

June 1, 2025  
Confirmation  
Communion  
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

"God wants the heart."

—The Talmud

PRELUDE

*Symphony No. V—Adagio*  
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

C. M. Widor

INTROIT

*Alleluia*  
Chancel Choir

Henry Purcell

CHIMES

WELCOME

Liz Nickerson

\* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O God, you are the brilliance in which there is no darkness!

**All: You are the light of Christ!**

One: You are the love that knows no coldness!

**All: You have freed us to love each other!**

One: You are the life that defeats death!

**All: You have given us this life to live together!**

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

\* HYMN

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1. A might - y for - tress is\_\_\_ our God, A bul - wark nev - er  
 2. Did we in our\_ own strength con - fide, Our striv - ing would be  
 3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, Should threat - en to un -  
 4. That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, No thanks to them, a -



fail - ing; Our help - er he\_\_\_ a - mid the flood Of  
 los - ing, Were not the right man on\_\_\_ our side, The  
 - do\_\_\_ us, We will not fear, for God hath willed His  
 - bid - eth; The Spir - it and the gifts are ours Through



mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe Doth  
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ  
 truth to tri - umph through us. The prince of dark - ness grim, We  
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, This



seek to work us woe; His craft and power are great, And  
 Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sab - a - oth his name. From  
 trem - ble not for him; His rage we can en - dure, For  
 mor - tal life al - so; The bod - y they may kill; God's



armed with cru - el hate, On earth is not his e - qual.  
 age to age the same, And he must win the bat - tle.  
 lo, his doom is sure: One lit - tle word shall fell\_\_\_ him.  
 truth a - bid - eth still, His king - dom is for - ev - er.

\* *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liz Nickerson

**Lord, our God,  
rather than honoring you,  
we bow before  
the power of strength  
the power of privilege  
the power of shame  
the power of self  
the power of intellect  
the power of nation  
the power of wealth  
the power of guilt.  
We repent and turn to you,  
the source of all,  
the God of all.  
Forgive us. Amen.**

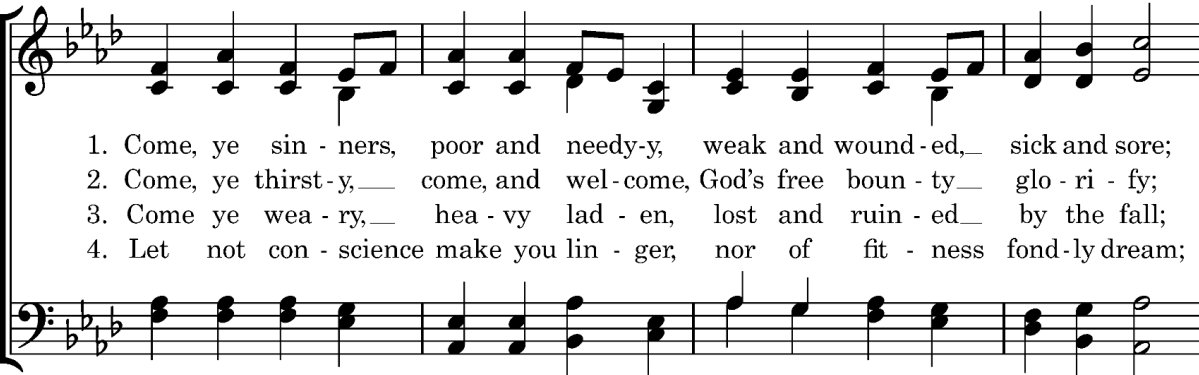
MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

