

August 10, 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.
The Nursery and Toddler Room are open for children ages 0-5, from 10 to 11 a.m.*

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"And I was alive in the blizzard of the blossoming pear, / Myself I stood in the
storm of the bird-cherry tree. / It was all leaf-life and starshower unerring,
self-shattering power, / And it was all aimed at me." –Osip Mandelstam

PRELUDE

Mercy, Mercy, Mercy
St. Arbucks Quartet

Cannonball Adderly
and Joe Zawinul

CHIMES

WELCOME

Liz Nickerson

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O God make this hour bright, pleasing to you and helpful to us!

All: Don't let us rest until we rest in you.

One: Move against us and fight for us until your peace is in our hearts.

**All: Make what we pray and sing have power and truth and come from
our hearts. Be with Saint Pauls today! Amen.**

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

* HYMN

O God, Beyond All Praising



1. O__ God be - yond all prais-ing, We wor - ship you to - day
2. The flower of earth - ly splen-dor, In time must sure - ly die,
3. Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, Ac - cept the love we bring,



And sing the love a - maz - ing That songs can - not re - pay;
Its__ fra - gile bloom sur - ren - der To you, the Lord most high;
That we who know your fa - vor May serve you as our king;



For__ we can on - ly won - der At__ ev - 'ry gift you send,
But__ hid - den from all na - ture The e - ter - nal seed is sown
And__ wheth - er our to - mor - rows Be__ filled with good or ill,



At__ bless - ings with - out num - ber And mer - cies with - out end:
Though small in mor - tal sta - ture, To heav - ens gar - den grown;
We'll tri - umph through our sor - rows And rise to bless you still:



We__ lift our hearts be - fore__ you And wait up - on your word,
For__ Christ, your son, from hea - ven From death has set us free
To__ mar - vel at your beau - ty And glo - ry in your ways,



We__ hon - or and a - dore you, Our great and might - y Lord.
And through him you have giv - en The fi - nal vic - to - ry!
And make a joy - ful du - ty Our sac - ri - fice of praise.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God who re-creates,
forgive us into new lives.

When we nurse old
grudges, forgive us
into mercy.

When we are convinced that yesterday's wounds will
always hurt,
forgive us into healing.

When we cling to dead convictions and arrest the future
with the past, forgive us into a new spirit.

Re-create us as your people,
people who sit lightly with our lives,
able to rise with ease,
to follow Christ,
grateful and well loved.
Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Sunday School students are invited to participate in Prayground Sunday School.

*If you would like to accompany your child(ren) to the gym,
you are welcome to drop them off and return to worship.*

ANTHEM

Just As I Am
Mark Huddle, baritone

William B. Bradbury

Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not
to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 23

Thus says the Lord of hosts: Do not listen to the words of the prophets who preach to you; they are deluding you. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord. I did not send these prophets, yet they ran. I did not speak to them, yet they preached. They keep saying to those who despise the word of the Lord, "It shall be well with you." Not a word they speak comes from me.

Am I a God near at hand, says the Lord, and not a God far off? Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. "Am I not present everywhere, whether seen or unseen? Says the Lord. I know what they're saying, all these prophets who preach lies using me as their text, saying 'I had this dream! I had this dream!' How long do I have to put up with this? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and preach the deceit of their own hearts? They feed on each other's grandiose delusions, trying to distract my people from me just as their ancestors were distracted by the idol Baal.

Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock into pieces?

See, I am against the prophets, says the Lord, who use their own tongues and say, "Says the Lord." See, I am against those who preach the lies they dream up, says the Lord, ruining the lives of my people with their cheap and reckless lies, says the Lord. I did not send them or command them. They do nothing for my people—*nothing* says the Lord. If anyone, including prophets and priests, glibly proclaims "God's word! God's word!" I'll punish him and his household.

Instead of claiming to know what God says, ask questions of one another, such as 'How do we understand God in this?' But don't go pretend to know all, saying 'God told me . . . God told me,' perverting the word of the living God, the Lord of hosts, our God. Do this, and I will surely lift you up and cast you away from my presence, you and the city that I gave you to you and your ancestors. I will bring upon you everlasting disgrace and perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten.

