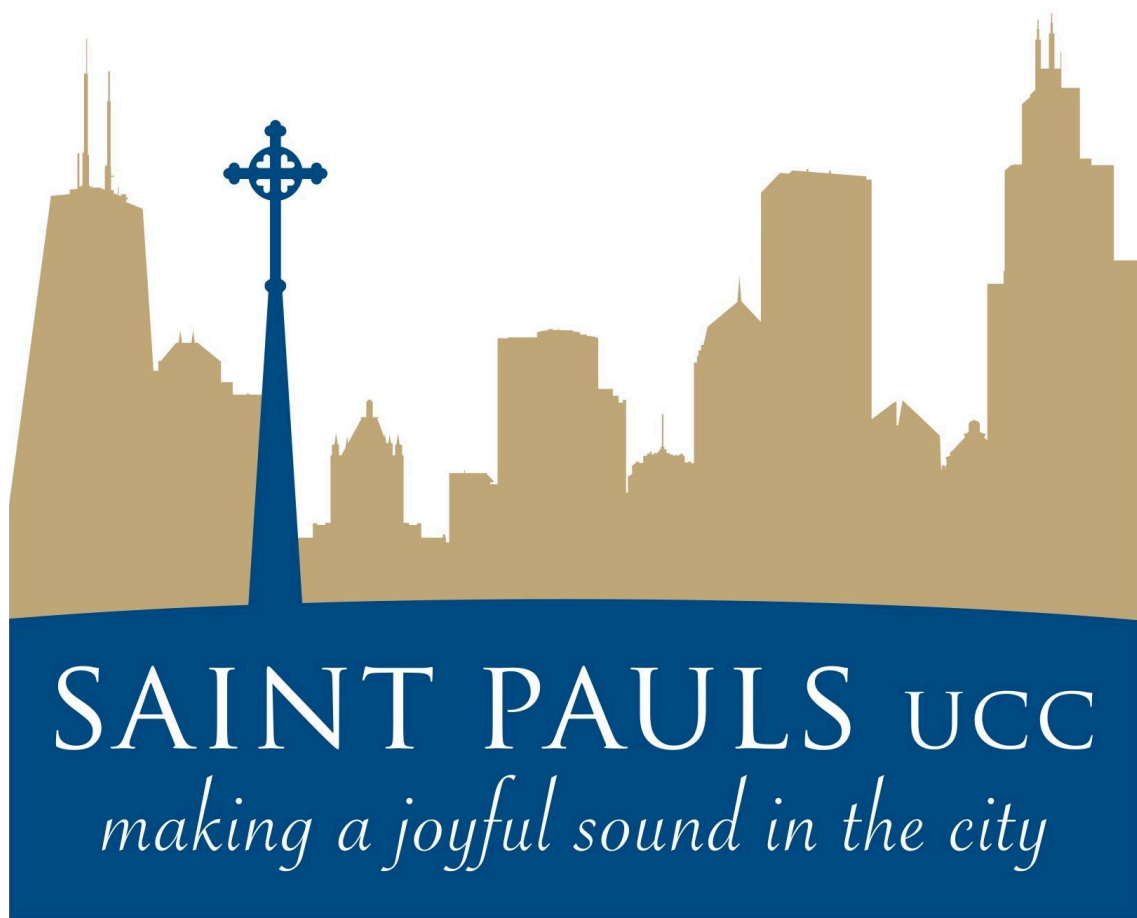




February 23, 2025
New Member Sunday

No matter who you are,
No matter where you are
On life's journey,
You are welcome here.

Please silence cell phones.

Bibles for use during worship are available at each entrance to the Sanctuary. Assisted listening devices and Bluetooth hearing aid guides are in the Narthex. The Nursery and Toddler Room are open for children ages 0-5, from 10 to 11 a.m.

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." - Martin Luther King Jr.

PRELUDE	<i>Mercy, Mercy, Mercy</i>	Jow Zawinul
	St. Arbucks Quartet	

INTROIT *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*
Chancel Choir

CHIMES

WELCOME Jeff Carlson

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Merciful and mighty God, you have called us each here this morning.

All: Help us to turn to you instead of the ways of the world.

One: You teach us about the Kingdom of God, but it is so foreign to us.

All: Give us the fortitude to follow your example and live lives of love.

