



August 17, 2025  
Baptism 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.*

PRELUDE	<i>Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier, BWV 731</i>	J. S. Bach
	Kevin Dzierzawski, organ	

CHIMES

WELCOME	Matt Fitzgerald
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\* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come to the water, all who are thirsty!  
Come and drink freely of the water of life.

**All: Come to the water, all who are weary!**  
**Come and splash freely in the pool of God's grace.**

One: God's life and God's love are abundant and free.

**All: God is among us,**  
**To wash away the sweat and the grime.**

One: Come to the water, all who are thirsty!

**All: Let us drink freely of the water of life!**

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

\* HYMN

*God of Grace and God of Glory*



1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
 2. From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the  
 3. Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4. Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that  
 5. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;  
 Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—  
 your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,  
 they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,  
 we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour,	for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days,	for the liv - ing of these days.
make our bro - ken spir - its whole,	make our bro - ken spir - its whole.
in the quest for lib - er - ty,	in the quest for lib - er - ty.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore,	serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liz Nickerson

**Gracious God, we confess our deep anxiety.**

**We build walls of self-protection.**

**We hoard love rather than freely give it away.**

**We listen to the lie that life is about being consumers  
 rather than neighbors.**

**Help us, God.**

**Free us from greed and anxious grasping.**

**Satisfy us with your abundant life.**

**Let love abound within us and through us.**

**Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM

*Melodie*  
from *Orfeo ed Euridice*  
Ashley Pensinger-Sok, violin  
Kevin Dzierzawski, piano

Christoph Willibald Gluck  
arr. Fritz Kreisler

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM OF

Wade Alexander Stulce

Pastor: Wade, receive now the Light of Christ. May you walk always as a child of light. May your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to God. Wade is now received into the love and care of the church. See what love God has given us that we should be called children of God.

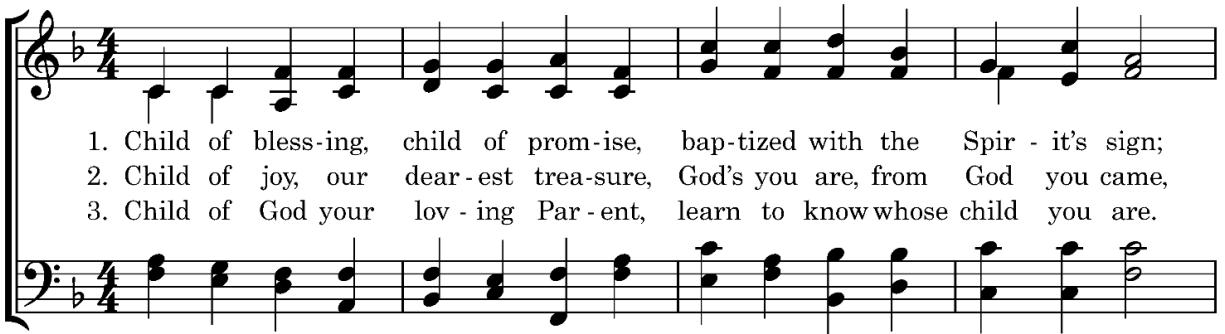
**All: Almighty God, giver of life, you have called us by name and pledged to each of us your faithful love. We pray for your child, Wade. Inspire his life. May he sing many songs, know many joys, heal many wounds, and embrace many people in your name. We pray for his parents, that they may be guided by your love so that they may know your presence. May we walk together with this family as witnesses to your gospel, as those for whom you have lived and died and live again. Amen.**

Pastor: Wade, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you always.

