

October 5, 2025  
Communion & New Member  
Sunday

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

***Please silence cell phones.***

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

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"Today there is nothing more I want than what I have."

–Michael Palin

PRELUDE

*For the Beauty of the Earth*  
St. Arbucks Quartet

Contrad Kocher  
Arr. Bradley Sowash

CHIMES

INTROIT

*God Bless the Animals*  
Children's Choir  
Breanna Coe, director

Claire Shore

Is your puppy a tripod?  
Does your cat have four left paws?  
Does your turtle lack a tail?  
Does your parrot really smell?  
Oh, God bless the animals, pretty, witty animals.  
God bless the animals, large and small, furry,  
hairy, stinky, smelly, slimy, feathered,  
finned and scaly. God bless the animals one and all.

WELCOME

Liz Nickerson

\* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We will sing praises to God as long as we live.

**All: God, the maker of heaven, earth, the sea, and all that is in them.**

One: God, who is faithful forever, who brings justice to the oppressed,  
and gives bread to the hungry

**All: God, who frees prisoners, makes the blind see, and destroys death.**

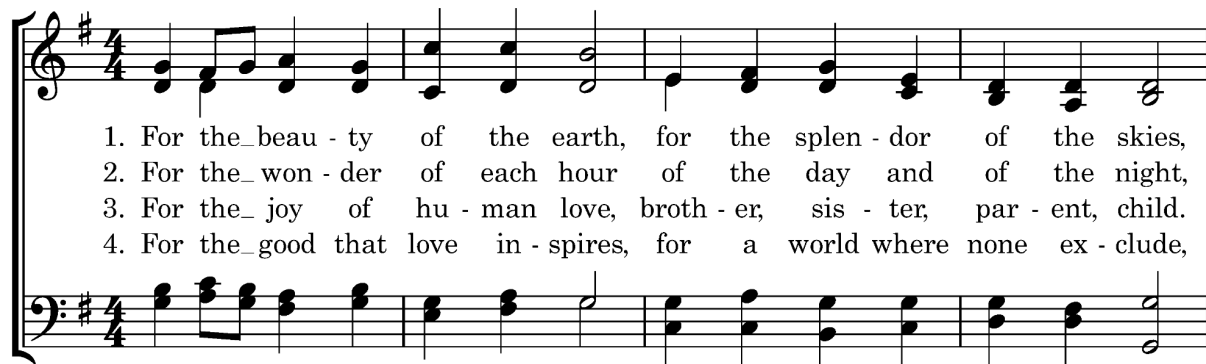
One: Praise the LORD!

**All: Let us praise God together!**

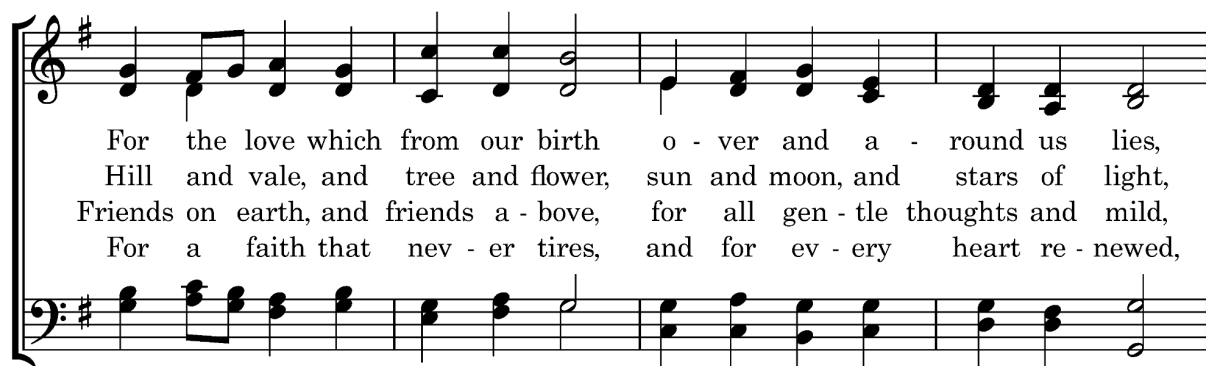
*\* Please stand if you are able to do so.*

\* HYMN

*For the Beauty of the Earth*



1. For the beau - ty of the earth, for the splen - dor of the skies,  
2. For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3. For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child.  
4. For the good that love in - spires, for a world where none ex - clude,



For the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,  
For a faith that nev - er tires, and for ev - ery heart re - newed,



God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Jeff Carlson

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. 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

