

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
December 24, 2025
9:00 p.m.

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

Worship begins with chimes.

The prelude is a time of reflection and preparation for the worship of God.

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 candle is a star, and the gilded angel spreading its wings at the summit of
the tree is not only a decoration, but an angel." TS Eliot

PRELUDE

Sure on this Shining Night

Samuel Barber

Breanna Coe, mezzo-soprano

Kevin Dzierzawski, piano

Sure on this shining night

Of star made shadows round,

Kindness must watch for me

This side the ground.

The late year lies down the north.

All is healed, all is health.

High mystery holds the earth.

Hearts all whole.

Sure on this shining night

I weep for wonder, wand'ring far alone

Of shadows on the stars.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

St. Arbucks Quartet

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

Toccata from Symphony V
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

Charles Marie Widor

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, —
3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing, —

come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven — a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee — be all glo - ry given;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, — Christ, — the Lord!

* Please stand if you are able to do so.

* WELCOME

Liz Nickerson

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The prophets have proclaimed it and the angels have announced it:
Unto us a child is born. Unto us a savior is given.
Glory to God in the highest!

All: And on earth peace, goodwill.

One: Go tell it on the mountain.

All: Go tell it in the city.

One: This is good news of great joy.

All: Jesus Christ is born!

CHOIR

Celebrate Rejoice! John Kee & Richard Smallwood
St. Arbucks Quartet arr. Mike Speck & Tim Parton
Chancel Choir

Let us rejoice,
Let's celebrate;
For the Savior of the world is born today.

The Anointed One is to be praised.
Sing Hallelujah!
Let's celebrate

For unto you, this day,
In the city of Judah, is born a Savior
Which is Christ the Lord;
And the government shall be upon His shoulder,
And his name is
Wonderful, Counselor.

Let us rejoice, ...

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel has come to thee O Israel.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN SCRIPTURE AND SONG

THE PROPHECY FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 9, 60 and 40, selections

CHOIR

Carol Of The Bells

Chancel Choir

Mykola Leontovich

arr. Peter J. Wilhousky

Hark! How the bells; sweet silver bells,
All seem to say, "Throw cares away"
Christmas is here, bringing good cheer
To young and old, meek and the bold.
Ding, dong, ding, dong, that is their song,
With joyful ring, all caroling.

One seems to hear, words of good cheer,
From everywhere, filling the air.
O, how they pound, raising the sound,
O'er hill and dale, telling their tale,
Gayly they ring, while people sing song of good cheer,
Christmas is here! Merry Christmas!

On, on they send, on without end,
Their joyful tone, to every home.

THE FULFILLMENT IN THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-7

CONGREGATION

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The won - drous gift is given!

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing Light;
 No ear may hear him com - ing, But in this world of sin,

The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
 Where meek souls will re - ceive him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.

THE ANGELIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Luke 2:8-14

* CONGREGATION

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, — “Glo - ry to the new - born King;

The first system of musical notation for the first line of the hymn. It consists of a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild — God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”

The second system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, — Join the tri - umph of the skies;

The third system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is — born in Beth - le - hem!”

The fourth system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry — to the new - born King!”

The fifth system of musical notation, which concludes the hymn. It continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

CHOIR

Il est né

French Carol

Penny Trowbridge, flute;
Matt Paskota, drums;
and Breanna Coe, finger cymbals
Chancel Choir

arr. Mark Burrows

Il est né, le divin Enfant.
Now is born the divine child.
Play on the flute and bagpipes merrily.
Sing our song for the little child.
Il est né, ...

Through long ages of the past,
Prophets have foretold his coming.
Through long ages of the past,
Now the time has come at last.
Il est né, ...

Play on the flute ...
Il est né, ...
Child of wonder,
Child so small,
For his bed lowly manger.
Born this day for one and all.

THE SHEPHERD'S VISIT

Luke 2:15-20

CONGREGATION

Away in a Manger

Away in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, the lit - tle Lord
Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky — looked
down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.

The musical score is written on three staves in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and suitable for congregational singing. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes or measures.