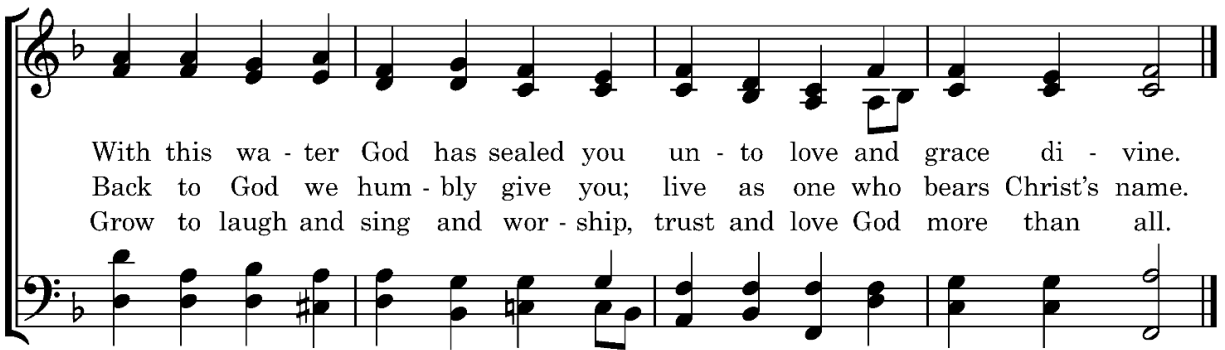
**All: Amen**

\*RESPONSE

*Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*



1. Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap-tized with the Spir - it's sign;  
2. Child of joy, our dear-est trea-sure, God's you are, from God you came,  
3. Child of God your lov - ing Par-ent, learn to know whose child you are.



With this wa - ter God has sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.  
Back to God we hum - bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.  
Grow to laugh and sing and wor - ship, trust and love God more than all.

*Luke 12:13–34 The Message*

Someone out of the crowd said, “Teacher, order my brother to give me a fair share of the family inheritance.”

Jesus replied, “Mister, what makes you think it’s any of my business to be a judge or mediator for you?”

Speaking to the people, he went on, “Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed. Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot.”

Then he told them this story: “The farm of a certain rich man produced a terrific crop. He thought to himself: ‘What can I do? My barn isn’t big enough for this harvest.’ Then he said, ‘Here’s what I’ll do: I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll gather in all my grain and goods, and I’ll say to myself, Self, you’ve done well! You’ve got it made and can now retire. Take it easy and have the time of your life!’

“Just then God showed up and said, ‘Fool! Tonight you die. And your barnful of goods—who gets it?’

“That’s what happens when you fill your barn with Self and not with God.”

He continued this subject with his disciples. “Don’t worry about what’s on the table at mealtimes or if the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your inner life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body. Look at the ravens, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, carefree in the care of God. And you count far more. Has anyone by fussing before the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch? If fussing can’t even do that, why fuss at all? Walk into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They don’t fuss with their appearance—but have you ever seen color and design quite like it? The ten best-dressed men and women in the country look shabby alongside them. If God gives such attention to the wildflowers, most of them never even seen, don’t you think he’ll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you?

“What I’m trying to do here is get you to relax, not be so preoccupied with getting so you can respond to God’s giving. People who don’t know God and the way he works worry about these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep yourself in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. You’ll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Don’t be afraid. You’re my dearest friends! The Father wants to give you the very kingdom itself. Be generous. Give to the poor. Get yourselves a bank that can’t go bankrupt, a bank in heaven far from bankrobbers, safe from embezzlers, a bank you can bank on. It’s obvious, isn’t it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.”

\* STATEMENT OF FAITH

**We believe in God who has created and is creating,  
who has come to us in Jesus Christ to reconcile and make us new,  
who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.**

**We trust God. God calls us to be the Church,  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to love and serve others,  
to care for creation,  
to seek justice and to resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

**In life and death, in life beyond death, God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**

*(adapted from the United Church of Canada)*

\* RESPONSE

*Be Thou My Vision*

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2. Rich - es I heed not, nor life's emp - ty praise,

Nought be all else to me save that thou art,  
Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
Rul - er of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.

