



November 2, 2025
Holy Communion

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

"Plot is a logical sequence of events that grow from an initial incident that alters
the status quo of the characters." -Elizabeth George

PRELUDE	<i>Keep Holding On!</i>	Danniebelle Hall
	St. Arbucks Quartet	

CHIMES

INTROIT	<i>Come My Way</i>	Ralph Vaughan Williams
	Chancel Choir	

WELCOME	Jeff Carlson
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* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Good news! God knows where we are and calls to us:

All: Hurry and come down; for I must be your guest today! (Luke 19:5)

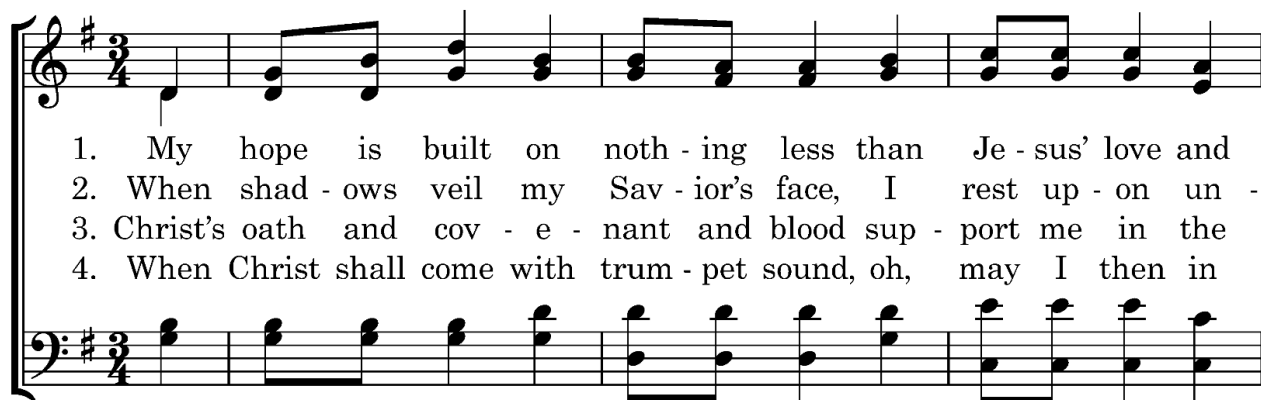
One: Jesus calls us, whoever we are, no matter what we've done.

All: Good news! Christ knows who we are, and wants to be our guest.

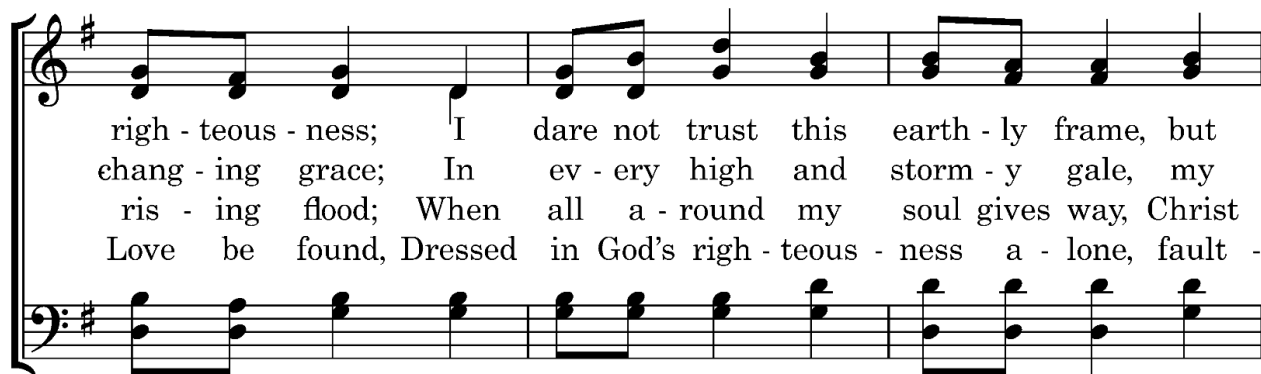
** Please stand if you are able to do so.*