*** 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)

* HYMN

God Reigns O'er All the Earth

The image displays a musical score for a hymn. It features four systems of music, each consisting of a vocal melody line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing. The hymn is divided into four verses, each corresponding to a system of music.

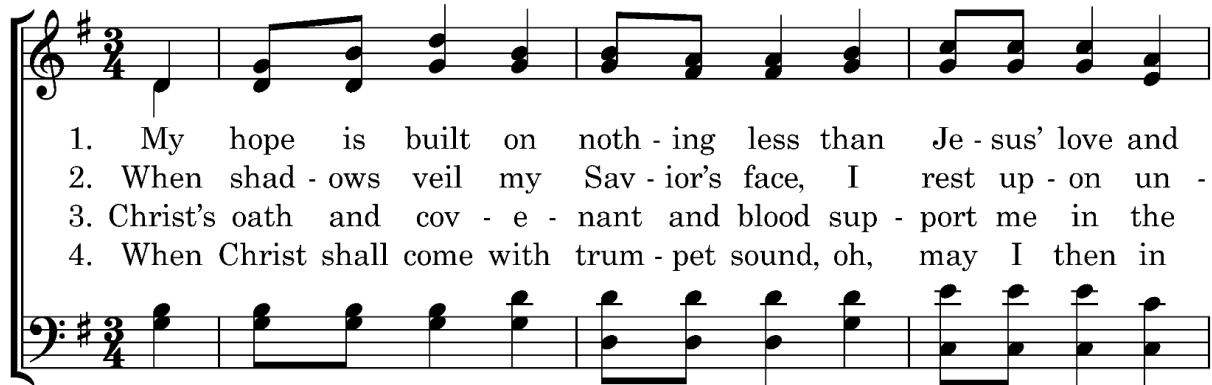
1. God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and val - leys low, the
2. God reigns o'er hu - man life! Through youth and ag - ing years, in
3. God reigns o'er time and space! In his - tory's by - gone days, Christ's
4. God reigns! Em - man - u - el! God with us ev - ery day, in

farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beau - ty show.
death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.
faith - ful folk in rev - erence spoke to bring God earn - est praise.
all our past and to the last, our com - fort and our stay.

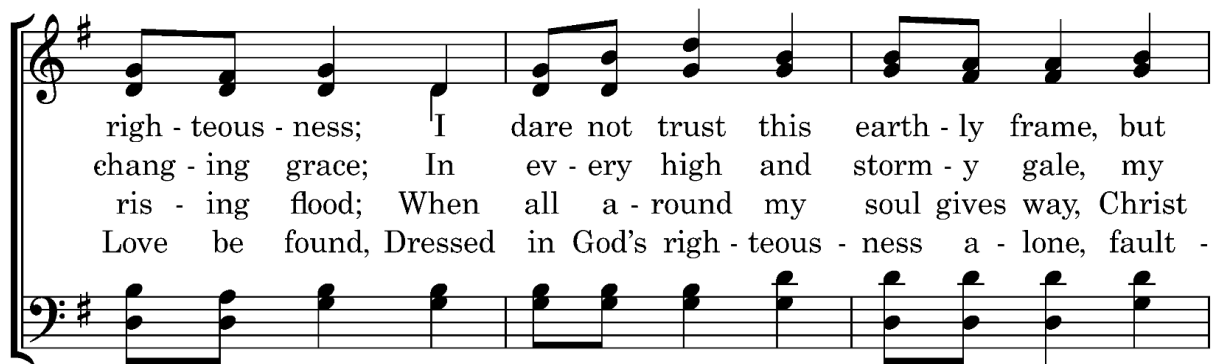
God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spread - ing plains,
God reigns o'er hu - man life! Our in - spi - ra - tion still.
God reigns o'er time and space! O'er gal - ax - y and sun,
God reigns! Em - man - u - el! Let praise to Christ be sung!

in rain - bow hues— reds, yel - lows, blues— of streams and coun - try lanes.
Through all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reign - ing will.
through time - less years the cos - mos hears the heaven - ly mus - sic run.
God's pres - ence here makes all things dear. Let joy - ful bells be rung!

