

Fourth Sunday in Lent
One Great Hour of Sharing
Communion
March 30, 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.
Assisted listening devices and Bluetooth hearing aid guides are in the Narthex.*

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

“Grace isn't just forgiveness, it is forgiveness fueled by surrender.”

Amy E. Spiegel

PRELUDE

Lord, Don't Move the Mountain
St. Arbucks Quartet

Doris Mae Akers
arr. Brendan Henry

Now Lord don't move my mountain
But give me the strength to climb
And Lord, don't take away my stumbling blocks
But lead me all around

CHIMES

INTROIT

Lord, Jesus, Who Through Forty Days
Chancel Choir

WELCOME

Liz Nickerson

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We come with joy as children of God.

All: We are forgiven, loved, and free.

One: Like children, we get lost in life, but in Christ we can be found

All: Christ finds us and makes us new!

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

* HYMN

I Come With Joy



1. I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2. I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4. And thus we meet, and bet - ter know the Pres - ence, ev - er
5. To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, in friend - ship we will



free, _____ The life of Je - sus to re - call, in
fed, _____ The new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. _____ The love that made_ us, makes us one, and
near, _____ And join our hearts and sing with joy that
stay, _____ And go with joy _____ to love the world and



love laid down for me, _____ in love laid down for me. _____
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, _____ in Christ's com - mu - nion bread. _____
strang - ers now_ are friends, and strang - ers now_ are friends.
Christ is ris - en here, _____ that Christ is ris - en here. _____
live the way_ we pray, _____ and live the way_ we pray. _____

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Jeff Carlson

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, forgive our lack of love for you and our neighbor. We do not live the faith we profess. We want you to forgive us, but we don't want to forgive each other. We would rather be right than listen. We would rather be seen than truly see. We are often lost in life and don't even realize it. We do not want to admit our needs. Forgive us, Lord. In this meal, let your grace abound. Fill our empty hands with your life and love, Through the mercy of Jesus, Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

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.**

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

*Please come forward for communion.
Take the bread and eat it. Then take the cup and drink.
Deposit the cups in the baskets on the way back to your seat.
The outer ring of cups contains grape juice. The inner rings contain wine.
A gluten-free bread option is wrapped and available on a separate tray.
Return to your seat by the side aisles.
All are welcome to take part in communion.*

COMMUNION MUSIC

Kevin Dzierzawski

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Loving God, thank you for welcoming us and all people to your table.
Just as you have fed us with the presence of Christ, so may we
embody your love and forgiveness for those we meet, through the
help of your Spirit. Amen.**

*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.*

ANTHEM

We Can Be Kind
Meg Tazelaar, soloist
Brendan Henry, piano

David Freeman

So many things I can't control
So many hurts that happen everyday
So many heartaches that pierce the soul
So much pain that won't ever go away

How do we make it better?
How do we make it through?
What can we do
When there's nothing we can do?

We can be kind
We can take care of each other
We can remember that deep down inside
We all need the same things

And maybe we'll find
If we are there for each other
That together we'll weather
Whatever tomorrow may bring

Nobody really wants to fight
Nobody really wants to go to war
If everyone wants to make things right
What are we always fighting for?

Does nobody want to see it?
Does nobody understand?
The power to heal
Is right here in our hand

SCRIPTURE

Louise Gram

Luke 15:11-32

Jesus said: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father." But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

"The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' "My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

* 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

You Make Beautiful Things

Refrain

The Refrain is written in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 4/4 time. It consists of three lines of music. The first line starts with a quarter rest followed by a quarter note D, then eighth notes E, F, G, A, B, A, G, F, E, D. The second line continues with quarter notes D, E, F, G, A, B, A, G, F, E, D. The third line starts with a quarter note D, followed by quarter notes E, F, G, A, B, A, G, F, E, D, and ends with a quarter rest.

You make beau - ti - ful things, — You make_ beau - ti -
- ful things out of the dust. — You make beau - ti - ful things,
— You make beau - ti - ful things out of us. —

Verse

The Verse is written in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 4/4 time. It consists of two lines of music. The first line starts with a quarter note D, followed by quarter notes E, F, G, A, B, A, G, F, E, D. The second line continues with quarter notes D, E, F, G, A, B, A, G, F, E, D, and ends with a quarter rest.