* HYMN

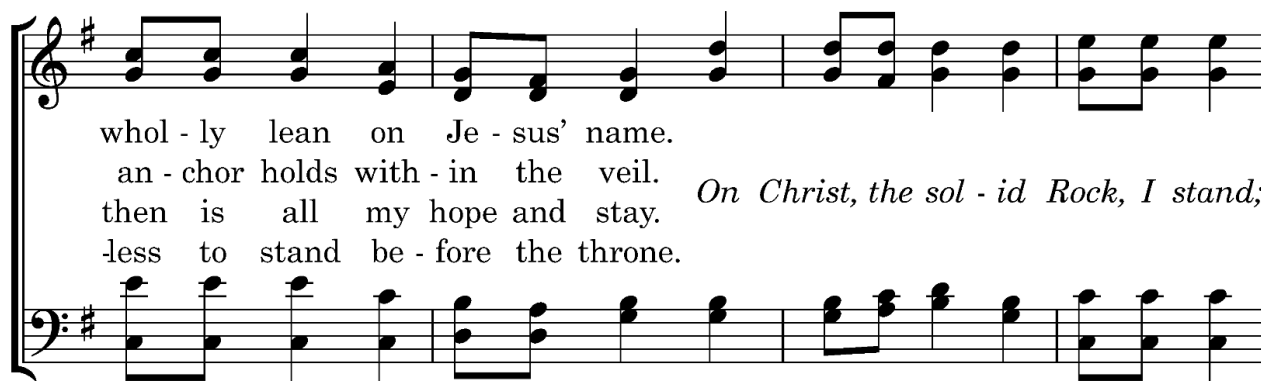
My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



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



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



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



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

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Liz Nickerson

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord, there is so much greed in our hearts.
So much suspicion in our minds.
So much self interest in our love.
So much sin to hide and protect.
You have promised to break in
and steal our treasures.
Do it! Take them!
Remake us!
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

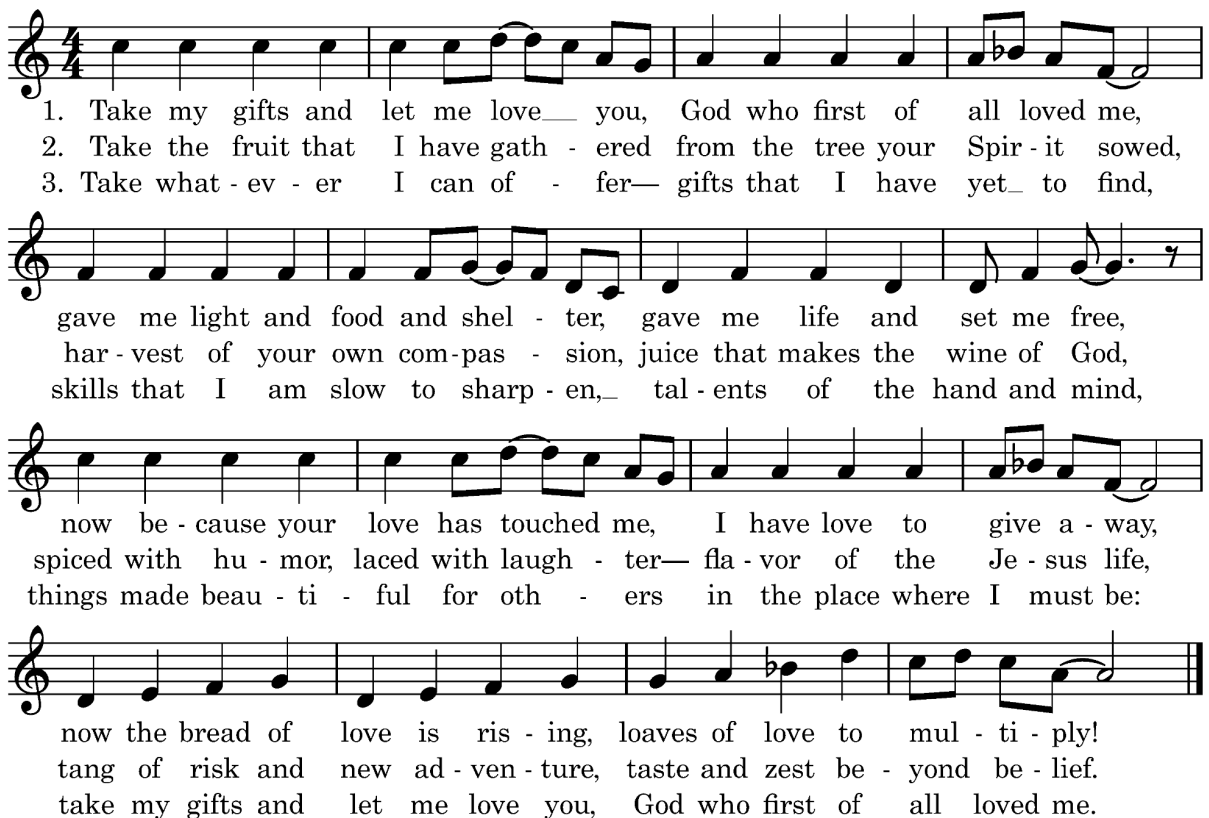
* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Lord Jesus, thank you for being the guest who brings a feast.
Thank you for giving us more than we could ask for or even imagine.
Amen.**

