

January 19, 2025  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

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

***Please silence cell phones.***

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

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"I want a jobless god a striking god, a hungry god, a fugitive god, an exiled god,  
a god who longs from jail for a change in the order of things. I want a more  
godlike god." – Francisco X Alarcon from *Prayer*

PRELUDE

*Precious Lord*  
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

Wilbur Held

INTROIT

*All Over The World*  
UCAN Choir  
Pastor Fredrick Wilson, conductor

Pastor Frederick Wilson

Spread love to your brother. Spread love to your sister  
Spread love all over the world  
We all need each other no matter the color  
Spread love all over the world

Share peace with your brother. Share peace with your sister  
Share all over the world  
No more fighting, there are too many dying  
Share peace all over the world

Speak life to your brother. Speak life to your sister  
Speak life all over the world.  
Stop hurting and hating Just start celebrating  
Speak life all over the world

Be Blessed my brother Be blessed my sister  
Be blessed all over the world.  
I wish you the best stop settling for less  
Be Blessed all over the world

CHIMES

WELCOME

Matt Fitzgerald

\* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Beautiful are the works of God!

**All: Beautiful also are all of God's people!**

One: Beautiful is the mind of God!

**All: Beautiful also are the hopes of God's people!**

One: God made the heavens and the earth!

**All: To God be the glory for the things God has done!**

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

\* HYMN

*God Is Working His Purpose Out*



1. God is work - ing his pur - pose out As year suc -  
2. From ut - most east to ut - most west, Wher - e'er man's  
3. March we forth in the strength of God With the ban - ner of  
4. All we can do is noth - ing worth Un - less God



- ceeds to year; God is work - ing his pur - pose out, And the  
foot - hath trod, By the mouth of man - y mes - sen - gers Goes  
Christ un - furled, That the light of the glo - rious gos - pel of truth May  
bless - es the deed; Vain - ly we hope for the har - vest - tide Till



time is draw - ing near; Near - er and near - er draws the time, The  
forth the voice of God; Give ear to me, ye con - ti - nents, Ye  
shine through - out the world; Fight we the fight with sorrow and sin To  
God gives life to the seed; Yet near - er and near - er draws the time, The



time that shall sure - ly be, When the earth shall be filled with the  
isles, give ear to me, That the earth may by filled with the  
set their cap - tives free, That the earth may be filled with the  
time that shall sure - ly be, When the earth shall be filled with the



glo - ry of God As the wa - ters cov - er the sea.  
glo - ry of God As the wa - ters cov - er the sea.  
glo - ry of God As the wa - ters cov - er the sea.  
glo - ry of God As the wa - ters cov - er the sea.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God,  
forgive us for what we could have been but failed to be.  
We confess that we need your help,  
Thank you for the inspiration of Jesus.  
Grant that we will love you  
with all our hearts, souls, and minds,  
and love our neighbors as we love ourselves,  
even our enemy neighbors.  
And we ask you, God, in these days of emotional tension,  
when the problems of the world  
are gigantic in extent and chaotic in detail,  
be with us in our going out and our coming in,  
in our rising up and in our lying down,  
in our moments of joy and in our moments of sorrow,  
until the day when there shall be no sunset and no dawn.  
Amen.**

(a prayer written by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RESPONSE

Were You There

verses 1 and 2

1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? \_\_\_\_\_ Were you  
 2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? \_\_\_\_\_ Were you  
 3. Were you there when God wept at Mar - y's cry? \_\_\_\_\_ Were you  
 4. Were you there when he rose up from the tomb? \_\_\_\_\_ Were you

there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
 there when they nailed him to the tree? Oh! \_\_\_\_\_  
 there when God wept at Mar - y's cry?  
 there when he rose up from the tomb?