CHOIR

Glory, Glory, Glory To The Newborn King

Moses Hogan

Kecia Waldschmidt, soloist

Chancel Choir

What will we call that pretty little baby?
Baby born in Bethlehem.
Where was he born, this pretty little baby?
Christ the Lord the newborn King.

Down in a lowly manger.
Where His birth was in a stable.
Christ the Lord the newborn King.
Born this night, the Son of Mary,
Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace.
Glory to the newborn King.

Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King.
Children, go and tell it on the mountain.
Lord, over the hills and everywhere,
That Jesus Christ is born.
See the new born baby.

Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King...
All praise to the newborn King.
We're singin'
All praise to the newborn King.
Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King.

* CONGREGATION

The First Nowell

1. The first Now - ell, the an - gel did say, Was to
2. And by the light of that same star Three

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In
wise men came from coun - try far; To

fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep, On a cold win - ter's
seek for a king was their in - tent, And to fol - low the

night that was so deep. Now - ell, Now - ell, Now -
star wher - ev - er it went.

- ell, Now - ell, Born is the king of Is - ra - el.

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The first two lines of lyrics are for two different parts of the song. The rest of the lyrics are for a single part. The score ends with a double bar line.

THE ADORATION OF THE MAGI

Matthew 2:1–12

CHOIR

Rise Up Shepherd and Follow African American Spiritual

Nathan Streeter, tenor

arr. John Rutter

and Nancy Pifer, soprano

There's a star in the east on Christmas morn.

Rise up shepherd and follow!

It'll lead to the place where the Savior's born.

Rise up shepherd and follow!

If you pay good heed to the angels words.

Rise up shepherd and follow!

You'll leave your flock, you'll leave your herds.

Rise up shepherd and follow!

Leave your sheep, and leave your lambs.

Rise up shepherd and follow!

Leave your ewes and leave your rams.

Rise up shepherd and follow!

There's a star in the east on Christmas morn.

Rise up shepherd and follow!

It'll lead to the place where the Savior's born.

Rise up shepherd and follow!

Follow, follow,

Follow the star of Bethlehem.

Rise up shepherd and follow!

SERMON

"Joy to the World"

Matt Fitzgerald

* CONGREGATION

Angels We Have Heard On High

1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun-tains in re - ply Echo - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad-some ti - dings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - - - o.

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

*Every dollar of our Christmas Eve offering is supporting our Migrant Housing Project.
Your offering is helping the families we support rebuild their lives in the US.*

You can give to the Christmas Eve Fund electronically by:

Scanning this code with your cell phone camera,

At spucc.churchcenter.com/giving,

Or through Zelle or PayPal to giving@spucc.org.



OFFERTORY

Nativity Carol
Nadia Jiménez, soloist
Chancel Choir

John Rutter

Born in a stable so bare,
Born so long ago;
Born 'neath light of star
He who loved us so.

Far away, silent lay,
Born today, your homage pay,
For Christ is born for aye,
Born on Christmas Day.

Cradled by mother so fair,
Tender her lullaby;
Over her son so dear
Angel hosts fill the sky.

Far away....

Love in that stable was born
Into our hearts to flow;
Innocent dreaming babe,
Make me thy love to know.

Far away....

THE CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

Jeff Carlson

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Those seated on the aisles, light your candles from the candelabras and pass the light to each other down the row.

CHOIR

Stille Nacht
Chancel Choir

Franz Gruber

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hoch heilige Paar
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

* CONGREGATION

Silent Night

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm, all is bright
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Shep - herds quake at the sight,
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light

Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child, Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild
Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
Ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, — Sleep in heav - en - ly peace. —
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! — Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! —
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, — Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth. —

* BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATION

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
 2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns: Let men their
 3. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

- ceive her king; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room,
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness,

And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his

And heav'n and na - ture sing, And
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
 And won - ders of his love, And

sing, And heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing.
 - peat the sound - ing joy,
 won - ders of his love,

POSTLUDE

Christmas Is Coming
St. Arbucks Quartet

Vince Guaraldi

Tonight's Offering Makes Room at the Inn.

