



December 28, 2025
Sunday After Christmas

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

"This is where we come with our hopes, invisible before us,
untouched and still possible."

WS Merwin

PRELUDE

Rejoice!
St. Arbucks Quartet

Richard Smallwood

INTROIT

From Heaven Unto Earth I Come
Kurt R. Hansen, tenor

CHIMES

WELCOME

Matt Fitzgerald

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Thank you, God, for the cold.

All: The heavy contemplative cold that heralds our People's jubilee!

One: The cold that stirs visions of the stable babe.

**All: The cold that inspires living things to congregate across flinty
landscapes.**

One: Thank you, God, for the cold!

**All: For it is imprinted on me to listen in winter, *not spring*,
for the cry of birth! Amen.**

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

* 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!

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of five systems of music. The first system contains three verses of the hymn. The second system continues the lyrics, with the Soprano part featuring a melisma on 'O come'. The third system continues the lyrics, with the Soprano part featuring a melisma on 'Come'. The fourth system continues the lyrics, with the Soprano part featuring a melisma on 'O come'. The fifth system concludes the hymn with the lyrics 'O come, let us a - dore him, — Christ, — the Lord!'. The music is written in a traditional hymn style, with a clear melody and accompaniment.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liz Nickerson

**When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among the children of God,
O God when we shirk from the task,
forgive us!
When we reduce Christmas to a sentiment,
forgive us!
Help us make your love real upon this earth!**
(based on *The Work of Christmas* by Howard Thurman)

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*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.*

ANTHEM

Nova, Nova
Kurt R. Hansen, cantor and
Congregation

Anon.

Nova, Nova! Ave fit ex Eva.
News, New! Hail (Mary) is made from Eve

Gabriel of high degree,
He came down from the Trinity,
From Nazareth to Galilee,

Refrain

He met a maiden in a place,
He kneeled down before her face,
He said, "Hail Mary full of grace."

Refrain

Then said the angel, "Fear not you:
Ye shall conceive in all virtue
A child whose name shall be Jesus."

Refrain

The said the angel anon right,
"The Holy Ghost is on the plight;
There's nothing impossible to God Almighty."

Refrain

Then said the maid anon a-hye,
"I am God's own truly,
Ecce ancilla Domini."

(Behold the handmaid of the Lord.)

Refrain

SCRIPTURE

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

* STATEMENT OF FAITH

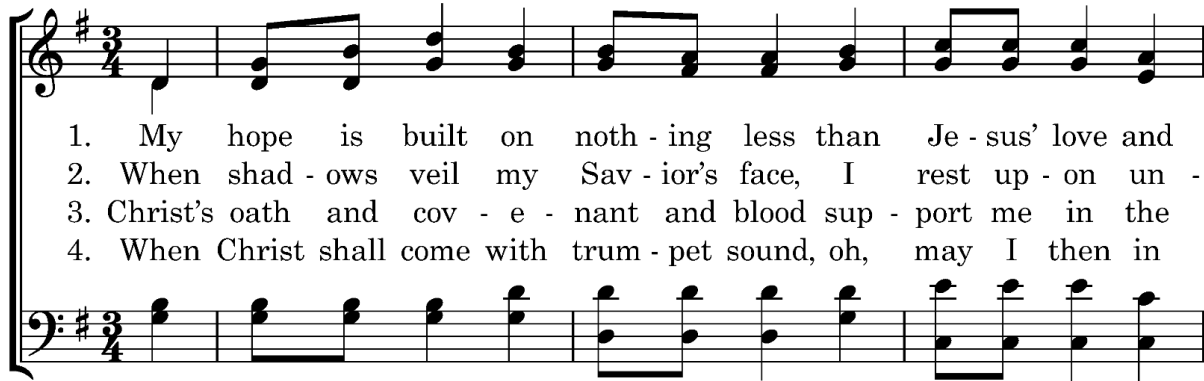
**We believe in God who has created and is creating,
who has come to us in Jesus Christ to reconcile and make us new,
who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.**

