



November 30, 2025
First Sunday of Advent,
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.*

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

The coming of Christ requires that we become people of Advent; people who persistently await the victorious light. Where there are such people, Christmas can happen. - Karl Barth

PRELUDE

Veni Emmanuel
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

Wolf Rübsam

CHIMES

INTROIT

Advent Introit
Chancel Choir

Chant

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE - The Candle of Hope

Nadia Jimenez and family

WELCOME

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Into our world, as into Mary's expectation,

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

One: Into lowly and inhospitable places,

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

One: Into the lives of the poor and the powerful.

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

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

* HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
2. O come, thou Day - spring, come___ and cheer Our spir - its by thine
3. O come, thou Wis - dom from___ on high, And or - der all things,
4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples in one



Is - - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile___ here, Un -
ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of___ night, And
far___ and nigh; To us the path of knowl - edge show, And
heart___ and mind; Bid en - vy, strife, and quar - rels___ cease; Fill



- til the Son of God___ a - pear.
death's dark shad - ows put___ to flight. *Re - jice! Re - jice! Em -*
cause us in her ways___ to go.
the whole world with heav - en's peace.



- man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - - ra - el!

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord, have mercy on us.
We long for your presence,
but we are not ready
for your arrival.
We live in sin,
as if justice was a fantasy.
We live in fear,
as if grace were impossible.
Forgive us, Lord.
Show us your steadfast love.
Come, Lord Jesus.
Remake us.
Reshape 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

Stumbling Blocks

Kris Hansen

St. Arbucks Quartet

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Jesus, bread of heaven, thank you for this bread and cup. Thank you for giving your very self for the sins of the world. We can never repay you oh, Lord, but we can follow you. Help us to feed and nourish others in our thoughts, in our words and in our deeds. 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

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep_ si - lence, And with fear and
2. King of kings, yet born of___ Mar - y, As of old on
3. Rank on rank the host of___ heav - en Spreads its van - guard



trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
 earth he___ stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man_ ves - ture,
 on the___ way, As the Light of light de - scend - eth



For with bless - ing in his___ hand, Christ our God to earth de -
 In the bod - y and the___ blood. He will give to all the
 From the realms of end - less_ day, That the powers of hell may



- scend - - eth, Our full hom - age to de - mand.
 faith - - ful His own self for heav'n - ly___ food.
 van - - ish As the dark - ness clears a - way.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 24, selections

The arrival of the Son of Man isn't something you go to see. He comes like swift lightning to you! Many will come in my name saying, "I am the Messiah!" And they will lead many astray. Whenever you see crowds gathering, think of carrion vultures circling, moving in, hovering over a rotting carcass. You can be quite sure that it's not the living Son of Man pulling in those crowds.

Following those hard times,

Sun will fade out, moon cloud over,

Stars fall out of the sky,

cosmic powers tremble.

Then, the Arrival of the Son of Man! It will fill the skies—no one will miss it. All the tribes of the earth will mourn as they watch the Son of Man blazing out of heaven. At that same moment, he'll dispatch his angels with a trumpet-blast summons, pulling in God's chosen from the four winds, from pole to pole.

When you see all these things, you'll know he's at the door. Don't take this lightly. I'm not just saying this for some future generation, but for all of you. But the exact day and hour? No one knows that, not even heaven's angels, not even the Son. Only the Father knows.

So keep awake. Stay alert. You have no idea on what day your Lord is coming. But you do know this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake.

RESPONSE

God Is Working His Purpose Out

vv. 1 & 2

1. God is work - ing his pur - pose out As year suc -

2. From ut - most east to ut - most west, Wher - e'er man's

3. March we forth in the strength of God With the ban - ner of

4. All we can do is noth - ing worth Un - less God

- ceeds to year; God is work - ing his pur - pose out, And the

foot hath trod, By the mouth of man - y mes - sen - gers Goes

Christ un - furled, That the light of the glo - rious gos - pel of truth May

bless - es the deed; Vain - ly we hope for the har - vest - tide Till

time is draw - ing near; Near - er and near - er draws the time, The

forth the voice of God; Give ear to me, ye con - ti - nents, Ye

shine through - out the world; Fight we the fight with sorrow and sin To

God gives life to the seed; Yet near - er and near - er draws the time, The

time that shall sure - ly be, When the earth shall be filled with the

isles, give ear to me, That the earth may by filled with the

set their cap - tives free, That the earth may be filled with the

time that shall sure - ly be, When the earth shall be filled with the

glo - ry of God As the wa - ters cov - er the sea.

glo - ry of God As the wa - ters cov - er the sea.

glo - ry of God As the wa - ters cov - er the sea.

glo - ry of God As the wa - ters cov - er the sea.