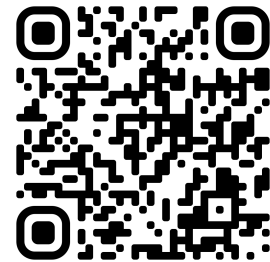
We are using every dollar of this evening's offering to help migrant families. Over the past three years, Saint Pauls has assisted five Venezuelan migrant families by housing them in our building and helping them achieve financial independence. Today, nearly every single member of these families has achieved legal status, safeguarding their presence in Chicago and allowing them to work. Such support and legal aid is costly. In a time of wild anxiety, you can help make room in the inn for migrant families by supporting the Saint Pauls Migrant Housing Project Fund with a generous gift this evening.

You can give to the Christmas Eve Fund electronically by:

Scanning this code with your cell phone camera,

At spucc.churchcenter.com/giving,

Or through Zelle or PayPal to giving@spucc.org.



Nativity

by RS Thomas

The moon is born
and a child is born,
lying among white clothes
as the moon among clouds.

They both shine, but
the light from the one
is abroad in the universe
as among broken glass.

TONIGHT'S MUSIC

Sure On This Shining Night was composed in 1938 by Samuel Barber (1910-1981) to a poem by James Agee (1909-1955). The original version is for solo voice and piano. This transcription of the piano part was made by Phyllis and Monty Adams. Barber was one of the great American composers of the 20th century. His *Adagio for Strings* is his most well known and often heard work. James Agee was also a novelist and film critic. He wound up on the wrong side of the blacklist in the 1950s.

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, is an unattributed chant melody.

Our own St. Arbucks Quartet recorded ***O Come, O Come Emmanuel*** on an album, ***Mid-Winter Gifts***, featuring music they have played during our worship services. It is available FREE to you and everyone online. Here is a link to the album on Spotify: open.spotify.com/album/5FEG6gRZPMTNBvaBJNborm, and Apple Music: music.apple.com/us/album/mid-winter-gifts-ep/1611741689. It is the same music on both sites, simply choose your preferred platform. You do not need a Spotify or Apple Music account to listen. Please feel free to share these links with your friends.

The ***Toccata*** from *Symphony V in F Major, Op. 42, No. 1* was composed in 1879 by Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937). This fiery work is beloved not only at St. Pauls, but also organists and audiences around the world. The *Toccata* shows off the composing skill of Widor, the technical prowess of the organist, and the huge range of colors of larger instruments. Widor, along with Louis Vierne (1870-1937), were the great French Romantic symphonists for the organ. Vierne held the post of Organist at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris and Widor held the same position at St. Sulpice, also in Paris.

O Come, All Ye Faithful, known by the Latin tune title ADESTE FIDELES, is definitely a carol that we sing on Christmas Eve, BUT how appropriate the words are after a separation from each other for more than a year, *O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant...* The words and music are attributed to John Francis Wade (1711-1786), who wrote the text originally in Latin. He left England in 1745 because of the persecution of Catholics. The English text was added by Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880), an Anglican priest, in the mid-19th century.

Celebrate Rejoice! is a medley in a contemporary gospel style including *Celebrate* by John P. Kee (b. 1962); *Rejoice!* by Richard Smallwood (b. 1948), and the Advent hymn *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*. The arrangement was made by Mike Speck and

Tim Parton (b. 1970) John P. Kee is an accomplished gospel singer, composer and pastor, whose career spans over 35 years. Richard Smallwood is one of the most prominent of the current gospel composers and performers. The Richard Smallwood Singer has performed internationally since 1977. Mike Speck is, in addition to composing, a worship leader of Mike Speck Ministries, artist and producer. *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* is thought of as a Christmas carol, but it's text definitely references the anticipation of Advent. The original Latin, VENI EMMANUEL, was translated in 1851 by J. M. Neale (1818-1866).

The composer, Mykola Leontovich (1877-1921), was a Ukrainian composer, conductor, ethnomusicologist, and teacher. Although he composed many works, ***The Carol Of The Bells*** is his most preformed work outside his homeland. He was assassinated by a Soviet agent in 1921. Peter J. Wilhousky (1902-1978) translated and made this arrangement in 1936. He was also of Ukrainian descent. He also wrote a famous arrangement of Battle Hymn of the Republic. During his career he was asked to prepare choruses for Toscanini. He was also was a well known educator.

