



September 14, 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

"A test of what is real is that it is hard and rough. Joys are found in it."

Simone Weil

PRELUDE

Amazing Grace
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

arr. George Shearing

INTROIT

Alleluia
Chancel Choir

Henry Purcell

CHIMES

WELCOME

Liz Nickerson

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We ask ourselves, "Who am I to be brilliant ,
gorgeous, talented, fabulous?"

All: Actually, who are you not to be?

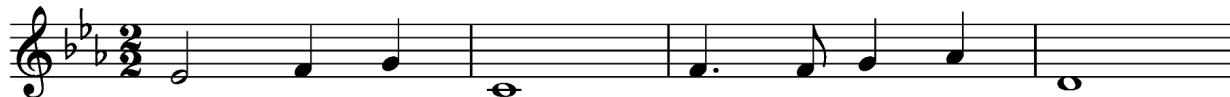
One: You are a child of God redeemed by Christ!
Playing small doesn't serve the world.

**All: We are born to shine with the glory God has
given us! Praise God. Amen.**

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

* HYMN

Bring Many Names



1. Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good,
2. Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and day,
3. Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - ery child,
4. Old, ach - ing God, grey with end - less care,
5. Young, grow - ing God, ea - ger, on the move,
6. Great, liv - ing God, nev - er ful - ly known,



cel - e - brate, in par - a - ble and sto - ry, ho - li -
plan - ning all the won - ders of cre - a - tion, set - ting
feel - ing all the strains of hu - man liv - ing, car - ing
calm - ly pierc - ing e - vil's new dis - guis - es, glad of
say - ing no to false - hood and un - kind - ness, cry - ing
joy - ful dark - ness far be - yond our see - ing, clos - er



-ness in glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God.
each e - qua - tion, gen - i - us at play:
and for - giv - ing till we're rec - on - ciled:
good sur - pris - es, wis - er than de - spair:
out for jus - tice, giv - ing all you have:
yet than breath - ing, ev - er - last - ing home:



Hail and Ho - san - na! bring man - y names!
Hail and Ho - san - na, strong moth - er God!
Hail and Ho - san - na, warm fa - ther God!
Hail and Ho - san - na, old, ach - ing God!
Hail and Ho - san - na, young, grow - ing God!
Hail and Ho - san - na, great, liv - ing God!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liz Nickerson

**God, it is not easy to wait for you.
Our world worships power, acting quickly through force.
How difficult it is
to wait for the power of your rule
which comes slowly through love.
We admit,
that even as we desire
your reign of peace,
we place our faith in violence.
Let that truth alarm us.
And then alarmed, let us repent.
Forgive us.
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

The Architect

Kacey Musgraves

Lucy Godinez, soloist and Brendan Henry, piano

Even something as small as an apple
It's simple and somehow complex
Sweet and divine
The perfect design
Can I speak to the architect?

And there's a canyon that cuts through
the desert
Did it get there because of a flood?
Was it devised or were you surprised
When you saw how grand it was?

Was it thought out at all
Or just paint on a wall
Is there anything that you regret?
I don't understand
Are there blueprints or plans
Can I speak to the architect?

Sometimes, I look in the mirror
And wish I could make a request
Could I pray it away
Am I shapable clay
Or is this as good as it gets?
One day, you're on top of the mountain
So high that you'll never come down

Then the wind at your back
Carries ember and ash
That burns your whole house to the
ground

Is it thought out at all

I thought that I was too broken
And maybe too hard to love
I was in a weird place
Then I saw the right face
And the stars and the planets lined up

Does it happen by chance
Is it all happenstance
Do we have any say in this mess?
Is it too late
To make some more space
Can I speak to the architect?

This life that we make, is it random or
fate
Can I speak to the architect?

Is there an architect?