** 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

**Holy God, we confess our lack of trust in you.
It's too hard to follow you, we feel you ask too much of us
our suspicions, insecurities, and anxieties weigh us down.
Rather than trust in you, we hide behind walls of self-defense.
We trust in the power of wealth and violence for our daily bread,
rather than in your compassion, mercy, and peace.
Free us, O God, from our fears.
Free us from our tribalism.
Free us that we might live wisely and courageously,
Show us how to have compassion for others and extend mercy to them.
Teach us how to reach higher ground.
Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Sunday School students are invited to go to their classrooms.
If you would like to accompany your child(ren),
you are welcome to drop them off and return to worship.*

ANTHEM

Higher Ground
St. Arbucks Quartet
with Ross Penniman

Stevie Wonder

People keep on learning
Soldiers keep on warring
World keep on turning
'Cause it won't be too long

Powers keep on lying
While your people keep on dying
World keep on turning
'Cause it won't be too long

I'm so darn glad He let me try it again
'Cause my last time on Earth, I lived a whole world of sin
I'm so glad that I know more than I knew then
Going to keep on trying
'Til I reach my highest ground

Teachers keep on teaching
Preachers keep on preaching
World keep on turning
'Cause it won't be too long

Lovers keep on loving
Believers keep on believing
Sleepers, just stop sleeping
'Cause it won't be too long

I'm so glad that He let me try it again . . .

'Til I reach my highest ground
No one's gonna bring me down
Oh, no
'Til I reach my highest ground
Don't you let nobody bring you down . . .

SCRIPTURE

Audrey Bettner

Luke 6:27-36

“But I say to you who are willing to hear: Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on the cheek, offer the other one as well. If someone takes your coat, don’t withhold your shirt either. Give to everyone who asks and don’t demand your things back from those who take them. Treat people in the same way that you want them to treat you.

“If you love those who love you, why should you be commended? Even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, why should you be commended? Even sinners do that. If you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, why should you be commended? Even sinners lend to sinners expecting to be paid back in full. Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend expecting nothing in return. If you do, you will have a great reward. You will be acting the way children of the Most High act, for he is kind to ungrateful and wicked people. Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate.

* RESPONSE

Nothing Can Trouble, Nothing Can Frighten

Sing 3 times

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The lyrics are written below the staves.

System 1:
 No - thing can trou - ble, no - thing can frigh - ten.

System 2:
 Those who seek God shall ne - ver go want - ing. No - thing can trou - ble,

System 3:
 no - thing can frigh - ten. God a - lone fills us.

SERMON

"Love Your Enemies"

Liz Nickerson

* HYMN

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

The Chancel Choir will sing the first stanza.



1. There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy, Like the
2. There is wel - come for the sin - ner, And more
3. But we make His love too nar - row By false
4. For the love of God is broad - er Than the
5. If our love were but more sim - ple, We could



wide - ness of the sea; There's a kind - ness
grac - es for the good; There is mer - cy
lim - its of our own; And we mag - ni -
mea - sure of one's mind; And the heart of
take Him at His word; And our lives would



in His jus - tice, Which is more than lib - er - ty.
with the Sav - ior; There is heal - ing in His blood.
- fy His strict - ness With a zeal He will not own.
the E - ter - nal Is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
be more lov - ing In the like - ness of our Lord.

OFFERTORY

Let the People Praise Thee, O God
Chancel Choir

William Mathias

Let the people praise thee, O God:
yea, let all the people praise thee,
O let the nations rejoice and be glad:
for thou shalt judge the folk righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.

Let the people praise thee, O God:
yea, let all the people praise thee.
Then shall the earth bring forth her increase:
and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing.
God shall bless us: and all the ends of the world shall fear him.

God be merciful unto us, and bless us:
and shew us the light of his countenance, and be merciful unto us.
That thy way may be known upon earth:
thy saving health among all nations.

Let all the people praise thee, O God:
yea, let all the people praise thee.
O let the nations rejoice and be glad.
from Psalm 67

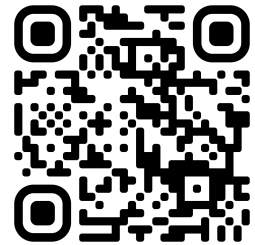
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end, Amen.

You can give to St. Pauls electronically:

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.



*** FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be - low;

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:

Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost; Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS A Dialogue on our Statement of Faith

Pastor Matt: Let us affirm together our faith as we receive these new members into our church.