St. Arbucks Quartet

## \* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Thank you, God, for making the world and calling it good! Thank you for giving us your own goodness at this table. 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.*

\* HYMN

*Oh How Glorious, Full of Wonder*

vv. 1&2

1. O how glo-rious, full of won-der is your name o'er all the earth,  
2. When we see your lights of heav-en, moon and stars, your power dis-played,  
3. You have set us in com-mu-nion with the won-ders of your hand,  
4. O how won-drous, O how glo-rious is your name in ev-ery land,

God, who wrought cre - a - tions' splen-dor, bring-ing suns and stars to birth!  
Who are we that you should love us, crea - tures that your hand has made?  
Made us fly with ea - gle pin - ion, pil - grims o - ver sea and land.  
God, whose pur - pose shines be - fore us toward the goal that you have planned!

Rapt in rev-erence we a-dore you, mar-veling at your mys-tic ways.  
Born of earth, yet full of yearn-ing, mix-ture strange of good and ill,  
Soar-ing spire and ru - ined cit - y these our hopes and fail - ures show.  
Yours the will our hearts are seek - ing, con - scious of our hu - man need.

Hum-bly now we bow be - fore you, lift - ing up our hearts in praise.  
From your ways so of - ten turn-ing, yet your love does seek us still.  
Teach us more of hu - man pit - y, that we in your im - age grow.  
Spir - it in our spir - it speak-ing, make us yours, O God, in - deed.

## SCRIPTURE

Cheryl Kennedy

### *Genesis 1 Selections*

God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And God saw that it was good.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And God saw that it was good.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." And God saw that it was good.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness. So God created humans in his image.

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.



\* HYMN

*Oh How Glorious, Full of Wonder*

vv. 3 & 4

See the previous hymn

SERMON

“Good”

Matt Fitzgerald

\* HYMN

*We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky*



1. We can - not own the sun - lit sky, the moon, the wild - flowers  
2. When bod - ies shiv - er in the night and, wea - ry, wait for  
3. God calls hu - man - i - ty to join as part - ners in cre -



grow - ing, for we are part of all that is with -  
morn - ing, when chil - dren have no bread but tears, and  
- a - ting a fut - ure free from want or fear, life's



- in life's riv - er flow - ing. With o - pen hands re -  
war - horns sounds their warn - ing. God calls hu - man - i -  
good - ness cel - e - brat - ing. That new world beck - ons



- cieve and share the gifts of God's cre - a - tion, that  
- ty to wake, to join in com - mon la - bor, that  
from a - far, in - vites our shared en - deav - or, that



all may have a - bun - dant life in ev - ery earth - ly na - tion.  
all may have a - bun - dant life in one - ness with their neigh - bor.  
all may have a - bun - dant life and peace en - dure for - ev - er.

OFFERTORY

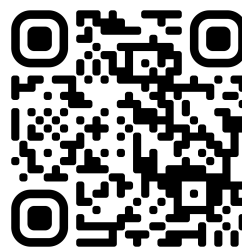
*O How Amiable*  
Chancel Choir

Ralph Vaughan Williams

O how amiable are thy dwellings: thou Lord of hosts!  
My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord:  
My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.  
My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.  
Yea, the sparrow hath found her a house,  
And the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:  
Even their altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.  
Blessed are they that dwell in thy house:  
They will be always praising thee.  
The glorious Majesty of the Lord our God be upon us:  
Prosper thou the work of our hands upon us.  
O prosper thou our handy work,  
O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home.

### *ELECTRONIC OFFERING OPTIONS*

*Scan this code with your cell phone camera,  
Church Center at [spucc.churchcenter.com/giving](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/giving),  
PayPal at [spucc.org/paypal](http://spucc.org/paypal), or Zelle to [giving@spucc.org](mailto:giving@spucc.org).*



### *WELCOME CARD*

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



### *\* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY*

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.