SCRIPTURE

David Faulkner

Luke 15:1-10

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

* 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.**

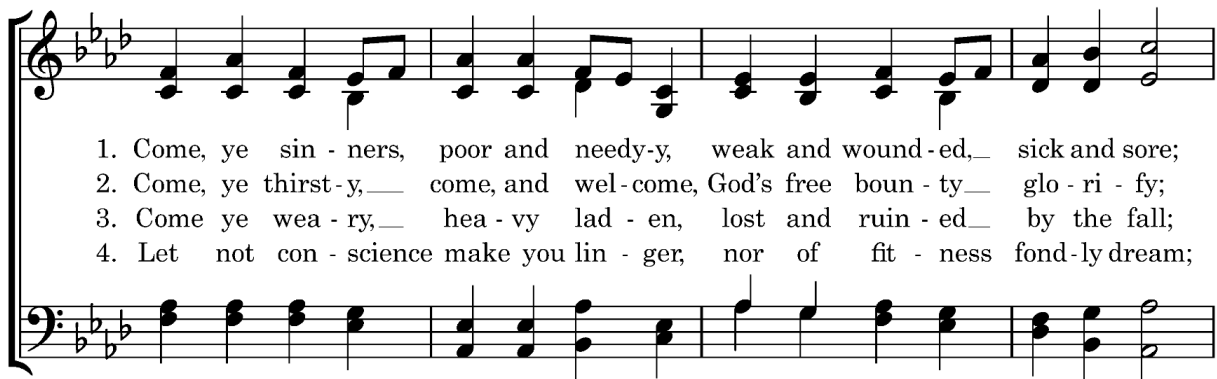
In life and death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

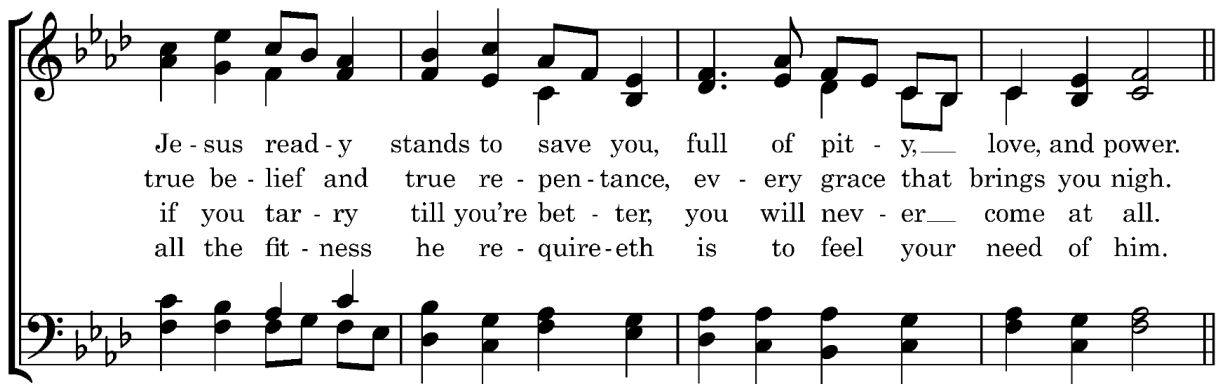
(adapted from the United Church of Canada)

* RESPONSE


Come Ye Sinners, Poor And Needy



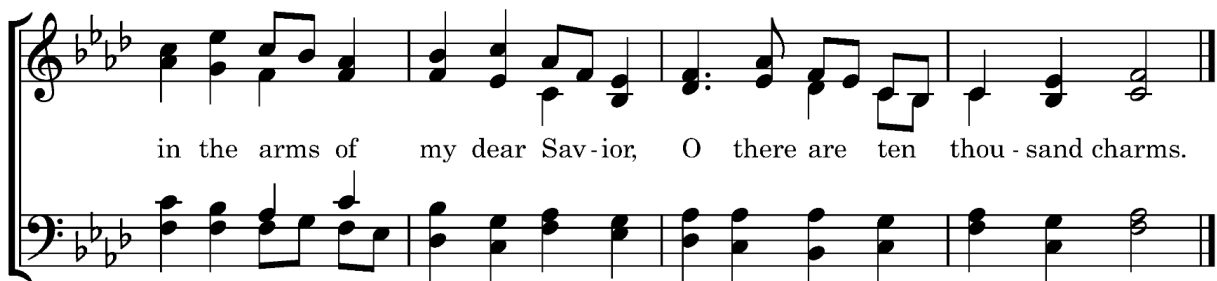
1. Come, ye sin - ners, poor and needy-y, weak and wound-ed, sick and sore;
2. Come, ye thirst-y, come, and wel-come, God's free boun - ty glo - ri - fy;
3. Come ye wea - ry, hea - vy lad - en, lost and ruin - ed by the fall;
4. Let not con - science make you lin - ger, nor of fit - ness fond-ly dream;



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



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



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

SERMON

"More Joy"