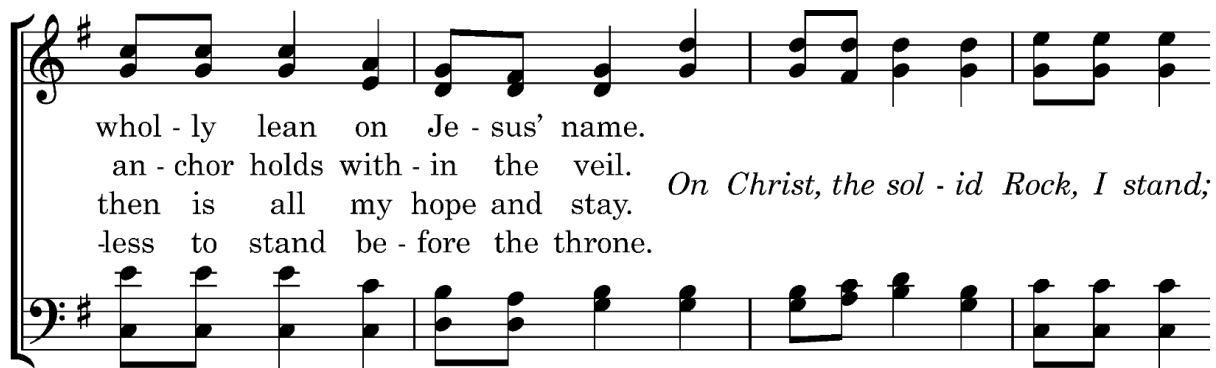
* HYMN

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

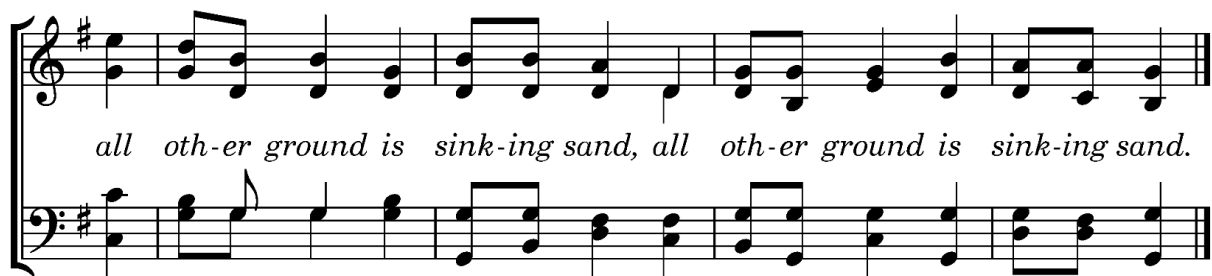
1. My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' love and
2. When shad - ows veil my Sav - ior's face, I rest up - on un -
3. Christ's oath and cov - e - nant and blood sup - port me in the
4. When Christ shall come with trum - pet sound, oh, may I then in



righ - teous - ness; I dare not trust this earth - ly frame, but
chang - ing grace; In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
ris - ing flood; When all a - round my soul gives way, Christ
Love be found, Dressed in God's righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -



whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
an - chor holds with - in the veil.
then is all my hope and stay. *On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand;*
less to stand be - fore the throne.



all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

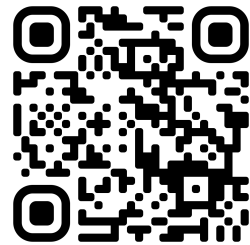
OFFERTORY

Crested Butte Mountain
Natalie Grana, alphorn and
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

Arkady Shilkloper

ELECTRONIC OFFERING OPTIONS

*Scan this code with your cell phone camera,
Church Center at spucc.churchcenter.com/giving,
PayPal at spucc.org/paypal, or Zelle to 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Jeff Carlson

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

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3. Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;
4. So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,