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS A Dialogue on our Statement of Faith

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

\* 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

*Fugue in E Flat*  
 Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

J.S. Bach

## **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:** Liz Nickerson, Jeff Carlson, 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

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

**Scripture Reader:** Cheryl Kennedy

**Communion Coordinator:** Jana O'Brien

**Head Usher:** Beatrice Jaji

**Ushers:** David Baker, Andrew Broderick, Fred Pearson

**Greeter:** Elliott Maschmeyer

**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.*

*Would you like to donate altar flowers? Sign up here: [tinyurl.com/4w6fu5js](https://tinyurl.com/4w6fu5js).*

## BORN THIS WEEK IN OCTOBER

*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.*

Oct. 5    Zaac Lopez

Oct. 6    Karen E. Johnson

Oct. 7    Anya Kompare, David Shu, Lisa Donofrio

Oct. 8    Alicia Garten, Karin Magnuson

Oct. 9    Emily Cittadine, Michael Hotz, Nancy Bingaman

Oct. 10   Meg Tazelaar

Oct. 11   Catalina Smedley, Christine Weil, Flynn Lechtenberg, Rachel Barton Pine

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Our names are **Matt** and **Melissa Plaskota**. Matt has been playing drums in Saint Pauls' own St. Arbucks Quartet since 2017 and works as a musician and percussion teacher throughout the Chicago area. Melissa is an elementary music teacher in Naperville where we live with our two children, Sarah (4) and Luke (4 months). We are very glad to be joining such a welcoming church community!



Meet **Tim Loeffler** and **Rachael Bedell**!

Tim grew up in the western suburbs, Rachael is from Dallas, but fate brought us together in the city during the pandemic. Now happily settled in West Town, Rachael brings her creativity to her work in marketing while Tim champions causes at a local non-profit. We're passionate about all things Chicago—from bites to the arts, lake views to exploring every neighborhood. After catching "Sheroes on Broadway," we knew St. Pauls was the place to call home!



My name is **Jeffrey Tegt** and I'm joining with my daughter, Addison. We started attending the church a year ago and the community, personal values, diversity and faith makes us excited to be here. I work as a Human Resources Benefits Specialist. In my free time, I enjoy being with family and friends, as well as cheering on all the Chicago Sports teams, except for the White Sox. Addison is 11 and in 6th grade. She enjoys ballet, hip-hop and going to music concerts.





My name is **Wendelin Dunlap**. I was born and raised in New Jersey and spent more than 20 years living in Washington state before moving to Chicago. I am currently pursuing my doctoral degree in Curriculum Design, with a focus on supporting students with special needs, including mental health challenges. My professional path has included higher education, digital communications, program management, and entrepreneurship, all centered on building more inclusive and accessible communities. For fun, I enjoy the outdoors—especially water sports such as stand-up paddleboarding and kayaking—as well as hiking and camping. I am excited to grow in faith and fellowship here.



Say hello to **Barbara Benjamin**. After 25+ years in Louisville, Kentucky, Barbara and her husband Tom decided retirement was the perfect excuse to move back to the city they adore. They're currently having fun exploring north side neighborhoods and attending nearby street festivals. Their daughters keep them connected from coast to coast: Emily soaks up the sunshine in Venice, California, while Rachel keeps things lively in New York City. At home, Barbara and Tom are bossed around by their very cute (and very spoiled) cat, Kaia. Barbara is an avid reader, and when not working out, she and Tom are always on the lookout for great films to enjoy together.

## 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](https://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 15 at 3 p.m. in the St. Pauls Memorial Garden.
- Jack and Karen Lyons on the death of Jack's father, Connie Lyons.
- Craig Wilbanks and Monty Kehl on the passing of Craig's father, Rex Wilbanks.
- Grace Stauskas, who is recovering from major surgery on September 25.
- Ally S., a college student with double vision and neurological problems.
- 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.
- Karlynn Anderson, a friend of Pastor Liz, who had a heart transplant.
- 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.

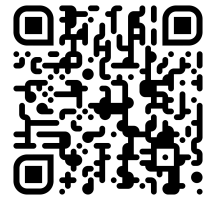
## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **TODAY – FILL THE SILLS**

Let's line our window sills with donations of reusable totes, whole grains, pasta, dried beans and other shelf-stable protein to help Common Pantry's efforts to address challenges that result from economic instability. Please bring what you can to church on October 5!

### **TODAY – 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](https://tinyurl.com/3tazsjhc) or scan the QR code to access the event registration and more information on donating items to the auction. **You can also view the auction pamphlet at [tinyurl.com/mvmzuj7](https://tinyurl.com/mvmzuj7).** 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 or bidding, or both!



### **Fiesta for Funds Finger Food Potluck Meal**

Each family unit is asked to bring food for the potluck meal based on the following suggestions. If you need to bring food from a different category or cannot bring food, that is fine. Please include kid-friendly foods. Skip Utensils!

### **TODAY – HANDWORK MEET-UP**

If you enjoy handwork, you're invited to sit together and stitch in community on the first Sunday of the month at our drop-in handwork group at Coffee Hour. We gather in a corner for one hour after the worship service. Bring your ongoing project and enjoy the conversation.