SERMON

"Christmas Can Happen"

Matt Fitzgerald

* RESPONSE

God Is Working His Purpose Out

vv. 3 & 4

See previous hymn

GIVING MOMENT

"What More Is Saint Pauls Building?"

Nancy Godinez

OFFERTORY

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come
Chancel Choir

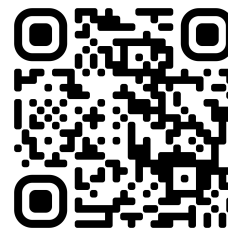
Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from Him, who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed His blood that we might saved be.
Sing holy to our Lord, The Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is to come; Sing holy, holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below, for Christ is coming soon!
Even so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, And night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, For Christ will be their All!
from Revelation 22

ELECTRONIC OFFERING OPTIONS

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



WELCOME CARD

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



* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all 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

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet_ a king!
3. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to eve - ry trou - bled breast!
4. Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life_ re - ceive;

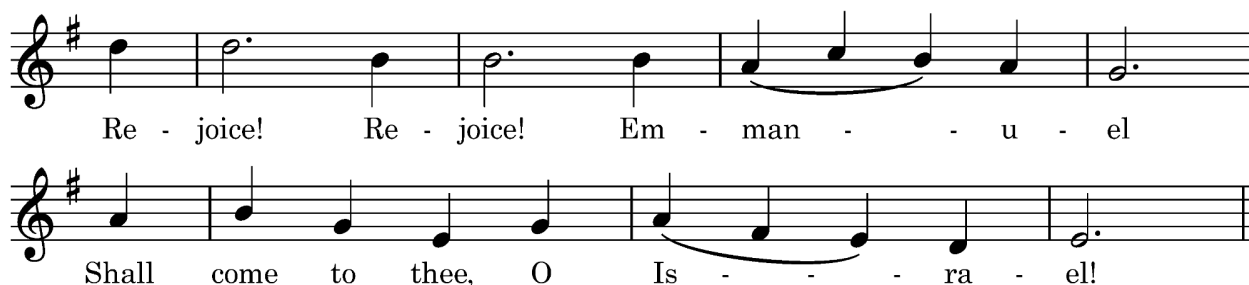
From our fears_ and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in thee.
Born to reign_ in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
Let us all_ in thee in - her - it; let us find thy prom - ised rest.
Sud - den - ly_ re - turn and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.

Is - rael's strength and con - sol - la - tion, hope of all_ the earth thou art;
By thy own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all_ our hearts a - lone;
Take a - way our love of sin - ning; Al - pha and_ O - me - ga be;
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as_ thy hosts a - bove,

Dear de - sire_ of ev - ry na - tion, joy of ev - ry long - ing heart.
By_ thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to_ thy glor - ious throne.
End of faith, as its_ be - gin - ing, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
Pray and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in_ thy pre - cious love.

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

It Is Well With My Soul
St. Arbucks Quartet

Horatio Spofford
arr. Colleen Henry

ADVENT WREATH - Each week during Advent, we light a candle in our Advent wreath to anticipate the coming of Christ, the light of the world. These candles symbolize the gifts of hope, love, joy, and peace that Christ brings. Today, we light the candle of Hope. Each week, a different member of the Migrant Housing Project (MHP) Team will light a candle. There was no room at the inn for Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus, but at St. Paul's we have room for our Venezuelan migrant families. Some of our migrant families will accompany MHP members, as their schedules allow. Many of these families work on Sunday mornings. All of our families have achieved legal working status in the U.S. Our Christmas Eve offering will be dedicated to the MHP Legal Aid Fund.

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: 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

Advent Wreath Lighter: Nadia Jimenez and family

Communion Coordinator: Jana O'Brien

Worship Assistant: Jeff Wagner

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, Doug Clark, David Faulkner, Fred Pearson

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

Communion bread baked by Kristin Lane.