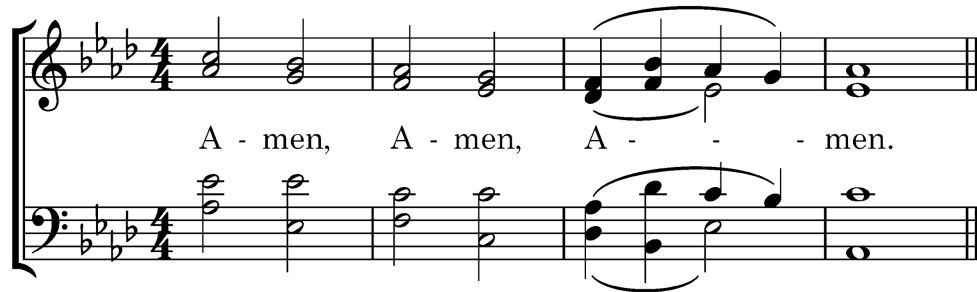
in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;
in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;
your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,
All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.
your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.
in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

Fanfare

J. Lemmens

Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

We welcome both of our soloists today, Mark Huddle and Natalie Grana. Mark is a member of our Chancel Choir, an accomplished visual artist, experienced Shakespearian actor, and also performs the entire Gospel of Mark. Natalie is on the Horn Faculty at Lake Forest College, the Musicianship Faculty at DePaul University and a champion and promoter of the alphorn. She will host the Windy City Alphorn Workshop in May 2026.

What is an alphorn? The alphorn is a traditional Swiss instrument made of wood from 10 to 13 feet in length. Its history dates back to 2nd century Rome and was traditionally used in the mountains for communication and the herding of cattle.

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: Liz Nickerson, Matt Fitzgerald, 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

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Co-Head Usher: Mary Ann Brown

Ushers: David Faulkner, Fred Pearson

Greeters: Doug Dunham, Ninon Freeman

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

Camera Operators: Nana Addadzi-Koom, Jim Alrutz, Marie Ankenman, Bob Ball, Brian Hafner, Trevor Hafner

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

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

BORN THIS WEEK IN AUGUST

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.

Aug. 10 Nate Davidson, Peg Wander, Sally Connolly, Scott Hibbard

Aug. 11 Anna-Kate Trubilowicz, Ben Smith, Nathan Streeter, Steve Schwartzberg

Aug. 12 Natalie Douglass Grana, Rick Newbury

Aug. 14 David Burnett, Justin DuPont, Lorri Gunn Wirsum, Olivia Kearns

Aug. 15 Sally Acker, Winnie Castle

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.

- The family and friends of Mead Gifford, on his death.
- Julian Jarzebowski and family at the death of his aunt Danka.
- Michelle Drew Rodriguez at the death of her father.
- Loved ones of Evert Martin at his death.
- Those grieving the loss of their loved ones in the Texas flood.
- Donn Schimp and his family as Donn continues cancer treatment.
- Julie Chambers is in the hospital.
- 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 – PRAYGROUND CHURCH - During worship

Kids start in worship with their families and then are released together to learn a specific type of prayer using the acronym P.R.A.Y.: praise, repent, ask, and yield. Then they will head to the park across the street or to the gym to create a prayer and play! Register here: tinyurl.com/54429p95.

TODAY – LUNCH MAKING FOR GUESTS AT LPCS - 11:20 a.m. -12 p.m.

Right after church, come to the kitchen across from the gym and help make sack lunches for the residents of the Lincoln Park Community Shelter. We provide all the needed food, but volunteers are asked to contribute \$20 each to help cover food costs for the lunches. Donations can be made via cash, Venmo, or Zelle. If you're interested, please use Church Center to sign-up: tinyurl.com/y46tn3pp.

TODAY – DINNER MAKING FOR GUESTS AT LPCS - 4-7 p.m.

Make a difference by helping prepare and deliver dinner for residents of the Lincoln Park Community Shelter. We'll meet at St. Pauls at 4 p.m. and deliver the meal to LPCS (600 W. Fullerton) around 6 p.m. We provide the needed food, but volunteers are asked to contribute \$30 each to help cover food costs for the dinner. Donations can be made via cash, Venmo, or Zelle. If you're interested, please use Church Center to sign-up: tinyurl.com/msytj254. Email Evie Kling at eviekling@gmail.com with questions.