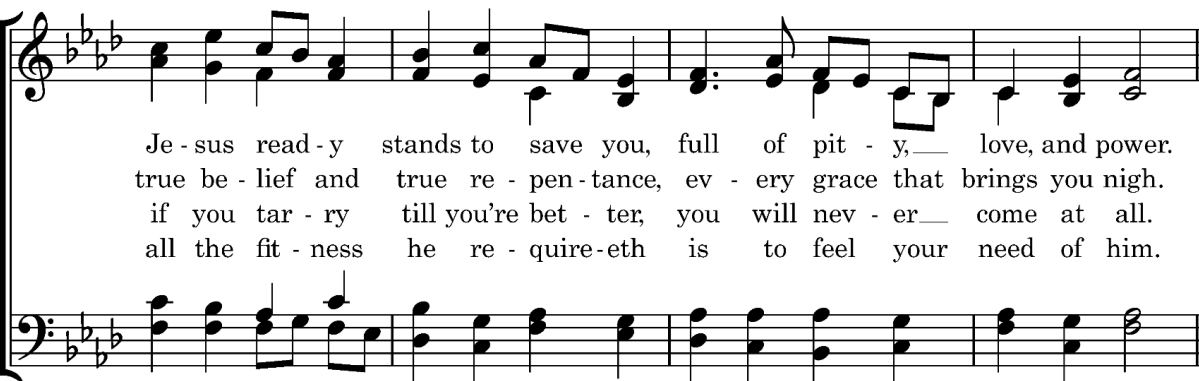
\*RESPONSE

*Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

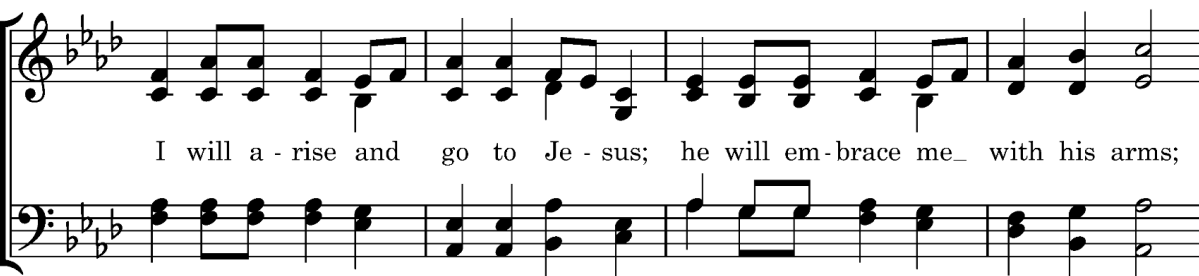
vv. 1 & 2



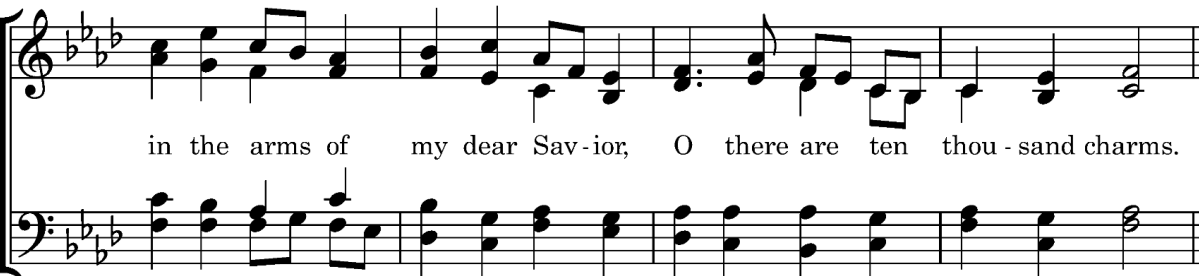
1. Come, ye sin - ners, poor and needy-y, weak and wound-ed, sick and sore;  
2. Come, ye thirst-y, come, and wel-come, God's free boun - ty glo - ri - fy;  
3. Come ye wea - ry, hea - vy lad - en, lost and ruin - ed by the fall;  
4. Let not con - science make you lin - ger, nor of fit - ness fond-ly dream;



Je - sus read - y stands to save you, full of pit - y, love, and power.  
true be - lief and true re - pen - tance, ev - ery grace that brings you nigh.  
if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter, you will nev - er come at all.  
all the fit - ness he re - quire-eth is to feel your need of him.



I will a - rise and go to Je - sus; he will em-brace me with his arms;



in the arms of my dear Sav - ior, O there are ten thou - sand charms.

*Acts 16: 16-24*

One day, on our way to the place of prayer, a slave girl ran into us. She was a psychic and, with her fortunetelling, made a lot of money for her owners. She started following Paul around, calling everyone's attention to us by yelling out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it was gone, just like that.

When her owners saw that their lucrative little business was suddenly bankrupt, they went after Paul and Silas, roughed them up and dragged them into the market square. Then the police arrested them and pulled them into a court with the accusation, "These men are disturbing the peace—dangerous Jewish agitators subverting our Roman law and order." By this time the crowd had turned into a restless mob out for blood.

The judges went along with the mob, had Paul and Silas's clothes ripped off and ordered a public beating. After beating them black-and-blue, they threw them into jail, telling the jailkeeper to put them under heavy guard so there would be no chance of escape. He did just that—threw them into the maximum security cell in the jail and clamped leg irons on them.

About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself. He supposed that the prisoners had escaped, meaning he was as good as dead anyway. Paul stopped him: "Do not harm yourself! We're all still here! Nobody's run away!"

The jailer got a torch and ran inside. Badly shaken, he collapsed in front of Paul and Silas. He led them out of the jail and asked, "Sirs, what do I have to do to be saved, to really live?" They said, "Put your entire trust in the Master Jesus. Then you'll live as you were meant to live—and everyone in your house included!"

They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. They never did get to bed that night. The jailer made them feel at home, dressed their wounds, and then—he couldn't wait till morning!—was baptized, he and everyone in his family. There in his home, he had food set out for a festive meal. It was a night to remember: He and his entire family had put their trust in God; everyone in the house rejoiced.

