



Bible Off Broadway
February 1, 2026

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.

PRELUDE

"It Takes Two"

St. Arbucks Quartet
Kecia Waldschmidt
Philip Smedley, duet

*Original by Wm. "Mickey"
Stevenson and Sylvia Moy
Recorded by Marvin Gaye and
and Kim Weston
New Lyrics by Jana O'Brien*

*One can have deep faith, people;
Two can share a faith so real.
One can talk about God's love;
Two can share how that faith feels.
One can pray for God's great grace;
Two can hope that prayer comes true.
One can stand alone in the dark;
Two can watch God's light shine through.*

*One can have a sinning heart,
living in misery.
Two can ease each other's pain,
like a perfect remedy.
One can be alone in a crowd,
like an island, he's all alone.
Two can make just-a anyplace
feel like a heavenly home*

*Tales of two people, tales of two people
Just for you. Some tales of two.
Tales of two people, tales of two people
Just for you. Some tales of two.*

*Tales of two people, tales of two people
Just for you. Some tales of two.
Tales of two people, tales of two people
Just for you. Some tales of two.*

WELCOME

Matt Fitzgerald

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 149)

One: Hallelujah! Sing to God a brand-new song!

All: Sing along with everyone who loves God!

One: Praise God's name with dancing!

All: Strike up the band and make good music!

One: Why? For God delights in God's people!

All: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

* *Please stand if you are able.*

* OPENING HYMN

"God, We Thank You For Our People"



1. God, we thank you for our peo-ple, roots dug deep with-in the soil,
 2. Thank you, God, for gen-tle plea-sure: les-sons learned and se-crets told,
 3. Still we must con-fess be-fore you, some-times, Sav-ior, we have failed;
 4. By your Spir-it of cre-a-tion keep us bold for risk-ing still,

har-dy spir-its, rich in lov-ing, strong for strug-gle, bold for toil.
 hopes and mem-ories saved as trea-sure, passed to young ones by the old,
 though we wor-ship and a-dore you, some-times love has not pre-vailed.
 ea-ger in an-ti-ci-pa-tion, ev-er strong to do your will.

Faith-ful Rock of gen-er-a-tions, you whom par-ents' par-ents praised:
 Pranks and glo-ries, songs and sto-ries, food by lov-ing hands pre-pared.
 Tem-pers rac-ing, dev-il chas-ing, hearts es-tranged by ice or flame
 Bind us close to one an-oth-er, shar-ing life and death and birth,

Here in hope as we re-mem-ber may our song to you be raised.
 God, we bless you for your pres-ence in our tears and laugh-ter shared.
 You trans-form by ways for-giv-ing. Grace a-maz-ing! Grace, your name!
 Wel-com-ing as sis-ter, broth-er, all your chil-dren on the earth.

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.

Dynamic Duos of the Bible

Prologue:
The Storytellers

Adam and Eve
The World's First Dynamic Duo

Dynamic Duo Story #1:
King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba

"Make New Friends"
Traditional Children's Song
Special Lyrics by Jana O'Brien
The Gold and Silver Coins

"Wannabe"
Original by The Spice Girls
Special Lyrics by Jana O'Brien
The Spice Girls

"The Queen of Sheba"
Based on "Abracadabra"
Original written and recorded by Lady Gaga
Special Lyrics by Jana O'Brien
The Queen of Sheba, the Spice Girls, and King Solomon

Dynamic Duo Story #2:
Martha and Mary

"She Drives Me Crazy"
Original by David Steele and Roland Gift
Recorded by the Fine Young Cannibals
Special Lyrics by Jana O'Brien
Martha, The Chic Chefs,
Mary, and the Dissin' Disciples

"Martha, My Dear"
Original by J. Lennon/P. McCartney
Recorded by The Beatles
Special Lyrics by Jana O'Brien
Jesus, with Martha

Dynamic Duo Story #3:
Samson and Delilah

"Hair"

From the musical "Hair"
by James Rado and Gerome Ragni
Special Lyrics by Jana O'Brien
Samson and the Hairy Hippies

Song Mash-up:

"I'm Gonna Cut That Man Right Out of His Hair"
and "Cut It Off"

Based on "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Out of His Hair"
from "South Pacific" by R. Rodgers and O. Hammerstein
and "Shake It Off" by Taylor Swift
Special Lyrics by Jana O'Brien
Delilah and the Barberellas

"Loser"