AUGUST 12 – JANE AUSTEN 250 READING GROUP - 7 p.m., Zoom

December 16, 2025, is the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth. We're reading her six complete novels, one a month, from 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/yez6ejw6.

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

AUGUST 13 – WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - Noon, Zoom

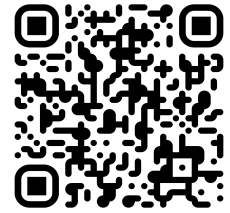
Join for summer school in 1, 2 & 3 John. These early Christian letters take off where the Gospel of John leaves off, encouraging lives of life, light and love. Led by Pastor Jeff, we meet once a week for about a half hour to 45 minutes over Zoom through August 20. Sign up on Church Center here: tinyurl.com/25rkpeky.

AUGUST 15 – ST. SABINA PEACE WALK - 7 p.m.

Join a group from St. Pauls as we join St. Sabina for their annual summer peace walks through the Auburn-Gresham neighborhoods. Thousands of people will gather for these powerful walks! Contact Louise Gram at (773) 870-6311 for additional information and RSVP on Church Center at tinyurl.com/55x9dj9x to coordinate carpools with other attendees.

AUGUST 16 – ST. PAULS NIGHT AT SPIRIT OF MUSIC GARDEN - 6:30 p.m.

News Flash! Change of Venue for St. Pauls Night. We're heading to the Spirit of Music Garden in Grant Park (Michigan & Balbo) to support Nancy Hays performing with The Romance of Dance Orchestra — an evening of ballroom and swing music! Dancing encouraged! Program details: <https://www.nancy-hays.com/>



Bring a drink/snack to share. RSVP on Church Center (QR code) by August 14 so we can plan space. Optional dance lessons at 6 p.m. Music from 7–9 p.m. Please arrive by 6:30 p.m. Text Bob at (773) 416-3117 to find the group.

AUGUST 16-17– WOMEN’S FARM WEEKEND AT MARCIA VOLK’S FARM

Join us at Marcia Volk’s farm for a weekend getaway! Come for Saturday only, or stay overnight. Enjoy hiking at Starved Rock, farm trails, wildflowers, 4-wheeler rides, and a zip line—or just relax. BYO lunch for Saturday. Potluck dinner and bonfire that night. Sunday includes optional church in Lacon, plus breakfast and lunch at the farm. \$10 suggested for expenses. First 12 to respond get beds (stairs required). Contact Gloria at glrjoseph@yahoo.com or Marcia at marcia@volkonline.com, (773) 307-6866.

AUGUST 26 – FOOD FOR THE SOUL GROUP - 12-1:30 p.m., Social Hall

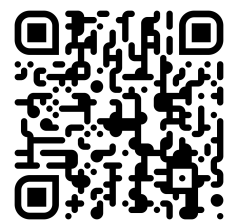
“On the Path to Becoming Neighbors.” Discussion facilitated by Jenny Benefield. Bring your own lunch. Sponsored by St. Pauls Social. Adults of all ages are invited to make new friends and reconnect with old ones through lunch, fun and faith. Childcare provided.

SEPTEMBER 5 – FAITH FAMILY FRIDAY - 6-8 p.m., Social Hall & Gym

Faith Family Fridays are full of fun, fellowship, and food with your church family! Join us for a preview of Kickoff Sunday by meeting Sunday School teachers and peers. All ages welcome. Main entree provided by St. Pauls Youth Ministry. Feel free to bring your own beverage, side, or game to share. This event is free, but registration is required for food count. \$10/family suggested donation. Register here: tinyurl.com/4zsmry6u

OCTOBER 5 – SAVE THE DATE: FIESTA FOR FUNDS

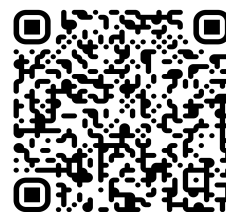
Join the Activism and Advocacy Ministry on October 5 during Social Hour for “Fiesta for Funds,” a silent auction to raise funds for our Migrant Legal Fund. This designated fund will help defray the remaining costs of guiding our sponsored families through the immigration process. Visit tinyurl.com/3tazsjhc or scan the QR code to access the event registration and more information on donating lots to the auction. We are seeking auction lots such as gift cards/vouchers, handmade items, event tickets, and more!