\* RESPONSE  
SERMON

*Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*  
“Freedom on Our Knees”

vv. 3 & 4  
Matt Fitzgerald

SOLO

*When You Believe*  
from *The Prince of Egypt*  
Coco Schimp, soloist; and Kecia Waldschmidt, piano

Stephen Schwartz

Many nights we prayed  
With no proof, anyone could hear  
In our hearts a hopeful song  
We barely understood  
Now, we are not afraid  
Although we know there's much to fear  
We were moving mountains  
Long before we knew we could.

There can be miracles when you believe  
Though hope is frail, it's hard to kill  
Who knows what miracles you can achieve?  
When you believe, somehow you will  
You will when you believe.

In this time of fear  
When prayer so often proves in vain  
Hope seems like the summer bird  
Too swiftly flown away  
Yet now I'm standing here  
My hearts so full, I can't explain  
Seeking faith and speakin' words  
I never thought I'd say.

There can be miracles ....

They don't always happen when you ask  
And can it easy to give in to your fears?  
But when you're blinded by your pain  
Can't see the way, get through the rain  
A small but still, resilient voice  
Says, "Help is very near, "

There can be miracles ....

When you believe  
Though hope is frail  
It's hard to kill  
Who knows what miracles  
You can achieve  
When you believe somehow you will

Now, you will  
You will when you believe ....



## THE SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION

### CONFESSION OF FAITH

Pastor Matt: Do you believe in God?

Confirmands: *We believe in God who has created and is creating.*

Pastor Liz: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

Confirmands: *We believe that God has come to us in Jesus Christ to reconcile and make us new.*

Pastor Matt: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Confirmands: *We believe that God works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.*

Congregation: **We trust God. God calls us to be the Church.**

Pastor Liz: Will you promise to support this congregation with your time, talent, and prayers, participating regularly in the worship, fellowship, and work of Saint Pauls and contributing to our life in Chicago and beyond?

Confirmands: *We do promise.*

Pastor Matt: With your love, God will love.  
With your hands, God will touch the city.  
With your lives, God will bring justice and compassion to the world.

(Sponsors please rise and affirm your support of the confirmands.)

\* Sponsors: Together with you, we will celebrate God's presence, love and serve others, care for creation, seek justice and resist evil.

Pastor Liz: Congregation please rise and affirm your support of the confirmands.

\* Congregation: **Confirmands, we promise you our love, our care, and our support. With you, we will 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!**

## THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

### THE PRESENTATION OF THE CANDLES

#### \* THE CONFIRMATION COVENANT

**All:                   We covenant with God and with one another,  
to walk together in God's ways, known or  
to be made known, whatever it should cost us. Amen.**

#### OFFERTORY

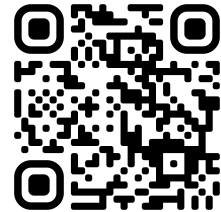
*Hallelujah! Amen!*  
*from Judas Maccabeus*  
Chancel Choir

G.F. Handel

Hallelujah, amen.  
Rejoice, O Judah, in songs divine,  
With cherubim and seraphim harmonious join.