Some-times it cau - ses me to trem - ble, trem - ble, trem - ble. \_\_\_\_\_

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Were you there when God wept at Mar - y's cry? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Were you there when he rose up from the tomb? \_\_\_\_\_

SCRIPTURE

Louise Gram

*Esther 4:10-14*

Then Esther spoke to Hathach and commanded him to go to Mordecai and say, "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—to be put to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter so that he may live. But as for me, I have not been called to come in to the king these thirty days."

And they told Mordecai what Esther had said. Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai, "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my young women will also fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish."

\* 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)*

ANTHEM

*Hallelujah, Salvation and Glory*

Kirk Franklin

UCAN Choir

Pastor Fredrick Wilson, director

Hallelujah, Salvation and Glory  
Honor and Power unto the Lord, our God  
For the Lord, our God, is Mighty  
Yes, the Lord, our God is Omnipotent  
The Lord, our God, He is Wonderful

Hallelujah, Salvation and Glory  
Honor and Power unto the Lord, our God  
For the Lord, our God, is Mighty  
Yes, the Lord, our God is Omnipotent  
The Lord, our God, He is Wonderful

All praises be to the King of Kings  
For the Lord, our God, He is Wonderful

Hallelujah ....  
He is Wonderful

Hallelujah, Salvation and Glory  
Honor and Power, He is Wonderful  
*based on Revelation 19:1*



\* RESPONSE

*Were You There*  
See previous hymn

verses 3 and 4

SERMON

“Placed on Purpose!”

Frederick Wilson

\* HYMN

*Thank Our God for Christian Siblings*



1. Thank our God for\_ Chris-tian sib - lings, one by\_ grace, in\_\_ har - mo - ny,
2. Praise to\_\_ God for\_\_ con - gre - ga - tions, keep-ing\_ faith with Christ as guide;
3. Ho - ly\_\_ is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re-main;



Join - ing heart to\_\_ heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.  
Man - y tongues of\_\_ man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.  
Bless the\_ church's new en - deav - ors; make our\_ wit - ness one a - gain.



With the\_ cross of Christ our\_ stan-dard, let us\_ sing as with one voice,  
Sweet the psalm and sweet the\_ car - ol, when our song is raised as\_\_ one.  
One in\_ Christ and in Christ's gos-pel, make us\_\_ one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry,\_\_ glo - ry,\_\_ yours the prom-ise: we who are the church re - joice.  
Glo - ry,\_\_ glo - ry,\_\_ yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.  
Glo - ry,\_\_ glo - ry,\_\_ yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

MISSION MOMENT

Christa Hamilton UCAN CEO

OFFERTORY

*Precious Lord*  
Chancel Choir

Thomas Dorsey  
arr. Arnold Sevier

Precious Lord, take my hand;  
lead me on, let me stand.  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
Thro' the storm, thro' the night,  
lead me on to the light  
Take my hand Lord  
and lead me home.

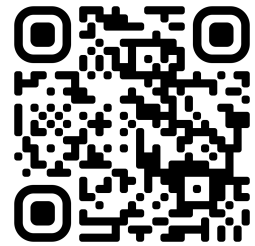
When my way grows drear  
Precious Lord linger near.  
When my life is almost gone  
At the river, Lord, I stand!!  
Guide my feet and hold my hand.  
Take my hand Lord and lead me home.

*You can give to St. Pauls electronically:*

*Scan this code with your cell phone camera,*

*Church Center at [spucc.churchcenter.com/giving](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/giving),*

*PayPal at [spucc.org/paypal](http://spucc.org/paypal), or Zelle to [giving@spucc.org](mailto:giving@spucc.org).*



\* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY

Musical notation for the Festival Doxology, consisting of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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.