**We trust God. God calls us to be the Church,
to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to care for creation,
to seek justice and to resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

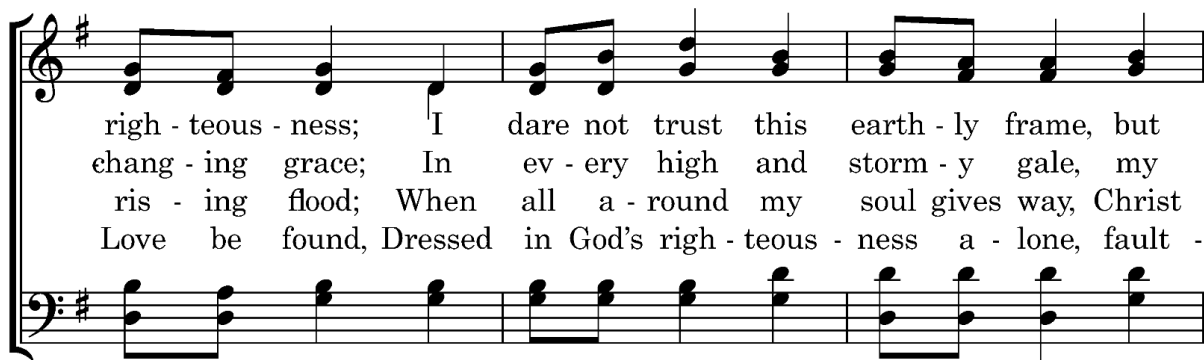
In life and death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

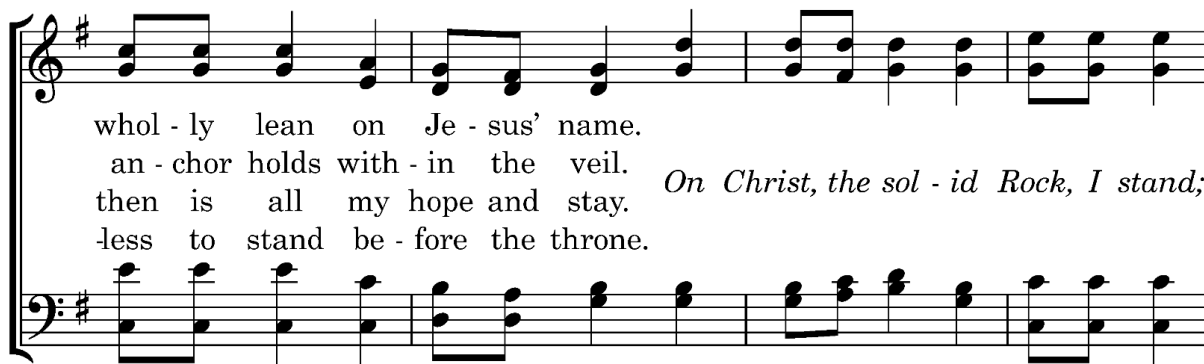
(adapted from the United Church of Canada)



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



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



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



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

* RESPONSE

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less
See the previous hymn

vv. 3 & 4

OFFERTORY

The Work Of Christmas
Kurt R. Hansen, tenor
Scott Banjavcic, piano

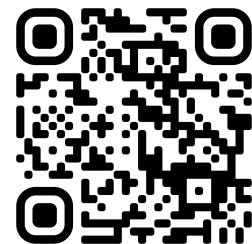
When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music from the heart.

When the song of the angels is stilled...