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

BORN THIS WEEK IN DECEMBER

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.

- Dec. 1 Brooke Walvoord, Dodd Brown, John Reed, Leo Lawrence, Rex Lawrence
- Dec. 2 Frank Mynard, Matthew Wallace, Richard Wu
- Dec. 3 Maximilian Blair Shirk Jones, Maximilian Jones, Nadia Jiménez
- Dec. 4 Katherine Schuller, Laura Van Zeyl, Mark Smith
- Dec. 5 Chris McGuire, Joel Finkle
- Dec. 6 Shannon Castle

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.

- Alicia Braun and her family for the death of her father, Joseph Kroenert.
- Kate and Angus Atkins-Trimnell, Pastor Liz's sister and brother-in-law, for the death of Angus's father, Ralph Trimnell.
- Families undergoing treatments for infertility.
- Barbara Benjamin's husband, Tom Coffield, for an upcoming surgery on December 4.
- Prayers for Rick Sensenbrenner's mother, Marie, as she navigates various health conditions.
- 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.
- Lorri Wirsum's daughter, Ruby, facing health concerns, and her daughter-in-law, Trish, on the death of Trish's mother, Sandy Henderson.
- A neighbor of St. Pauls struggling with fibromyalgia.
- Ally S., a college student with double vision and neurological problems.
- Donn Schimp and his family as Donn continues cancer treatment.
- Dianne Witkowski, as she deals with cancer chemotherapy.

Prayer, Support, Mental Health Resources

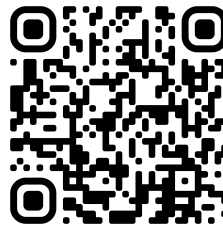
Even when you walk through the valley of shadows, God is with you. Help is available for every kind of issue. Contact one of the pastors today for support, referrals, and information that can help you and your loved ones.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAULS

- SUN, NOV 30 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, *LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE*
10 a.m. - Worship
- SUN, DEC 7 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, *LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE*
10 a.m. - Worship, Christmas Cantata: John Rutter's *Magnificat*
- WED, DEC 10 LITTLE LIGHTS CHRISTMAS SHOW
5 p.m. - Concert, Sanctuary
- SAT, DEC 13 COOKIES WITH SANTA
10 a.m. - Cookies, crafts and pictures with Santa, Gym
- SUN, DEC 14 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, *LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY*
10 a.m. - Worship, Readings & Carols with youth choirs and brass
11:30 a.m. - Advent Market
- TUES, DEC 16 FOOD FOR THE SOUL
12 p.m. - Christmas Party with carol sing-a-long
- THURS, DEC 18 TAIZÉ WINTER SOLSTICE ♦
7 p.m. - Service, Labyrinth Walk, Gym
- SUN, DEC 21 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, *LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE*
10 a.m. - Worship
- WED, DEC 24 CHRISTMAS EVE
5 p.m. - Family Service, Sanctuary
9 p.m. - Candlelight Service, Sanctuary
Christmas story, carols, candles, and choir

*Scan here for more
information about
Advent events*

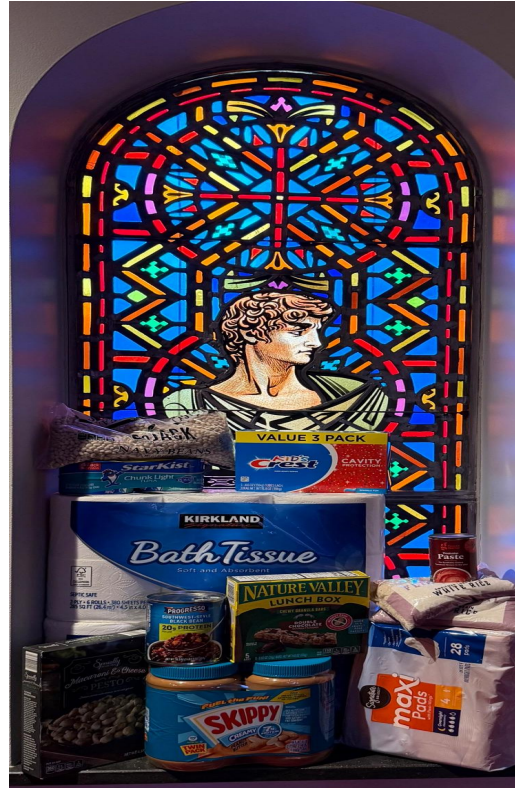
♦RSVP for childcare



CHRISTMAS GIVING

We are going to “Fill the Sills” throughout the holiday season. Common Pantry has requested:

- ✓ protein
- ✓ diapers (adult and child)
- ✓ wipes
- ✓ feminine hygiene products
- ✓ shopping bags with handles
- ✓ cooking oil
- ✓ dish soap
- ✓ bath soap
- ✓ coffee
- ✓ kids snacks
- ✓ spices & herbs
- ✓ salt and pepper



To donate directly to the Common Pantry, go to www.commonpantry.org/.

UCAN HOLIDAY GIFT CARDS

For 150 years, the members of St. Pauls have given Christmas gifts to the youth served by UCAN. Help us continue this tradition by stopping by our tables at each entrance after worship to sign up for a wish list. You can also send a card to the church office. 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. We committed to providing 140 and we have 90 left to go. Accepted cards include Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Target, or Walmart. Please send your gift cards to the church by December 1. Thank you for helping make this holiday season special for those in need!

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 7 – BIBLE OFF BROADWAY INFO SESSION - 11:30 a.m., Social Hall

Join us next Sunday, December 7, at 11:30 a.m. in the Social Hall to learn about this year's theme, schedule and ways for your kids to participate! Director Jana O'Brien will help share ways that your youth and family can help make this year the best ever!!!

DECEMBER 10 – LITTLE LIGHTS CHRISTMAS CONCERT - 5 p.m., Sanctuary

Our Little Lights students take the spotlight on Wednesday, December 10 as each class performs two songs. This brief show concludes with a group sing-a-long and a hot cocoa bar to celebrate. Get ready to see some stars in action as our littlest ones embody the heart of the Christmas spirit.

DECEMBER 13 – COOKIES WITH SANTA - 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Gym

Join us at St. Pauls for our annual Cookies with Santa event. It is a festive time full of music, cookie decorating, crafts, hot chocolate, and pictures with Santa! This event features live music provided by the Windy City Winds that is guaranteed to get everyone in the holiday spirit! To help plan our cookie count, please register here for this free event: tinyurl.com/3mkn4k53.

DECEMBER 14 – LUNCH MAKING FOR LPCS - 11:15 a.m., Kitchen

Right after church, come to SPUCC's kitchen and help make sack lunches for the residents of Lincoln Park Community Services. We provide all the needed food, but volunteers are asked to contribute \$25 each to help cover food costs for the lunches. Donations can be made via cash, Venmo, or Zelle. We're typically done by 12:15 p.m.

If you're interested, please use Church Center to sign-up: tinyurl.com/e4m9v9zz

DECEMBER 14 – DINNER MAKING FOR LPCS - 4 p.m., Kitchen

Join us in preparing and delivering dinner for residents of the Lincoln Park Community Shelter. We meet at SPUCC 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 \$25 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/5dmys5hc

DECEMBER 16 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL CHRISTMAS PARTY/SING-A-LONG- 12-1:30

p.m., Social Hall - Bring whatever food you would like to share. Dress in your Christmas gear if desired. Join the caroling with Pastor Jeff at the piano. Sponsored by St. Pauls Social. Adults of all ages are invited. Childcare provided.

DECEMBER 16 – JANE AUSTEN 250 READING GROUP - 7 p.m., Zoom

December 16, 2025 is the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth. We'll be discussing her last-published novel, *Persuasion*. Discussion over Zoom. Sign up to participate here: tinyurl.com/yez6ejw6. Contact: Pastor Jeff.

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!



ADVENT MARKET ITEMS NEEDED

This year's Advent Market is on Sunday, December 14, and will help fund our outreach and benevolence to provide legal support for our migrant family friends and church members. We need new or gently used items such as jewelry, candles, frames, handmade items, Christmas decorations, toys, etc. (Please, no clothing unless it is holiday specific.) Drop-off dates are **December 6:** 9 a.m. -12p.m., **December 7:** 9 a.m.-12 p.m., **December 12:** 10 a.m.-3 p.m., and **December 13:** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Questions, please text or email Carrie Bruggers at (773) 294-4446 or crbruggs@gmail.com.