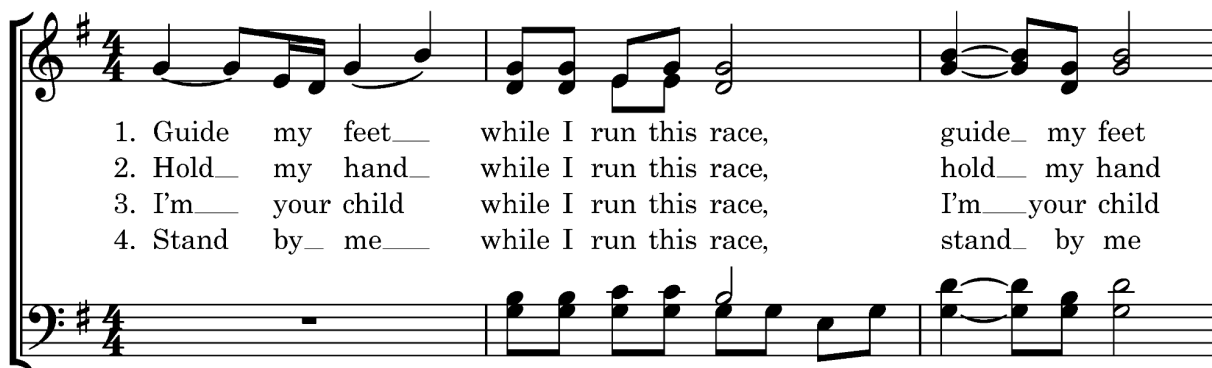
SERMON

"You Fool!"

Jeff Carlson

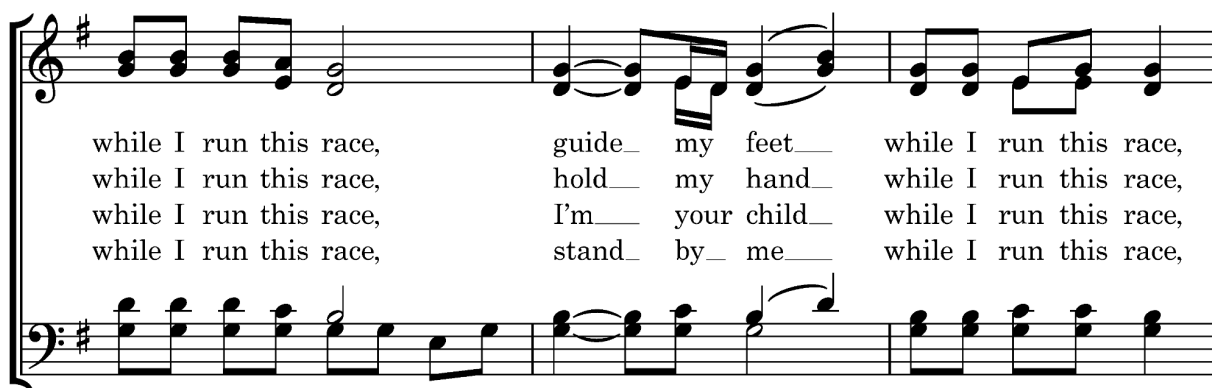
\* HYMN

*Guide My Feet*



1. Guide my feet while I run this race, guide my feet  
2. Hold my hand while I run this race, hold my hand  
3. I'm your child while I run this race, I'm your child  
4. Stand by me while I run this race, stand by me

Yes, my God.



while I run this race, guide my feet while I run this race,  
while I run this race, hold my hand while I run this race,  
while I run this race, I'm your child while I run this race,  
while I run this race, stand by me while I run this race,

Yes, my God.



For I don't want to run this race in vain.



## OFFERTORY

*Bring a Little Water Sylvie*  
The Altos of the Chancel Choir  
Breanna Coe, conductor

attributed to  
Huddie Ledbetter  
arr. Adam Podd

Bring me little water Sylvie  
Bring me little water now  
Bring me little water Sylvie  
Every little once in a while

Bring it in a bucket Sylvie  
Bring it in a bucket now  
Bring it in a bucket every once in a while  
Silvie come a running

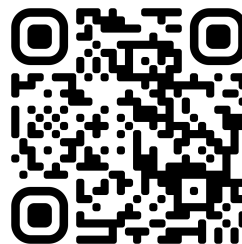
Bucket in my hand  
I will bring a little water  
Fast as I can

Bring me little water Sylvie ....