### **OCTOBER 12 – GIVING CAMPAIGN KICKOFF**

Help us to kick off the 2025 giving season by attending and supporting the beginning of our 2026 Giving Campaign. There will be announcements about the nature and timing of this year's campaign, which will run through the end of December. Our Giving Campaign is separate from the Capital Campaign, and supports the Annual Fund of the church in its ongoing operational expenses. Pledges are essential to our ability to know how much funding will come from members and, thus, to create a church budget for 2026. We appreciate your support and involvement in this year's campaign!

**OCTOBER 12 – LUNCH MAKING FOR GUESTS AT LPCS - 11:20 a.m. -12 p.m.**

Join us in preparing meals for the Lincoln Park Community Shelter! We meet in SPUCC's kitchen after the service (lunch) and at 4 p.m. (dinner) on the second Sunday of each month. Come chop, chat, and listen to good tunes as we cook for our neighbors. Church Center registration and contributions are required (\$20). If you're interested, please use Church Center to sign-up: [tinyurl.com/y46tn3pp](https://tinyurl.com/y46tn3pp). Reach out to Evie Kling at [eviekling@gmail.com](mailto:eviekling@gmail.com) with questions.

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

Contact: Pastor Jeff. November 11 - *Northanger Abbey*; December 16 - *Persuasion*.

**OCTOBER 18 – HALLOWEEN PARTY OPEN GYM- 10-11:30 a.m., Gym**

Kids and their families are invited for a Halloween-themed Open Gym including crafts, games, bounce house, and spooky treats. Show off your costume and join in the fun! Suggested donation \$10/family. Register here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y26udjdn>.

**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. Don't forget to bring your COVID vaccine card and your Medicare or insurance card! **Register now** at [tinyurl.com/kroger-scheduler](https://tinyurl.com/kroger-scheduler) to book your appointment!

1. **Enter the Benefit Code:** Use **STPUCCVAC25** when prompted.
2. **Select Your Vaccines:** Choose which vaccines you want to receive
3. **Find an Appointment:**
  - Select **10/19/2025** for the date.
4. **Pick Your Time:** Choose your preferred time slot.
5. **Check Your Eligibility:** Provide your information to confirm eligibility for vaccination.
6. **Patient Details:** Enter your contact, address, and basic info for healthcare records.
7. **Complete Consent:** Finish by filling out and electronically signing the consent form.

**OCTOBER 19 – 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](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org).

**OCTOBER 28 – FOOD FOR THE SOUL - 12-1:30 p.m., Sanctuary**

"Faith Symbols Hidden in Plain Sight." Discussion facilitated by Larry Simpson. 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 29 – BAKE COOKIES FOR A CAUSE-5:30 p.m., Kitchen**

Join us at the next cookie baking event on Wednesday, October 29 at 5:30 p.m. This is an evening of fellowship and fun baking lots of cookies that are donated to LPCS and A Just Harvest. We enjoy dinner as a group and work as a team to bake and pack cookies for these two worthwhile organizations. If you are unable to come on October 29, but would like to contribute home baked cookies, contact Marcia Volk at [marcia@volkonline.com](mailto:marcia@volkonline.com) or Gloria Joseph at [glrjoseph@yahoo.com](mailto:glrjoseph@yahoo.com).

**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 10/22 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 four weeks. The temporary accessibility entrance on Fullerton for those using walkers and wheelchairs will remain unchanged.

Now through October 22, both the office entrance and the main Sanctuary entrance on Orchard are closed. 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!



### **LGBTQ "HOLY TROUBLEMAKERS" GALA – OCTOBER 19**

All are invited to the LGBTQ-RAN (Religious Archives Network) virtual Gala to celebrate and honor "Holy Troublemakers" - outstanding religious leaders from past decades and a few Holy Troublemakers from today. St. Pauls is a sponsor of this event.

Date & Time: Saturday, October 19 at 5 p.m.

Location: Via Zoom

This event is free, but registration is required. For more information and to register, visit [tinyurl.com/mr4afk3y](https://tinyurl.com/mr4afk3y).

## **BLAST FROM THE PAST**

Besides the celebration of Reformation Sunday, October is also the time when we acknowledge the anniversary of St. Pauls' founding – a double birthday, if you will. St. Pauls can trace its beginnings to the arrival of German immigrants to Chicago in the early 1840s. "A man died and a church was born" was the concise way our history was written back then. There was no minister to conduct services in the German language, so an original group of nine men (it was always men in those days) in Spring 1843 organized our church during a meeting in a store on Franklin & Lake Streets. More to come from our history over the next months.