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

President: God has come to us in Jesus Christ to reconcile and make us new. God works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: We trust God. God calls us to be the church.

Pastor Liz: Will you promise to support this congregation with your time, talent and resources, participating regularly in the worship of Saint Pauls United Church of Christ and contributing to our life and ministry in the city?

New Members: We do promise. With you, we will celebrate God's presence, love and serve others, care for creation, seek justice and resist evil.

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

Congregation: We promise you our love, support, and care.

All: Together we will proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life and death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Matt Fitzgerald

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 Whose 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 - fering 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.

The musical score is written for a vocal part and an organ accompaniment. The key signature has two flats (B-flat major), and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line consists of four measures: the first two contain whole notes (F4 and A4), and the last two contain a half note (F4) followed by a dotted half note (A4). The organ accompaniment consists of four measures: the first two contain whole notes (F4 and A4), and the last two contain a half note (F4) followed by a dotted half note (A4). The lyrics 'A - men, A - men, A - - - men.' are written below the vocal line, with the final 'A' spanning the last two measures.

POSTLUDE

Recessional
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

William Mathias

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Jeff Carlson, Liz Nickerson, Matt Fitzgerald

Acolytes: Coco Schimp, Eva Mack

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: Audrey Bettner

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: Eva Mack, Coco Schimp, Doug Clark, David Falkner

Greeters: Elaine Filus, Mercedes Ridao

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.

BORN THIS WEEK IN FEBRUARY/ MARCH

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.

Feb. 23 Kevin Clarke

Feb. 24 Char Damron, Hannah Hafner

Feb. 25 Blaire De Haan, Martha Phillips, Tracy Taylor

Feb. 26 Tom Klein

Feb. 27 Mia Pensinger-Sok, Patrick Sensenbrenner, Ted Tetzlaff

Feb. 28 Chris Roark

Mar. 1 Drew Brinkoetter, Kent Carter, Tommy Demery

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Member photo removed at request.



Our names are **Kristen Cerne** and **Josh Hirt**. We both grew up in the western suburbs and now live in the West Loop. Josh works in corporate finance for a CPG company and Kristen works as a strategy consultant focused on the commercial insurance sector. For fun, we enjoy trying out different bakeries and walking around the city.



We are **Sue** and **Doug Coe**. We live in Crystal Lake and have frequently come to St. Pauls. We have two adult sons, Todd and Chad. Doug is a retired chief life underwriter. Sue is co-owner of a mental health practice. We are happy to come to hear Todd, Breanna, and Charlie in the wonderful music program. We love the liberal outreach, activism, community support (both within and outside these walls)! We look forward to becoming official members.



We are **Tommy** and **Katie Mosley**. We have been married for three years and live in Lakeview. Tommy runs his own logistics company, and Katie works in management consulting. Our son, Thomas, is 16 months old and has recently started walking, so we spend most of our free time chasing him around.

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.

- Karen L. Johnson, recovering from a fall.
- Sally Acker, recovering from a fall.
- Christa Hamilton at the death of her father.
- David Folkes at the death of his daughter, Sarah Philomena.
- Loved ones of Rachel Joyce at her death.
- Marcia Knudson, as she begins treatment for lung cancer.
- Char Damron asks for prayers for Vicki Kendall and her family following Vicki's recent surgery.
- Wayne Bradley, pursuing ongoing treatment.
- Bob Ball's brother, Phill, being treated for complications associated with leukemia, and Jane, who is Phill's primary caregiver.
- Cheryl Kennedy at the death of Bill Kennedy.

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

FEB 25 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL GROUP - 12-1:30 p.m., Gym

Labyrinth Walk. Adults of all ages are invited to make new friends and reconnect with old ones through lunch, fun and faith. Bring a friend or neighbor. Please bring your own lunch. Childcare provided. Sponsored by St. Pauls Social.

FEB 26 - BIBLE STUDY: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN - 12 p.m., Zoom

John's stories and images have captured the imaginations of Christians in every generation. It's very different from the three other "Synoptic" Gospels in the New Testament, with material all its own. It depicts Jesus as the Good Shepherd, the Bread of Life and the Light of the World, always shining in whatever darkness may come. Led by Pastor Jeff, we meet weekly at noon over Zoom. Sign up here: tinyurl.com/bdzytb33

FEB 27 - MOMS' GROUP - Thursdays, 9:15-10:15 a.m., Youth Lounge

New weekday Moms' group meets at St. Pauls once per month on Thursdays from 9:15-10:15 a.m. on February 27, March 20, April 24 and May 22. Being a mom is the hardest job in the world! So 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.

