

September 7, 2025
Communion & Homecoming
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

"My family and I don't go to church to deny the existence of the darkness. We go to look so hard at the light that our eyes water."

Dorothy Fortenberry

PRELUDE

My Tribute
St. Arbucks Quartet

Andrae Crouch

To God be the glory...
For the things He has done
With His blood He has saved me
With His pow'r He has raised me
To God be the glory...

How can I say thanks for the things
You have done for me
Things so undeserved
Yet You give to prove Your love for me
The voices of a million angels
Could not express my gratitude
All that I am and ever hope to be
I owe it all to Thee

Just let me live my life
Let it be pleasing Lord to Thee
And should I gain any praise
Let it go to Calvary
With His blood He has saved me
With His pow'r He has raised me

CHIMES

INTROIT

Lift Every Voice and Sing
Chancel Choir

J. Rosamond Johnson

WELCOME

Matt Fitzgerald

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Oh God, you are always with us!

All: And always on your way toward us!

One: Come, Risen One, light up our lives!

All: Come quickly! We are here!

** Please rise in body or in spirit.*

* HYMN

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day,
2. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King, Al - - le - lu - ia!
3. Love's re - deem - ing work is done,
4. Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven!

Sons of men and an - gels say:—
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - - le - lu - ia!
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won,
Praise to thee by both be given,

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
Dy - ing once, he all doth save, Al - - le - lu - ia!
Death in vain for - bids him rise,
Thee we greet tri - um - phant now,

Sing ye heav'ns and earth re - ply:—
Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - - le - lu - ia!
Christ has o - pened par - a - dise,
Hail, the Res - ur - rec - tion thou!

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a basso continuo line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the next four lines. The fourth system contains the final four lines. The music features a variety of note values, including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and accidentals. The basso continuo line provides a harmonic foundation for the vocal parts.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Liz Nickerson

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God,
help us see that
faith is not a risk,
or a trick;
Church is a relief.
We feel better when
we lay our burdens down.
So we give you our cares,
that you may care for us;
our fears, that you may quiet them;
our disbelief, that you might transform it,
all this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

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.**

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

*Please come forward for communion.
Take the bread and eat it. Then take the cup and drink.
Deposit the cups in the baskets on the way back to your seat.
The outer ring of cups contains grape juice. The inner rings contain wine.
A gluten-free bread option is wrapped and available on a separate tray.
Return to your seat by the side aisles.
All are welcome to take part in communion.*

COMMUNION MUSIC

Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING BLESSING OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

*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.*

* HYMN

Let Us Break Bread Together

vv. 1&2



1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; _____
2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees; _____
3. Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees; _____

Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees. _____
Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees. _____
Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees. _____

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

SCRIPTURE

Mark Sancya

Psalms 139

God, investigate my life;
get all the facts firsthand.
I'm an open book to you;
even from a distance, you know what I'm thinking.
You know when I leave and when I get back;
I'm never out of your sight.
You know everything I'm going to say
before I start the first sentence.
I look behind me and you're there,
then before me, and you're there.
You lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is so high that I cannot attain it.
Where can I go to avoid your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I climb to the sky, you are there!
If I go underground, you're there!
If I take the wings of the morning
And settle at the farthest limits of the sea
Even there your hand shall lead me,
And your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
And the light around me become night"
Even the darkness is as bright as the day,
For darkness is as light to you.
At night I'm immersed in the light!"
For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
You know me inside and out,
you know every bone in my body;
You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit,
how I was sculpted from nothing into something.
All the stages of my life were spread out before you,
The days of my life all prepared
before I'd even lived one day.
How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
I try to count them - they are more than the sand;
I come to the end - I am still with you.