*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.*

* COMMUNION HYMN

Take My Gifts



1. Take my gifts and let me love__ you, God who first of all loved me,
2. Take the fruit that I have gath - ered from the tree your Spir - it sowed,
3. Take what - ev - er I can of - fer— gifts that I have yet_ to find,
gave me light and food and shel - ter, gave me life and set me free,
har - vest of your own com-pas - sion, juice that makes the wine of God,
skills that I am slow to sharp - en, _ tal - ents of the hand and mind,
now be - cause your love has touched me, I have love to give a - way,
spiced with hu - mor, laced with laugh - ter— fla - vor of the Je - sus life,
things made beau - ti - ful for oth - ers in the place where I must be:
now the bread of love is ris - ing, loaves of love to mul - ti - ply!
tang of risk and new ad - ven - ture, taste and zest be - yond be - lief.
take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

SCRIPTURE

Kevin O'Brien

Luke 19:1-10

Then he went into Jericho and was making his way through it. And here we find a wealthy man called Zacchaeus, a chief collector of taxes, wanting to see what sort of person Jesus was. But the crowd prevented him from doing so, for he was very short. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to get a view of Jesus as he was heading that way. When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and saw the man and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry up and come down. I must be your guest today."

So Zacchaeus hurriedly climbed down and gladly welcomed him. But the bystanders muttered their disapproval, saying, "Now he has gone to stay with a real sinner."

But Zacchaeus himself stopped and said to the Lord, "Look, sir, I will give half my property to the poor. And if I have swindled anybody out of anything I will pay him back four times as much."

Jesus said to him, "Salvation has come to this house today! Zacchaeus is a descendant of Abraham, and it was the lost Son of Man came to seek—and to save."

* 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

Over My Head

vv. 1 & 2

1. O - ver my head_____ I hear mu - sic in the air._____
2. O - ver my head_____ I hear sing-ing the in air._____
3. O - ver my head_____ I see trou-ble in the air._____
4. O - er my head_____ I see Je - sus in the air._____

O - ver my head_____ I hear mu - sic in the air._____
O - ver my head_____ I hear sing-ing in the air._____
O - ver my head_____ I see trou-ble in the air._____
O - ver my head_____ I see Je - sus in the air._____

O - ver my head_____ I hear mu - sic in the air,_____
O - ver my head_____ I hear sing-ing in the air,_____
O - ver my head_____ I see trou-ble in the air,_____
O - ver my head_____ I see Je - sus in the air,_____

there must be a God some - where._____

SERMON

"An Illogical Sequence of Events"

Matt Fitzgerald

* HYMN

Over My Head

vv. 3 & 4

See previous hymn

GIVING MOMENT: What More is Saint Pauls Building?

Evie Kling

OFFERTORY

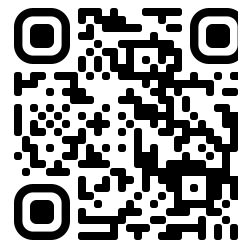
He Watching Over Israel
from *Elijah*
Chancel Choir

Felix Mendelssohn

He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps
Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish;
He will quicken thee.
He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps.
from Psalm 121