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

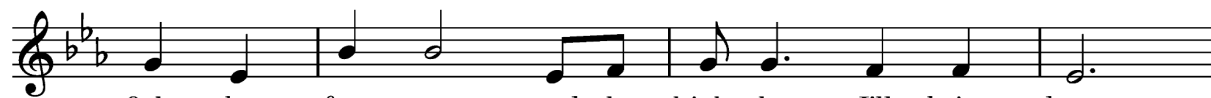
*I Will Lift the Cloud of Night*



1. I will lift the cloud of night be - fore you, what is  
 2. With an ev - er - last - ing love I'll love you, though with  
 3. Al - though Sa - tan in a rage would tear you, and with  
 4. I will lift the cloud of night be - fore you, I will



wrong I'll make it right be - fore you, all your bat - tles I will  
 tri - als I will test and prove you, still there's noth - ing that can  
 ev - ery win - ning art would snare you, yet from youth to your old  
 make the crook - ed straight be - fore you, I will spread my wings pro -



fight be - fore you, and the high place I'll bring down.  
 hurt or move you; and the high place I'll bring down.  
 age I'll bear you and the high place I'll bring down.  
 -tect - ing o'er you; and the high place I'll bring down.

*Refrain*



When you walk and lose the way I'll lead you; on the



pro - duce of the land I'll feed you; And a home with - in my heart I'll



deed you; and the high place I'll bring down.

\* BENEDICTION

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*God Be With You Till We Meet Again*

William G. Toner

UCAN Choir and Chancel Choir

God be with you till we meet again,  
By good counsel guide, uphold you,  
With a shepherd's care enfold you,  
God be with you till we meet again.

Till we meet, till we meet,  
Till we meet at Jesus' feet.  
Till we meet, till we meet,  
God be with you till we meet again.

POSTLUDE

*People Get Ready*

Curtiss Mayfield

St. Arbucks Quartet

We are delighted to welcome the **UCAN Choir** and their director, Pastor Fred Wilson, as our guest preacher this morning. Pastor Wilson has been preaching since the age of 11 and has served as a senior pastor in the city of Chicago for 20 years. He currently serves as the chaplain at UCAN. He also uses his musical gifts working as the Minister of Music at St. Sabina Catholic Church of Chicago. Pastor Wilson travels the globe preaching and recently visited South Africa with 20 ministry partners. As a published author, accomplished musician, worship leader, preacher, husband, father and friend, Pastor Fred's life purpose is to inspire people to live their BLESSED life!

**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.
- SUNDAY SCHOOL and CONFIRMATION classes are on hold during *Bible Off Broadway* rehearsals in January. We hope all of your children will participate in whatever way they prefer -- in front of or behind the scenes. Rehearsals are in the Social Hall, located directly below the Sanctuary, before and during worship from 9:30-11 a.m.

## TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

**Clergy:** Matt Fitzgerald, Liz Nickerson

**Guest Preacher:** Frederick Wilson

**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:** Louise Gram

**Head Usher:** Beatrice Jaji

**Ushers:** David Baker, David Faulkner, Fred Pearson

**Gatekeeper:** Dodd Brown

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

**Custodian:** Ramiro Gonzalez

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are given by Breanna Coe in celebration of Charlie Coe's 7th birthday (last Sunday), with love from Mommy and Daddy.

*Would you like to donate altar flowers? Sign up here: [tinyurl.com/4w6fu5js](http://tinyurl.com/4w6fu5js).*

## BORN THIS WEEK IN JANUARY

*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.*

- Jan 20 Judson Harper, Keith Mandell, Tom Kompare
- Jan 21 Abby Simonton, Ann Cartensen, Joanne Tong, Pamela Smith, Summer Abraham
- Jan 23 Armanyelis Hernandez, Dan Abercrombie
- Jan 24 Hamish Fyfe, Kelly Martin
- Jan 25 Michael Sanders

## 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.*

- 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.
- Thank you for the prayers of resolution for Pat Kirby.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **TODAY - CHILDREN'S BIBLE OFF BROADWAY REHEARSALS CONTINUE –**

9:30-11 a.m., Social Hall

Bring your children aged 4 to high school seniors to the Social Hall now (even if they're late!) for *Bible Off Broadway* rehearsal, happening today and every Sunday in January in lieu of regular Sunday School. Whether onstage or behind the scenes, all children are encouraged and welcome to participate in a way that suits them.

