



February 2, 2025

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.

PRELUDE

"Written" *Original by Natasha Bedingfield*
(Based on "Unwritten") *with Brisbroise, Rodrigues*
St. Arbucks Quartet *Adopted by Jana O'Brien*
Kecia Waldschmidt, soloist

with Cindy Ball, Carrie Bruggers, Leslie Chamberlain, Breanna Coe,
Winnie Kearns, Jen Kew, Jana O'Brien, Pat Ruch, and Annika Viktorson

*Their stories written
Between the lines, heroines fine
From the beginning, women and girls
Not just apples and curls.*

*They broke tradition
Sometimes their tries were outside the lines
They were conditioned to stay in their place
But they weren't made that way!*

*Staring at the Bible page before us
Stories that will never bore us,
We'll illuminate the stories
That you might have missed;
We're teaching
About women who inspire us,
Who will light a fire inside us
They showed no inhibition
Living life without sin.*

*Staring at the Bible page before us
Stories that will never bore us,
We'll illuminate the stories
That you might have missed;
We're teaching
About women who inspire us,
Who will light a fire inside us
They showed no inhibition
Living life without sin.*

*We will tell six stories for you
We hope you will take them in;
No one else, no one else
Will tell you stories like this
Drench your mind in their heroics
Smart and savvy, brave and stoic
Today women's stories win.
In the Bible they are written.*

*We will tell six stories for you
We hope you will take them in;
No one else, no one else
Will tell you stories like this
Drench your mind in their heroics
Smart and savvy, brave and stoic
Today women's stories win.
In the Bible they are written.*

WELCOME

Matt Fitzgerald

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 149)

One: Hallelujah! Sing to God a brand-new song!

All: Sing along with everyone who loves God!

One: Praise God's name with dancing!

All: Strike up the band and make good music!

One: Why? For God delights in God's people!

All: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

* OPENING HYMN

God of the Women – Verses 1-3

Used by Permission

(Tune: "Be Thou My Vision")



1. God of the wom - en who an - swered your call,
2. God of the wom - en who walked Je - sus' Way,
3. God of the wom - en long put to the test,
4. God of the wom - en who ran from the tomb,
5. O God of Phoe - be and min - is - ters all,



trust - ing your pro - mis - es, giv - ing their all,
giv - ing their re - sourc - es, learn - ing to pray,
left out of stor - ies, for - got - ten, op - pressed,
prayed with the oth - ers in that up - per room,
may we be joy - ful in an - swering your call.



wom - en like Sar - ah and Han - nah and Ruth,
Ma - ry, Jo - an - na, Su - san - na, and more,
qui - et - ly ask - ing: "Who smiled at my birth?"
then felt your Spir - it on Pen - te - cost Day,
Give us the strength of your Spir - it so near



give us their cour - age to live in your truth.
may we give free - ly as they did be - fore.
In Je - sus' dy - ing you show us our worth.
may we so glad - ly pro - claim you to - day.
that we may share in your min - is - try here.

WORDS: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 1998
MUSIC: Traditional Irish melody

SLANE
10.10.10

Words copyright © 1998 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Published by The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 877-899-2780, ext. 7070. Web site: <http://www.umcworship.org>.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

** Please stand if you are able.*

SHE-roes of the Bible

Entr'acte

Eve and Saint Paul

Overture

"Six Stories"
Based on "Ex-Wives"
Original from the musical "SIX"
by Lucy Moss and Toby Marlow
New Lyrics by Jana O'Brien
The SHE-roes Ensemble

ACT I:

SHE-ro Story #1: *The Daughters of Zelophehad*

"Sisters"
Original by Irving Berlin
New Lyrics by Jana O'Brien
The Noble Daughters of Zelophehad

"This Land Is Their Land"
Based on "This Land Is Your Land"
Original by Woody Guthrie
New Lyrics by Jana O'Brien
The Messengers of God,
The Census Takers, and Moses

SHE-ro Story #2: *Deborah the Judge*

“Deborah the Judge”

Based on “Pink Pony Club”

Recorded by Chappell Roan

Original by C. Roan, D. Nigro and K.R. Amstutz

New lyrics by Philip Smedley

Deborah the Judge, Barak, and the Gavel Guys

“Hammer Time”

Based on “U Can’t Touch This”

Original by M.C. Hammer, Rick James, and Alonzo Miller

New Lyrics by Philip Smedley

Barak, Barak’s Boys,

Jael, and Sisera

SHE-ro Story #3: *Jehosheba the Protector*

“Poor Unfortunate Sons”

