



June 8, 2025

Pentecost with Lighthouse UCC

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 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.*

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

“Without Pentecost the Christ-event - the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus remains imprisoned in history as something to remember, think about and reflect on. The Spirit of Jesus comes to dwell within us, so that we can become living Christs here and now.”  
-Henri Nouwen

PRELUDE

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

Doris 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

INTROIT

*Lift Every Voice and Sing*  
Chancel Choir  
and Lighthouse Worship Team

J. Rosamond Johnson

Lift every voice and sing,  
'Til earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty,  
Let our rejoicing rise,  
High as the listening skies,  
Let it resound, loud as the rolling sea. Amen.

CHIMES

WELCOME

Jeff Carlson

\* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.  
Suddenly, from heaven, there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

**All: Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them ability.**

One: And they heard one another in their own languages. Egyptians understood Judeans, and Judeans understood Asians, and Asians understood Arabs. They heard each other declare, in their native tongues, the wonderful works of God.

**All: Thus the Church was born on Pentecost Day. We pray for the continued outpouring of your Spirit upon the church so that the fires of Pentecost may anoint us to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to all the world.**

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

\* HYMN

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!  
2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore thee,  
3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide thee,  
4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee;  
Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
Though the eye of sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see;  
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y;  
Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,  
On - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y;

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
Which wert and art and ev - er - more shalt be.  
Per - fect in power, in love, and pur - i - ty.  
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liz Nickerson

**God, you come to us  
like a rush of violent wind,  
strong enough to turn  
it all upside down.  
We fix ourselves  
to the floor.  
Christ, you baptize with fire  
hot enough to burn  
rational religion down.  
We try to smother your flames  
with a written prayer.  
Holy Spirit, you are wild!  
We insist on control.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord.  
Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RESPONSE

*Blessed Be the Tie That Binds*

v. 1 ONLY

1. Blessed be\_\_\_ the tie\_\_\_ that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;  
2. Be - fore\_\_\_ our God\_\_\_ we come and pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3. We share each oth - er's woes, each oth - er's bur - dens bear,  
4. When we\_\_\_ are called to part it gives us in - ward pain,

The shar-ing of\_\_\_ a com-mon life\_\_\_ is like to that a - bove.  
Our fears,our hopes, our aims are one,\_\_\_ our com-forts and our cares.  
And of - ten for\_\_\_ each oth - er flows a sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
But we\_\_\_ shall still\_\_\_ be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

*Matthew 3: 1-11*

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight.' "

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

\* 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

*The River*

Todd Dulaney

Lighthouse Worship Team  
Courtney Driver, Worship Leader

... Fountain running Over  
Fountain Running Over  
Fountain Running Over in me.

... Goodness Running Over  
Goodness Running Over  
Your Goodness Running Over

I've got a River  
Flowing on the Inside of me  
I've got a River  
Flowing on the Inside of me  
I've got a River  
Flowing on the Inside of me

... Something I can't explain  
Feel it on the Move  
The River is Ragging  
Something I can't Explain  
Feel it on the Move

The River is Ragging  
... I can't deny it  
I won't keep quiet ...

The River is Ragging  
... Stirring in my Soul  
Taking Full Control ...  
Stirring in my Soul

... I've got a River  
Flowing on the Inside of me  
I've got a River  
Flowing on the Inside of me  
... The River is Ragging ...



SERMON

"Unquenchable Fire"

Luther Young

\* HYMN

*Revive Us Again*

1. We praise Thee, O God, for the Son of Thy love,  
2. We praise Thee, O God, for Thy Spir - it of light,  
3. All glo - ry and praise to the Lamb that was slain,  
4. Re - vive us a - gain— fill each heart with Thy love;

For— Je - sus who died and is now gone a - bove.  
Who has shown us our Sav - ior and scat - tered our night.  
Who has borne all our sins and has cleansed ev - 'ry stain.  
May each soul be re - kin - dled with fire from a - bove.

Hal - le - lu - jah, Thine the glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah, A - men!