ELECTRONIC OFFERING OPTIONS

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

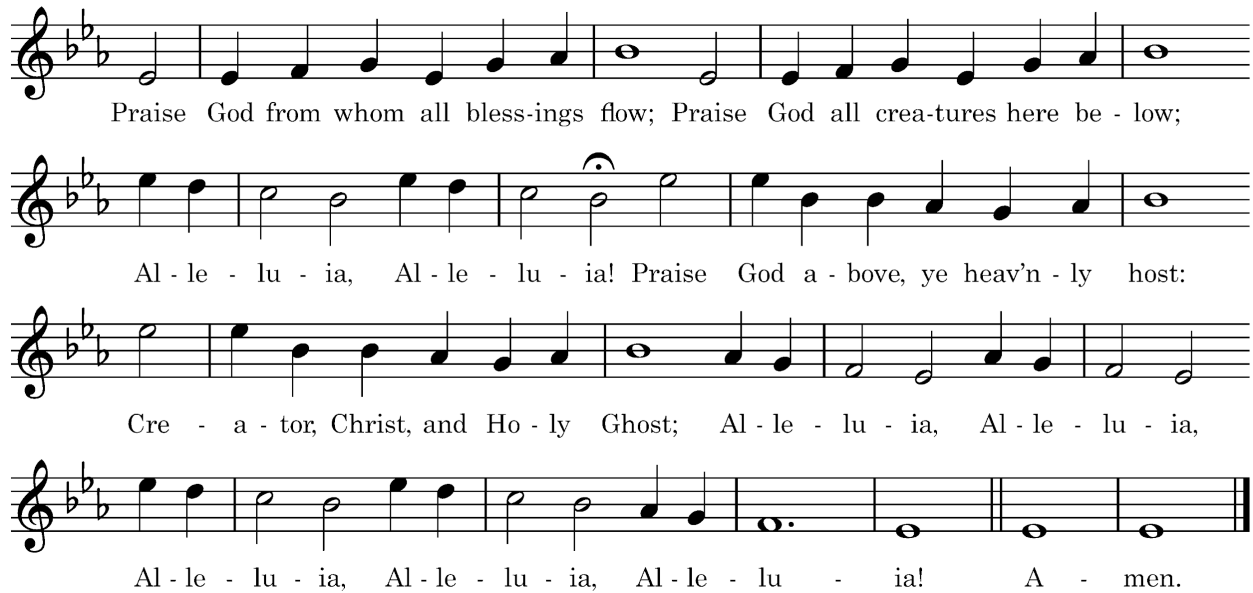


WELCOME CARD

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



* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



The musical notation is written on four staves in a single system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The lyrics are: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host: Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost; Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men."

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Liz Nickerson

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.**

* HYMN

Good Christian Friends Rejoice



1. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice____ with heart and soul and voice;____
2. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice____ with heart and soul and voice;____
3. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice____ with heart and soul and voice;____



now give heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now you know of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now you need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



Ox and ass be - fore him bow, a - sleep with - in the
God has o - pened heav - en's door, and you are blessed for -
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er -



man - ger now. Christ is born to - day,____ Christ is born to - day!
- ev - er - more. Christ was born for this,____ Christ was born for this!
- last - ing hall. Christ was born to save,____ Christ was born to save!

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Noël Nouvolet
Scott Banjavcic, organ

Richard Hudson

Glo - ri - a

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

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

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, downstairs, directly beneath the Sanctuary.

A Surprise Christmas Gift! Pledges Received by January 16 Will Be Matched.

The Giving Committee is happy to announce that we have received an unanticipated Christmas gift! A Saint Pauls member pledged \$50,000 to our 2026 campaign, to be used as a matching fund for any and all pledges or increases to existing pledges, received by January 16th. Between December 19 and January 16th, the first \$50,000 in new or increased 2026 pledges will be doubled! To make a pledge, fill out a pew card or pledge online at spucc.org/pledge.

To increase a pledge already made for 2026, contact our Bookkeeper, Claire, at bookkeeper@spucc.org.



TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Matt Fitzgerald, Liz Nickerson

Music Director: Kurt R. Hansen

Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski

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

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: Fred Pearson, David Faulkner, Mary Ann Brown

Greeters: Mercedes Ridao, David Faulkner

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

We are grateful for the generous gift of Jim Miller in memory of his beloved wife, Pattie O'Reilly Miller. His gift funded the poinsettias on our altar.