Matt Fitzgerald

* HYMN

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

1. My_ shep - herd will sup - ply my_ need; Je - ho - vah
2. When I walk through the shades of_ death Thy pres - ence
3. The sure pro - vi - sions of my_ God At - tend me

is his name: In_ pas - tures fresh he makes me_ feed, Be -
is my stay; One word of_ thy sup - port - ing_ breath Drives
all my days; O_ may thy_ house be my a - bode, And

- side the liv - ing stream. He brings my_ wan - dering spir - it_
all my fears a - way. Thy hand, in_ sight of all my_
all my work be praise. There would I_ find a set - tled

back, When I for - sake his ways; And_ leads me,_
foes, Doth still my_ ta - ble spread; My_ cup with
rest, While oth - ers_ go and come; No_ more a_

for his mer - cy's_ sake, In_ paths of truth and grace.
bless - ings o - ver - flows, Thine oil a - noints my head.
stran - ger, nor a_ guest, But_ like a child at home.

OFFERTORY

Psalm 150
Chancel Choir

César Franck

Hallelujah.

O praise ye the Lord, In His sanctuary;
Praise ye the Lord in the firmament of His power.

Praise ye Him for His mighty acts,
Praise ye Him, according to His majesty.

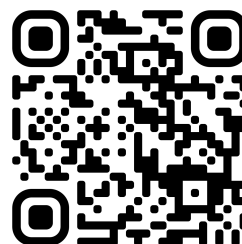
Praise ye Him with the sound of the trumpet,
Praise ye Him with the psaltery and harp.
Praise ye Him with the timbrel.
Praise ye Him with the dance,
Praise Him with the organ and stringed instruments.

Praise ye Him upon the loud cymbals.
Praise ye Him upon the high sounding cymbals.
Let every thing that hath breath,
Praise the Lord in the firmament of His power.

Praise ye Him for his mighty acts.
Praise ye Him, according to His majesty.
Hallelujah!

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.*

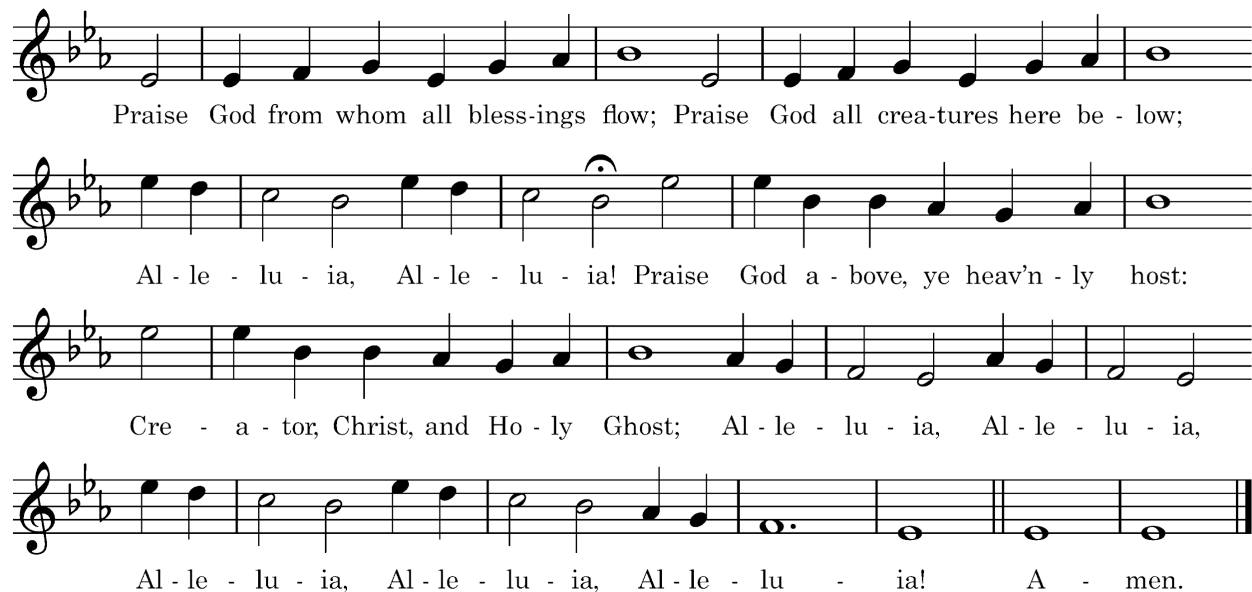


WELCOME CARD

*If you are a visitor, welcome! Thank you for
worshiping with us today!
If 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.