The poetry for ***O Little Town of Bethlehem*** has a wonderful story. Phillips Brooks (1835-1893), an American, took a trip to Israel in 1865 at the close of the Civil War. The Reverend Brooks spent Christmas in Bethlehem in 1866, and this poem poured forth in 1868 as a result of that visit. ST. LOUIS, which is the tune most Americans know, was also composed in 1868 by Louis Redner (1831-1908), a Sunday School superintendent in Philadelphia. It was composed the night before it was sung at his church, and it is the only one for which he is remembered.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing is easily among the most well known Christmas carols. The text was written by famous Methodist clergy Charles Wesley (1749-1788) in 1739 and was altered to its present version in the same year by George Whitefield (1714-1770) The tune name, MENDELSSOHN, takes its name from its famous German composer, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847), who was much beloved in England. The melody is borrowed from a larger work, Festgesang, Op. 68 composed in 1840.

Il est né is an unattributed French carol that definitely predates its first publication in 1862. In all likelihood it was shared in oral traditions. It captures the simple folk-like joy of welcoming the Christ child with music provided by flute and bagpipes. - Mark Burrows (b. 1971) arranged this carol in 2021 for choir, flute and simple percussion. He is a composer, conductor and educator. He has specialized in music for children's choirs. He is currently Director of Children's Ministries at First United Methodist Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

The original text for ***Away in a Manger*** was written by Martin Luther (1483-1546) for his own children. The English text for the first stanza that is so familiar is unattributed. The tune, MUELLER, was composed by American James R. Murray (1841-1905). He was a friend of another great 19th century American hymnodist, William Bradbury. He also fought in the Civil War.

Glory, Glory, Glory To The New Born King is based on the well known spiritual *Go Tell It On The Mountain*. It is characterized by both serenity and great energy. In his all too brief life, Moses Hogan (1957 – 2003) continued and added to the great tradition of spiritual arrangement that William Dawson is also a part of. He recorded a number of compact discs and wrote solo arrangements for singers like Kathleen Battle. He also was commissioned to compose the anthem *Home In-A That Rock* for our Chancel Choir and Ron McCowan.

The author of the text for ***The First Nowell*** (or Noël) is anonymous and dates from 1833. The tune, THE FIRST NOEL, is a traditional English carol. Nowell is a more common spelling of the word. Noël is the French word that many of us see more often and means Christmas.

Rise Up Shepherd And Follow is a text and tune from an unattributed traditional American spiritual. This arrangement was composed in 1978 by John Rutter (b.1945). It was composed for the annual Lessons and Carols service of Kings College Cambridge. Rutter is an alumnus of Claire College Cambridge and the famous conductor of the choir at Kings College, David Willcocks (1919-2015), was his mentor. In June 2024, John Rutter was knighted by King Charles, an honor richly deserved.

Angels We Have Heard On High is originally an 18th century French Noël (carol) freely translated by James Chadwick (1813-1882), an Irish Catholic priest. GLORIA is from the text of the joyfully cascading Latin refrain, which we sing as a Benediction Response after Christmas and during Epiphany.

John Rutter (b. 1945) composed both the music and words for ***Nativity Carol*** in 1966. Rutter is one of the most prominent composers of choral music in the 20th and 21 century. He has recorded numerous Cd's and has concertized around his native England, this country and the rest of the world. Mel Olson (1930-2001), who was Director of Music at Dundee Presbyterian Church in Omaha, Nebraska where our Director of Music, Kurt R. Hansen, grew up; was largely responsible for introducing John Rutter's music to American church music programs and a larger American audience.

The story of ***Silent Night (Stille Nacht)*** is so sweet. On Christmas Eve in 1818, Franz Gruber (1787-1863), an Austrian church organist and choir master, faced a disaster. The organ became unplayable that day. He composed, played guitar and sang *Stille Nacht* for Christmas Eve services that night. The text was written by Joseph Mohr (1792-1848) in 1815. It has become one of the most beloved of all carols in any language.