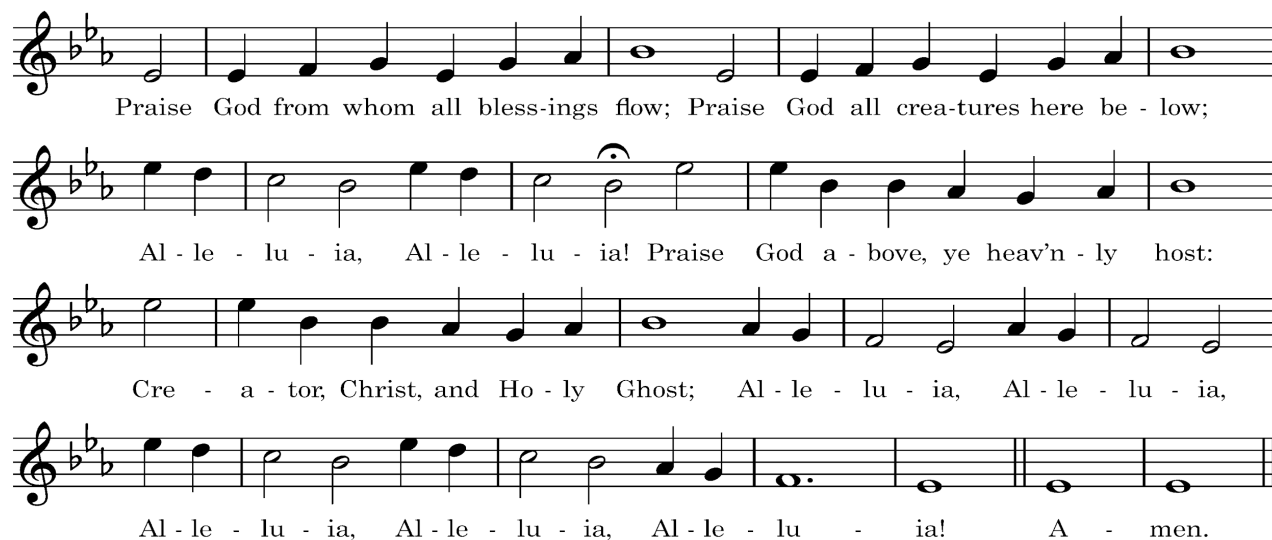
Original song by Beck, Karl Stephenson, and Tom Rothrock
Recorded by Beck
Special Lyrics by Jana O'Brien
Samson and the Philistine Guards and Crowd

INTERMISSION: Offertory

"Just the Two of Us"

Original written and recorded by
Grover Washington and Bill Withers
Special Lyrics by Jana O'Brien
St. Arbucks Quartet
Kecia Waldschmidt and Kris Hansen, Duet

*** 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.

ACT II:

Dynamic Duo Story #4: *Vashti and Esther*

“Golden”

*Based on “KPop Demon Hunters”
Original song by Eun Jae Phoebe Kim,
Hee Dong Nam, Hong Jun Park, Jeong Hun Seo,
Joong Gyu Kwak, Mark Sonnenblick, Yoo Han Lee
New Lyrics by Breanna Coe
Queen Vashti and the Golden Girls*

“(What Doesn’t Kill You Makes You) Stronger”

*Original recorded by Kelly Clarkson
Written by Kelly Clarkson, Jordan Eloffson,
Ali Tamposi and David Gamson
Special Lyrics by Jana O’Brien
Queen Esther, Queen Vashti, Mordecai,
and the Jewish People of Babylon*

Dynamic Duo Story #5: *David and Jonathan*

“You’re My Best Friend”

*Original recorded by Queen
Written by John Deacon
Special Lyrics by Jana O’Brien
and Kecia Waldschmidt
David and Jonathan*

“King Saul’s Dark Side”

*Based on “Mr. Brightside”
Original recorded by The Killers
Written by Brandon Flowers and Dave Keunig
Special Lyrics by Jana O’Brien
King Saul and the Green-Eyed Monsters*

“See You Again”

*Original recorded by Wiz Khalifa and Charlie Puth
Written by Wiz Khalifa, Charlie Puth, DJ
Frank E, and Andrew Cedar
Special Lyrics by Philip Smedley
David and Jonathan*

Finale:

“Good News”

Original recorded by Shaboozey

Written by Shaboozey, Sean Cook, Michael Pollack,

Sam Roman (RØMANS), Nevin Sastry, and Jake Torrey

Special Lyrics Kecia Waldschmidt and Jana O’Brien

The Entire Cast and Crew

BENEDICTION

Liz Nickerson

Following Worship, all are invited to Coffee Hour in the gym!