COMMISSIONING OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Matt Fitzgerald

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

Amazing Grace



1. A - maz - ing_ grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a__
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my__
3. Through man - y__ dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al -
4. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright shin - ing__



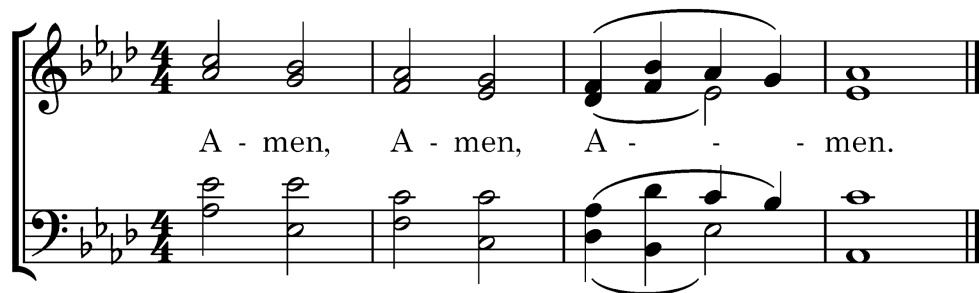
wretch like me!_____ I once_____ was_ lost, but
 fears re - lieved;_____ How pre - cious did that
 - ready - y come;_____ 'Tis grace_____ has brought me
 as the sun,_____ We've no_____ less_ days to



now_____ am_ found, was blind, but_ now I see._____
 grace_____ ap - pear the hour I_____ first be - lieved!_____
 safe_____ thus far, and grace will_ lead me home._____
 sing_____ God's praise than when we'd first be - gun._____
 sing_____ God's praise than when we'd first be - gun._____

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



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

POSTLUDE

I Saw the Light
 St. Arbucks Quartet

Hank Williams

If you would like someone to pray with you today, Stephen Ministers are present after the postlude at the right front of the Sanctuary.

***Following Worship, all are invited for coffee and snacks in the Gym.
 If you're visiting, be sure to stop by the Welcome Table so we can greet you and you can find out more about St. Pauls!***

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

Scripture Reader: David Faulkner

Worship Assistant: Jeff Wagner

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, Doug Clark, 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

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are donated by Marcia Opp and Jon Ekdahl in loving memory of Melba and Armel Opp and Dorothy and Oscar Ekdahl.

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

***A SPECIAL DONATION** has been given by Fred Pearson in honor of Mead Gifford.*

BORN THIS WEEK IN SEPTEMBER

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.

Sep. 14 Hannah Bryant

Sep. 15 Janet Musich, Linda Nitzsche, Sean Atkinson

Sep. 16 Marcel Baumann, Melinda Stinnett, Sylvia Pine

Sep. 17 Jeff Johnson

Sep. 18 Sean Patton

Sep. 20 Doug Coe, Ethan Ashley-Ferguson, Joe Harrington

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.

You may also share your request at tinyurl.com/3j6sayku.

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.

- Loved ones of Evert Martin at his death. An interment service will be held on October 15th at 3 p.m. in the St. Pauls Memorial Garden.
- Liz Kurman's brother, Fred, healing from injuries after a fall at his home.
- Liode, a single mom with two children, and a former student of Deb Bayly, in need of stable housing and a job.
- Doug Dobmeyer's nephew Ben, who was found after he had gone missing and who struggles with mental health issues in Atlanta.
- Kate and Angus Atkins-Trimnell, Pastor Liz's sister and brother-in-law, for Angus' father, Ralph, who has entered hospice.
- Sue Derison recovering from her cardiac ablation on August 19.
- Pat Kirby, struggling with an infection at home.
- 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.
- Wayne Bradley, pursuing ongoing treatment.

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-DEDICATION OF SAINT PAULS HOUSE WINDOW-After Worship

Have you seen the "new" stained glass window in the rear stairwell near the restrooms and Pastor Matt's office? Please join us after worship for a short dedication of this window. It depicts Christ's transfiguration and once greeted residents and guests to St. Pauls House. Gather outside Matt's office. We will celebrate the window and remember St. Pauls House, which the church founded in the early 1900s as a "churchly home for the elderly."