Based on “Poor Unfortunate Souls”

from Disney’s “The Little Mermaid”

Original by H. Ashman and A. Menken

New Lyrics by Jeff Carlson and Joe JaQuay

Athalia the Anti SHE-ro

“Not While I’m Around”

Based on song of same name

from the musical “Sweeney Todd”

Original by Stephen Sondheim

New Lyrics by Kecia Waldschmidt

Jehosheba the Protector

INTERMISSION: Offertory

“Keep Marching”

Original from “Suffs the Musical”

by Shaina Todd

New Lyrics by Kecia Waldschmidt

St. Arbucks Quartet

Kecia Waldschmidt, soloist,

with Cindy Ball, Carrie Bruggers,

Leslie Chamberlain, Breanna Coe, Winnie Kearns,

Jen Kew, Jana O’Brien, Pat Ruch, Annika Viktorson

HYMN:

“God of the Women” – Verses 4-5

ACT II:

SHE-ro Story #4: *Phoebe the Deacon*

“Deacon of the Faith”
Based on “Dance the Night Away”
from the movie “Barbie”
Original by Dua Lipa and Caroline Ailin
New Lyrics by Jana O’Brien
Phoebe the Deacon with the Phoebe-ettes

“Please, Deacon Phoebe”
Based on “Please, Mr. Postman”
Original by The Marvelettes
(by Georgia Dobbins and William Garrett)
New Lyrics by Jana O’Brien
Roma and the Post-Its

SHE-ro Story #5: *Abigail the Hostess*

“We’re Not Gonna Take It”
Original by Twisted Sister
Written by Dee Snyder
New Lyrics by Jana O’Brien
King David and His Dawgs

“I’ll Be Here For You!”
Original “Friends” theme
Recorded by the Rembrandts
New Lyrics by Jana O’Brien
Abigail the Hospitable and Her Aides
David and His Dawgs

SHE-ro Story #6: *Junia the Apostle*

“I’ll Make a Man Out of You”
Original from Disney’s “Mulan”
by Matthew Wilder and David Zippel
New Lyrics by Jana O’Brien
The Bible Scribes

“Anti Hero”
Original by Taylor Swift
New Lyrics by Jana O’Brien
Junia the Apostle and Her Jewels

Finale:

“Girls on Fire”
(based on “Girl on Fire”)
Original by Alicia Keys
New Lyrics Jana O’Brien
The Entire Cast and Crew

BENEDICTION

Jeff Carlson

Following Worship, all are invited to Coffee Hour in the gym!

DIRECTOR’S NOTE FROM JANA O’BRIEN

Since the late 1970s, the Saint Pauls congregation has been entertained, educated, and inspired annually by the talents, enthusiasm, and energy of our Saint Pauls youth (along with their devoted adult leader shepherds). Kids from age 3 to 18 have brought to life in fresh, memorable ways countless Old and New Testament narratives spanning books from Genesis to Revelation – enabling our *children* to teach *all of us* Bible lessons for a change.

Of note, most of those five decades of annual BST/BOB productions have centered on men. That’s no surprise, as the vast majority of Bible stories focus on males – men who showed remarkable faith and fortitude in their efforts to understand and obey God’s will.

This begs the question: did the women in the ancient times that formulated our faith do little of note and have little to teach us? Or, must we simply look deeper to find important but relatively unfamiliar stories of remarkable Biblical women and bring them to the fore?

This year seemed an apt time to explore these questions. Thanks to Pastor Carlson, I was led to the three-volume publication of essays titled *She Is Called: Women of the Bible*. Prepared by a diverse range of contemporary leaders of the Reformed Church of America, the series illuminates 27 remarkable, female-focused Bible stories, from which Pastor Jeff and I agreed to focus on the six relatively unknown stories that we present to you today.

Making this effort even more “the right thing to do” was the fact that our church is so full of talented young women who were anxious to bring these Biblical SHE-roes to life for you. I (we!) deeply thank them, as well as all the other young female *AND* male cast participants who embraced this year’s theme with full enthusiasm, our entire BOB leadership team, our adult group leaders, stage crew, make-up, costume and stage/prop volunteers, the pastors and staff, Saint Arbucks Quartet, the video team, and parents. Also – thank YOU who came out on a February morning to witness God’s glory in these amazing kids – and our SHE-roes!