DIRECTOR’S NOTE FROM JANA O’BRIEN

*"I consider that the sufferings of this present time
are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us."*

– Romans 8:18

To slightly misquote Shaboozey, *“Man, what a heck of a year it’s been.”* On an international, national, and local front, we are bombarded with daily stories that induce stress, fear, anxiety, anger, confusion, bewilderment, and/or some deeply unsettling combination thereof.

Thank heaven that we have Saint Pauls Church as our weekly centering place, reminding us that we, individually and collectively, can act on our faith to be a force for good in today’s divisive world.

And thank heaven that we have the children – dozens of them – who step up each year to lead us in our annual production of Bible Off Broadway. Through them, we learn about the Bible’s “Good News” in entertaining, surprising, and inspirational ways. These kids bring their energy and spirit to church for five chilly January weekend early mornings to prepare for this annual BOB service.

Have you ever tried to describe BOB to someone who has never seen it? It’s impossible. It must be experienced: the songs, the costumes, the music, the dances, the fun and illuminating lyrics. And the stories...stories you might or might not already know, but stories that are definitely told in a manner you’ve never quite seen the likes of before. It’s simply indescribable. It must be witnessed.

So, thank you, parents, for sharing these children with Saint Pauls and for encouraging (coercing?) them and yourselves to participate in this beloved tradition each “brisk” Chicago January/February.

Thanks to the Bible Off Broadway planning team and to the dozens of adults (and kids) who volunteer their time and talent to writing and teaching songs, developing dances, designing costumes, building sets and props, applying makeup, providing snacks, and practicing at home.

And thanks to the pastors, staff, and Council of Saint Pauls for providing the space, the set-ups, and the funding to bring Bible Off Broadway to life each year. The kids will not forget this experience.

Truly, *“Let the children come to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”* Let it be so.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Matt Fitzgerald, Liz Nickerson, Jeff Carlson

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: Tom Stephenson, Doug Clark, Fred Pearson, David Baker

Greeters: Doug Dunham, Jenny Benefield

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

SPECIAL DONATIONS:

A donation was made in honor of Kevin O'Brien by the Sopiarcz-Dunham family.

A donation was made in honor of Kevin O'Brien by Mark & Sarah Good Mosley.

A donation was made by Juanita Barlow in memory of her husband, parents, and sisters.

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

BORN THIS WEEK IN FEBRUARY

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.

Feb. 1 Rick Sensenbrenner

Feb. 2 Rod Sippy

Feb. 3 Christie Ward, Izzy Smith-Ritchie, Katie Moulton, Lexi Miller, Matt Ross

Feb. 4 Alex Parfenoff, Joshua Hirt

Feb. 5 Emma Becker, Kathleen Truskey

Feb. 6 Ivy Sanz, James Weimer, Rebecca Sandoval

Feb. 7 Aaron Fangman, Nolan Tavas

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.

- Cheryl Kennedy's daughter Hillary undergoing surgery on February 2.
- The Arsenault family following the deaths of two extended family members.
- Ninon Landaverry-Freeman's siblings, Sonja and John.
- Jenny Benefield's brother, Dicky, his daughter, Catherine, and their family, as they are both facing potentially serious health problems and surgery.
- The family and friends of Kevin O'Brien, who passed away in December.
- The family of Susan Strattner, Ann Ferroni's sister, at her death.
- Matt Nickerson and Pastor Liz at the death of Matt's father, Jan. 1.
- Diane Biegert - hip replacement surgery on January 16.
- Tara Stephenson, who is recovering from surgery.
- Ember Sophia, who was born with a serious brain injury, and her parents, Alex and Liza.
- Angie, struggling to recover from multiple surgeries.
- Alicia Braun and her family on the death of her father, Joseph Kroenert.
- Families undergoing treatments for infertility.
- Prayers for Rick Sensenbrenner's mother, Marie, as she navigates various health conditions.
- Peace for all of God's children.
- 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY – 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.

FEBRUARY 3 & 10 – MOM AND ME - LITTLE STARS MUSIC CLASS - 10:30–11:30

a.m., Nursery - Babies 0-2 and their parent/caregiver are invited to an 8-week Kindermusik-like class led by Ms. Suzanne, one of our beloved Little Lights teachers. Church members receive a discount! Sign up here: tinyurl.com/425d5jwu.