You make me new, You are mak - ing_ me new. —
You make me new, You are mak - ing_ me new. —

* HYMN

There Is Welcome For the Sinner

1. There is wel-come for the sin - ner, love for those who fail the good;
 2. For the love of God is broad-er than the mea - sure of our minds;
 3. If our love were but more sim - ple, we should take Him at his word;
 4. God is an - gry, dis - tant, fear - some, we pro - ject our sad ex - tremes;

There is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in His blood.
 And the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
 Anx - ious thoughts would rest so eas - y in the kind - ness of the Lord.
 'Tis our Moth - er: and Her kind - ness stretch - es far be - yond our dreams.

Christ has grace e - nough for mil - lions, and for man - y mil - lions more
 But we make Christ's love too nar - row with false lim - its of our own;
 Skit - tish souls! why do you scat - ter like a crowd of fright - ened sheep?
 Let us see the truth in mir - rors, we are sin - ners in God's Word,

Christ's com - pas - sion spills out o - ver all whom this cold world de - plores.
 And we mag - ni - fy His strict - ness with a zeal He will not own.
 Fool - ish minds! why do you try and earn a love so free, so deep?
 change us, turn us, make us won - drous, stunned by kind - ness, Christ our Lord.

OFFERTORY

Soon-ah Will Be Done
Chancel Choir

Spiritual
arr. William Dawson

Soon-ah will be done with the troubles of the world,
Goin' home to be with God.

I want to meet my mother,
I'm goin' to live with God.

Soon-ah will be done

No more weepin' and-a wailin'
I'm goin' to live with God.

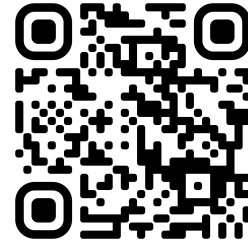
Soon-ah will be done

I want to meet my Jesus,
I'm goin' to live with God.

Soon-ah will be done

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.

* HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1. Love di - vine, — all loves ex - cel - ing, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing spir - it, In - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
3. Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us all thy life re - ceive;
4. Fin - ish, then, — thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and spot - less let us be;

Fix in us — thy hum - ble dwell - ing, All thy faith - ful mer - cies crown;
Let us all — in thee in - her - it, Let us find thy prom - ised rest;
Sud - den - ly — re - turn and nev - er, Nev - er more thy tem - ples leave.
Let us see — thy great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in thee;

Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion; Pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - meg - ga be;
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve thee as — thy hosts a - bove,
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in heav'n we take our place,

Vis - it us — with thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
End of faith, as its — be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
Pray and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in — thy pre - cious love.
Till we cast — our crowns be - fore — thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise.

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Threefold Amen*

A - men, A - men, A - - - men.

POSTLUDE *Prelude and Fugue in e minor, BWV 555* J.S. Bach/L. Krebs.
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

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. If you're visiting, be sure to stop by the Welcome Table so we can greet you and you can find out more about St. Pauls!

PEACE CANDLE - We have added a peace candle to the Chancel. Jesus said blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God. Please pray for peace daily for all the current wars raging in the world and in our hearts.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Liz Nickerson, 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

Communion Coordinator: Jana O'Brien

Scripture Reader: Louise Gram

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, David Faulkner, Fred Pearson

Greeter: Clark Baurer

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

Communion bread baked by Kristin Lane.

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

BORN THIS WEEK IN MARCH/APRIL

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.

Mar. 30 Brendan Henry, Mark Pellegrino

Mar. 31 Diana Penniman, Kora Jadesolaoluwa Jaji

Apr. 2 Alexander Cittadine, Grady Hartanov, Kate Weiskirch, Peter Wiebe,
Reese Carter, Sam Riportella

Apr. 3 MacKenzie Rogers

Apr. 4 Kyle DuPont, Peter Doerr

Apr. 5 Caroline Hedberg, Jenny Benefield, Mandy Key

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.