Can't you see me coming  
Can't you see me now  
I will bring a little water  
Every once in a while

## 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).*

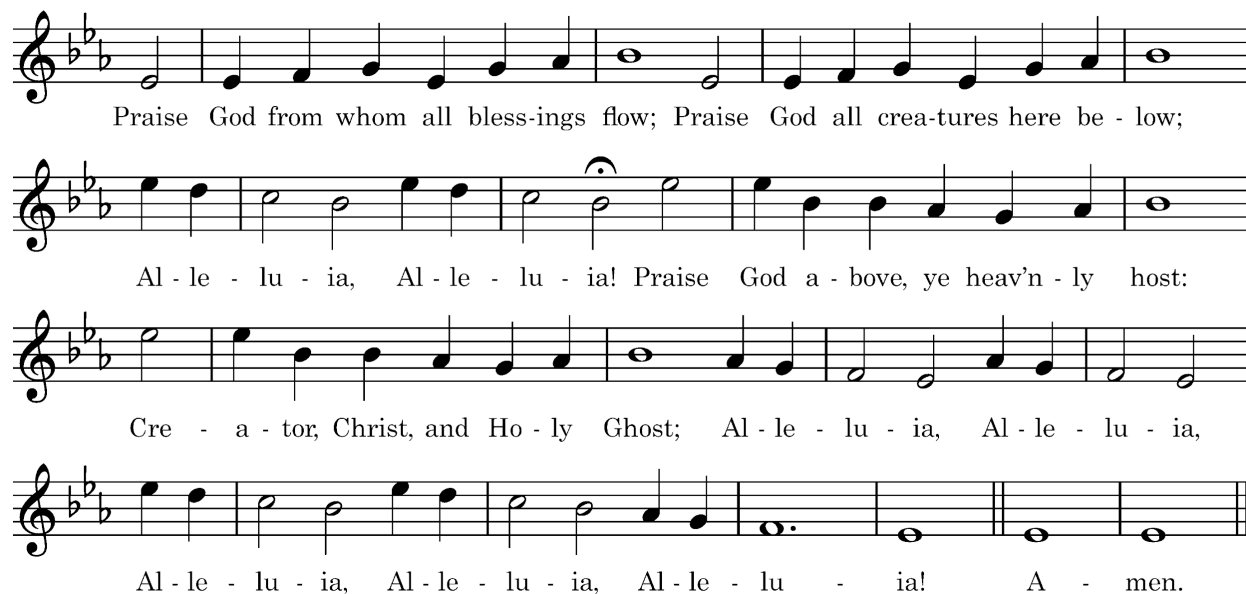


## WELCOME CARD

*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



The musical notation is written on four staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The notes are as follows:  
Staff 1: C4 (half), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), C5 (half).  
Staff 2: D4 (half), E4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), C5 (half).  
Staff 3: C4 (half), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), C5 (half).  
Staff 4: D4 (half), E4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), C5 (half).  
The lyrics are printed below each staff, aligned with 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