MAR 4 - MARDI GRAS FAMILY POTLUCK - 5-6:30 p.m., Oscar Mayer Room

Save the date for a Fat Tuesday feast! Bring a dish/beverage to share. Attire: purple, green, gold, casual, or costume. Fellowship, fun, and food - open to all! Share what you are bringing here: <https://tinyurl.com/ytpu34c>. Point of contact: Erin Fitzgerald erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org.

MAR 9 - PRE-ANNUAL MEETING BUDGET REVIEW - 11 a.m., Room 028 (Old Confirmation Room)

Join us after worship on Sunday, March 9, for a deeper dive into St. Pauls finances. Treasurer Allen Heinemann and the Finance Committee will present an overview and be available to answer your questions.

MAR 16 - ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary

Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation after worship on Sunday, March 16. We will vote on the 2025 budget and learn about the activities of 2024 and plans going into 2025.

MAR 16 - BLOOD DRIVE - 8 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room and Gym

Save the Date to save more lives! Saint Pauls will be sponsoring another blood drive on March 16 and hope you can sign up to donate! And bring friends!

Appointments are encouraged. Your life-saving gift of blood can save up to THREE lives! The need for blood is constant and only volunteer donors can fulfill that need for patients in our community.

Nationwide, someone needs a unit of blood every 2 to 3 seconds and most of us will need blood in our lifetime. Sign up in advance by reserving a time slot via the QR code:



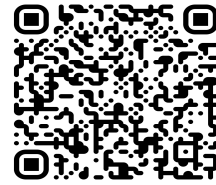
MARCH 16 - SACK LUNCH MAKING FOR LPCS SHELTER - 11 a.m., Kitchen

Make a difference by joining us after worship in the church kitchen today and on Sunday, March 16, as we prepare brown bag lunches for clients at the Lincoln Park Community Services shelter. Learn more about the shelter at www.lpcschicago.org. We'll begin right after worship (around 11 a.m.) and deliver the lunches to their location at 600 W. Fullerton. We will provide all the food needed, but volunteers are asked to donate \$25 (cash or via Venmo/Zelle) to help cover the cost of the lunches. To sign up, please visit tinyurl.com/2v92p898. If you have questions or need more information, please email Mark Pellegrino at jjmarkp@yahoo.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW! OPT-IN TO TEXTING FROM SAINT PAULS

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



WE NEED BOXES & BINS

Construction at St. Pauls starts very soon! As Church School & Little Lights classes shift into the south end of the building, we need large plastic bins with lids or sturdy boxes to help move items into their new location/storage area. Please drop off any extra containers you have in the main office no later than Wednesday, February 26. We appreciate your help. Thank you!

LITTLE LIGHTS SUMMER CAMP

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

BIBLE OFF BROADWAY GRATITUDE

Infinite thanks go to everyone who contributed to our Bible Off Broadway production of "SHE-roles of the Bible"! We thank the marvelous youthful SHE-roles and narrators, the supporting cast, and the many other youthful players from age 3 to 18 who sang and danced so wonderfully, the adult group leaders who coached and choreographed (and coerced) the many groups, the musicians and videographers and sound team, the parents/grandparents/friends who shepherded the kids to rehearsals and provided snacks, and especially the BOB leadership team who led the entire process from conception to delivery! Thanks also to the church pastors, staff, and Council who support, fund, and facilitate this multi-decade effort with such enthusiasm. Nearly 500 service attendees who watched in person or online were entertained, enlightened, and inspired!

WINDY CITY WINDS CONCERT – MARCH 14

Come hear Windy City Winds, “Chicago’s Community Band,” in a free concert Friday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Pauls UCC (also live-streamed at spucc.org/streaming). The program theme is “Looking Upward: Music Inspired by Stars and Planets,” featuring music by Gustav Holst, John Philip Sousa, John Williams and two contemporary composers. Dr. Kevin Gerald, director of bands at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, will be the guest conductor. The event will also include the band’s annual raffle where audience members can win fabulous prizes! Windy City Winds is a 60-piece symphonic band conducted by Mark Mosley and Sarah Good Mosley.