- Mike Stensaas, complications from Parkinson's and a stroke.
- Matthew Wallace, recently diagnosed with epilepsy.
- D.W. as she deals with cancer chemotherapy.
- Friends and loved ones of Marcia Knudson at her death.
- That we each find our role, our voice, in bringing peace forward.
- Students, workers, and communities at risk of family separation, loss of homes and businesses due to government overreach.
- Karen L. Johnson, recovering from a fall.
- Sally Acker, recovering from a fall.
- Wayne Bradley, pursuing ongoing treatment.
- Pastor Liz's uncle, Mike Gentry, recovering from a fall.
- Bob Ball's brother, Phill, being treated for complications associated with leukemia, and Jane, who is Phill's primary caregiver.

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.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Today's special mission offering of the United Church of Christ carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. One Great Hour of Sharing also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. Find out more, or give online, at ucc.org/oghs.

LENT & EASTER AT ST. PAULS

- FRI, APR 4 PERFORMANCE OF *THE GOSPEL OF MARK* - 7 p.m.
- SUN, APR 6 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT - 10 a.m.
Mozart Requiem
- SUN, APR 13 PALM SUNDAY - 10 a.m.
Palm branches, songs, Easter Egg Hunt
- THU, APR 17 MAUNDY THURSDAY
Labyrinth walk - 7 p.m.
Taizé Service - 7:30 p.m.
- FRI, APR 18 GOOD FRIDAY - 7:30 p.m
Communion, Tenebrae with choir
- SUN, APR 20 EASTER SUNDAY - 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Communion, choir, brass

Scan here
for Lent Info:



ST. PAULS WOMEN'S HISTORY - COLLEEN YODER HENRY (1946-2014)

Colleen came to St. Pauls in July 1974 when her husband, Tom, became an associate pastor. She had graduated from Chicago Theological Seminary with an MA in Religious Education. In her 36 years at St. Pauls, as Tom became senior pastor in 1982, Colleen contributed her many talents to the life of St. Pauls and the community around her with enthusiasm and creativity. Her accomplishments were many and included teaching Sunday School, years of choir membership and "choir mom" duty, significant roles in our gospel music programs, hosting lunches and dinners for new members, the choir and church council, editing our newsletter *Now You Know* and very significantly organizing and preserving our sizable church archives to share our history with the congregation. Her community involvement on boards and school councils was extensive, as well. Colleen and Tom retired in 2010 after 36 years of caring service.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APR 2 - WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - 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.

APR 4 - PERFORMANCE OF *THE GOSPEL OF MARK* - 7 p.m., Chapel

Come hear the Gospel of Mark as it was meant to be heard in its entirety. Member and actor Mark Huddle will bring the Gospel to life in this performance that will challenge and inspire you. The performance is free, but please register at: tinyurl.com/dmcwszcd.

APR 6 - MOMS' GROUP - Thurs., 9:15-10:15 a.m. & Suns., 11:30-12:15 p.m., Rm 028
Pastor Liz is looking forward to a meaningful discussion with you! Our Moms' group meets on Thursdays (9:15-10:15 a.m.) and Sundays (11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) once per month. Upcoming Thursdays: April 24 and May 22. Upcoming Sundays: April 6, May 4, June 8. 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.

APR 22 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL GROUP - 12-1:30 p.m., Social Hall

Sponsored by St. Pauls Social. Adults of all ages are invited to make new friends and reconnect with old ones through lunch, fun and faith. Childcare provided. Make A Joyful Noise Unto the Lord. Hymn Singalong (you can choose hymns) facilitated by Jeff Wagner.

APR 25 – FAITH FAMILY FRIDAY - 6-8 p.m., Social Hall, Gym

Save the date! Join St. Pauls families of all ages for a pizza night! Details to follow.