TODAY-YOUNG ADULT FALL KICK-OFF BRUNCH-Immediately After Worship

If you are in your 20s or early 30s, you are invited to make new friends and enjoy good conversation over lunch! Meet at the bell bench in the courtyard and join our GroupMe at tinyurl.com/2fka6y73 or email youngadults@spucc.org to RSVP.

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

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.

SEPTEMBER 18-MOMS' GROUP-9:15-10:15 a.m., Room 028

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

SEPTEMBER 20-LITTLE LIGHTS OPEN HOUSE-9:30-11:30 a.m., Classrooms & Gym

Looking for a place to get those wiggles out on a Saturday morning? Drop in at St. Pauls for some free play in the gym! Mini-bounce house, coffee & snacks provided. Explore Little Lights classrooms and learn about our program. Bring a friend! Open to the community. Reach out to Erin Fitzgerald at littlelights@spucc.org to learn more.

SEPTEMBER 20-MONTROSE BEACH CLEANUP-9-11 a.m.,

Join the St. Pauls Green Team for this event, sponsored by Alliance for the Great Lakes (AGL). As part of the International Coastal Cleanup project, we will join with others around the world to clean and celebrate our seashores. We will pick up trash, which is then weighed and documented by type for scientific research and policy decision-making. For more info, see tinyurl.com/42uy9anw. All participants should register with AGL and sign an online waiver, at tinyurl.com/5as644ad. In addition, please email at GreenTeamReg@att.net so we can coordinate where to meet.

SEPTEMBER 23-FOOD FOR THE SOUL GROUP-12-1:30 p.m., Social Hall

"What's Next: Campaign to Expand & Elevate Our Openness." Discussion facilitated by Jana O'Brien. 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 28-LADIES NIGHT OUT-5:30-7 p.m., Kendra Scott on Southport

Join women for sips and sweets, socializing at the beautiful Kendra Scott store at 3426 N. Southport! A purchase is not required, but 20% of every purchase will be given to the Migrant Housing Project - Legal Fund! Or stop in anytime on Sunday and tell them you are with St. Pauls and 20% of your purchase will go to the Migrant Housing Legal Fund! RSVP at tinyurl.com/59nx74ck.

OCTOBER 5-FIESTA FOR FUNDS-11 a.m., Gym

Join us after worship on October 5 for "Fiesta for Funds," a silent auction to raise funds for our Migrant Legal Fund, along with an all-church potluck. Funds raised 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 items to the auction. We are seeking

auction lots such as gift cards/vouchers, handmade items, event tickets, and more!

We hope our whole congregation gets involved in this event- whether you come for a meal, for bidding, or both!



OCTOBER 14-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. October 14 - *Emma*; November 11 - *Northanger Abbey*; December 16 - *Persuasion*.

OCTOBER 19–VACCINATION CLINIC BY MARIANO’S PHARMACY–9 a.m., Gym
Vaccinations will be provided by Mariano’s pharmacy, including Covid boosters, shingles, pneumonia, and flu shots. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Please remember to bring your Covid vaccine card and your Medicare card or insurance card. Registration will be announced soon.

NOVEMBER 9–PHASE II DEDICATION CELEBRATION–11:15 a.m., Courtyard & Gym
Save the date for Sunday, November 9, when Saint Pauls will dedicate the completed Phase II capital construction project making our entire public church complex accessible and creating an open-air plaza for church services, events, and gatherings. The dedication will take place on the new plaza immediately after the worship service, to be followed by an "Oktoberfest in November" lunch in the gym featuring traditional brats, pretzels, cider, strudel, and (of course!) beer. Come celebrate the results of our congregation's vision and deep generosity—and invite your friends to the open house event to see the "new" Saint Pauls!

NOVEMBER 16–SAVE LIVES - DONATE AT ST. PAULS BLOOD DRIVE– 8 a.m., Gym
Save the Date to save more lives! Saint Pauls will be sponsoring another blood drive on November 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:



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENTERING ST. PAULS BETWEEN 9/15 and 10/8 is OK!

Good news! Our "Expand and Elevate" project is unfolding beautifully. Exterior construction will soon expand to the south end of the courtyard. As a result, our two primary doors will be inaccessible for three weeks. The temporary accessibility entrance on Fullerton for those using walkers and wheelchairs will remain unchanged.