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.*



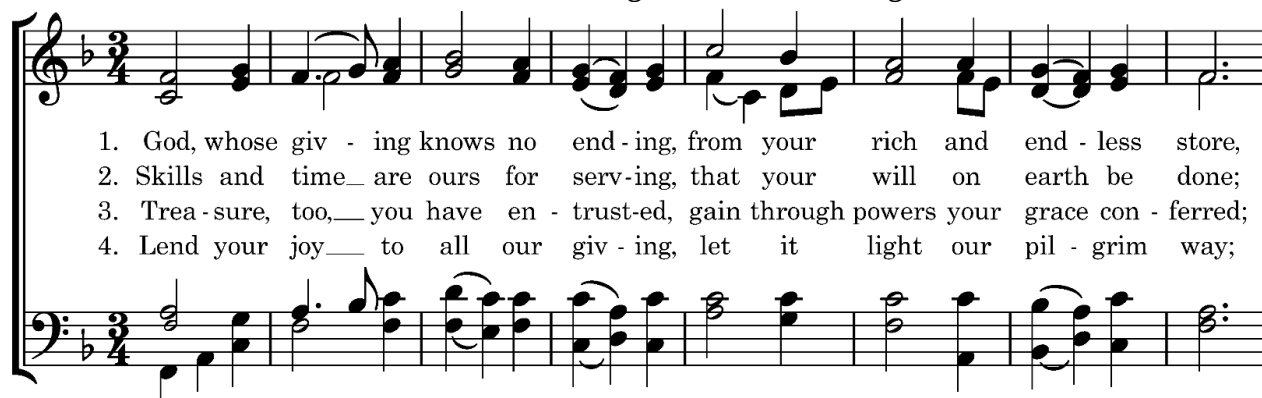
* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY

Musical notation for the Festival Doxology, consisting of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below each staff.

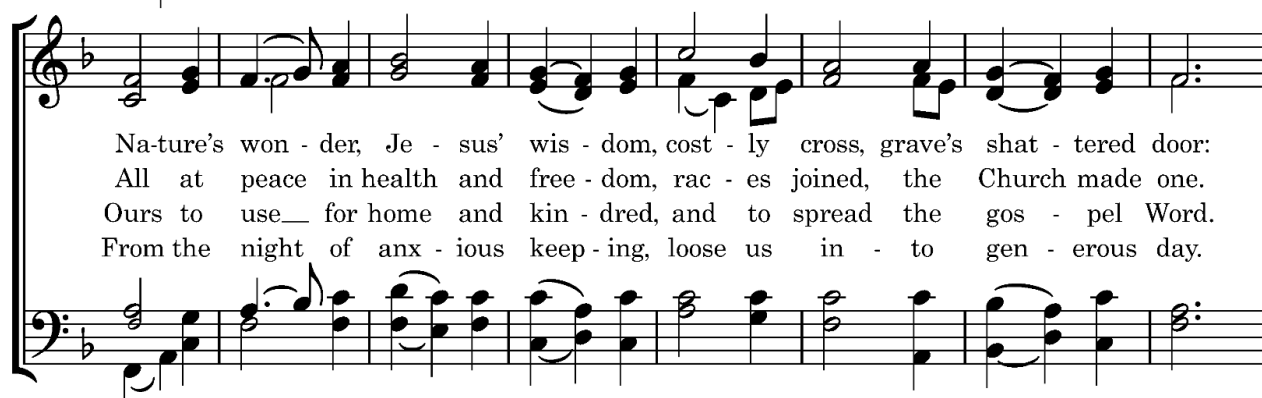
Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be - low;
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:
Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost; Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

* HYMN

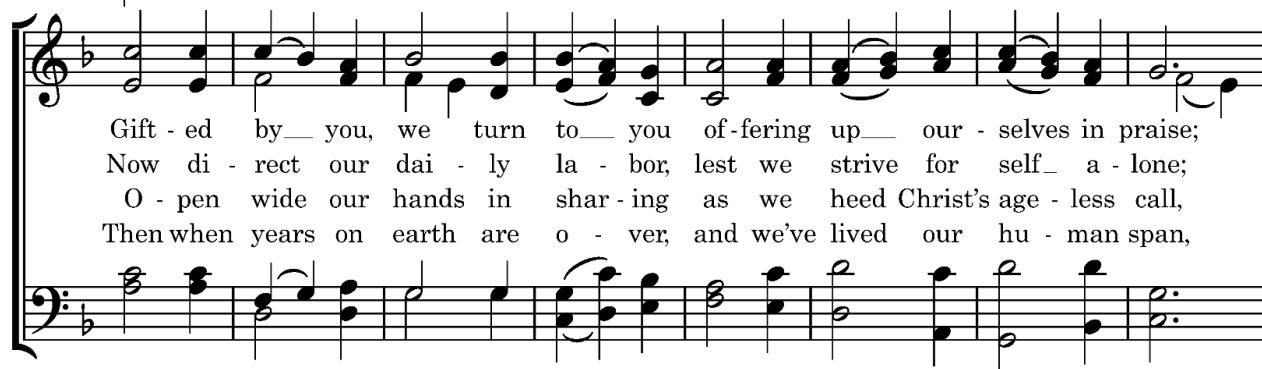
God Whose Giving Knows No Ending



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 features a steady bass line of whole notes (F3, B2, F3, B2) and a treble line with chords and moving lines. The final measure of the organ part includes a fermata over the final chord.