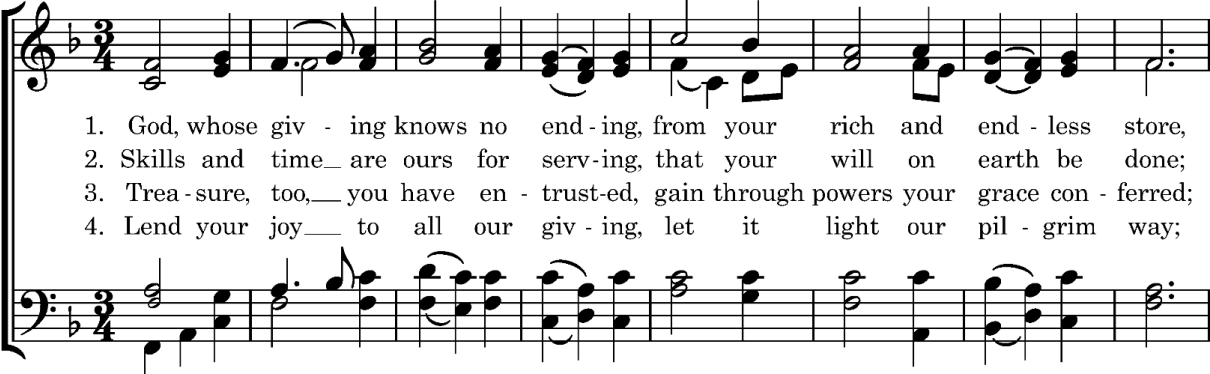
Liz Nickerson

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

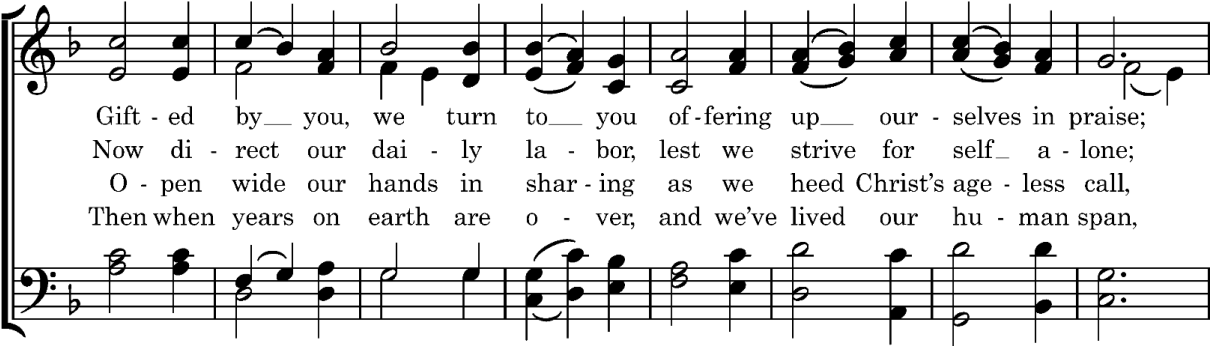
*God, Whole Giving Knows No Ending*



1. God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less store,  
2. Skills and time\_ are ours for serv - ing, that your will on earth be done;  
3. Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your grace con - ferred;  
4. Lend your joy\_ to all our giv - ing, let it light our pil - grim way;



Na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door:  
All at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the Church made one.  
Ours to use\_ for home and kin - dred, and to spread the gos - pel Word.  
From the night of anx - ious keep - ing, loose us in - to gen - erous day.



Gift - ed by\_ you, we turn to\_ you of - fer - ing up\_ our - selves in praise;  
Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self\_ a - lone;  
O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing as we heed Christ's age - less call,  
Then when years on earth are o - ver, and we've lived our hu - man span,



Thank - ful song\_ shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.  
born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.  
Heal - ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, hon - oring you by lov - ing all.  
God, ful - fill\_ be - yond our dream - ing, all our stew - ard - ship be - gan.

\* BENEDICTION

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

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

POSTLUDE

*From the Top of My Head*  
St. Arbucks Quartet

Roy Hargrove

***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:** Matt Fitzgerald, Liz Nickerson, Jeff Carlson

**Music Director:** Kurt R. Hansen

**Organist:** Kevin Dzierzawski

**St. Arbucks Quartet:** Brendan Henry, piano; Alex Austin, bass; Matt Plaskota, drums; Kris Hansen, trumpet & vocals

**Lay Liturgical Administrator:** Kevin O'Brien

**Scripture Reader:** Marti Pechnyo

**Head Usher:** Beatrice Jaji

**Co-Head Usher:** Doug Clark

**Ushers:** David Faulkner, Fred Pearson

**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](https://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. 17 Felix Hecht, Karl Darin, Kevin O'Brien, Winnie Kearns, Zack Murray

Aug. 18 Irem Metin

Aug. 19 Jeremy Liabo, Jide Jaji

Aug. 20 Asha Gidwani, Jude Gonzalez-Greenberg, Maeve Gleason

Aug. 21 Ken Travers, Michael Van Zeyl

Aug. 22 Anne Mathew, Cece Chamberlain, Karen Lyons, Maurice Wallace

## **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, at 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.
- Sue Derison for her cardiac ablation on August 19.
- Pat Kirby, who was recently hospitalized with diverticulitis.
- 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

### **AUGUST 20 – 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](https://tinyurl.com/25rkpeky).

### **AUGUST 20-21 – LITTLE LIGHTS PLAY DAYS** - 9-10 a.m.

Do you have a preschooler that loves to play? Curious about our program? Come visit our classrooms! Enrolled & prospective students may drop in with a caregiver Wednesday 8/20 or Thursday 8/21. This is a great way to ease into a new environment and aids in gentle transition to our spaces. Teachers will not be present. No registration required, walk-ins welcome. Take it in on your own time, at a pace your child is comfortable with. Reach out to [littlelights@spucc.org](mailto:littlelights@spucc.org) with any questions.