Hal - le - lu - jah, Thine the glo - ry! Re - vive us a - gain.

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Matt Fitzgerald

OFFERTORY

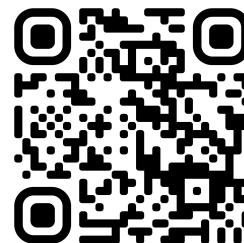
*Total Praise*  
Lighthouse Worship Team  
and Chancel Choir  
St. Arbucks Quartet

Richard Smallwood

Lord, I will lift my eyes to the hills,  
Knowing that my help is coming from you.  
Your peace, You give me  
In time of the storm.  
You are the source of my strength.  
You are the strength of my life.  
I lift my hands in total praise to you.  
Amen.

*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 would like to learn more about the church, please  
scan the QR code.*



\* 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

*Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

*Refrain*



Ev - ery time I \_\_\_ feel the spir - it \_\_\_ mov - ing in my heart I will pray.

*Last time, end*



Yes, ev - ery time I \_\_\_ feel the Spir - it \_\_\_ mov - ing in my heart I will pray.

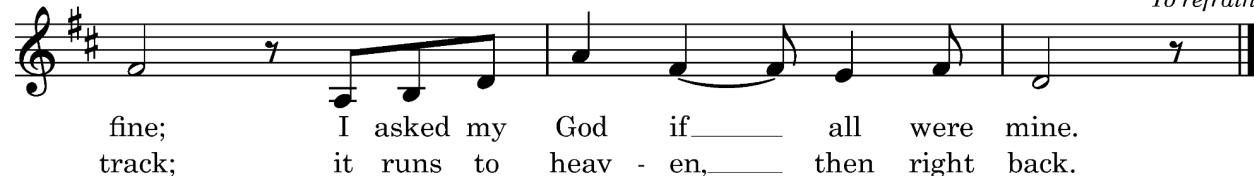
1. Up - on the moun - tain \_\_\_ my \_\_\_ God spoke, out of God's

2. Oh, Jor - dan riv - er, \_\_\_ chil - ly and cold, it chills the

mouth came \_\_\_ fire and smoke. Looked all a - round me; \_\_\_ looked so

bod - y, \_\_\_ not the soul. There's on - ly one train \_\_\_ on this

*To refrain*



fine; I asked my God if \_\_\_ all were mine.  
 track; it runs to heav - en, \_\_\_ then right back.

## \* BENEDICTION

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*To Our God*  
Worship Team-Lighthouse  
and Chancel Choir

Judith McCalister

Up from the ashes Your love has brought us  
Out of the darkness into the light  
Lifting our sorrows  
Bearing our burdens healing our hearts

To our God we lift up one voice  
To our God we lift up one song  
To our God we lift up one voice  
Singing Hallelujah

Chains have been broken eyes have been opened  
An army of dry bones is starting rise  
Death is defeated  
We are victorious for You are alive  
Hallelujah Hallelujah

To our God we lift up one voice ...

We'll make His praise glorious glorious, glorious  
For His name is glorious, glorious, glorious  
Make His praise glorious, glorious, glorious  
Shout His name Glorious, Glorious, Glorious.

To our God we lift up one voice ...

We are thrilled to welcome the **Worship Team from Lighthouse UCC** to share their spiritual energy in our joint worship service with the Lighthouse congregation.

Their members are:

Courtney Driver - Worship Leader  
Amara Gonzalez - Soprano  
Jocelyn Villa - Alto  
Brandon Wright - Tenor

Teiana Davis - Pianist  
Isaiah Anderson - Bassist  
Chris Buries - Drummer

***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. 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!***

## TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

**Clergy:** Jeff Carlson, Liz Nickerson, Luther Young, Matt Fitzgerald, Marcus Payne II

**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:** Ella Vincent

**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

*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. 8	Colin Murray, Jack Kobak, Jean Weimer, Noah Bashiti
Jun. 9	Alex Hansen, Craig Wilbanks, Don Camp, Sue Lannin, Will Shirey
Jun. 10	Chris Keller, Liam Baumann, Todd Beeson
Jun. 11	Augustus Schmitt, Jennie Hamm, Malcolm Hoerr, Steve Terborg
Jun. 12	Norma Borcharding
Jun. 13	Sergio Sanz
Jun. 14	Gary Ashley, Jessica Vahey