## **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](mailto:burnett.db@gmail.com).

## **REFUGEEONE**

Their Winter Coat and Boot Drive is back! Winter may seem years away given our warm weather lately, but RefugeeOne is already making plans to help their clients with warm winter clothes. There is an Amazon Registry at [tinyurl.com/yx8fpyvr](https://tinyurl.com/yx8fpyvr) that has the items RefugeeOne is looking for. If you're interested in participating, please use this list and have the items shipped directly to RefugeeOne by selecting the *RefugeeOne (Winter Coat Drive)* address when you checkout. Please order your items by Thursday, October, 23, so that RefugeeOne will receive them in time to distribute. Thank you!



## **NEW MEMBER CLASS – NOVEMBER 16**

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](http://spucc.org/new_member_classes).

## **VOLUNTEER AT UCAN FAMILY THANKSGIVING**

St. Pauls members are invited to help UCAN celebrate Thanksgiving with its staff and residents. 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](mailto:Paulinetaylor933@gmail.com).

## **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](mailto:tm.ferrin@gmail.com), Breanna Coe (CC) [breannacoe@gmail.com](mailto:breannacoe@gmail.com), or Kecia Waldschmidt (PP) [keciagerman@hotmail.com](mailto:keciagerman@hotmail.com) for more information. Come make a joyful sound in the city with us!

## **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](mailto: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](https://tinyurl.com/2j5dy6fp) or contact Pastor Liz at [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org) to learn more about other opportunities to help.

## **CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION**

Please register your K-6<sup>th</sup> Sunday School students, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation students, and High School class members by scanning this QR code.



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



### **ST. PAULS MIGRANT HOUSING PROJECT LEGAL FUND**

Saint Pauls housed five Venezuelan migrant families in our building over the past two years. Today, nearly every single member of these families has achieved legal status, helping to safeguard their presence in Chicago for the time being and allowing them to work. Such legal aid is costly and ongoing. In a time of wild anxiety and uncertainty for these new friends, you can help make a difference for our migrant families by supporting our legal aid fund. If you'd like to make a donation, please choose "Migrant Housing Project - Legal Fund" from the drop-down menu on our giving page: [spucc.churchcenter.com/giving](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/giving).

### **HAVE SOME ODD JOBS? WE'VE GOT SOME WILLING WORKERS!**

As they continue to work at supporting themselves financially, members of our migrant family friends would love to work for you. They are available for things like house cleaning, handyman repairs, moving items, painting, deck-staining, demolition & clean-up, and carpentry on things like deck and dry-wall. We have been assigning work at a rate of \$25/hour and ask that the jobs be a minimum of 3–4 hours. You can find out more by contacting our Migrant Housing Project Coordinator David Brown at [dbrown@harrington-brown.com](mailto:dbrown@harrington-brown.com).

### **LITTLE LIGHTS ENROLLMENT 2025–2026**

We are accepting applications for the fall! Flexible class options and days available. We model and facilitate problem-solving strategies, build empathy and develop self-regulation skills. Through hands-on learning and play, children will benefit from structured socialization and gain a greater sense of themselves within our Saint Pauls community. If you are interested in learning more about early education classes for your child, visit our website at [www.littlelightslp.org](http://www.littlelightslp.org) or contact Erin Fitzgerald at [erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org](mailto:erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org).

### **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](mailto:pamelawoll3333@gmail.com) if you think this might benefit you.

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

Are you struggling with losing a beloved furry friend/companion/animal assistant? Losing a pet can be one of the most heart-wrenching experiences in life. At 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](https://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**

“Greenwashing” is the term environmentalists use when referring to the idea that the production, use and recycling of plastics can be made environmentally sustainable. The reality is quite the opposite. In Lake Michigan alone, 11.6 million pounds of plastic is introduced per year. Plastic does not disappear; rather, it breaks down into micro particles and ultimately contaminates drinking water and wildlife habitats. The health consequences for humans and wildlife are real, extensive and some yet unknown, and include: endocrine disruption, reproductive problems, and increased risk of cancers and heart disease.