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!



WILD MILE NATIVE PLANT TOUR

The Green Team invites St. Pauls to learn about the Wild Mile's biodiverse ecosystems on the North Branch of the Chicago River, Saturday, August 9, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Led by Nick Dorian of the Chicago Botanical Center. RSVP at urbanrivers.org and/or call Ninon Freeman at (312) 447-1330 for more information.

REFUGEEONE: Their Back to School drive is underway! There is an Amazon gift registry that has the items RefugeeOne is looking for: tinyurl.com/2p8ybm4z. If you're interested in participating, please use this list and have the items shipped directly to RefugeeOne by selecting the *RefugeeOne (Back2School)'s Gift Registry Address* when you checkout. Please order your items by Saturday, August 9, so that RefugeeOne will receive them in time to distribute them. Thank you!



SHARE YOUR HARVEST!

The Green Team will be setting up a table during Social Hour where any extra produce, herbs, and garden plants can be shared with the rest of the congregation. This table will be set up every week until late fall.

CHILDREN/YOUTH MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

We have a variety of different ways you can serve as a volunteer with the children and youth ministry. This is a fun way to make a difference! Volunteers are needed to assist at events, with Sunday School, and in the nursery. All volunteers are required to complete a criminal background check, for which we will pay. Volunteers always serve in pairs of two, following our child safety policy. Please contact Pastor Liz if you would like to learn more at lnickerson@spucc.org.

NEW! BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

We've updated the process! Please use our new bulletin announcement form to submit St. Pauls-sponsored events for inclusion in 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.

VOLUNTEER AS A SOCIAL HOUR HOST

If you're visiting a new church, going to Social Hour after worship and walking into a room where you don't know a soul can be really intimidating. We're looking for volunteers to be Social Hour hosts. What's the job description? Just be on the lookout for and then greet people you don't know. They may be new to St. Pauls. They may just be someone you haven't met yet. Either way, you'll make them feel welcome and make some new friends. Volunteer once a month, once a quarter, it's up to you. If you would like to serve as a host, you can sign up for an upcoming Sunday here: tinyurl.com/3f384fcm.

ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT POLITICAL POLARIZATION?

Want to Talk? Communication Tools for Divided Times is an eight-session small group program 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. To find out more, visit tinyurl.com/yzj4cvan. Ready to sign up now? You can do so here: tinyurl.com/3n4jehnn

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.

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: spucc.churchcenter.com/giving.

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.

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.

LITTLE LIGHTS ENROLLMENT 2025-2026

We are accepting applications for the fall! Flexible class options and days available. 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.

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: tinyurl.com/2j5dy6fp.

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 if you think this might benefit you.

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

Tips for Facing Heat, Humidity and Smoke

In addition to sustained heat and humidity, Chicago is now beset by smoke from wildfires. These conditions challenge all of us, particularly those with respiratory conditions, young children, the elderly, and your beloved doggie with a flat muzzle. Please remember to:

- Hydrate BEFORE feeling thirsty;
- Plan your day around the hourly weather report;
- Stay in the deep shade or in air conditioning;
- Wear a mask;
- Wear loose fitting clothes made of natural fibers;
- Finally, carry liquids in non-plastic containers, avoiding caffeine and alcohol.

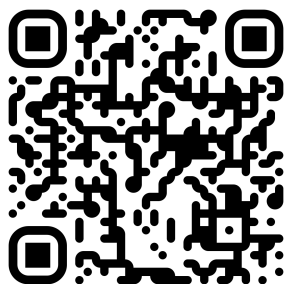
STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS

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.