FEBRUARY 8 – MINISTRY FAIR - 11:15 a.m., Gym

Come to the gym after church on Sunday, February 8, to learn about the many ministries of St. Pauls. At the fair you will be able to speak with members of each ministry in person. If you are not able to attend the fair, you can learn about the Council and our Standing Ministries at spucc.org/governance. Every ministry has vacancies to fill with terms beginning March 2026. To learn more about the nominating process, reach out to the Nominating Committee Chair, Jan Bail at janbail@me.com or 773.472.5678

FEBRUARY 8 – MEAL MAKING FOR LPCS - 11:15 a.m. & 4 p.m., Kitchen

Join us in the kitchen today to prepare meals for the residents of Lincoln Park Community Services. We have two opportunities to serve:

- Lunch Making: 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Help us assemble sack lunches right after church. Sign up for Lunch: tinyurl.com/e4m9v9zz
- Dinner Making: 4 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Prepare dinner at the church and help deliver the meal to LPCS (600 W. Fullerton). Sign up for Dinner: tinyurl.com/5dmys5hc

We provide the food, but volunteers are asked to contribute \$25 each to help cover costs via cash, Venmo, or Zelle.

FEBRUARY 9 – LABYRINTH WALK - 7-8 p.m., Gym

The Chartres Cathedral-inspired labyrinth painted on our gym floor offers an opportunity for quiet "walking meditation," and we will soon be able to take advantage of this experience on a regular basis. Thereafter, the labyrinth will be available on the second Monday evening of each month between 7 and 8 PM, and the third Thursday afternoon of the month between 2 and 3 PM. Registration not required but helpful. Sign up here: tinyurl.com/57z6psvm.

FEBRUARY 12 & 19 – YOGA FOR ALL - 6-7 p.m., OMR

Yoga is a community building practice. We begin with a brief meditation, often taking inspiration from the weekly sermon. We practice a breath to movement flow from the chair, with options to modify for standing and/or mat work when possible. Yoga connects body and mind, and functions to support the Vagal nerve, restoring calmness and our sense of safety and security.

We offer this practice freely, and encourage you to make a \$10 to \$20 donation to the Migrant Legal Fund. Sign up via this link: tinyurl.com/4cpmednw.

FEBRUARY 15 – PALESTINE STUDY GROUP - 5:30 p.m., Zoom

Join us as we read 2025 National Book Award Nonfiction winner, Omar El Akkad's "One Day, Everyone Will Always Have Been Against This."

In this accessible and powerful work, a novelist interrogates the role of American media, universities, law, politics, and culture in the destruction of Gaza and the genocide of its people. We'll be discussing chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7 Sunday, February 15th @ 5:30pm via Zoom. Contact David Burnett at burnett.db@gmail.com or join the group via Church Center.

FEBRUARY 19 & 22 – MOMS' GROUP - Third Thursday 9:15 a.m., Sunday 11:30 a.m.

Pastor Liz is looking forward to a meaningful discussion with you! Come meet other moms, make new friends, learn from each other, get advice, pray, and get renewed! Each month has a relevant theme on an issue you face as a mom. Free professional childcare is available. Babies can stay with their moms. RSVP to lnickerson@spucc.org.

FEBRUARY 17 – BUDGET INPUT OPPORTUNITY - 7 p.m., Online

St. Pauls' Giving and Finance Ministry develops an annual operating budget for Council review. The Congregation approves the budget during its annual meeting, scheduled this year on March 8. Congregation members have an opportunity to review the draft budget and provide input during a virtual meeting on Tuesday February 17 at 7:00 pm. Please register for this event in Church Center at tinyurl.com/4r9c6e8e. Contact St. Pauls' treasurer Allen Heinemann via Church Center with questions or feedback.

FEBRUARY 18 & 25 – WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 2 PETER - 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're studying 1 & 2 Peter, 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.