Beginning Monday, September 15, the office entrance on Orchard and the main Sanctuary entrance on Orchard will both be blocked. During this time, we will enter St. Pauls through the Kemper Sanctuary door and through the alley door. The Kemper Sanctuary door is at the corner of Orchard and Kemper. If you get confused, remember that entering the church on Sunday is "OK!" On weekdays and evenings, the alley entrance will be used. This door is equipped with a doorbell, intercom, and camera. After you ring the doorbell, the door will automatically unlock. In the evenings, staff will be nearby to assist when meetings are scheduled. On Sunday mornings, the alley entrance will remain a good way to enter the building. Additionally, the Kemper Sanctuary entrance will be available.

The alley entrance is behind the building. The alley runs east and west parallel to Fullerton, and then doglegs left when it reaches the east end of our building, running north and south along the back of Saint Pauls. We can enter the alley via the back of the church parking lot on Kemper or at the alley opening between St. Pauls and the home at 644 W. Kemper.

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!



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.



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.

SEPTEMBER'S BLAST FROM THE PAST

St. Pauls was founded in 1843 by German immigrants and our rich history continues to this day. Our archives, housed in four rooms and a vault, include photos, documents, artifacts, tapes, videos, books, and all bound bulletins and newsletters, along with marriage, baptism, death, and membership records—many in original German script dating back to 1846. These items are stored in file drawers, archival boxes, cabinets, shelves, and a cabinet of more than 40 storyboards. A bronze plaque on the Clark Street bridge commemorates the sinking of “The Christmas Tree” ship. We’ll be sharing more stories in upcoming bulletins.

NEW SMALL GROUPS! SHORT CIRCLES: REGISTER TODAY

Get Closer to God This Fall! Short Circles are six-session small groups for people who want to grow closer to God with others. In these circles we will connect to God and one another. We will meet for 50-60 minutes once a week for six weeks, beginning the week of September 21 and concluding the week of November 2. Each week your Short Circle will focus on the scripture passage used in worship the coming Sunday, 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. Short Circles offer a remarkable opportunity to grow in faith and bond with others. We will offer both in-person and Zoom groups. Register here: tinyurl.com/un8esxmy. Questions? Contact Pastor Matt at mfitzgerald@spucc.org.

WALKING TOUR AND S'MORES ON THE WILD MILE

The Green Team connects St. Pauls with meaningful ecological activities for parishioners of all ages. The Wild Mile uses suspended gardens to revitalize the banks of the Chicago River, providing habitats and increasing the spectrum of native fauna and flora. This site is handicapped accessible.

Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Times: 5:30–6:15 p.m. – Walking Tour

6–8 p.m. – S'Mores Night

Located on the North Branch of the Chicago River, 905 Eastman Street, Lincoln Park (two blocks south of Whole Foods). RSVP at UrbanRivers.org or contact Ninon Freeman for more information.

DRIVERS/TRANSPORTATION AIDES NEEDED

We need volunteers to drive individuals to church on Sundays or occasional appointments and accompany a congregant to church on Sunday on the Pace bus round trip. This is a great way for you to make a real difference. For details please contact Pastor Liz at lnickerson@spucc.org.

CHILDREN/YOUTH MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There are many ways you can serve as a volunteer with the children and youth ministry at events, with Sunday School, and in the nursery. If you love nurturing children, this is a fun way to make a difference! Volunteers complete a background check and always serve in pairs of two, following our child safety policy. 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 nursery childcare slot here: tinyurl.com/2j5dy6fp or contact Pastor Liz at lnickerson@spucc.org to learn more about other opportunities to help.

SHARE THE HARVEST

The Green Team will have a table set up during Social Hour through the fall where extra seeds, plants and herbs can be shared.

VOLUNTEER AS A SOCIAL HOUR HOST

Visiting a new church can feel intimidating—especially walking into Social Hour without knowing anyone. We're looking for volunteers to serve as Social Hour hosts. The role is simple: be on the lookout for people you don't know, greet them, and help them feel welcome. They might be new to St. Pauls or simply someone you haven't met yet. Either way, you'll brighten their day and make new friends. You can volunteer once a month, once a quarter, or whenever it works for you. Sign up to host on an upcoming Sunday here: tinyurl.com/3f384fcm.

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.

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.

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.

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.

"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

Reopening of the Alfred Caldwell Lily Pond

The Caldwell Lily Pond is a National Historical Landmark designed by visionary landscape architect Alfred Caldwell in the mid-1930s to incorporate prairie plantings and a river/pond habitat. Mr. Caldwell intended the Lily Pond to be a place of reflection and escape from city life.