JUMPSTART GYM – JANUARY 7-MARCH 19

Parents/Caregivers supervise children ages 0-3 in an open-ended environment. Take advantage of our beautiful full-size gym while it's cold outside and your little one needs a place to get those wiggles out! Jumpstart Gym continues on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9-9:45 a.m. through March 19. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/3hnt2rjw>. Reach out to Erin Fitzgerald at littlelights@spucc.org if you have any questions. Thank you!

JOIN OUR INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA

Do you play an orchestral string, woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument? If so, please join the St. Pauls UCC Intergenerational Orchestra as we prepare to perform in worship on Sunday, March 16. Orchestra members range in age from 10 to 100! Rehearsals are immediately after church for about an hour in the Oscar Mayer Room on February 23, March 2 and March 9. If you are interested, please contact our conductor Mark Mosley at (773) 732-0625 or mwmosley@gmail.com. Please join us as together we “Make a Joyful Sound in the City!”

NEW SMALL GROUPS! SHORT CIRCLES: REGISTER TODAY

Short Circles are small groups for people who want to experience growth in their spiritual lives. In circles of 6-8 people, we will connect to God and one another. We will meet for 50-60 minutes once a week for six weeks beginning in early February. Each week, your Short Circle will focus on a few short verses of scripture using the ancient method of “lectio divina” or “spiritual reading.” The aim is for you to discover what God is calling you to do or to become in 2025. Upon registration, you will indicate whether you prefer to meet in person or via Zoom, along with your day/evening preferences. Register here: tinyurl.com/mry4acbf

CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Please register your K-6th Sunday School students, 7th and 8th grade Confirmation students, and high school class members by scanning this QR code.



PALESTINE STUDY GROUP

Broaden your understanding of the Israel-Palestine conflict in this thoughtful and supportive group. All are welcome. Contact David Burnett at burnett.db@gmail.com.

“HEALING HEARTS” PET SUPPORT GROUP: ST. PAULS PET LOSS COMMUNITY

Are you struggling with losing a beloved furry friend/companion/animal assistant? Losing a pet can be one of the most heart-wrenching experiences in life. At St. Pauls, we understand the deep bond you shared with your beloved pet/family member and we're here to offer support, understanding and a virtual shoulder to lean on. To join, visit tinyurl.com/healing-hearts-support. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 7-8 p.m. Age 18+ only, 30 participants maximum.

FAITH IN ACTION MESSAGING GROUP

Some people call it showing up for a protest or marching against a government policy. Others call it public witnessing for the values inherent in our faith. Most of us appreciate being able to do both with like-minded members of our congregation. Members and friends of St. Pauls can join this group. If you'd like to receive advance email notice of such protests, gatherings or advocacy opportunities – frequently on short notice due to swift governmental action - or to invite others in the group to join you in an advocacy opportunity – join Faith in Action. Register here: tinyurl.com/wuphf495.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

As Black History Month draws to a close, here's a commercial about studying American history as it has affected African Americans. This history is not something one has either learned or not learned. It is a deep well of information, insight and wisdom. Its principal lesson lies not in knowing what happened before the Civil War, but in encompassing the enormity of what has happened—to how many people, for how long, in how many repeating patterns, and WHY. When history has been banned, we must carry the whole of it in our hearts, until we reach more fertile soil.

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

Taking Individual Initiative

There are many things we can do as individuals to counteract some of the policy changes at the federal level. We can:

1. Walk, bike, and use public transportation. Even in the cold, it can lift your spirits. If you must have a car, consider a hybrid.
2. Repurpose, recycle and donate to those in need, thereby freeing your household of unwanted stuff. Compost organics. Buy less and emphasize a plant-based diet.
3. Conserve energy: turn off lights, use a thermostat, and set it to two degrees warmer in summer and two degrees colder in winter.
4. Avoid single-use plastics: straws, cups, bottles, plastic utensils.
5. Share a shower and there is no need to flush every time the toilet is used.

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS

Our Stephen Ministers are here for you if you are going through a tough time. Extensively trained in compassionate Christian caregiving, Stephen Ministers are matched confidentially with someone in our congregation who is going through a crisis, such as the death of a loved one, a diagnosis, a divorce, a job loss, etc. They meet with you once a week for an hour to offer support through listening, companionship and prayer. If you wonder whether having a Stephen Minister might be helpful for you, please speak with Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org. Every one of us could benefit from a Stephen Minister at some point in our lives.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

For St. Pauls sponsored events, send to info@spucc.org by 10 a.m. on Wednesdays for publication in the Friday email and next Sunday bulletin. Share personal announcements/ events on our Facebook group page, St. Pauls Together. **Please limit announcements to 100 words.** Thank you!