POSTLUDE

Variations on Sine Nomine—Fugue
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

Richard Proulx

Kris Hansen, member of St. Arbucks Quartet, will be in New York City making connections in the music field. He will return next Sunday.

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

- Childcare is available for babies and toddlers up to age 5 during worship from 10 to 11 a.m. downstairs in the Nursery and Toddler Room.
- Activity “busy bags” are available in the Narthex for children to use during the service.
- SUNDAY SCHOOL and CONFIRMATION classes are in session. Students are dismissed with their teachers during the worship service and parents pick up children in their classrooms after the service.
- HIGH SCHOOL class meets on alternating Sundays of the month. Check the High School Group on Church Center for dates. High schoolers meet immediately following the service in Pastor Matt’s office.
- New visitors with children interested in participating are invited for a meet and greet before worship begins to preview their classroom and meet teachers. Find Erin Fitzgerald or Danielle Mayfield in the main office for a brief tour and to answer any questions you may have.

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: Jeff Carlson, Liz Nickerson, Matt Fitzgerald

Music Director: Kurt R. Hansen

Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski

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

Acolytes: Charlotte Crouch, Faye Johnson

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Scripture Reader: Kevin O'Brien

Communion Coordinator: Jana O'Brien

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, Fred Pearson

Greeters: Mercedes Ridao

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 Annie Johnson.

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

BORN THIS WEEK IN NOVEMBER

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.

Nov. 2 Charles Wilk, Georgia Smith, Jean Wilk, Phyllis Grimm, Prentiss Koldyke

Nov. 4 Emily Hein, Nina Alverdy, Todd Lightfoot

Nov. 5 Dante Carter, Doug Roewer

Nov. 6 Chris Frumkin, Kelli Fitzgerald, Ryan Clarke, Scott Banjavcic

Nov. 7 Chloe Combs

Nov. 8 Tara Stephenson

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.

- The Camp Mystic families who are suffering unimaginable loss from the July 4th floods.
- Peace for all of God's children.
- Jeffrey Whitridge and Greg Clemons at the death of Jeffrey's brother, Mark.
- Steve Garrett, who had knee surgery on October 15.
- Lorri Wirsum's daughter, Ruby, facing health concerns, and her daughter-in-law, Trish, on the death of Trish's mother, Sandy Henderson.
- Meg Tazelaar at the death of her grandmother.
- A neighbor of St. Pauls struggling with fibromyalgia.
- Ally S., a college student with double vision and neurological problems.
- Liode, a single mom with two children and a former student of Deb Bayly, in need of stable housing and a job.
- Kate and Angus Atkins-Trimnell, Pastor Liz's sister and brother-in-law, for Angus' father, Ralph, who has entered hospice.
- Karlynn Anderson, a friend of Pastor Liz, who had a heart transplant.
- Donn Schimp and his family as Donn continues cancer treatment.
- Dianne Witkowski, as she deals with cancer chemotherapy.
- That we each find our role, our voice, in bringing peace forward.

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

NOVEMBER 7 – FAITH FAMILY FRIDAY - 6-8 p.m., Social Hall, Gym

Faith Family Fridays are full of fun, fellowship and food with your church family! Main entree provided by St. Pauls Youth Ministry. November's FFF features homemade chili. Feel free to bring your own beverage, side or game to share. This event is free, but registration is required for food count. \$10/family suggested donation. Register here: tinyurl.com/zpackwsh.

NOVEMBER 9 – PHASE II DEDICATION CELEBRATION–PLEASE RSVP-11:15 a.m., Courtyard & Gym

RSVP today (or soon!) to join the Sunday, November 9 after-worship dedication and luncheon that will celebrate the completion of our bold capital construction project that has made our entire public church complex accessible and created an open-air plaza for church events and gatherings. We want to have plenty of food and beverages for all, so choose an RSVP method: 1) using this QR code, 2) filling out the RSVP card in today's bulletin and placing it in the offering plate, OR 3) responding to the email you received this week.



NOVEMBER 11 – 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 are 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. December 16 - *Persuasion*.