#### *ELECTRONIC OFFERING OPTIONS*

*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).*

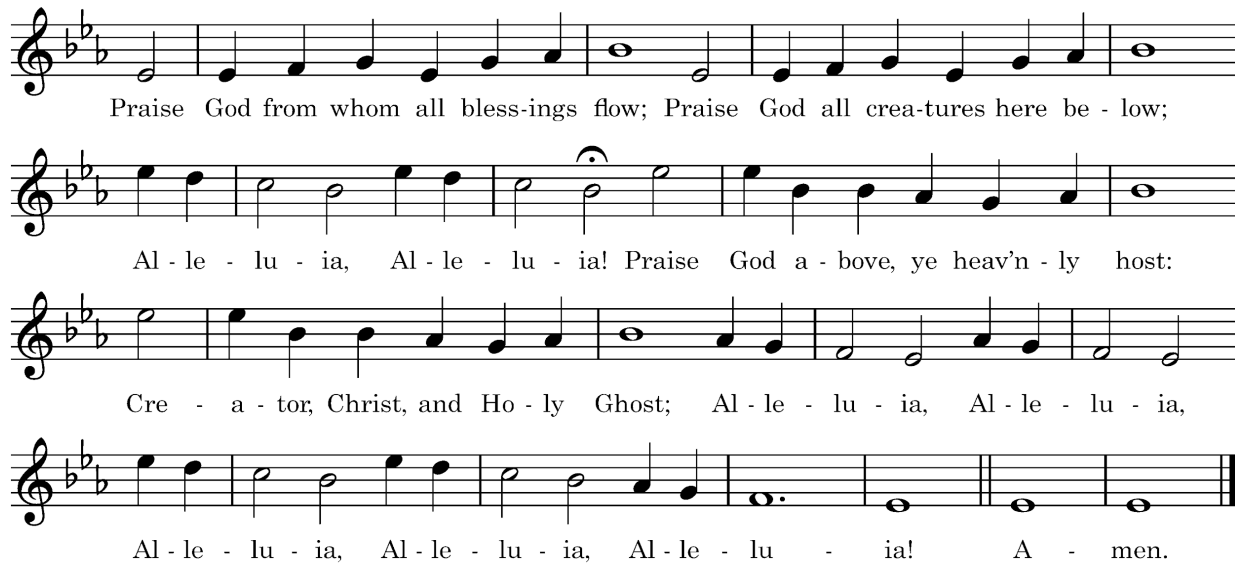


#### *WELCOME CARD*

*If you are a visitor, welcome! Thank you for  
worshiping with us today!  
If you would like to learn more about the church, please  
scan the QR code.*



\* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures 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.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Matt Fitzgerald

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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

St. Arbucks Quartet

\* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

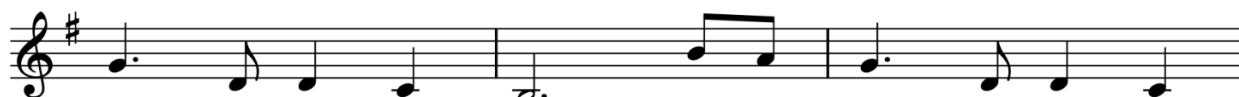
**O God, we thank you for feeding us at your table. Let the feast sustain  
and change us! Amen.**

\* HYMN

*I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*



1. I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be  
2. When you found the won - der of the Word, I was  
3. In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too  
4. I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be



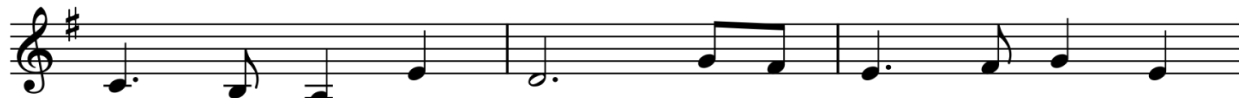
there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you  
there to cheer you on; You were raised to praise the  
old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you  
there when you are old, I re - joiced the day you



were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.  
liv - ing God, to whom you now be - long.  
through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.  
were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold. *St. 4, end*



I was there when you were but a child, with a  
Should you find some - one to share your time and you  
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you



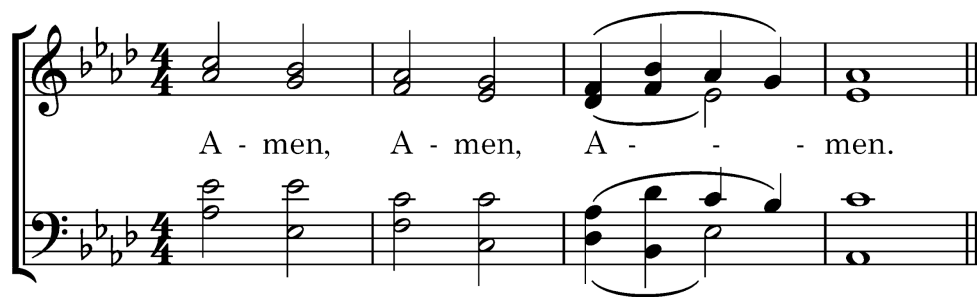
faith to suit you well; I'll be there in case you  
join our hearts as one, I'll be there to make your  
shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have



wan - der off and find where de - mons dwell.  
vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.  
al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.

\* BENEDICTION

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

*Keep Holding On*  
St. Arbucks Quartet

Danniebelle Hall

The rose in the Chancel this morning celebrates the birth of Isaiah Karl Darin, born to Ashleigh and Karl Darin on April 2.

***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 Gym. 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!***

## CONFIRMANDS

The Confirmation Class of 2025 participated in a group service project. They worked with Friends of the Chicago River on Saturday, May 10, cleaning up 39-acre Gompers Park in the North Park neighborhood on River Day.

### **Jake Patrick Gentzen**

Jake is the son of Ginna and Shane Gentzen and has a sister, Brooke, who was confirmed at St. Pauls. He is finishing school at Bell Elementary and will be attending Whitney Young High School in the fall. Jake likes to be physically active and often participates in sports. He is not sure what he would like to do in the future, but wants to work in a job where he can help other people. Jake likes the welcoming aspects of St. Pauls and has especially enjoyed being part of *Bible Off Broadway*.