Neglected for many decades, the Lily Pond was restored in 2002 and then once again beginning in 2024. The reopening date was September 8, 2025. The Lily Pond is a 20-minute walk at 125 West Fullerton Parkway. For the new hours, key in "lincolnparkconservancy.org" and then "Alfred Caldwell Lily Pond."

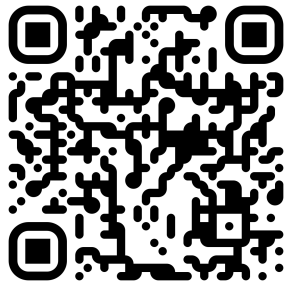
STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS

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.

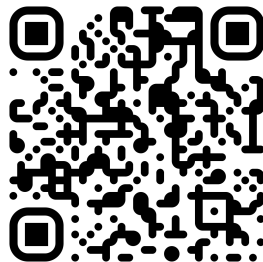
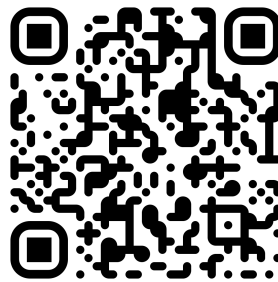
WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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

The text for ***Amazing Grace*** is by John Newton (1725-1807), who was a slave ship captain, but became an Anglican clergyman and fervent abolitionist. He once said that writing this text saved his soul. The tune, NEW BRITAIN, is most likely an African American spiritual and was first published in 1829. The arranger, George Shearing (1919-2011), was a well-known jazz pianist, composer and singer. Born blind in Britain, he rose from a very humble upbringing. His father was a coal miner and his mother cleaned trains. Complex and yet subtle harmonies characterized his playing style. It became well known that he expected audiences in clubs where he played to be quiet.

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

The text for ***Bring Many Names*** was written by Brian A. Wren (b. 1936). He is a major British contributor to contemporary hymn writing. He was a pastor of a Congregational Church in Essex. WESTCHASE was composed in 1989 by Carlton R. Young (b.1926). He served in World War II and became a teacher, editor, composer and conductor. He edited two editions of the United Methodist Hymnal.

Kacey Lee Musgraves (b. 1988) composed both the lyric and music for ***The Architect*** in 2023 with Josh Osborne (b. 1980) and Shane McAnally (b. 1974). This song was recorded in 2024 on her sixth studio album, *Deeper Well*. The song went on to win the Grammy for Best Country Song. Musgraves began her career in the early 2000s by self-producing three albums. She was born in Texas and began writing songs at age 8. She first learned to play the mandolin before taking guitar lessons. She also learned to play the harmonica.

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

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need employs a text by the great English poet and hymnodist, Issac Watts (1674-1748). Watts set the entire book of Psalms poetically,

many of which we still sing today, notably *Our God Our Help in Ages Past*. RESIGNATION is another hymn melody whose composer is unattributed and is from the great early American hymnal, *The Sacred Harp*.

César Franck (1822-1890), the composer of this setting of ***Psalm 150***, was born in Belgium, son of a German mother. He studied at Paris Conservatory and settled in Paris in 1844. He was also an organist (eventually at the church of Ste. Clotilde, Paris) and a noted teacher. Among his students were Henri Duparc, Charles Tournemire and Louis Vièrne. He composed chamber music, piano and organ works, many songs, religious cantatas, and four operas.

The text for ***Amazing Grace*** is by John Newton (1725-1807) who was a slave ship captain, but became an Anglican clergyman and fervent abolitionist. He once said that writing this text saved his soul. The tune, NEW BRITAIN, is most likely an African American spiritual first published in 1829.

I Saw the Light was composed and recorded in 1952 by Hank Williams (1923-1953). He was a beloved country music singer and composer. In his all-too-short life, he recorded 35 singles, 11 of those reaching No.1 on the Country & Western charts.

Joyful Sounds

Enjoy another year of special music during worship services.

Advent/Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 7, 2025

***Magnificat* - John Rutter**

with orchestra in worship

Lenten Cantata

Sunday, March 8, 2026

***Jesu meine Freude* - Bach**

June 7, 2026 - evening

***Gospel Mass* - Robert Ray**

A benefit for the the National Gospel Music Museum
with Pilgrim Baptist Church, UCAN and St. Sabina's.

Likely on the IIT campus.

Time and exact location TBA.

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 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.