NOVEMBER 11 – ST. PAULS GAME NIGHT TUESDAY, 6–8:30 p.m., Oscar Mayer Room

Join us for an easygoing evening of laughter, snacks, and great company! Bring your favorite game or try one from our collection—it's all about fun and connection. Drop in anytime, stay as long as you like, and don't forget a snack to share and your favorite beverage to enjoy. Invite a friend (or a few!) and make it a night to remember. Everyone's welcome—no experience or poker face required!

Please RSVP at tinyurl.com/mzc8nm9u so we can have enough chairs. Questions? Text Wendelin (Lin) at (773) 304-6734 or email wendelin@wendelindunlap.com

NOVEMBER 13 – FILM: “THE STORY OF PLASTIC” - 6:30 p.m.

Plastics in our environment is one of the most compelling issues of our times, particularly as we try to protect the Great Lakes and our communal health from increasing plastics pollution. The Green Team at St. Pauls cooperates with Green Teams in Lincoln Park to support environmental education. Please join us in watching and discussing this award winning documentary.

- Date and Time: Thursday, Nov 13 at 6:30 p.m.
- Location: Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church, 600 West Fullerton.
- Format: Film and Discussion with Brian Sauder of Faith in Place and Carter O’Brien, Commissioner of the environment.
- Refreshments and snacks will be provided. For additional information contact Ninon Freeman at (312) 447-1330.

NOVEMBER 15 – FRIENDSGIVING FAMILY BRUNCH - 9:30-11:30 a.m., Social Hall
Let’s celebrate and give thanks. You’re invited to a potluck style brunch for families and kids, hosted by Little Lights. Classrooms open for play during the meal. Let us know what you’re bringing here: tinyurl.com/2w3kub43.

NOVEMBER 15 – WINDY CITY WINDS CONCERT SATURDAY EVENING - 7:30 p.m., Gym

Windy City Winds, “Chicago’s Community Band”, will present its 10th Anniversary Concert in the St. Pauls UCC gymnasium on Saturday evening, November 15 at 7:30 p.m. St. Pauls members Mark and Sarah Mosley will conduct an exciting program of music by Beethoven, John Philip Sousa, British composer Haydn Wood, and American composers Alfred Reed and Fisher Tull. To help celebrate this milestone, 20 former WCW members will join the band for the second half of the concert. Admission is free! Looking ahead, please save Friday evening March 13 and Friday evening May 15 for WCW concerts later this season.

NOVEMBER 16 – SAVE LIVES - DONATE AT ST. PAULS BLOOD DRIVE– 8 a.m., Gym

Save the Date to save more lives! St. 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:



NOVEMBER 16 – NEW MEMBER CLASS

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: November 16 at 11 a.m. See other upcoming dates here:

spucc.org/new_member_classes.

NOVEMBER 18 – FOOD FOR THE SOUL - 12-1:30 p.m., Social Hall

Discussion facilitated by Pastor Liz Nickerson; 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. Bring your own lunch. Childcare provided.

NOVEMBER 26 – VOLUNTEER AT UCAN FAMILY THANKSGIVING- 3-7 p.m.

St. Pauls members are invited to help UCAN celebrate Thanksgiving with its staff and residents. We'll meet on Wednesday, November 26 from 3-7 p.m. Volunteers will decorate, serve food, play games and clean up. Our support of the event will help UCAN's staff relax and make the event more special, and it will be a wonderful opportunity to connect with the youth they serve. All ages and abilities are welcome. If you are interested, please contact Pauline Taylor at Paulinetaylor933@gmail.com.

NOVEMBER 27 – FRIENDSGIVING - 3-6 p.m., Social Hall

Everyone is invited to St. Pauls first all-inclusive "day of" Friendsgiving on Thanksgiving day! We need five or more people to register at tinyurl.com/3fafmd9t in order to have the feast. New in town? Family went on vacation but you had to work? Want to double dip on turkey? It doesn't matter—you and your guests are welcome. St. Pauls will provide the turkey, coffee, lemonade and those who attend will provide the rest. Sign up and indicate what potluck item you will bring.