### **Leo Jerome Lawrence**

Leo is the son of Scott and Jill Lawrence. He has a twin brother, Rex, who is also being confirmed today, and a sister, Zoe, who was also confirmed at St. Pauls. Leo currently attends Burley Elementary School and is still deciding between DePaul College Prep or Lane Tech for the fall. Outside of school, Leo enjoys soccer and photography. In the future, Leo is very interested in traveling to new places around the world and meeting new people. Leo loves the welcoming atmosphere of St. Pauls and his favorite memory is attending church camp one summer.

### **Rex Martin Lawrence**

Rex is the son of Scott and Jill Lawrence. He has a twin brother, Leo, who is also being confirmed today, and a sister, Zoe, who was also confirmed at St Pauls. Like his brother, Rex attends Burley Elementary School and is still deciding between DePaul College Prep or Lane Tech for the fall. Rex enjoys playing a variety of sports and wants to continue to grow as an athlete. He loves the comfortable and welcoming atmosphere of St. Pauls. Leo's favorite memory was the Confirmation project at the Chicago River cleanup because it was fun to be outside while simultaneously helping the community.

### **Hannah Vivian Mutch**

Hannah is the daughter of Nic Mutch and Andrea Reed. She has a younger brother and sister. She currently attends the University of Chicago Lab School and will attend Wolcott High School in the fall. At school, she particularly likes English and psychology, with writing stories and reading books being favorite pastimes. She is also an avid horseback rider. In the future, Hannah is looking to help other people, possibly as a child psychologist. Hannah enjoys the loving and caring community she has found at St. Pauls.

**Eva Marianne Mack**

Eva is the daughter of Kyle and Kristin Mack. She has two sisters, Alayna, who was previously confirmed at St. Pauls, and her younger sister, Thea. Eva attends Francis W. Parker School where she loves to participate in musicals. She is very excited by theater and loves to sing, dance and play the piano. Eva hopes to continue in theater as an adult, but is also interested in possibly studying medicine. Eva loves all the people she has met at St. Pauls and has really enjoyed spending time with them, participating in game night, the Choir, and helping in the nursery.

**Colette Natalie Schimp**

Colette (Coco) is the daughter of Renae Bradshaw and Donn Shimp. She has an older sister, Valerie, who was confirmed at St. Pauls. Coco currently attends Audubon School, where she enjoys reading and writing, and will be going to Lincoln Park High School in the fall. When not in school, she enjoys rowing and acting and singing on stage. She hopes to be an actress or singer in the future. Coco loves the loving and accepting community at St. Pauls and especially enjoyed the two Confirmation retreats she attended.

## **BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY GRADUATES**

### **Middle School Graduates**

Cody James Fitzgerald, *Northside Catholic Academy*

Jake Patrick Gentzen, *Bell Elementary*

Leo Jerome Lawrence, *Burley Elementary*

Rex Martin Lawrence, *Burley Elementary*

Eva Marianne Mack, *Francis W. Parker School*

Hannah Vivian Mutch, *University of Chicago Lab School*

Colette Natalie Schimp, *Audubon School*

### **High School Graduate**

Simon Baurer, *Lane Tech High School*

Ethan Dixon Fitzgerald, *Lincoln Park High School*

Jack Louis Sancya, *John Hersey High School*

### **College/Grad School Graduates**

Gillian Doty, *Kenyon College Microbiology Major, French Minor, Phi Beta Kappa Inductee*

Nana Addadzi-Koom, *Illinois Institute of Technology, Master of Science in Technological Entrepreneurship, specialization in AI innovation, creative business, and start-up development*



**SAVE THE DATE & NOTE THE TIME**  
**Joint Worship with Lighthouse UCC, JUNE 8 at 10:30 a.m.**

**TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

**Clergy:** Liz Nickerson, Matt Fitzgerald

Pastor Jeff Carlson is on vacation and will return on June 8.

**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:** Jake Gentzen

**Head Usher:** Beatrice Jaji

**Ushers:** Doug Clark, David Faulkner, Fred Pearson

**Acolytes:** Sebastien Millard, Brooke McGuire

**Gatekeeper:** Dodd Brown

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

**Custodian:** Ramiro Gonzalez

*Communion bread baked by Annie Johnson.*

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

**BORN THIS WEEK IN JUNE**

*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.*

- Jun. 1    Alison Schwab, Jan Fraccaro, Phil Hamp, Thomas Mix
- Jun. 2    Brendan Noonan, Carol Borysowicz, Jeffrey Whitridge, Mark Clark, Shane Gentzen
- Jun. 3    Amelia Baurer, Mark Mosley
- Jun. 5    Sarah Good Mosley
- Jun. 6    Zachary Jarzebowski
- Jun. 7    Amy Bashiti, Linda Lang