APR 26 – VOLUNTEER WITH REBUILDING TOGETHER - 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.,

Off-Site Registration is open for the National Rebuilding Together Day. Join the St. Pauls team as this year we work on two Maywood houses -- making them safe, warm and dry. Sample tasks include moving things to the dumpster, painting, and installing safety devices. Working together is a great way to meet and get to know others from St. Pauls. March is registration month. Sign up on Church Center at this link: tinyurl.com/34ned8w4. Note: indicate cat allergy; second house is cat free. Questions, email Pat Ruch at pmr.ruch@gmail.com.

MAY 4 – NEW MEMBER CLASS – 11 a.m., Room 211

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

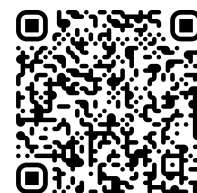
JUNE 15-21- YOUTH MISSION TRIP

We are excited to invite our youth on the summer 2025 trip to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW! OPT-IN TO TEXTING FROM ST. PAULS

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



BUILDING UPDATE - ROOM NUMBERS AT ST. PAULS

St. Pauls is in the process of converting from room names to numbers. When construction is completed, formal signage will replace the temporary signage. Major locations, i.e., Sanctuary (115), Social Hall (015), Kitchen (010), Gym (009) will commonly use those titles, but their numbers are posted. Numbering begins at the Fullerton entrance (largely inaccessible during construction) and rises to the Kemper Place doorway: Main Level (100s), Upper Level (200s), Lower Level (000s). Yes many rooms have cycled through many names, and we'd love to catalogue the ones you remember using. Thank you for your flexibility.

LITTLE LIGHTS SUMMER CAMP

Registration is open for summer fun! Our part-time summer program is geared toward ages 3+ and runs from June through August, Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Camp combines play and structured fun inside our classrooms, in the gym and outside in the sun. We create arts & crafts, enjoy music & games, making friends and memories along the way! Register by tomorrow, March 31, to lock in Early Rate (10% discount). There is also a 10% sibling discount and 20% Church Member discount (contact Erin for the code at erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org). Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/2nt8zsvx>.

LITTLE LIGHTS ENROLLMENT 25-26

We are accepting applications for the fall! We model and facilitate problem-solving strategies, build empathy and develop self-regulation skills. Through hands-on learning and play, children will benefit from structured socialization and gain a greater sense of themselves within our St. Pauls community. If you are interested in learning more about early education classes for your child, visit our website at www.littlelightslp.org or contact Erin Fitzgerald at erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org.

STAY & PLAY CANCELED DURING CONSTRUCTION

Our Friday morning playgroup is canceled through the duration of the Phase II Construction Project. The playgroup overlaps with Little Lights classes and since we are sharing the classrooms, there will not be enough space for both to run at the same time. Thank you for your understanding and we look forward to getting it up and running again in the fall after construction is complete.

LOSS AND GRIEVING DISCUSSION GROUP

We've all lost someone we loved. Whether you lost someone you loved last month, last year, or five years ago, you can still grieve that loss. Grief changes, but it never goes away. Would you be interested in sharing stories with others who are in similar situations? We're not therapists, just your friends and neighbors who are also grieving and would like to share our ideas and learn how others are coping. We're planning to start a grief support group at St. Pauls, but we need to make sure there's an interest in this. Please contact Pam Woll at pamelawoll3333@gmail.com if you think this might benefit you.

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.

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everlasting stream... Amos 5:24. “To Live in Justice,” excerpts from a blog by Professor Eldin Villafane, Gordon Cornwell Seminary, October 24, 2016. “There is a seamless relationship between ethical behavior and true worship, between justice and piety. Who we are and how we behave are intimately related in our giving worth to God...” Ecological action is an act of worship, of caring for Creation. Do what you can, whether it is composting, cleaning up marshes and beaches or planting trees in denuded neighborhoods. Ask yourself: where does my faith lead me?