St. Pauls, THANK YOU for all your support at our Fiesta for Funds potluck and silent auction! Whether you brought a dish, made a bid, or more, it was truly a group effort from our whole community. Together, we raised about \$28,000 to pay for legal services benefitting our sponsored families. Thank you also to our planning team: Katie Alrutz, Carrie Bruggers, Sally Fletcher, Peg Wander, Kristy Tavas, Jan Bail and Jenny Benefield.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW! OPT-IN TO TEXTING FROM ST. PAULS

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



TOTENFEST MEMORIALS – NOVEMBER 23

Totenfest will be Sunday, November 23. During worship, we will give thanks for the lives of the members and friends of our congregation who died during the past year. Totenfest is a German word meaning “Festival of the Dead.” You can make a memorial gift honoring a loved one online at the link below, or by any of our other giving methods. Please complete the Totenfest Dedication Form at spucc.org/totenfest-form and submit your gift using the link provided in the form **by Monday, November 17.**

NOVEMBER BLAST FROM THE PAST

Did you know that the people of St. Pauls have founded several other organizations doing good work in our city? Many of you know UCAN, founded to care for Civil War orphans and still working for youth today. The next generation, wanting to do something for the elderly, founded St. Pauls House, "A Churchly Home for the Aged." Our members were there for the founding of the Common Pantry, the Night Ministry and LPCS, organizations we continue to support today with our time, talent and treasure. What's next?

GUINNESS AWARD

Vicki Garlock recently wrote to thank St. Pauls for being part of her Guinness world record attempt. She now holds the official title for the Most Places of Worship Visited in One Month. And the new record is...185!! "It was an amazing month in the beautiful city of Chicago, but the most lasting memories, by far, have been all the wonderful people I met along the way. Big thanks to Aubraea for helping to organize my visit, Ramiro for giving the best tour ever, and everyone at St. Pauls for their warm welcome and encouragement!

LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SERVICES: TASTE OF FALL

Brush off those shoulder pads and leg warmers to join Lincoln Park Community Services to party with a purpose! The annual Taste of Fall will be held on Thursday, November 13 at Ovation Chicago in the West Loop. This year we are throwing it back to the year LPCS was formed: 1985. Sample items from local restaurants, bid on auction packages, and dance the night away to the hits of the '80s, all while helping support LPCS's programs! Dress code: '80s attire encouraged, business casual or cocktail. Interested in becoming a vendor, sponsor or donating an auction item? Please email hhedstrom@lpcschicago.org.



UCAN HOLIDAY GIFT TRAIN

This holiday season, the Advocacy and Activism committee is gearing up to help St. Pauls join UCAN's Gift Train once again. Starting November 2, stop by our table during Social Hour to sign up and shop from a wish list. But you don't have to wait, as donations can now be made now by mail. Once we receive your gift card, we'll match it with a name from the wish list. This is a wonderful way for virtual and long-distance members to get involved.

This year, we're requesting \$75 gift cards. Accepted cards include Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Target, or Walmart. Please send your gift cards to the church by December 1 at 2335 N. Orchard Street, Chicago, IL 60614. Thank you for helping make this holiday season special for those in need!

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

Join us as we discuss the new book *One Day, Everyone Will Always Have Been Against This* by Omar El Akkad. In this accessible and powerful work, a novelist examines the West's response to the destruction of Gaza. Contact David Burnett at burnett.db@gmail.com.

CTS CELEBRATES 170 YEARS OF ACTION

In 1855, the United Church of Christ-related Chicago Theological Seminary (CTS) was established by Congregationalists in the boomtown of Chicago. Innovative and activist from the beginning, it was formed to bring and support churches in the "west" and to promote the abolition of slavery. In recent years, distinguished CTS graduates from St. Pauls include Revs. Tom Henry, Avena Ward and Jeff Carlson, as well as Colleen Henry. St. Pauls members who have served as trustees include Dave Bueschel, Jana O'Brien, Rick Peterson and Ted Tetzloff. St. Pauls continues to support CTS financially with an annual gift from our Activism and Advocacy Ministry. Congratulations to CTS as it continues to reimagine and transform religious education and society in the real world.

YOUTH CHOIRS ARE BACK!

Does your child like to sing? Sign them up for one of our youth choirs! We rehearse Sunday mornings: Kinderchapel Singers (preschool) 9:50-10 a.m., Social Hall. Children's Choir (K-3rd) 9:30-9:55 a.m., Chapel. Paul's People (4-8th) 9:30-9:55 a.m., Parlor. Reach out to Tom Clancy (KS) tm.ferrin@gmail.com, Breanna Coe (CC) breannacoe@gmail.com, or Kecia Waldschmidt (PP) keciagerman@hotmail.com for more information. Come make a joyful sound in the city with us!

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 yet met. 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 such tasks as 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.

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. 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 Saint 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

Phthalates: Buyers Beware!