### **AUGUST 22 – 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](https://tinyurl.com/55x9dj9x) to coordinate carpools with other attendees.

### **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](https://tinyurl.com/4zsmry6u)

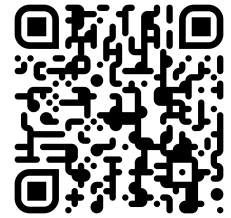
### **SEPTEMBER 9 – JANE AUSTEN 250 READING GROUP - 7 p.m., Zoom**

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](https://tinyurl.com/yez6ejw6).

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

### **OCTOBER 5 – SAVE THE DATE: FIESTA FOR FUNDS**

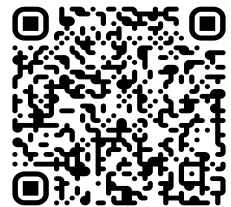
Join the Activism and Advocacy Ministry on October 5 during Social Hour for “Fiesta for Funds,” a silent auction to raise funds for our Migrant Legal Fund. This designated fund will help defray the remaining costs of guiding our sponsored families through the immigration process. Visit [tinyurl.com/3tazsihc](https://tinyurl.com/3tazsihc) 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!



**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](https://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!



### **SHARING THE BOUNTY**

The Green Team will set up a table through the rest of the summer into fall so that parishioners can share their extra garden plants, vegetables, herbs and seeds. Please bag plants with loose dirt.

### **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).



## **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](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org).

## **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](https://tinyurl.com/3f384fcm).

## **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](https://tinyurl.com/5dtmhpra).

## **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](https://tinyurl.com/yzj4cvan). Ready to sign up now? You can do so here: [tinyurl.com/3n4jehnn](https://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](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: [spucc.churchcenter.com/giving](http://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).

### **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](http://www.littlelightslp.org) or contact Erin Fitzgerald at [erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org](mailto: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](https://tinyurl.com/2j5dy6fp).

### **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**

Respecting and Sharing Bounty

Psalm 65, v. 11-12 acclaims:

"You crown the year with your Goodness  
and your paths drip with abundance..."

We are at the time of the year when there is a surfeit of fruits and vegetables and some appear to ripen within hours of being placed on counters. Share the bounty and avoid waste and above all, expand your culinary imagination: those peaches, nectarines, tomatoes, zucchini and mangoes can be grilled, baked, used in salads and salsas and are welcome at Social Hour or at the Green Team's Share the Harvest table—for which we will all give thanks!

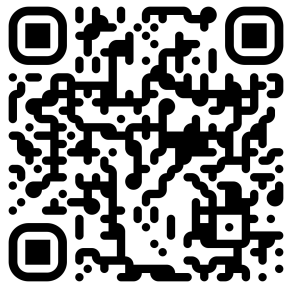
## **STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS**

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.

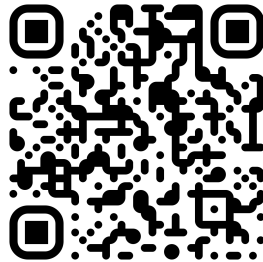
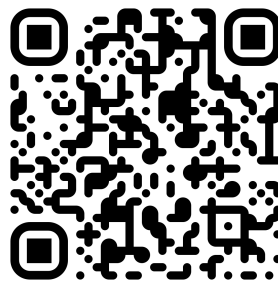
## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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

### JOIN A GROUP



### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



### SUBMIT AN ANNOUNCEMENT

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

***Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier***, *Dearest Jesus, We Are Here*, is a chorale prelude, which is a compositional genre where the composer creates an “arrangement” using a well-known melody as a theme. The chorale, hymn, and melody were composed by Benjamin Schmolck (1672-1737). Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) thought so highly of this chorale that he set it for organ four times.