*** 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**

Let Us Break Bread Together

v. 3

SERMON

"More Than Sane"

Matt Fitzgerald

* HYMN

What a Covenant

1. What a cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing
2. Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing
3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing

on the ev - er - last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness,
on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path
on the ev - er - last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace

what a peace is mine, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
grows from day to day, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;

lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

OFFERTORY

The Heavens Are Telling
from *Creation*
Chancel Choir

Joseph Haydn

Nancy Pifer, Todd Coe and Julian Jarzebowski, soloists

Recitative: The space immense of the azure sky,
A countless host of radiant orbs adorns.
And the sons of God announced the fourth day
In song divine, proclaiming thus his power.

Chorus: The heavens are telling the glory of God
The wonder of his work displays the firmament.

Trio: Today that is coming speaks it the day,
The night that is gone to following night.

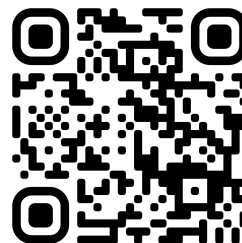
Chorus: The heavens....

Trio: In all the lands resounds the word
Never unperceived, ever understood.

Chorus: The heavens are telling...

ELECTRONIC OFFERING OPTIONS

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



WELCOME CARD

*If you are a visitor, welcome! Thank you for
worshiping with us today!
If you would like to learn more about the church, please
scan the QR code.*



** FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY*

A musical score for a four-part doxology. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below each staff. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final Amen. The lyrics are: "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! A - men." The music is written in a single system with four staves.

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.

* HYMN

I Come With Joy



1. I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2. I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4. And thus we meet, and bet - ter know the Pres - ence, ev - er
5. To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, in friend - ship we will



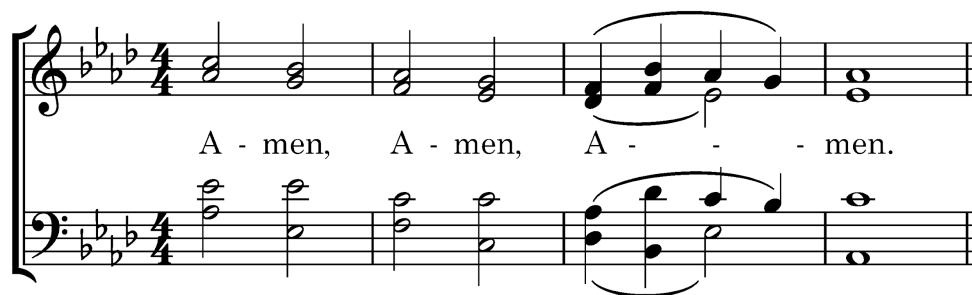
free, _____ The life of Je - sus to re - call, in
 fed, _____ The new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends, _____ The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, _____ And join our hearts and sing with joy that
 stay, _____ And go with joy _____ to love the world and



love laid down for me, _____ in love laid down for me. _____
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, _____ in Christ's com - mu - nion bread. _____
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 Christ is ris - en here, _____ that Christ is ris - en here. _____
 live the way we pray, _____ and live the way we pray. _____

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

Symphony No. 1—Finale
 Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

Louis Vierne

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

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Liz Nickerson, Matt Fitzgerald (Pastor Jeff is on vacation today.)

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: Mark Sancya

Communion Coordinator: Jana O'Brien

Worship Assistant: Jeff Wagner

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, John Balevic, Fred Pearson

Greeters: Jim Alrutz, Doug Dunham

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

Communion bread baked by Kristin Lane.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are in celebration of Larry and Char Damron's wedding anniversary

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

SPECIAL DONATIONS:

From Jean Kosiara in honor of Thomas Clancy, for the Migrant Legal Fund

From Elizabeth & Bruce Hart of the Herbst Foundation in honor of Char and Larry Damron, for the Campaign to Expand and Elevate Our Openness

From Lynn & Andy Davis in memory of Mead Gifford

From Lynn & Andy Davis in memory of Everet Martin

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. 9 Joe JaQuay

Sep. 11 Mary Brown

Sep. 12 Eric Moulton, Lucas Banks, Matt Raterman

Sep. 13 Henry Weil, Layla Baumann, Ryan Castle, Sharon Collins

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.