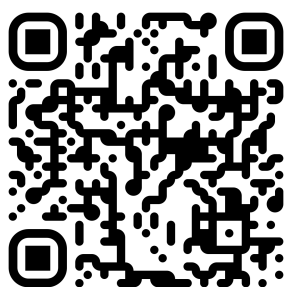
### **STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS**

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

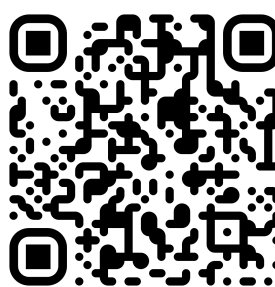
## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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

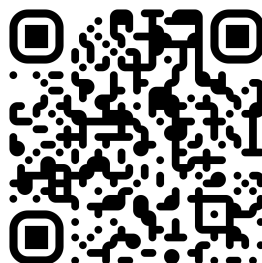
### JOIN A GROUP



### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



### SUBMIT AN ANNOUNCEMENT



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

## TODAY'S MUSIC

Bradley Sowash (b. 1960), who arranged this great hymn tune, ***For the Beauty of the Earth***, is a jazz pianist, composer and educator specializing in improvisation. He is a music composition graduate of The Ohio State University, has authored *That's Jazz*, as well as a nine-volume jazz piano method, *Creative Chords*. In 1838, Conrad Kocher (1786-1872) composed the original tune, DIX. He composed 25 German hymns, among them *Praise to the Lord the Almighty*.

Claire Shore composed both the music and words in 2010 to this "Introit for St. Francis Day," ***God Bless the Animals***. It was composed for a children's choir for a service blessing animals on St. Francis Day in 2010 at Calvary United Methodist Church in Lake Worth, Florida. Ms. Shore was only the second woman to earn a Doctorate of Musical Arts in composition from Juilliard School of Music. Her works are widely performed and she has held numerous university faculty positions.

The text for ***For the Beauty of the Earth*** was written by Folliott S. Pierpont (1835-1917). In the spring of 1863, Pierpont sat on a hill above his home of Bath, England, as this text flowed from his gratitude for the wonders of nature. The tune DIX was composed by German composer Conrad Kocher (1786-1872). He was trained as a teacher and eventually founded the School for Sacred Song in Stuttgart.

The author of the text for ***O How Glorious Full of Wonder*** is Curtiss Beach (1914-1993). He was Harvard educated and came from a long line of ministers. He wrote this text in 1958 while serving a church in Pasadena, California. The tune, IN BABILONE, is a traditional Dutch melody first published in 1710. It was adapted as a hymn by Julius Röntgen (1855-1932), a Dutch Romantic composer and pianist. Brahms chose him to debut his *First Piano Concerto*.

The text for ***We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky*** was penned in 1984 by Ruth Duck (1947-2024). She was a prolific hymn text and music composer. In addition, she was an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church and also was on the faculty of the Garrett Evangelical Seminary in Evanston. The tune, ENDLESS SONG, was composed by Robert Lowry (1826-1899). Lowry was a preacher and scholar with a musical background from his childhood.

***O How Amiable*** was composed in 1934 by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1871-1958). It is a wonderful example of an English form of church music called a "verse anthem." The first well-known composer of this form was Gustav Holst (1874-1934), a contemporary of Vaughan Williams. In general, the verse anthem is a simpler church anthem based on a familiar hymn tune with additional musical variations.

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 was Organist and Choirmaster for several years at First United Methodist Church in Evanston.

The ***Prelude and Fugue in E Flat Major*** BWV 552 is the closing piece to Johann Sebastian Bach's (1685-1750) incredible collection, *Clavier-Übung III*. It is a monumental work of music for liturgical services. The Fugue is often called "St. Anne," because the first subject of the fugue sounds exactly like the tune for *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*. Bach had no knowledge of that tune and it is an interesting coincidence that it sounds like our beloved English hymn. The fugue can also be considered a "Trinity fugue," because it is in three parts, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit.

# **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](mailto:mfitzgerald@spucc.org)  
Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org)  
Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org)

For a complete list of St. Pauls Staff, Governance, and Lay Leadership  
Please visit [www.spucc.org/contact](http://www.spucc.org/contact)

**St. Pauls United Church of Christ**  
**2335 N Orchard St. | Chicago, IL 60614**  
**(773) 348-3829   [www.spucc.org](http://www.spucc.org)**

Sunday Worship at 10 a.m.  
Free Parking is available Sundays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
at the Lincoln Common Parking Garage, 2316 N. Lincoln Ave.  
Parking validation is available in the main office.



## **WELCOME TO SAINT PAULS UCC!**

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

Welcome to our first time guests and  
our longtime members.

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

Welcome to those who rejoice and to those who grieve.

Welcome to LGBTQ+ people.

Welcome to each and to everyone.

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