St. Pauls UCC
Giving Campaign 2025
October 27, 2024 – January 14, 2025
Grand Total: \$1,030,149.82

\$1,000,000
\$950,000
\$900,000
\$800,000
\$700,000
\$600,000
\$500,000
\$400,000
\$300,000
\$200,000
\$100,000

Embrace, Nurture, Inspire

WELCOME TO ST. PAULS!

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



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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

JOIN A GROUP



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



TODAY'S MUSIC

Joe Zawinul (1932-2007) was an Austrian jazz keyboardist and composer. He played with Miles Davis and went on to create jazz fusion, which 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.

The text for ***There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*** was written in 1862 by Fredrick William Faber (1814-1863). Faber was an Anglican clergyman who converted late in life to Roman Catholicism. He wrote more than 150 hymns. The tune, WELLESLEY, was composed in 1877 by Lizzie Tourjée (1858-1913). She was born into a musical home in Newport, Rhode Island. Her father, Eben, was a famed music educator, organist and composer who founded the New England Conservatory of Music. He encouraged his daughter's composition skills and she composed this tune when she was 17.

Holy, Holy, Holy - It is interesting to note that the text for this hymn draws from both Jewish and Catholic liturgies. 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. He won poetry contests at Oxford in his student days, 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.

Higher Ground was composed and recorded in 1973 by Stevie Wonder (b. 1950), whose given name at birth was Stevland Hardaway Judkins. Mr. Wonder said that the lyrics speak of "people who are moving ahead in love and in all phases of life." He continued, "For me, I wrote *Higher Ground* even before the accident. But something must have been telling me that something was going to happen to make me aware of a lot of things and to get myself together. This is like my second chance for life, to do something or to do more, and to value the fact that I am alive." The accident he speaks of was a serious car accident that left him in a coma for four days.

Nothing Can Trouble, Nothing Can Frighten is an English translation of an original Spanish text, *Nada te turbe, nada te espante*, written by St. Teresa of Avila (1551-1582). She was a Spanish carmelite nun who was canonized by Pope Gregory XV 40 years after her death. In 1970, Pope Paul proclaimed Teresa the first female Doctor of the Church, acknowledging her spiritual gifts to the Catholic Church. The translation was made by the Taizé community in France.

Let the People Praise Thee, O God Op.87 was composed on a commission for the wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana in 1981. William Mathias (1934-1992) was born in Wales and was a child prodigy on piano. He was deeply affected by the strong choral tradition in Wales, and is of the same generation of the large and productive contemporary English school of composers that includes John Rutter.

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*.

Recessional was composed in 1964 by William Mathias (1934-1992). He was a Welsh composer who composed opera, chamber music, choral music and works for orchestra. He was a child prodigy, beginning piano at age 3 and composing at age 5. One of his best known works, *Let the People Praise Thee, O Lord*, which is our Offertory Anthem today, was written on commission for the wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana in 1982.

Special Music Theme for 2024-2025

HEAR Ye! + Bach

Enjoy another year of special music during worship services.

H- Hebrew

E - English

A - Austrian

R - Russian

November 3, 2024 - Reformation Sunday - *Lobet den Herrn* - Bach

December 8, 2024 - Christmas Cantata (Hebrew & English)

Nachamu, nachamu ami - Max Janowski (*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*)

Fantasia on Christmas Carols - Ralph Vaughan Williams

with guest artist William Buchman, from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra

February 16, 2025 - Northwestern University Chapel Choir – Guest choir in worship

March 9, 2025 - *Komm, Jesu, komm* - Bach

April 6, 2025 - (Austria) - *Requiem* - Mozart

May 18, 2025 - (Russian) - *Symphony of Psalms* - Stravinsky/Shostakovich

Mark these dates in your calendar!

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 181 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
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WELCOME TO SAINT PAULS UCC!

Welcome to those whose hearts are on fire with faith,
and to those who bring their doubt inside our doors.

Welcome to our first time guests and
our longtime members.

Welcome to single people, tiny children,
grandparents and families of all configurations.

Welcome to those who rejoice and to those who grieve.

Welcome to LGBTQ+ people.

Welcome to each and to everyone.

We are blessed by your presence and
we are glad you are here.