- Liz Kurman's brother, Fred, healing from injuries after a fall at his home.
- 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.
- 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, 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.
- Students, workers, and communities at risk of family separation, loss of homes and businesses due to government overreach.
- Wayne Bradley, pursuing ongoing treatment.
- Craig Wilbanks' mother and father, each of whom are facing serious health challenges.

Prayer, Support, Mental Health Resources

Even when you walk through the valley of shadows, God is with you. Help is available for every kind of issue. Contact one of the pastors today for support, referrals, and information that can help you and your loved ones.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY – FILL THE SILLS

Let's line our window sills with donations of toothbrushes, toothpaste and gently used totes and/or backpacks to help Common Pantry's efforts to address the challenges that result from economic instability. Please *tote* what you can to church on September 7!

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.

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

SEPTEMBER 14 – 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."

SEPTEMBER 14 – YOUNG ADULT FALL KICK-OFF BRUNCH - IMMEDIATELY

FOLLOWING THE SERVICE - 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.

SEPTEMBER 14 – DINNER MAKING FOR GUESTS AT LPCS - 4-7 p.m.

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

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

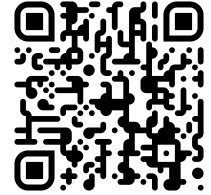
“What’s Next: Campaign to Expand & Elevate Our Openness.” Discussion facilitated by Jana O’Brien. Bring your own lunch. Sponsored by St. Pauls Social. Adults of all ages are invited to make new friends and reconnect with old ones through lunch, fun and faith. Childcare provided.

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!



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

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!

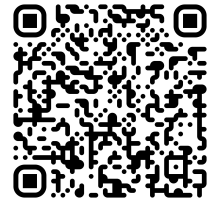
Good news! Our "Expand and Elevate" project is unfolding beautifully. Exterior construction will soon expand to the south end of the courtyard. As a result, our two primary doors will be inaccessible for three weeks. The temporary accessibility entrance on Fullerton for those using walkers and wheelchairs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

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.

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.

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.

ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT POLITICAL POLARIZATION?

Want to Talk? Communication Tools for Divided Times is an eight-session small group program that guides you in deepening your relationships while staying true to your values. This program draws upon the wisdom of experts in nonviolent communication, civil dialogue, and grassroots organizing, providing practical tools for navigating the political polarization of our time, as well as tough conversations with our loved ones. To find out more, visit tinyurl.com/yzj4cvan. Ready to sign up now? You can do so here: tinyurl.com/3n4jehnn.

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

As we care for creation, prayerfully consider commenting on the following issues to Congress or the relevant federal agencies and sharing your concerns with others:

- Congress began 2026 budget work on Sept. 2; environmental issues and clean energy need appropriate funding.
- EPA has proposed rescinding its finding that emissions are harmful, and eliminating emissions rules for vehicles and engines. Public comments are due by September 15 and can be submitted at tinyurl.com/nhd6nwxu.
- U.S. Dept. of Agriculture has proposed rescinding the National Forests Roadless rule (to increase roads and logging). Public comments are due by September 19 and can be submitted at tinyurl.com/mt8y75ts.

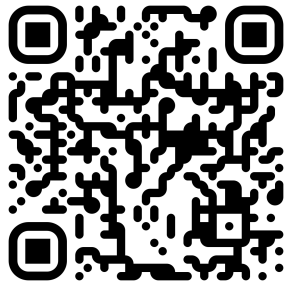
STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS

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.

