ELEVATE OUR OPENNESS"		
PHASE II CONSTRUCTION GENERAL WORK PLAN/APPROXIMATE TIMETABLE*		
MONTH OF 2025	INTERIOR WORK (NORTH END)	EXTERIOR WORK (COURTYARD)
January – March	Equipment and materials procurement Pre-construction asbestos abatement	
April	Interior site preparation North stairwell partial removal	Site preparation Current site demolition
May	Elevator shaft preparation Roof preparation for elevator top Masonry and roofing Elevator installation	Install tree bases Electrical Ramp construction Handrail installation
	North interior structural steel and deck work	
June		
July	North stairwell construction North interior frame-out	Pour and finish plaza base Landscape bed preparation
August		Install plaza pavers Install plaza steps
September		Plantings Asphalt patching, finishing Final site clean-up
	October	Interior flooring, tile, millwork, painting, and finishing
November	(Project completion if any delays in planned schedule)	
*IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER: As with any construction project of any size, timetables are approximations and subject to change/delay.		

Our project team has met with St. Pauls, Lighthouse Church, and Little Lights program staff members to ensure that all are aware of and can plan for/around the implications of all phases of the construction.

Watch for an all-congregation email containing a link to an inspirational virtual tour of the Phase II outcome.

We continue to be grateful for the faithful and generous support of the entire St. Pauls congregation that made Phase I and II of this bold project possible. Generations to come will benefit and thank you!

WELCOME TO ST. 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

In 1896, Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) created this setting for organ of ***Es ist ein' Ros entsprungen***, Op. 122, No. 8 that we know as *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*. The organ music of Brahms is not as well known as his symphonies, but his music for the organ has the same beauty and harmonic craftsmanship as his symphonic works. The tune ES IST EIN' ROS is unattributed and was first published in 1599 in the Cöln Gesangbuch.

The text for ***Joy to the World*** was composed in 1719 by the famous British poet and theologian, Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Watts' great contribution was setting the entire Book of Psalms poetically. This is a paraphrase of both Psalms 98 and 96. One of his most well beloved texts is *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*. ANTIOCH was composed by George Friderick Handel (1685-1759), who also composed *Messiah*, and was adapted as a hymn by Lowell Mason (1792-1872). Mason is often referred to as the father of American church music for his contributions.

James L. Haddix (b. 1946) wrote the text for ***O God Whose Steadfast Love*** in 1986 and revised it in 1994. The tune, RHOSYMEDRE, was composed in 1840 by John David Edwards (1806-1885). He was an Anglican priest and the tune name is taken from one of the parishes he served in Wales.

The carol, ***I Saw Three Ships***, could hardly be more English! Both the tune and the words are unattributed and date to sometime in the mid-19th century. It imagines Jesus, Mary and Joseph not in a manger, but arriving on three ships on Christmas Day. Then the ships sail to Bethlehem. That's fairly English specific! It would be like our music director from Omaha, Nebraska composing a carol about Jesus arriving on a barge in the Missouri River, BUT the point is that the Savior comes to all of us where we are.

Glory, Glory, Glory to the New Born King is based on the well-known spiritual *Go Tell It on the Mountain*. It is characterized by both serenity and great energy. In his all too brief life, Moses Hogan (1957-2003) continued and added to the great tradition of spiritual arrangement that included William Dawson. He recorded a number of compact discs and wrote solo arrangements for such singers as Kathleen Battle. He also was commissioned to compose the anthem *Home In-a That Rock* for our Chancel Choir and Ron McCowan.

In the Bleak Midwinter text was composed by prolific English poet Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894) in 1872. The tune, CRANHAM, is by Gustav Holst (1874-1934), who is best known as the composer of *The Planets*.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing is easily among the most well-known Christmas carols. The text was written by the famous Methodist clergyman Charles Wesley (1749-1788) in 1739, and was altered to its present version in the same year by George Whitefield (1714-1770). The tune name, MENDELSSOHN, takes its name from its famous German composer, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847), who was much beloved in England. The melody is borrowed from a larger work, *Festgesang, Op. 68*, composed in 1840.

Christmas Is Coming was composed by Vince Guaraldi (1928-1976) and is a musical theme from the made-for-TV movie, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (1965), which also includes his jazz instrumental standard, *Linus and Lucy*. He also created music for other animated features and won a Grammy in 1963 for Best Original Jazz Composition for *Cast Your Fate to the Wind*.

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, 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

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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.