FEBRUARY 24 – FOOD FOR THE SOUL - 12–1:30 p.m., Social Hall

Bring your own lunch. Discussion provided by Kurt Hansen, Music Director: "Thoughts on Bach & Contemporary Worship." Adults of all ages are welcomed. Bring a friend, family member, anyone. Childcare provided.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ILIAD AND ODYSSEY READING GROUP

Start the new year with an old story! We'll read and discuss these two foundational classics over four months. Any translation of The Iliad and The Odyssey is fine; Emily Wilson's are recommended but not required. Monthly discussions will be over Zoom the second Tuesday of the month, beginning March 10 at 7pm through June 9. Questions? contact Emily Emily.cromwell3@gmail.com. Sign up to participate here: tinyurl.com/358yh848

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Bible Off Broadway (BOB) has a long history at St Pauls. From 1976-78 church school kids joined actors at Body Politic Theater to learn how to act out Bible stories. 1979 and 80 saw the first shows at church, done with kids from Lincoln Park Presbyterian. The 1981 and 82 productions during Lent. In 1983 the first January production took place, Noah. Under the guidance of Sharon Phillips, Bible Story Theater (BST) became a grand production and found a permanent place in the hearts of generations of kids, parents and spectators. This year is our 49th year since this all started.

INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA - MUSICIANS WANTED

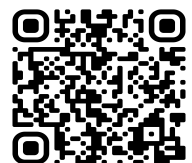
Our Intergenerational Orchestra will again perform in worship on March 8, 2026. Orchestra members include pre-teens, teenagers and adults of all ages and abilities. We especially encourage young people and new members to participate! The orchestra is open to anyone who plays an orchestral string instrument or a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument. Rehearsals are on Sundays immediately after church for an hour, on 2/15, 2/22, and 3/1. 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!"

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.

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.



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.

JUMPSTART GYM - NOW THROUGH MARCH 19

Little ones are invited for morning play time together! Parents/Caregivers supervise their children in an open-ended environment. Take advantage of our beautiful full-sized gym while it's cold outside and you need a place to get those wiggles out and socialize! Jumpstart Gym is open Thursday mornings from 9-10 a.m. \$75/family. Register here: tinyurl.com/78dxekpu. Reach out to Erin Fitzgerald at littlelights@spucc.org if you have any questions.

JOINT UCC - DISCIPLES STATEMENT ON VENEZUELA ISSUED

The United Church of Christ and the Disciples of Christ denominations issued a Joint Statement on the "Venezuela Takeover by the United States." The joint statement condemns recent military actions of the US regarding Venezuela and calls for "restraint, respect for sovereignty, and renewed commitment to peaceful, multilateral engagement." Per the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network, the UCC is a "just peace" denomination that stands for "diplomacy over domination, cooperation over coercion, and peace over war."

STAY & PLAY - 10-11:30 a.m., Rainbow Room 104

You're invited to Stay & Play, a friendly group for parents/caregivers with babies/toddlers to meet and build community together. This drop-in group meets on Friday mornings from 10:00-11:30 a.m. We provide the space to socialize and play. This is a wonderful way to ease into our Little Lights program. By acclimating to the classroom ahead of time, children are ready for classes as they enter preschool age. There is no fee, but a \$5 donation per group is appreciated! Space is limited - please complete this one-time registration tinyurl.com/3umxj6y8.

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.

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!



“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

Preschool ages welcome: We have spots open in our Early Childhood Education classes. Flexible options 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, visit our website at littleglightslp.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.

CREATION CORNER by Green Team

Living On A \$10/ Day Food Allowance

Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins claims that consumers can maintain a healthy diet for as little as \$3 a meal, intoning, “...it can cost around \$3/meal for a piece of chicken, a piece of broccoli, a corn tortilla and another thing.”

Food prices increased by almost 1% in December of 2025, more than double the rate of inflation. Joel Berg, CEO of Hunger Free America notes, “ The top reason people cannot afford food...is the price of everything else.” When health care, rent, energy are all increasing, then the quality and quantity of food is compromised.

Could you follow the \$3 per meal guideline?

Adapted from Julie Z. Weil’s, Washington Post column, January 16, 2026.

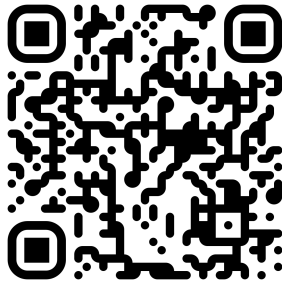
STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS

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

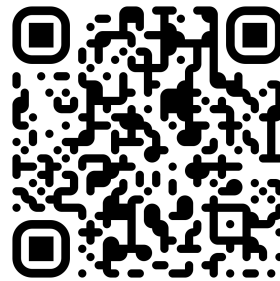
WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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

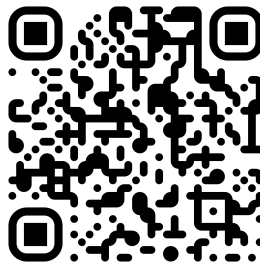
JOIN A GROUP



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



SUBMIT AN ANNOUNCEMENT



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

St. Pauls UCC
Giving Campaign 2026
October 12, 2025 – January 11, 2026
Total: \$1,104,325.48
Total households pledged: 228

\$1,100,000
\$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?