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

BORN THIS WEEK IN DECEMBER/JANUARY 2026

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. 29 Jennifer Kohler

Dec. 30 Aniston Hartanov, Deirdre McGrath, Sally Fletcher

Dec. 31 Claire Nitzsche, Jess Parman, Justin Hartanov, Tyler Harrington-Meinders

Jan. 1 Addie Kohler, Dante Williams, Nathan Chamberlain, Philip Amerson

Jan. 3 Brian Earl, Susan Michod

ST. PAULS PRAYS

Please clip this page and pray for those who are named below. To have your prayer request included, simply ask a pastor in person, on the phone or by email.

You may also share your request at tinyurl.com/3j6sayku.

Our practice is to run each prayer request for four weeks and then remove it. If you would like to continue a prayer request after four weeks, let a pastor know.

- The family and friends of Kevin O'Brien on his unexpected death this week.
- Paul Scanlan, Sare Scanlan's father, and Mark Huddle's brother-in-law, who is hospitalized with a heart infection.
- Liz Kaplan, Mark Huddle's girlfriend, who is undergoing treatment for stage 4 lung cancer.
- Angie, struggling to recover from multiple surgeries.
- Alicia Braun and her family on 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, recovering from surgery.
- 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.
- Donn Schimp and his family as Donn continues cancer treatment.
- Dianne Witkowski, as she deals with cancer chemotherapy.

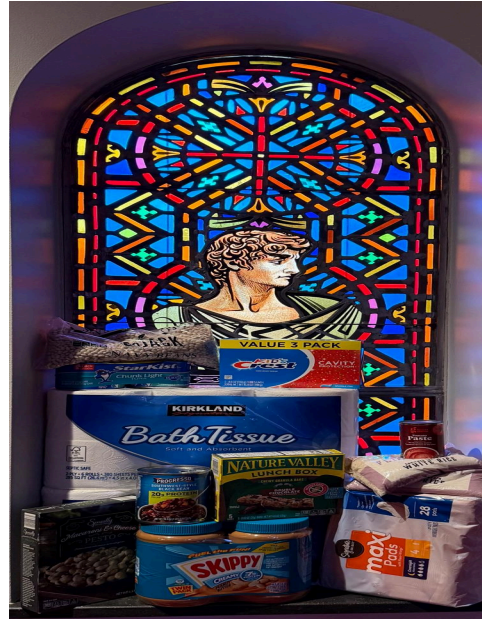
Prayer, Support, Mental Health Resources

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.

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/.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 4 – 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 – 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 9 – FAITH FAMILY FRIDAY - 6-8 p.m., Oscar Mayer & Gym

Faith Family Fridays are full of fun, fellowship, and food with your church family! All ages welcome. Main entree (pizza) provided by St. Pauls Youth Ministry. Feel free to bring your own beverage, side, or game to share. This event is free, but registration is required for food count. \$10/family suggested donation. Register here:

tinyurl.com/4j4933ps

JANUARY 11– 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– 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 27 – FOOD FOR THE SOUL - 12–1:30 p.m., Social Hall

Program provided by Kurt Hansen, Music Director. Adults of all ages are invited. Childcare provided.

JANUARY 28 – 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 – 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.

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!



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.

INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA – MUSICIANS WANTED

Our Intergenerational Orchestra will again perform in worship on March 8, 2026. Orchestra members include pre-teens, teenagers and adults of all ages and abilities. We especially encourage young people and new members to participate! The orchestra is open to anyone who plays an orchestral string instrument or a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument. Rehearsals are on Sundays immediately after church for an hour, on 2/8, 2/15 and 2/22. Contact Mark Mosley at (773) 732-0625 or mwmosley@gmail.com to learn more. Join us as we “Make a Joyful Sound in the City!”

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT WITH CHURCH GOVERNANCE

Have you been looking for an opportunity to become more involved in the St. Pauls community? The Nominating Committee is beginning to fill vacancies on the Church Council and our Standing Ministries. Every Ministry has vacancies to fill with terms beginning in March 2026. You can learn about the Council and Ministries at spucc.org/Governance. To be considered for a position, please reach out to Nominating Committee Chair Jan Bail at JanBail@me.com or (773) 472-5678.

CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION

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



PALESTINE STUDY GROUP

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

YOUTH CHOIRS

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

Fall Incentive Rewards program: Register for 25-26 classes by December 2025 and receive \$500 off tuition! 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: \$898,079.28
Total households pledged: 164

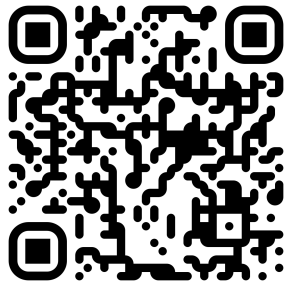
\$1,000,000
\$950,000
\$900,000
\$800,000
\$700,000
\$600,000
\$500,000
\$400,000
\$300,000
\$200,000
\$100,000

What More Are We Building?

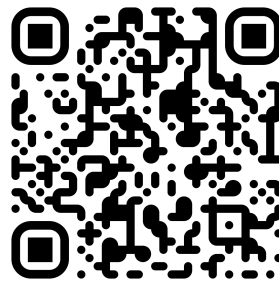
WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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

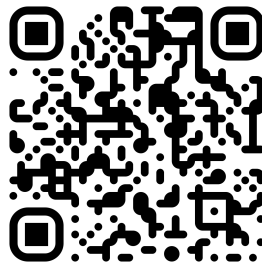
JOIN A GROUP



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

Rejoice! - Richard Smallwood (b. 1948) is one of the top composers and performers of Gospel music. His group, The Richard Smallwood Singers, has toured the world. He is a graduate of Howard University, which also counts Vice-President Kamala Harris and so many other luminaries as an alumnus. He was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall Of Fame in 2006.

The introit, ***From Heaven Above Unto Earth I Come***, is one of the most recognised German Christmas hymns....in Germany The original music and text are both by Martin Luther (1483-1546), the founder of the Luther Church and the cause of the Reformation. The hymn had 15 stanzas (!), and Luther used it as a “game hymn.” about the birth of Christ. The tune, VOM HIMMEL HOCH, takes its name from the first line of text in German.

O Come, All Ye Faithful, known by the Latin tune title ADESTE FIDELES. 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.

Nova, nova is an example of a teaching song. At a time when very few could read, music in the vernacular, drama, worship, and even stained glass windows were used as teaching tools to tell the stories in the Bible. The title is a pun on the Latin words “ave” meaning, “hail,” (“Hail Mary, the Lord is with Thee.” This is the greeting of the angel in Luke 1:28) and “Eva” meaning Eve, the partner of Adam. Eve’s name during the 15th century is synonymous with the story of “original sin.” Eve’s name is inverted to form “ave,” hail: a greeting to Mary, whose child will release us from sin. Each country had its own traveling poet-composers specializing in this kind of story telling through music: in England they were the troubadours; in France they were the Trouvères, and in Germany they were the Meistersingers.

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

The Work Of Christmas was composed in 2014 by Dan Forrest (b. 1978), who is a prolific composer and arranger of Christian music. He is on the faculty at Wheaton College. Howard Washington Thurman (1899-1981) was a prominent Black-American author, theologian and civil rights leader. As a prominent pastor, he played a leading role in many social justice movements in the 20th century.

Good Christian Friends Rejoice is a translation of the original Latin by John Mason Neale (1818-1886). He was born into an evangelical home, became an Anglican clergy, but had real sympathies for Catholicism. IN DULCI JUBILO, which means “in sweet rejoicing,” is an early undated folk dance.

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.

Noël Nouvolet is an old French carol dated from the 16th century that was set in 1974 by Richard Hudson (1924-2019). It is published by Augsburg Publishing House. Hudson taught for many years at the University of California at Los Angeles as librarian and Professor of Musicology. He retired in 1991 with an endowment created in his name. Most of his compositions were for the organ, and he also wrote many articles and books.

Special Music Theme 2025-2026

Joyful Sounds

Enjoy another year of special music during worship services.

Mark these dates in your calendar!

Sunday, March 15, 2026 - Lenten Cantata

***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

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

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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.