***God of Grace and God of Glory*** has, for us, the unusual Welsh tune name CWM RHONDDA. The text we know is by the famous American author and Baptist clergyman, Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878–1969). He wrote this text in 1930. The well-known tune was composed in 1905 by John Hughes (1873–1932). He had very little formal education and became a deacon and precentor, both lay minister positions, in his Baptist church. He wrote this tune for a Welsh Baptist choral festival.

***Melodie*** was composed in 1762 by Christoph Willibald Gluck (1714–1787) as part of his opera *Orfeo ed Euridice*. This arrangement was made by the famous violinist Fritz Kreisler (1875–1962). In the opera it is “The Dance of the Blessed Spirits.” Gluck was an early composer in the Classical period which followed the Baroque. He composed for both the Italian and French stages and was known throughout Europe. The story of the opera was famously set by other great composers including Monteverdi and Offenbach. Orfeo “sells his soul” to the devil to save his love from the underworld. This dance is the heartbroken grief of Orfeo at the death of his beloved Euridice.

The text for ***Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*** was written in 1981 by a UCC pastor and teacher of theology, Ronald Cole-Turner (b. 1948). The tune, STUTTGART, was composed in 1715 by Christian Friederich Witt (1660–1716). Witt completed a huge hymnal, *Psalmodia Sacra*, the year before his death. Of the 774 hymns (!!!), he composed nearly 100. He was Kappelmseister of the Gotha court in Stuttgart at the same time that Bach was in Leipzig, just 300 miles north. An interesting side note is that Nathan Laube, world renowned organist and friend of St. Pauls, was until recently on the organ faculty at the Hochschule für Musik in Stuttgart. He has since returned to the faculty at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York.

***Be Thou My Vision*** is a lovely Irish folk tune, SLANE. The translation was made in 1905 from the original Gaelic by Mary E. Byrne (1880–1931), who was born in Ireland. She was a respected university level academic in Dublin.

***Guide My Feet*** is another uplifting spiritual from the African American tradition. It is one of the many songs sung during marches in the civil rights movement of the 1960s. The believer asks God to guide them on the path of life.

***Bring a Little Water Sylvie*** is attributed to Huddie William “Lead Belly” Ledbetter, (1888–1949). He was born in Mooringsport, Mississippi. He never cared for his stage name and always introduced himself as Huddie Ledbetter. He most often accompanied himself on the 12-string guitar, but also played piano, mandolin, violin, harmonica, and windjammer, a version of an accordion. In 1918, he was convicted of murder in Texas, sentenced to 30 years, but was pardoned by the governor in 1925. His national fame resulted from recordings made during the Great Depression by John Lomax (1867–1948), who toured the South recording folk artists for the Smithsonian Museum. When performing this song, Lead Belly would often tell his audiences that the song was about his uncle Bob Ledbetter, who worked out on the fields plowing the soil. When he got thirsty, he would call for his wife, Sylvie, to bring him some water.

The text for ***God Whose Giving Knows No Ending*** was written in 1961 by Robert L. Edwards (1915–2006). He was a Congregational minister who focused on prison ministry, low income senior housing, and other social justice ministries. The words were set to the famous Welsh tune, HYFRYDOL by Rowan Hugh Prichard (1811–1887) when he was only 19. We also sing this tune to the text *Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven* and *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*.

***From the Top of My Head*** was composed by Roy Hargrove (1969–2018). In his all too short life, Hargrove became one of the greats in the jazz performing and recording world. He was a composer whose principal instruments were trumpet and flugelhorn. In addition to jazz, he performed and recorded hip-hop, R & B, gospel, funk, and alternative rock. Born in Waco, Texas, he attended the Berklee College of Music in Boston for one year, but an active performing and recording career ended his formal training. He made and contributed to numerous recordings. His 14-year battle with kidney disease ended with his death in 2018.

## 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](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)**

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.