## **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.*

- Family and friends of Ben Ryan Diserod on his death.
- Karen L. Johnson and loved ones of Leroy Johnson on the first anniversary of his passing, May 24.
- Bob Ball at the death of his older brother Phill, and for Phill's wife Jane and daughters Stephanie, Allison and Cherilyn.
- Juanita Barlow undergoing a heart procedure on June 2.
- Loved ones of Mike Stensaas at his death.
- Nancy Barnett in the hospital.
- Dr. Rod Sippy, as he faces a long recuperation, as well as Erica Barbosa as she heals from a long illness.
- Donn Schimp and his family as Donn continues cancer treatment.
- Julie Chambers is in the hospital.
- Joe Harrington's mother on a recent diagnosis.
- Matthew Wallace, recently diagnosed with epilepsy.
- Dianne Witkowski, as she deals with cancer chemotherapy.
- 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.
- Wayne Bradley, pursuing ongoing treatment.
- Craig Wilbanks' mother and father, each of whom are facing serious health challenges.

### **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 – MAKING DINNER FOR GUESTS AT LPCS - 6-8:30 p.m.**

Make a difference by joining us this evening to cook dinner for the residents of the Lincoln Park Community Shelter. The activity is to shop, cook, serve, and clean up after dinner for 35 people. We'll be starting at 6 p.m. and should be finished by 8:30 p.m. We'll do this at the LPCS kitchen at 600 W. Fullerton. Each participant will be given a shopping list of items to bring. We estimate the cost will be about \$35/participant. If you're interested, please use Church Center to sign-up to participate [tinyurl.com/msyti254](https://tinyurl.com/msyti254). If you have questions, please contact Evie Kling at [eviekling@gmail.com](mailto:eviekling@gmail.com).

### **JUNE 11 – WATCH PARTY: LOVE AS AN ANTIDOTE TO AUTHORITARIANISM --**

Wednesday, 6:45-8:30 p.m.

Come to a watch party for the Spring Series: "Love as Antidote to Authoritarianism", a three-part virtual experience that will explore how we can harness love as a force for courageous action. Please join us for "Part 3: Love for Ourselves: Breathe and Push." How do we protect joy, pleasure, and care in community? Registration and information at: [tinyurl.com/4xjp6yj4](https://tinyurl.com/4xjp6yj4).

### **JUNE 13 – ST. SABINA PEACE WALK - 6:30 p.m.**

Join a group from St. Pauls as we join St. Sabina for their annual summer peace walk through neighborhoods. Thousands of people will gather for this powerful event! The first peace walk on June 13 begins at 6:30 p.m. with a kick-off, music, prayer, and refreshments. Contact Louise Gram at (773) 870-6311 for additional information and RSVP on Church Center at [tinyurl.com/55x9dj9x](https://tinyurl.com/55x9dj9x) to coordinate carpools with other attendees!

### **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.

### **JUNE 20 – DINNER TO BENEFIT OUR VENEZUELAN FAMILIES**

Join us at a special Faith Family Friday to benefit (and celebrate!) our Venezuelan families. This relaxed evening of fun, fellowship and food will include traditional dishes prepared by our Venezuelan members. There will be fellowship in the Social Hall, as well games in the gym for kids. A suggested donation of \$20 per adult and \$5 per kid will cover the cost of food and also help fundraise for ongoing immigration-related legal costs. You are welcome to bring your own beverages to share and enjoy. Register here: [tinyurl.com/362ea99r](https://tinyurl.com/362ea99r).

### **JUNE 24 – 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.

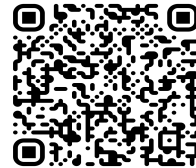
### **JUNE 26 & 29 – MOMS' GROUP - 9:15-10:15 a.m., Thursday or Sunday**

Pastor Liz is looking forward to a meaningful discussion with you! 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](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org).

## **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!



### **NEW! BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT FORM**

We've updated the process! Starting today, June 1, please use our new bulletin announcement form to submit St. Pauls-sponsored events for the Friday newsletter and Sunday worship bulletin. **Submissions are due by 10 a.m. on Wednesdays and should be no more than 100 words.** Ready to share information about your event? Fill out the form here: [tinyurl.com/5dtmhpra](https://tinyurl.com/5dtmhpra).

### **DO YOU WANT TO NAVIGATE DISAGREEMENT IN A HEALTHIER WAY?**

*Want to Talk? Communication Tools for Divided Times* is an eight-session small group program led by Cindy Ball and Pastor Jeff that guides you in deepening your relationships while staying true to your values. This program draws upon the wisdom of experts in nonviolent communication, civil dialogue, and grassroots organizing, providing practical tools for navigating the political polarization of our time, as well as tough conversations with our loved ones. For more information, [tinyurl.com/58z4t5fs](https://tinyurl.com/58z4t5fs). Beginning September 14, we'll meet two Sundays a month after worship through December. Save the date and stay tuned for details! Ready to sign up now? You can do so here: [tinyurl.com/3pyjmebs](https://tinyurl.com/3pyjmebs).