Christmas Is Coming was composed by Vince Guaraldi (1928-1976) and is a musical part of the made-for-TV movie, A Charlie Brown Christmas (1965). He also created music for other animated features including Linus And Lucy. He also won a Grammy in 1963 for Best Original Jazz Composition.

TONIGHT'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Liz Nickerson, Matt Fitzgerald, Jeff Carlson

Music Director: Kurt R. Hansen

Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski

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

Acolyte Coordinator: Rebecca Sandoval

Acolytes: Cody Fitzgerald, Everett Hamm, Anaïs Jarzebowski, Zachary Jarzebowski, Cosette Millard, Stefan Millard, Claire Nitzsche

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: John Belevic, Debbie Edwards, Mary Ann Brown, Dodd Brown, Doug Dunham, Gloria Joseph

Greeters: Doug Dunham, John Balevic

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

Camera Operators: Jim Alrutz, Marie Ankenman, Bob Ball, Jose Cruz, Brian Hafner

Custodians: Ramiro Gonzalez, Vince Luri

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 25 – INVITATION TO CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

Join us for a Christmas Day brunch potluck at St. Pauls. Sure to be included is a wassail cup, conviviality and fellowship! All ages welcome.

Time: 11-3 pm

Place: St. Pauls

Contact: Ninon Freeman for additional information, reservations and food/drink

Suggestions: 312-447-1330 and nlanda05@yahoo.com.

JANUARY 4, 2026 – BIBLE OFF BROADWAY REHEARSALS

Bible Off Broadway is coming on February 1, 2026! If you have kids age 3 through high school, remember that January's church school program is Bible Off Broadway rehearsals! Starting January 4, bring your kids to the Social Hall by 9:30 a.m. sharp each Sunday for the rehearsal kickoff. Whether on stage or behind the scenes, we'll have something for every young person to do and enjoy. Please fill out the BOB Parent Survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/QDF538W so we know what your child would like to do!

JANUARY 7, 2026 – NEW YEAR, NEW BIBLE STUDY BEGINS! - Noon, Zoom

What did it mean for the early Christians to follow Jesus in the midst of a violent world empire? How were they to live as an alternative community that looked like Jesus and not like Rome? These are questions they faced and that we also face in our post-Christian world. This winter we'll be studying 1 & 2 Peter and Jude, small books that wrestle with these big questions. Led by Jeff Carlson, we meet every Wednesday over Zoom for about 40 minutes. Sign up here: tinyurl.com/y3w7fkpw.

JANUARY 11, 2026 – 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.

JANUARY 11, 2026 – 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.

JANUARY 28, 2026 – COOKIES FOR A CAUSE (BAKE YOUR FAVORITE COOKIES AT HOME NOW!) - 5:30 p.m., Kitchen

Join the St. Paul's cookie bakers for dinner, socializing, and cookie making on Wednesday, January 28. Meet us in the kitchen at 5:30 p.m. (or when you can). We eat dinner around 6:30 p.m. Cookies will be donated to A Just Harvest and the Lincoln Park Community Shelter. If you can't attend but want to contribute, drop off cookies labeled with your name and "MARCIA" at the church by Wednesday, January 28. To reserve a spot or find out what supplies are needed, contact Marcia Volk at marcia@volkonline.com or (773) 307-6866, or Gloria Joseph at glrjoseph@yahoo.com.

FEBRUARY 1, 2026 – NEW MEMBER CLASS - 11:15 a.m., Room 211

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.

THEOLOGY AND POETRY IN A YEAR

What does it mean to say God is in control? What does Jesus accomplish? How should I live as a Christian? What kind of authority does the bible have? Led by Pastor Matt, this group is for those who want a clear understanding of Christianity. REGISTER HERE: tinyurl.com/2hhd7bfe Rather than reading the work of a theologian, we will read eight poems a month, then meet over Zoom for a monthly class, for one year. Each set of poems will speak to a key Christian doctrine. You don't need to love (or even like) poems to join this lively, powerful program. At the end of the year, you'll understand Christianity better than ever, and may be transformed in other ways. Meetings will be in the evening, standing date TBD.

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.