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

- Childcare is available for babies and toddlers up to age 5 during worship from 10 to 11 a.m. downstairs in the Nursery and Toddler Room. Activity “busy bags” are available in the Narthex for children to use during the service.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Matt Fitzgerald, Liz Nickerson, Jeff Carlson

St. Arbucks Quartet: Brendan Henry, piano; Alex Austin, bass; Matt Plaskota, drums; Kris Hansen, trumpet & vocals

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Faulkner, Fred Pearson

Greeter: Clark Baurer

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

Would you like to donate altar flowers? Sign up here: tinyurl.com/4w6fu5js.

BORN THIS WEEK IN FEBRUARY

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.

Feb. 2 Rod Sippy

Feb. 3 Christie Ward, Izzy Smith-Ritchie, Katie Moulton, Lexi Miller, Matt Ross

Feb. 4 Alex Parfenoff, Marcia Knudson

Feb. 5 Emma Peterson, Kathleen Truskey

Feb. 6 Ivy Sanz, James Weimer, Rebecca Sandoval, Sarah Leeper

Feb. 7 Aaron Fangman, Kilian Zindel, Nolan Tavas

Feb. 8 Ethan Frisch, Sherrie Myers

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.

- David Folkes at the death of his daughter, Sarah Philomena.
- Loved ones of Rachel Joyce at her death.
- Marcia Knudson as she begins treatment for lung cancer.
- Sabrina Brancaccio, sister-in-law of Terry Hansen, for cancer diagnosis.
- Char Damron asks for prayers for Vicki Kendall and her family following Vicki's recent surgery.
- 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.
- Cheryl Kennedy at the death of Bill Kennedy.
- Jen Kew's father, Jim, diagnosed with a progressive lung disease.
- Jessica Ashley, recovering from breast cancer surgery.
- Dan Von Barga, 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.
- 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.

UPCOMING EVENT

TODAY - 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. Please sift through your closets and garages 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 5 - BIBLE STUDY: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN - 12 p.m., Zoom

John's stories and images have captured the imaginations of Christians in every generation. It's very different from the three other "Synoptic" Gospels in the New Testament, with material all its own. It depicts Jesus as the Good Shepherd, the Bread of Life and the Light of the World, always shining in whatever darkness may come. Led by Pastor Jeff, we meet weekly at noon over Zoom. Sign up here: tinyurl.com/bdzytb33

FEB 8 - 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 Youth Lounge. 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 - NEW MEMBER CLASS - 11 a.m., Room 210 (Confirmation 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.

FEB 16 - SACK LUNCH MAKING FOR LPCS SHELTER - 11 a.m., Kitchen

Make a difference by joining us after worship in the church kitchen on Sundays, January 19, February 16 and March 16 as we prepare brown bag lunches for clients at the Lincoln Park Community Services shelter. Learn more about the shelter at www.lpcschicago.org. We'll begin right after worship (around 11 a.m.) and deliver the lunches to their location at 600 W. Fullerton. We will provide all the food needed, but volunteers are asked to donate \$25 (cash or via Venmo/Zelle) to help cover the cost of the lunches. To sign up, please visit tinyurl.com/2v92p898. If you have questions or need more information, please email Mark Pellegrino at jjmarkp@yahoo.com.

FEB 21 - FAMILY FONDUE NIGHT - 6-8:30 p.m., Oscar Mayer Room

Families + Fun + Fondue = Friday, February 21! Join St. Pauls families of all ages for a night of fellowship! Fondue (cheese and chocolate) will be served in the Oscar Mayer Room, the nursery will be open for little ones, and kids will have activities in both the gym and the Youth Lounge. This event is free of charge, but please sign up by February 18 to secure your spot. Register here: tinyurl.com/mrb3xwt4.

FEB 21 - ST. PAULS SOCIAL WHISKEY TASTING - 7 p.m., Parlor

Join St. Pauls Adult Social and host Todd Coe for a whiskey tasting. Todd will walk us through the sights, smells and tastes of several different whiskeys and discuss what to look for when shopping for a bottle of your own. Please bring a snack to share. Todd is generously donating the whiskeys, but a \$10 donation that will go toward the Migrant Housing Project–Legal Fund is requested. Please RSVP here by Friday, February 14: tinyurl.com/2ybfan52. The event is limited to the first 20 registered attendees.