### **JANE AUSTEN 250 READING GROUP**

December 16, 2025, is the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth. We'll read her six complete novels, one a month, beginning July 8 - December 16. Monthly discussions will be over Zoom the second Tuesday of the month, except for December, when we'll meet on her birthday. Sign up to participate here:

[tinyurl.com/222hj89n](https://tinyurl.com/222hj89n).

Contact: Pastor Jeff. July 8 - *Sense and Sensibility*; August 12 - *Pride and Prejudice*; September 9 - *Mansfield Park*; October 14 - *Emma*; November 11 - *Northanger Abbey*; December 16 - *Persuasion*.

### **SILENT AUCTION COMMITTEE**

The Activism and Advocacy Ministry is assembling a committee to put on a silent auction in late October to benefit the Migrant Housing Project Legal Fund. If you have personal or professional experience in organizing a fundraising event, such as a silent auction, and would like to participate, please reach out to Katie Alrutz at [Kathryn.passon@gmail.com](mailto:Kathryn.passon@gmail.com).

### **DRIVERS NEEDED - SUNDAYS AND WEEKDAYS**

We need members to drive older members to church on Sundays and to occasional doctors' appointments. Please email Pastor Liz for details at [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org).

### **NEW MEMBER CLASS - SEPTEMBER 21**

Join pastors, members and others curious about St. Pauls for our 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. Next class: September 21 at 11 a.m. See other upcoming dates here: [spucc.org/new\\_member\\_classes](https://spucc.org/new_member_classes).

### **ST. PAULS MIGRANT HOUSING PROJECT LEGAL FUND**

St. Pauls housed five Venezuelan migrant families in our building over the past two years. Today, nearly every single member of these families has achieved legal status, helping to safeguard their presence in Chicago for the time being and allowing them to work. Such legal aid is costly and ongoing. In a time of wild anxiety and uncertainty for these new friends, you can help make a difference for our migrant families by supporting our legal aid fund. If you'd like to make a donation, please choose "Migrant Housing Project - Legal Fund" from the drop-down menu on our giving page: <https://spucc.churchcenter.com/giving>.

### **HAVE SOME ODD JOBS? WE'VE GOT SOME WILLING WORKERS!**

As they continue to work at supporting themselves financially, members of our migrant family friends would love to work for you. They are available for things like house cleaning, handyman repairs, moving items, painting, deck-staining, demolition & clean-up, and carpentry on things like deck and dry-wall. We have been assigning work at a rate of \$25/hour and ask that the jobs be a minimum of 3-4 hours. You can find out more by contacting our Migrant Housing Project Coordinator David Brown at [dbrown@harrington-brown.com](mailto:dbrown@harrington-brown.com).

### **NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Our nursery is looking for caring and compassionate volunteers to support our staff and provide extra attention to our little ones. If you love playing, reading, and nurturing young children, we'd love to have you join us! Whether you can help for a few hours a month or on a regular basis, your time and kindness will make a meaningful impact. Sign up for a Sunday slot here: <https://tinyurl.com/2j5dy6fp>.

### **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 and crafts, enjoy music and games, making friends and memories along the way! There is a 10% sibling discount and 20% Church Member discount (contact Erin for the code at [erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org](mailto:erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org)). Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/2nt8zsvx>.

### **LITTLE LIGHTS ENROLLMENT 2025-2026**

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](http://www.littlelightslp.org) or contact Erin Fitzgerald at [erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org](mailto:erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org).

### **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).

## **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 interest for this. Please contact Pam Woll at [pamelawoll3333@gmail.com](mailto:pamelawoll3333@gmail.com) if you think this might benefit you.

## **"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.

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

We normally do not associate special events – graduations, weddings, christenings – with waste. They are usually occasions where we plan what to give, what to wear, where to stay, and the people with whom we plan to reconnect. It is astounding to note that the average American wedding generates at least 400 pounds of trash in landfills. This is the wedding itself and does not include trash or pollution generated by guests going to and from the wedding or clothing and presents. If you are a guest, introduce a new mindset to your thinking, a new calculus about attending an event. Do I really need a new dress or suit? Is the present and its packaging biodegradable? Am I committed to minimizing my carbon footprint during travel? Am I being judicious about the use of resources, such as water and linen, in the hotel?

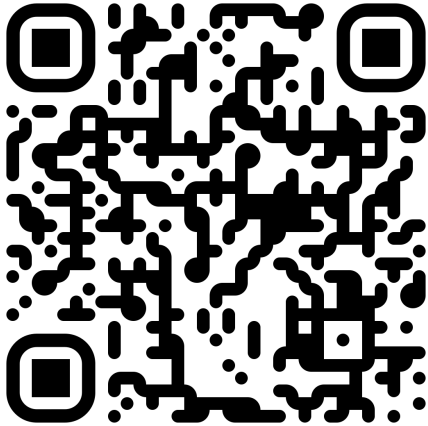
## **STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS**

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.