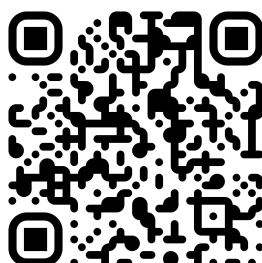
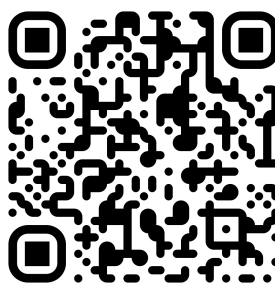
WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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

JOIN A GROUP



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



SUBMIT AN ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Joe Zawinul (1932–2007) was an Austrian jazz keyboardist and composer. He played with Miles Davis and went on to create jazz fusion. Jazz fusion incorporates electric guitars, rock and funk. He was voted Best Electronic Keyboardist by the readers of *Downbeat* magazine 28 times! He composed ***Mercy, Mercy, Mercy*** in 1967 and recorded it with Cannonball Adderley (1928–1975).

O God Beyond All Praising is by Gustav Holst (1874–1934). The tune is called THAXTED, which is the main theme of the Jupiter movement from Holst's *The Planets*. It is truly a majestic hymn. Thaxted is the village where Holst grew up. It was Ralph Vaughan Williams that adapted "Thaxted" as a hymn. The author of our text is Michael A. Perry (1942–1996). He began studies as a physicist and changed to theology.

Just As I Am is set to the tune WOODWORTH, which was composed in 1849 by American composer William B. Bradbury (1816–1868). He also composed the children's hymn *Jesus Loves Me, This I Know*. The text is by Charlotte Elliot (1789–1871), who was British. Sadly, she was frail and sickly most of her life, which makes her text especially poignant and personal. It is a hymn that many of us associate with the crusades of Billy Graham (1918–2018).

God Reigns O'er All the Earth is sung to the tune: TERRA BEATA. The source of the music is an English folk melody which first appeared as a hymn in 1906. The text was written in 1981 and is by one of the most prolific contemporary authors of hymn texts, Jane Parker Huber (1926–2008). She was born to missionary parents in China and was a lifelong Presbyterian who focused her hymn texts and ministry on peace-making, justice, and inclusiveness.

The text for ***My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*** was written in 1834 by Edward Mote (1797–1874). British-born Mote wrote a number of hymn texts after a spiritual awakening as a result of the preaching of an evangelical preacher. He also authored a number of Christian pamphlets. SOLID ROCK was composed in 1863 by the prolific hymn writer, William Bradbury (1816–1868). Raised on his father's farm in Maine, he developed a love for music as a child and began playing the organ in church by age 15. Among the best known of his hymns is the children's hymn, *Jesus Loves Me, This I Know*.

Crested Butte Mountain was composed in 2018 for alphorn and organ by Arkay Shilkloper (b. 1956). It was composed as a tribute to Eliana Burki (1983–2023), who was from Switzerland and known for her untraditional playing of the alphorn in pop and also funk music. Shilkloper is a Russian-born multi-instrumentalist and composer living in Berlin. He is also recognised as one of the finest jazz players of the French horn. Crested Butte is a 12,000 foot mountain in central Colorado and the town at its base is named Mt. Crested Butte.

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise, tune ST. DENIO, is based on an early 19th century traditional Welsh ballad. The text was composed in 1867 by Walter C. Smith (1824–1908), who was the pastor of the Scottish Church in London.

The composer of ***Fanfare*** (1862), Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens (1823-1881), was born in Belgium and trained to reinvigorate the Belgian organ tradition. He also studied the works of Bach in Germany. At only age 26, he was appointed the organ professor at the Royal Brussels Conservatoire. As a tribute to his influence and fame, a church music institute which he founded in Mechelen was named in his honor after his death.

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 182 years we are glad to have introduced thousands of children and adults to the amazing, inclusive, life changing, uplifting love of God. We do so in worship that is traditional, but far from conventional.

Senior Pastor Matt Fitzgerald, mfitzgerald@spucc.org

Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, jcarlson@spucc.org

Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, lnickerson@spucc.org

For a complete list of St. Pauls Staff, Governance, and Lay Leadership
Please visit www.spucc.org/contact

St. Pauls United Church of Christ
2335 N Orchard St. | Chicago, IL 60614
(773) 348-3829 www.spucc.org

Sunday Worship at 10 a.m.
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.