### **JAN 20 - MLK: A DAY OF HEALING AND REMEMBRANCE AT UCAN -**

11 a.m.-1 p.m., UCAN Nichols 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. RSVP here: [tinyurl.com/4xhvvhvk](https://tinyurl.com/4xhvvhvk).

### **JAN 22 - NEW BIBLE STUDY BEGINS: 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](https://tinyurl.com/bdzytb33)

### **JAN 23 - MOMS' GROUP - Thursdays, 9:15-10:15 a.m., Parlor**

New additional weekday Moms' group meets at St. Pauls once per month on Thursdays from 9:15-10:15 a.m. on January 23, 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. This month we will talk about fear and how to keep our fears in check. Free professional childcare is available. Babies can stay with their moms. RSVP to [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org).

### **JAN 26 - 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.

**JAN 26 - 2025 YOUTH MISSION TRIP SPECIAL MEETING** - 11 a.m., Youth Lounge  
Teens and parents, please attend a special meeting after worship on Sunday, January 26, in the Youth Lounge. 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](http://tinyurl.com/mrxmed3c).

**JAN 28 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL GROUP** - 12-1:30 p.m., Social Hall  
Learn about the unexpected ways that grief can impact you and your health and how a specialized massage can support your healing process. Facilitated by Cindy Ball, Licensed Massage Therapist. Adults of all ages are invited to make new friends and reconnect with old ones through lunch, fun and faith. Bring a friend or neighbor. Please bring your own lunch. Sponsored by St. Pauls Social.

**JAN 29 - COOKIES FOR A CAUSE (BAKE YOUR FAVORITE COOKIES AT HOME NOW!)** - 5:30 p.m., Kitchen  
Join the St. Pauls cookie bakers for dinner, socializing, and cookie-making on Wednesday, January 29. Meet us in the kitchen at 5:30 p.m. (or when you can). We eat dinner around 6:30 p.m. Cookies will be donated to A Just Harvest and the Lincoln Park Community Shelter. If you can't attend but want to contribute, drop off cookies labeled with your name and "MARCIA" at the church by Wednesday, January 29. To reserve a spot or find out what supplies are needed, contact Marcia Volk at [marcia@volkonline.com](mailto:marcia@volkonline.com) or (773) 307-6866, or Gloria Joseph at [glrjoseph@yahoo.com](mailto:glrjoseph@yahoo.com).

**FEB 2 - 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](mailto:jill_lawrence@yahoo.com), (773) 573-9306.



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

Join St. Pauls Adult Social and host Jen Luerssen 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](http://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](http://spucc.org/new_member_classes).

**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](http://tinyurl.com/2ybfan52). The event is limited to the first 20 registered attendees.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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](mailto:littlelights@spucc.org) if you have any questions. Thank you!

### **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](https://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](mailto: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](https://tinyurl.com/mry4acbf)

### **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.



### **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](mailto: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](http://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](http://tinyurl.com/wuphf495).