HARVEST RECIPES

The Green Team invites St. Pauls to taste vegetarian recipes suitable for the holidays. Recipes will be provided.

NEW MEMBER CLASS – FEBRUARY 1, 2026

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. See upcoming dates here: spucc.org/new_member_classes.

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.



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, which St. Pauls founded to care for Civil War orphans and is still working for today's youth. 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 Lincoln Park Community Services, organizations we continue to support today with our time, talent and treasure. What's next?

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.

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.

“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.

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.

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.

St. Pauls UCC
Giving Campaign 2026
October 12, 2025 – January 11, 2026
Total: \$619,699
Total households pledged: 110

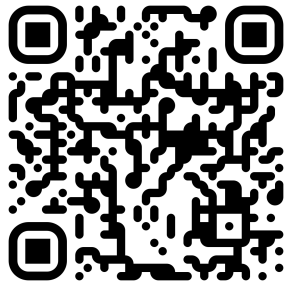
\$1,000,000
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\$100,000

What More Are We Building?

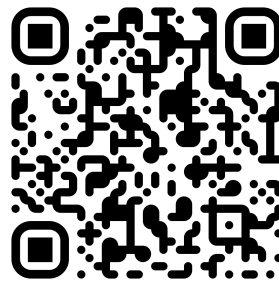
WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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

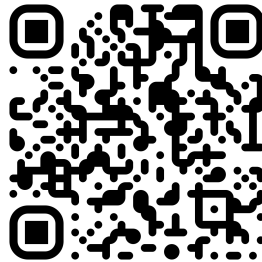
JOIN A GROUP



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

Veni Emmanuel is better known to us as the melody for *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*. Wolfgang Rübsam (b. 1946) was born and studied organ in Germany. He also is a composer, pianist, and teacher. Amongst his organ teachers was Marie-Claire Alain, who played the rededication of our organ in 2000. Rübsam was Professor of Organ at Northwestern University and Kevin Dzierzawski studied with him for his Master's degree. Rübsam has more than 130 recordings to his credit and is in demand internationally as a recitalist.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel is thought of as a Christmas carol, but its text definitely references the anticipation of Advent. The original Latin, VENI EMMANUEL, was translated in 1851 by J. M. Neale (1818-1866). A member of the British clergy, he struggled with ill health his entire life. Neale also composed the texts for many other hymns, including, *All Glory Laud and Honor*, as well as translating many other Latin texts, such as *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence employs a French carol melody, PICARDY, from the 17th century that was harmonized in 1906 by the great English composer of the 20th century, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). The words are a translation and paraphrase of a hymn from the Greek Liturgy of St. James.

God Is Working His Purpose Out is a favorite hymn of our deceased Pastor Emeritus Tom Henry. The text was written by Arthur Campbell Ainger (1841-1919) in 1894. The text demanded a muscular tune, which Martin Shaw (1916-1999) provided in 1951.

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come was composed by Paul Manz (1919-2009) in 1953. He composed this anthem while in a hospital waiting room awaiting results of surgery on his child, who had been injured in an automobile accident. His son survived. It has been performed widely, including for *Lessons and Carols* at King's College Cambridge in England. He was a graduate of Concordia College in River Forest and Northwestern University.

The text for ***Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*** was written by the great English hymn writer, Charles Wesley (1707-1788). He wrote more than 6,500 hymn texts. The composer of HYFRYDOL, Roland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887), was from Wales and was only 19 when he composed this piece.

Our Postlude, ***It Is Well With My Soul***, was composed by Philip L. Bliss (1836-1878) in 1876. He was a largely self-taught itinerant music teacher. He was converted at age 12 at a revival, and it was Dwight L. Moody (1837-1899), famous evangelist and founder of Chicago's Moody Bible Institute who encouraged Bliss to become a singing evangelist. The text was written in 1873 by Horatio G. Spafford (1828-1888), who also gave the Bliss tune its name, VILLE DU HAVRE. The tune is the name of the ship carrying his wife and four daughters from Chicago to vacation in France. The ship sank in the Atlantic after a collision with another vessel and only his wife survived. He wrote this text ***after*** this loss. This arrangement was made by Colleen Henry (1946-2014), mother of Brendan Henry.

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 180 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

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 Narthex.



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.