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS

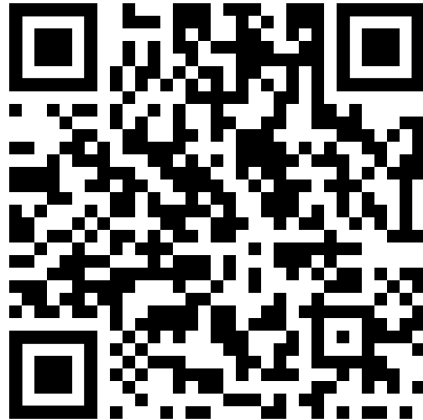
Our Stephen Ministers are here for you if you are going through a tough time. Extensively trained in compassionate Christian caregiving, Stephen Ministers are matched confidentially with someone in our congregation who is going through a crisis, such as the death of a loved one, a diagnosis, a divorce, 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!

WELCOME TO ST. PAULS!

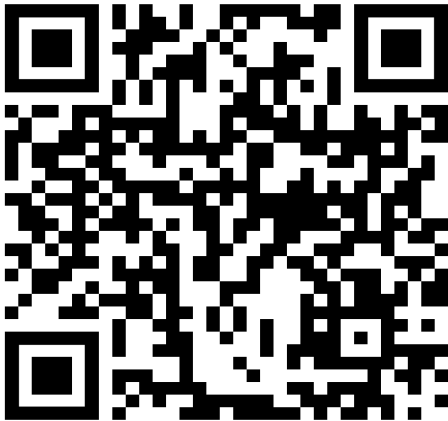
Thank you for coming to worship with us today!
Help us get to know you better by scanning the QR code below.



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Scan the QR codes to discover ways to connect with others.

JOIN A GROUP



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



TODAY'S MUSIC

Lord, Don't Move the Mountain – Lyrics and music were written by Doris Mae Akers (1923-1995), a famous African American gospel composer, arranger, and singer. This is another gospel song that Mahalia Jackson sang and this arrangement is by Brendan Henry.

Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days is a text written in 1873 by Claudia Frances Hernaman (1838-1898). She was born in England and her father was an Anglican priest. She composed more than 150 hymns and devoted her life to the religious education of children. The tune, ST. FLAVIAN, is of unknown origin and dates from a hymnal published in the 16th century.

The text of ***I Come With Joy*** was written by Brian Wren (b. 1936), a pastor in the Congregational Church in England. He wrote the hymn as a summary of a series of sermons on the meaning of communion. The tune is an old American hymn, DOVE OF PEACE, from the *Southern Harmony* hymnal, part of the Sacred Harp tradition. It was arranged by Austin Lovelace (1919-2010), who was Organist and Choirmaster for a number of years at First United Methodist Church in Evanston.

David Freeman (b. 1957) composed both words and music to ***We Can Be Kind***. He also wrote a book in 2017 with the same title after composing the song. The song was first recorded and released in 1995 by Nancy LaMott. Freeman is a British singer, instrumentalist, and composer best known for being in the new wave duo The Lover Speaks that was popular in the 1980s. He even spent a number of years writing in Nashville before returning to England in 2017. These words seem particularly appropriate during Lent and at a time of polarization.

You Make Beautiful Things is a simple folk-like melody named BEAUTIFUL THINGS, with text and music authored by Michael (b. 1980) and Lisa (b. 1981) Gungor. They are a married couple who met as students at Oral Roberts University. The band, Gungor, of 3 to 10 members, has sought to broaden its appeal beyond just Christian contemporary music.

Soon-ah Will Be Done is a spiritual arranged in 1934 by William L. Dawson (1888-1990). He was the choral director for many years at the Tuskegee Institute of Alabama. He was responsible, along with others of his generation such as Hall Johnson, for making beautiful arrangements of spirituals that spread the performance and popularity of that music within and beyond the African American community. The Tuskegee Choir gained international stature under Dr. Dawson's leadership.

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

The authorship of the *Prelude and Fugue in E Minor BWV 555* is in some doubt. It was long attributed to J.S. Bach (1685-1750) because it was in his library and in his hand, but it has since been determined that it was likely composed by one of his students, possibly Johann Ludwig Krebs (1713-1780). Bach’s library included works by other composers whom he respected, and he hand copied scores for his own study and playing. Musicologists have spent many years determining which works were Bach’s and which were copied in homage and for study.

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!

EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS ORDER FORM

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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
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Free Parking is available Sundays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
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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.