FEB 22 - POLO OPEN GYM & LITTLE LIGHTS OPEN HOUSE - 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Looking for a place to get those wiggles out on a Saturday morning? Drop in at St. Pauls for some free play in the gym! Mini-bounce house, coffee & snacks provided. Little Lights classrooms open to visit and learn about our program. Bring a friend! Open to the community. Questions? Reach out to Erin Fitzgerald at littlelights@spucc.org.

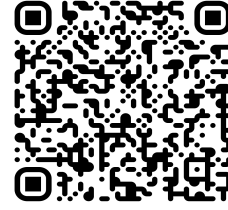
FEB 27 - MOMS' GROUP - Thursdays, 9:15-10:15 a.m., Youth Lounge

New weekday Moms' group meets at St. Pauls once per month on Thursdays from 9:15-10:15 a.m. continuing on February 27, March 20, April 24 and May 22. Being a mom is the hardest job in the world! So come meet other moms, make new friends, learn from each other, get advice, pray, and get renewed! Each month has a relevant theme on an issue you face as a mom. Free professional childcare is available. Babies can stay with their moms. RSVP to lnickerson@spucc.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW! OPT-IN TO TEXTING FROM SAINT PAULS

Want to receive reminders and announcements via text?
Simply scan the QR code and fill out the form!



WINDY CITY WINDS CONCERT – MARCH 14

Come hear Windy City Winds, “Chicago’s Community Band,” in a free concert Friday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Pauls UCC (also live-streamed at spucc.org/streaming). The program theme is “Looking Upward: Music Inspired by Stars and Planets” featuring music by Gustav Holst, John Philip Sousa, John Williams, and two contemporary composers. Dr. Kevin Geraldi, director of bands at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, will be the guest conductor. The event will also include the band’s annual raffle where audience members can win fabulous prizes! Windy City Winds is a 60-piece symphonic band conducted by Mark Mosley and Sarah Good Mosley.

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose: Medical Supplies for Teaching!

We are at that time of the year when we are forced by icy cold weather to stay indoors. This is an excellent time to go through closets, medical supply boxes and basements to see what might be “Recycled, Reused and Repurposed.”

Lynn Davis is looking for unopened and expired or unexpired medical supplies. Most needed are:

- IV bags of any size and medical tubing;
- Saline flushed/saline vials;
- Syringe and needles;
- Gauze bandages of any type.

Also welcomed:

- Urinary catheters;
- Tracheostomy kits.

PLEASE: No medications or used items. A box will be available during social hour where you can place supplies. Additional information will also be available regarding other types of recycling.

JUMPSTART GYM – JANUARY 7-MARCH 19

Parents/Caregivers supervise children ages 0-3 in an open-ended environment. Take advantage of our beautiful full-size gym while it's cold outside and your little one needs a place to get those wiggles out! Our first Jumpstart Gym time is Tuesday, January 7, and continues on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9-9:45 a.m. through March 19. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/3hnt2rjw>. Reach out to Erin Fitzgerald at littlelights@spucc.org if you have any questions. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING RAISES MORE THAN \$12,000!

All of this year's Christmas Eve offering is going to ensure legal safety for migrant families. Over the past two years, St. Pauls housed five Venezuelan migrant families in our building. Today, nearly every single member of these families has achieved legal status, safeguarding their presence in Chicago and allowing them to work. Such legal aid is costly. Our Christmas Eve offering is supporting the St. Pauls Legal Aid Fund to provide this assistance. Thanks for your generosity!

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.

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!"

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

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.



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.

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.

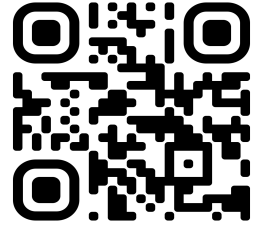
BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

For St. Pauls-sponsored events, send to info@spucc.org by 10 a.m. on Wednesdays for publication in the Friday email and next Sunday bulletin. Share personal announcements/ events on our Facebook group page, St. Pauls Together. **Please limit announcements to 100 words.** Thank you!

PLEDGING & GIVING INFORMATION

PLEDGE WITH BOLD GRATITUDE FOR 2025

Thank you to everyone who has already made a pledge for 2025! Your generous support of St. Pauls is greatly needed and much appreciated. If you have yet to pledge your time, talents or treasures for 2025, 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 2025 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.

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

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.

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
June	North interior structural steel and deck work	
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	(Exterior complete)
November	(Project completion if any delays in planned schedule)	
*IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER: <i>As with any construction project of any size, timetables are approximations and subject to change/delay.</i>		

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



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.