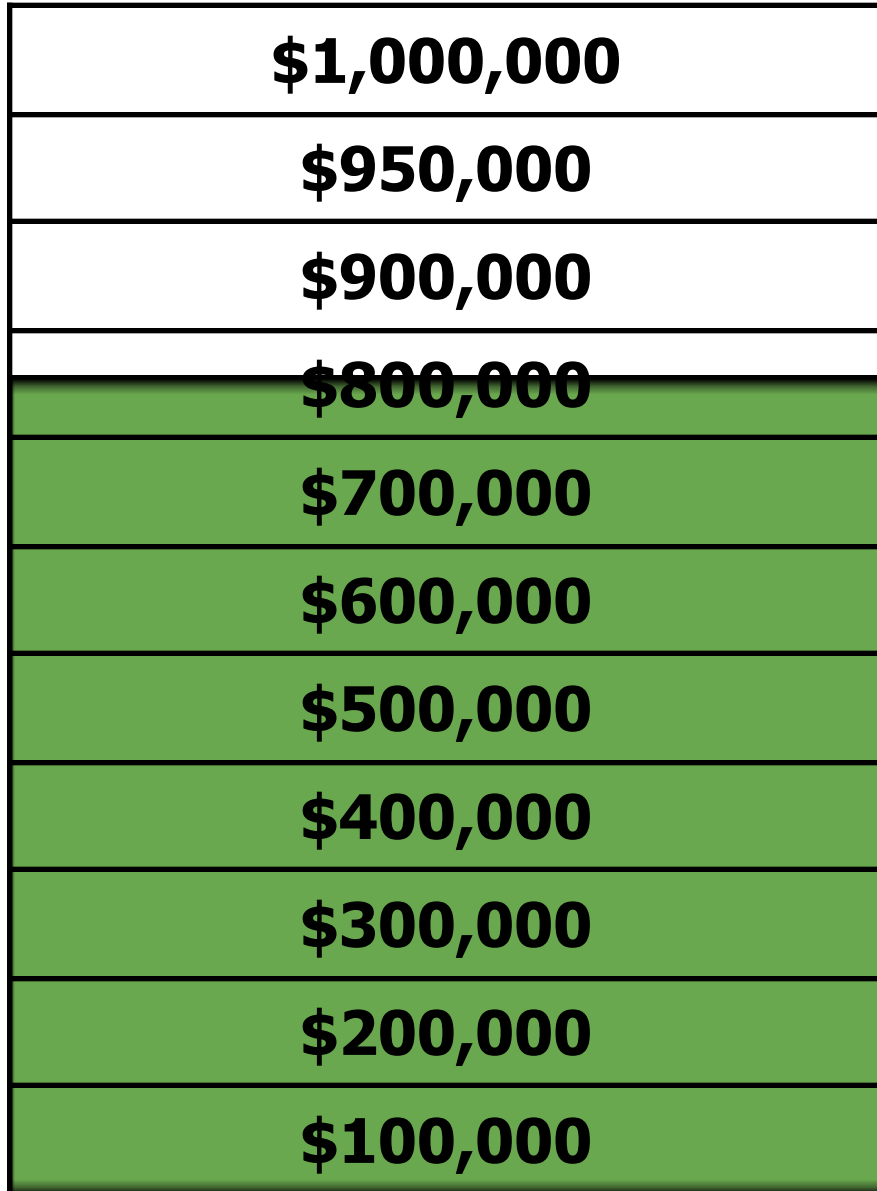
### **JOIN THE MOVEMENT**

Join United Way of Metro Chicago for a free exclusive conversation with Chicago urban historian Shermann "Dilla" Thomas to explore The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy and culture. Learn more about MLK's unique connection to Chicago and what's happening now in the neighborhoods where he spent time. Register here to attend one of two free Zoom broadcasts: [tinyurl.com/5b38a5uv](http://tinyurl.com/5b38a5uv).

### **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](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org). Every one of us could benefit from a Stephen Minister at some point in our lives.

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



*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:

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



## TODAY'S MUSIC

Our prelude is also based on ***Precious Lord***, which was composed c. 1940 by Thomas A. Dorsey. Wilbur Held (1914-2015), who arranged the setting, also has a deep Chicago connection. Born in Des Plaines, he studied at the American Conservatory with Leo Sowerby, becoming Sowerby's assistant for seven years at St. James Cathedral in the Loop. In addition to being an active composer, he was very involved in the American Guild of Organists and was Professor of Organ Studies at Ohio State University for more than 30 years.

***All Over the World*** was composed by this morning's preacher, Pastor Fredrick Wilson. Its message rings so clearly with our Open and Affirming ministry that praises God for loving everyone "no matter who they are and where they are on life's journey." Pastor Fred was even asked by Barbra Streisand to join her with this song in concert and has toured with the band Heart also singing this song. Pastor Fred is Faith and Community Manager for UCAN Chicago.