## 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.*

- Walter Crowley and his family on the loss of his wife, Carole Crowley.
- Harrison, Mackenzie, and Cameron Rogers on the death of their father, Toby.
- 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, who underwent 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**

### **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 17 - RETIREMENT GROUP MEETING – 10 a.m., Room 028**

Please join us to discuss our transition paths, ways we found ourselves here, what's meaningful, and what's next with or without planned health, funds or companionship. For more information, contact Jana O'Brien: [janaobrien1@gmail.com](mailto:janaobrien1@gmail.com).

### **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**

This month: *Angels: The Poems of God* – What and who are angels? Do our popular ideas about them actually come from the Bible? Pastor Jeff will present on what scripture does and does not say about these mysterious creatures that are said to watch over us. 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**

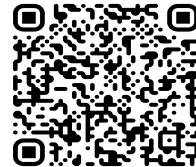
Pastor Liz is looking forward to a meaningful discussion with you! Come meet other moms, make new friends, learn from each other, get advice, pray, and get renewed! Each month has a relevant theme on an issue you face as a mom. Free professional childcare is available. Babies can stay with their moms.

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**

Starting June 1, we've updated the process! From now on, 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).

**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).



### **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).

### **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**

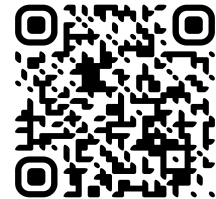
Registration is open for summer fun! Our part-time summer program is geared toward ages 3+ and runs from June through August, Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Camp combines play and structured fun inside our classrooms, in the gym and outside in the sun. We create arts and crafts, enjoy music and 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](https://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**

Caring for Creation

Our UCC tradition calls us to “Care for Creation.” Yet, the current Federal budget attempts to rescind funding and pull apart President Biden’s Green Energy Initiatives.

The budget negotiation process is now in the Senate after passing by one paltry vote in the House of Representatives. Senators are still negotiating their version of the bill before it goes into reconciliation with the House version.

The *New York Times* June 3, 2025 edition indicates that the Senate is currently debating whether to preserve Biden-era clean energy initiatives.

Make your voice heard! Let Senate leaders hear your opinion, whatever it might be. Contact information will be provided during Social Hour and posted on the Green Team information board.

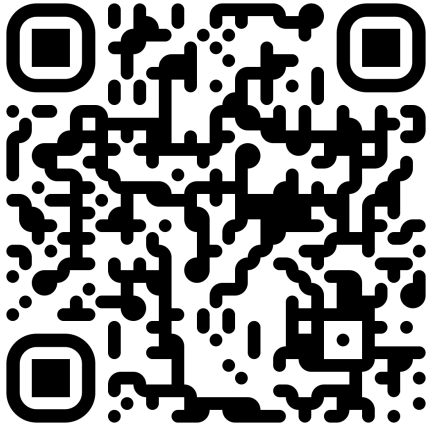
### **STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS**

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.

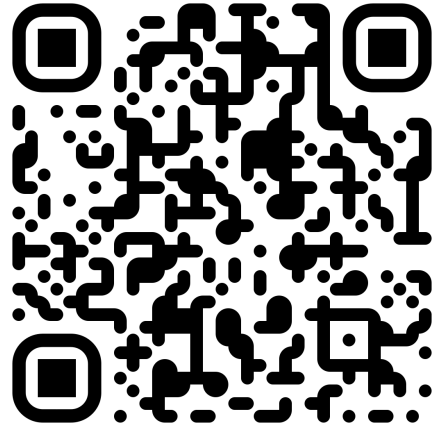
## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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