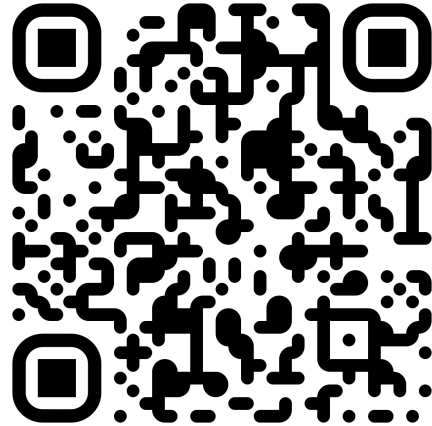
## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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

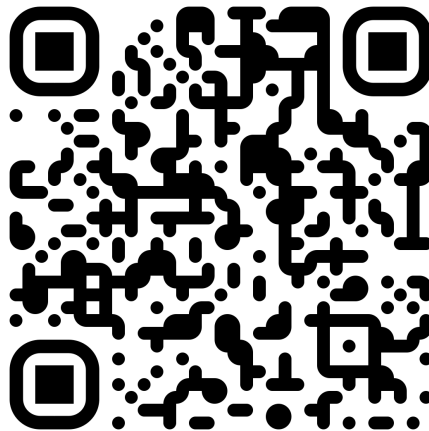
### JOIN A GROUP



### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



### SUBMIT AN ANNOUNCEMENT



### BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

For St. Pauls sponsored events, please fill out the new form **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!



## TODAY'S MUSIC

Yes, there are other beautiful movements, in addition to the famous *Toccata* which we hear on Christmas Eve, from the *Symphony V in F Major*, Op. 42, No 1. The symphony was composed in 1879 by Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937). This reflective ***Adagio*** in C Major is the lyric movement that precedes the fiery *Toccata*. It also shows off the warmer tones available and the huge range of colors of larger instruments.. Widor, along with Louis Vierne (1870-1937), were the great French Romantic symphonists for the organ. Vierne held the post of Organist at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris and Widor held the same position at St. Sulpice, also in Paris.

Our Introit, ***Alleluia***, is by Henry Purcell (1659-1695). Purcell was one of the great English Baroque composers and spent his entire short life in London. His father was a musician and singer in the King's court. After his father's death, Henry was raised and encouraged musically by his uncle. Among his famous works is the opera *Dido and Aeneas*. His music is used in film scores and his most popular work is his *Canon in C*.

***A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*** is arguably the greatest Martin Luther (1483-1546) hymn and it encapsulates the theology of the Lutheran Church. The tune name, EIN FESTE BURG, are the first three words of the original German text. Luther's original version is almost dance-like in rhythm. The processional hymn presents a more majestic march.

***Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy***, to the tune RESTORATION, is mined from the wonderful early 19th century American shape-note hymnals, including *Southern Harmony*. Its composer and lyricist are unknown, but it was first published in 1835. The melody is characterized by a folk-like swing.

***When You Believe*** was composed in 1998 by Stephen Schwartz (b. 1948) for the DreamWorks movie, *The Prince of Egypt*. The movie is based on the Book of Exodus in the Hebrew Bible. The song, which became famous as a pop single, is a duet recording by Mariah Carey and Whitney Houston, also recorded in 1998. It received the Academy Award for Best Original Song in 1999. The text imagines both the fears and faith of the people as they leave Egypt for the Promised Land.

The composition of *Judas Maccabeus* (1746) came five years after George Friderick Handel (1685-1759) penned *Messiah*. Hebrew Bible stories were very popular as concert dramas, more properly called "oratorios," in England. It relates the story of

Chanukah, the festival of lights, found in the Apocryphal book of First Maccabees. In the story, Judah Maccabee fights against the idol worship commanded by King Antiochus. Judah cleanses the altar in the Temple. This ***Hallelujah Amen Chorus***, often fondly referred to in the musical community as the “Jewish Hallelujah Chorus,” is the finale of *Judas Maccabeus* and expresses the thanksgiving of the Israelites. Of some local interest, KAM-Isaiah Israel Synagogue in Hyde Park sponsors a “Do-it-Yourself” *Judas Maccabeus* each Chanukah season.

Both the text and tune, WATERLIFE, to ***I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry*** were composed by John Yivisaker (1937-2017). Because of the number of hymns he wrote, he was called the “Bob Dylan of the Lutheran Church.” Although Minnesota was his home, he travelled widely and was noted for his self-effacing personality.

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

## 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.