Dr. Leonardo Trasade, Pediatrician and Population Health professor at New York University, calls plastics, “One of the biggest global health threats.” Of particular threat to pregnant mothers and babies in utero are phthalates, chemicals used in making products flexible and stretchy.

In pregnant women, these chemicals are able to cross the placental barrier and are associated with miscarriages, premature births and have long-term reproductive consequences for babies. Phthalates are “endocrine disruptors” that interfere with the endocrine system by mimicking, blocking or altering hormone levels.

To minimize in utero exposure, one has to read labels, clear out as much plastic as possible from the household and replace with non-toxic containers and products. This should be done in advance of the actual pregnancy if possible.

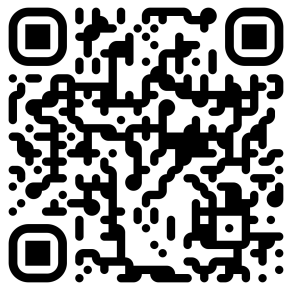
STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS

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.

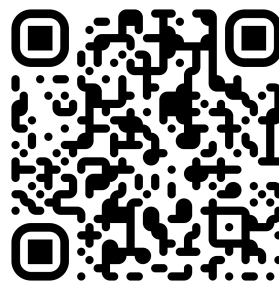
WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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

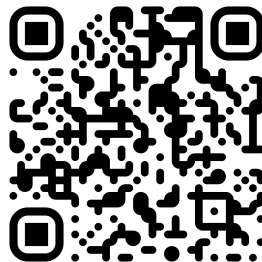
JOIN A GROUP



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

Danniebelle Hall (1938-2000) was a deeply committed Gospel artist who sought to evangelize through her singing and composing. She formed her own group, The Danniebelles, and was also a member of Andraé Crouch's Disciples. She recorded several solo albums and toured around the world. ***Keep Holding On*** was composed and recorded in the 1980s.

Come My Way, My Truth, My Life is a text by George Herbert (1593-1633). He bears the title of "Shakespeare of the Church." Herbert was a contemporary of "The Bard" (1564-1616), and like Shakespeare, Herbert's poetry lifted common religious practice to the spiritually sublime. THE CALL was composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) as part of a cycle for baritone, choir and orchestra, *Five Mystical Songs*, composed between 1906 and 1911 and using the poetry of Herbert. Vaughan Williams then adapted THE CALL as a congregational hymn. The words are especially appropriate for a communion Sunday.

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

Take My Gifts is a relatively new text (1998) that was penned by Shirley Erena Murray (1931- 2020). She lived her entire life in New Zealand, wrote numerous hymn texts, married a Presbyterian minister, and was committed to both inclusive language and the use of Maori language in some texts. TALAVERA TERRACE was composed by another New Zealander, Colin Gibson (b. 1933). He wrote many hymns, both texts and music, collaborated often with Murray, and was a professor in a theater department at a university in his homeland.

Over My Head is another text and melody from the great wealth of spirituals. The current version was arranged in 1981 by Verolga Nix (1933-2014), a world class pianist and graduate of Oberlin Conservatory, and J. Jefferson Cleveland (1937-1986), one of the most important scholars of African American spirituals. Cleveland and Nix collaborated on a seminal work about African American music,

Songs of Zion. It is actually a shortened version, including only the very catchy refrain of a longer song.

Felix Mendelssohn, (1809-1847), like Mozart, had a very short and artistically productive life. He was born in Germany, but a great source of his popularity was outside his home country. He was especially beloved in England. Amongst his greatest accomplishments was the revival of the works of J.S. Bach and the first “modern” performance of Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion* since his death. **Elijah** is performed in England almost as often as *Messiah*, which is, of course, by another “adopted” German, Handel. **He Watching Over Israel** is sung in the oratorio as assurance to Elijah during his sojourn in the wilderness.

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 ministries of social justice. 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*.

Variations on Sine nomine was composed in 1991 by Richard Proulx (1937-2010). The **Fugue** is the final movement of the five-movement suite. We know SINE NOMINE as the well-known hymn tune *For All the Saints*. Proulx had a long and distinguished tenure as Director of Music at Holy Name Cathedral here in Chicago. He composed numerous pieces for choir, organ and handbells and was also on the editorial boards of many hymnals.

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 13, 2026 - 7 p.m.

***Gospel Mass* - Robert Ray**

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

Greater Harvest Missionary Baptist Church

5141 South State Street

Chicago, IL

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.