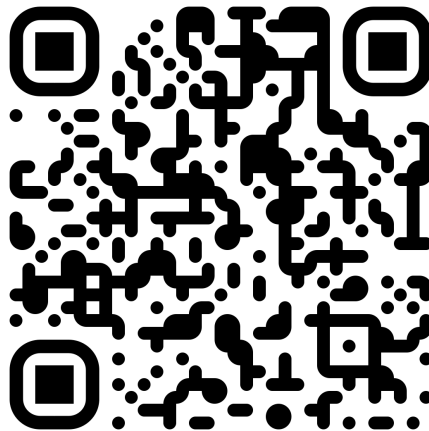
### JOIN A GROUP



### 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

***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.

The Introit, ***Lift Every Voice and Sing***, is the joyous refrain of a longer hymn that is the unofficial anthem of black churches and the civil rights movement. J. Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954), the composer, and James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938), the poet, were brothers who crafted this wonderful hymn together. They also wrote Broadway musicals and edited song collections as a team.

***Holy, Holy, Holy*** - It is interesting to note that the text for this hymn draws from both Jewish and Catholic liturgy. The Jewish prayer for every Shabbat service is *Kadosh, kadosh, kadosh* and the Catholic prayer is *Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus*. Reginald Heber (1783-1826) penned this text in 1826 just before his death. Winning poetry contests at Oxford in his student days, he became a member of the clergy and took over his father's parish. The tune, NICAEA, was named after the Council of Nicaea (325 CE) when the Church formulated the concept of the Trinity. It was composed by John Dykes (1823-1876), who created many famous English hymn tunes.

The text for ***Blessed Be the Tie That Binds*** was penned in 1782 by John Fawcett (1740-1817). He was born in England, orphaned at age 12, and by age 16 became a self-taught preacher. He led a very prominent church in London for seven years. This text states the mutual feelings that Fawcett and his congregation had for each other at his parting for another pulpit. The tune DENNIS was composed by Hans Georg Nägeli (1773-1836). He was born in Switzerland and became an influential music educator in both Germany and France. His early instruction was from his father and concentrated on the music of Bach.

***The River*** was composed and released in 2021 by All Nations Music by Todd Dulaney (b. 1983). He is an Illinois native, gospel singer and former baseball player. He was drafted by the New York Mets in 2002 and although he never made it to the majors, he played for three seasons in the minor leagues. His musical career started in 2011 with the release of the CD *Pulling Me Through*. He has released four other gospel albums.

***Total Praise*** was “composed,” both the words and music, in 1996 by Richard Smallwood (b. 1948). The word “composed” must be amplified to be understood in the context of Gospel music. Very often printed scores of gospel songs follow AFTER a song is learned and performed – a bit like transcribing a jazz solo that is improvised in the moment. Most gospel choirs learn their music aurally, or by ear. That gives the spirit and voice more freedom within strict time. Richard Smallwood is a classically trained pianist and singer who graduated *cum laude* from Howard University, and he was also steeped in the style and substance of the gospel musical traditions. He was BOTH classically trained and also adept at creating music and text in a “spiritual jazz” freedom and inspiration. ***Total Praise*** is one of his most popular gospel songs and came out of a time of great sorrow in his life. *Precious Lord* was “composed” by Thomas Dorsey under the same kind of sorrow. Carol Cymbala is the Music Director of the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir and has won six Grammy Awards with the choir. The Tabernacle and its Choir celebrate a diverse membership and styles of worship.

***Every Time I Feel the Spirit*** is an upbeat spiritual from the rich tradition of music created by African Americans. As with nearly all spirituals, its source is unknown and was taught and shared aurally. The text couldn’t be more perfect for Pentecost Sunday.

***To Our God*** was composed and later released in 2010 on the album *And If God Is For Us...*. The album features Chris Tomlin (b. 1972), but this song was created by Judith McCalister (b. 1963). A native of Harlem in New York City, she is a pentecostal gospel musician and leader of Never Ending Worship. Her early education was listening to her mother play piano in her father’s church. She attended Oral Roberts University.

## 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.