***God Is Working His Purpose Out*** is a favorite hymn of our deceased Pastor Emeritus Tom Henry. The text was written by Arthur Campbell Ainger (1841-1919) in 1894. The text demanded a muscular tune, which Martin Shaw (1916-1999) provided in 1951.

***Were You There*** is a deeply moving African American spiritual that asks the believer to put themselves in person at the crucifixion. The believer sings, *O sometimes it causes me to tremble*, which makes the suffering of Jesus personal.

***Hallelujah, Salvation and Glory*** is a gospel song with both text and music by Kirk Franklin (b. 1970). The text is based on Revelation 19:1. He has also brought a new and contemporary edge to "urban" gospel music by adding the energy of hip-hop. Franklin was directing his church choir in Texas at age 11. Having received three Grammy nominations, he has introduced his energetic R&B take on gospel music to a much wider audience.

The original text for ***Thank Our God For Christian Siblings*** was written in 1948 by Roger K. Powell (1914-2003) as a rallying song for The National Council of Churches meeting in 1952. The text was updated for our *New Century Hymnal*. PLEADING SAVIOR was first published in 1830 and is attributed to Joshua Levitt (1794-1873). Levitt was a Yale graduate who became a Congregational minister. He aided a slave to escape the South and raised funds for the defense of the Armistad captives.

**Precious Lord** composer Thomas A. Dorsey began his career as a blues pianist and songwriter. Later, he became a church choir director here in Chicago and was a co-founder of the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses. Widely known as the "father of the gospel song," Dorsey played an important role in the development of African American gospel music. This, his best-known song, was composed following the tragic double death of his first wife, Nettie, and their newborn son. It was a great comfort to Mr. Dorsey in his grief, as well as countless others who have sung it. This arrangement was written by Mr. Severe while he was a student at Hyde Park High School in the 1970s. Arnold was the former Director of Music at Pilgrim Baptist Church where Thomas Dorsey got his start in Gospel music.

**I Will Lift the Cloud of Night** was composed, and text also written, by Charles P. Jones (1865–1949) in 1910. The tune is the composer's last name, JONES. The Reverend Jones, an African American, was founder of the Church of Christ. He composed more than 1,000 gospel hymns, both music and texts.

William G. Tomer (1833-1896), composed this hymn in 1880. Born in New Jersey of German ancestry, he learned his craft in "singing schools" and began teaching school at age 17. He composed 10 other hymns. The text for **God Be With You Till We Meet Again** was also written in 1880 by Jeremiah E. Rankin (1828-1904). He authored more than 300 hymn texts, mostly in English, but also in German, Spanish and Russian. A passionate abolitionist, Rankin was also part of the temperance movement. He was minister of the First Congregational Church in Washington D.C. and a longtime correspondent with Frederick Douglass.

**People Get Ready** was composed in 1965 by Curtis Mayfield (1942-1999) for The Impressions, who made it a hit. Mayfield couldn't have had a more varied career. He started as a gospel choral singer on the North Side of Chicago, became a professional football player in the Canadian Football League, and later returned to music as a singer-songwriter, guitarist and record producer. He is most famous for the soundtrack he composed for the movie *SuperFly* in 1972. In 1990, he became paralyzed from the neck down when lighting equipment from a stage show he was preparing fell on him. It didn't stop him from singing and he was able to play the guitar laying down. In 1999, before his death, he was elected to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.



# 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](mailto:mfitzgerald@spucc.org)  
Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org)  
Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org)

For a complete list of St. Pauls Staff, Governance, and Lay Leadership  
Please visit [www.spucc.org/contact](http://www.spucc.org/contact)

**St. Pauls United Church of Christ**  
**2335 N Orchard St. | Chicago, IL 60614**  
**(773) 348-3829 [www.spucc.org](http://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 main office.



## **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.