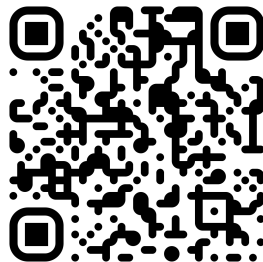
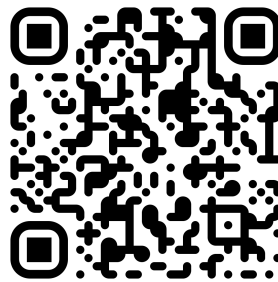
WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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

Andraé Crouch (1942-2015) wrote both the text and tune for ***How Can I Say Thanks***, MY TRIBUTE, in 1971. Crouch is among the greatest gospel composers and performers. Both his mother and father were pastors and he first began playing service for his father's church at age 11. The opening lines of the refrain, *To God be the glory*, pays homage to Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) by quoting her famous hymn text.

Lift Every Voice and Sing, includes the joyous refrain that our Chancel Choir sings as our Introit. The longer hymn is considered the unofficial anthem of black churches and the civil rights movement. J. Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954), the composer, and James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938), the poet, were brothers who crafted this wonderful hymn together. They also wrote Broadway musicals and edited song collections as a team. This text reflects both the struggles for civil rights and optimism about the future.

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today, tune EASTER HYMN or LYRA DAVIDICA, uses a text by Charles Wesley (1707-1788), the great Methodist theologian and hymnodist. The tune's composer is not known and is taken from a collection, *Lyra Davidica*; hence, one of the tune names. It is equally appropriate to sing this great Easter hymn on a day that has a real sense of resurrection for many at St. Pauls.

The tune and text for ***Let Us Break Bread Together***, the well-known communion hymn, are unattributed but became widely known after being printed in 1926 in *The Second Book of Negro Spirituals*, which was curated and compiled by the famous poet, James Weldon Johnson and equally prominent composer, J. Rosamond Johnson. The history of the text and tune probably predates the Civil War.

E.A. Hoffman (1839-1929) wrote the text for ***What a Covenant*** in 1877. Many of us learned that hymn as *What a Fellowship*. He was an ordained minister and wrote more than 2,000 gospel songs in his lifetime. The tune bears two names, LEANING, which is the first word of the refrain, and SHOWALTER, in honor of the composer, A. J. Showalter (1858-1924). He actually began teaching shape-note singing at age 14. He attended a number of private Christian music programs to learn his craft.

The Heavens Are Telling is the well-known chorus from *Creation* composed in 1798 by Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809). He was easily one of the most important composers of the Classical Period. *Creation* is a most unusual work. It was written on an English commission and was composed with both English and German texts as

co-equal and original. The portion of John Milton's (1608-1674) poem, *Paradise Lost* (1667), that Haydn set celebrates the glory of the seven days of creation and only mentions the "fall of Adam" briefly. This chorus celebrates the creation story of the fourth day and the radiant heavens.

Our ***Festival Doxology*** is to the German hymn tune LASST UNS ERFREUEN, dates from 1623, and was first found in a hymnal published in Cologne, Germany.

The text of ***I Come With Joy*** was written by Brian Wren (b. 1936), who is a pastor in the Congregational Church in England. He wrote the hymn as a summary of a series of sermons on the meaning of communion. The tune is an old American hymn, DOVE OF PEACE, from the *Southern Harmony Hymnal*, part of the Sacred Harp tradition. It was arranged by Austin Lovelace (1919-2010), who for several years was organist and choirmaster at First United Methodist Church in Evanston.

The ***Finale*** from *Symphony No. 1 in D minor, Op 14* was composed by Louis Vierne (1870-1937) from 1888 to 1889. Along with Charles-Marie Widor, Vierne was one of the great Romantic symphonists for organ. Although born blind, he composed six symphonies for the organ. He was also the organist of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris from 1900 until his death. In fact, Vierne collapsed and died at the console at Notre Dame at the close of a recital there. Maurice Duruflé was at his side as an assistant that day. The *Finale* shows Vierne's brilliance both as a composer and his talent as a performer. As an aside, Pastor Jeff, Joe JaQuay, and Kurt and Terry Hansen attended an organ recital at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris last Tuesday where this work closed the recital.

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.