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.



2026 CAST,
PRODUCTION TEAM,
AND SONG LYRICS

2026 Bible Off Broadway
"Dynamic Duos of the Bible"
Cast (in Order of Story Appearance)

Prelude "It Takes Two"

Kecia Waldschmidt and
Philip Smedley

Storytellers: The Original Dynamic Duo

Eve	Annika Hull
Adam	Zack Murray
The Queen of Sheba	Alayna Mack
King Solomon	Owen Waldschmidt
Martha	Deirdre McGrath
Mary	Brooke McGuire
Jesus	Jeff Carlson
Samson	Thomas Mix
Delilah	Colette (Coco) Schimp
The Philistine Guards	Sully McGrath and Aidan Ritchie
King Xerxes	Oscar Hull
Queen Vashti	Chloe Combs
Queen Esther	Eva Mack
Haman	Nathan Chamberlain
Mordecai	Caleb Patton
David	Leo Patton
Jonathan	Lee Waldschmidt
King Saul	Tobias Smedley
The Angels from Heaven	Ryan Castle and Holly Emmrich

The Song Ensemble Members (In Order of Story):

The Gold and Silver Coins: Arlo Brinkoetter, Willow Clancy, Isabelle DeMonte, Wynne Emmrich, Scarlett England, Catalina Smedley, Spencer Ward (Mary Brown, Tom Clancy, and Kaili Emmrich, Adult Leaders)

The Spice Girls: Alayna Mack (Queen of Sheba), Grace Ashley-McGraw, Winnie Castle, Cece Chamberlain, Aniston Hartanov, Thea Mack, Jane Mix, Elliott Maschmeyer, Clara Wahlstrom (Jessica Ashley and Christina Cedeño Smedley, Adult Leaders)

The Chic Chefs: Deirdre McGrath (Martha), Magnolia DeMonte, Holly Emmrich, Juniper Fletcher, Nora Penniman (Cindy Zinn Ball and Pat Ruch, Adult Leaders)

The Dissin' Disciples: Brooke McGuire (Mary), Isaac Broderick, Charlie Coe, Bennett England, Sully McGrath, Grant Mutch, Benjamin Ritchie, Julian Rodriguez, Josiah Smedley (Bob Ball, Adult Leader)

The Hairy Hippies: Thomas Mix (Samson), Everett Hamm, Oscar Hull, Caleb Patton, Leo Patton, Lee Waldschmidt (Nathan Chamberlain and Peg Wander, Adult Leaders)

The Barberellas: Coco Schimp (Delilah), Grace Ashley-McGraw, Winnie Castle, Cece Chamberlain, Aniston Hartanov, Deirdre McGrath, Jane Mix, Clara Wahlstrom (Leslie Chamberlain, Winnie Kearns, Haley Weldon, Adult Leaders)

The Golden Girls: Chloe Combs (Vashti), Alayna Mack, Eva Mack, Thea Mack, Elliott Maschmeyer, Brooke McGuire, Hannah Mutch, Colette (Coco) Schimp, Julia Wahlstrom (Jen Kew, Meg Tazelaar, Annika Viktorson, Adult Leaders)

The Jewish Community of Babylon: Eva Mack (Esther), with the cast of adult group leaders as her fellow Jewish residents of Babylon

The Green-Eyed Monsters: Tobias Smedley (King Saul), Adrian Broderick, Charlotte Crouch, Mabel Fletcher, Micah McMenamin, Aidan Ritchie (Philip Smedley and Wayne Parman, Adult Leaders)

2026 Bible Off Broadway “*Dynamic Duos of the Bible*” Creative, Production, and Performance Team

Director/Script Writer	<i>Jana O’Brien</i>
Music Director	<i>Kecia Waldschmidt</i>
Stage Manager	<i>Carrie Bruggers</i>
Costume and Small Prop Director	<i>Sue Finkle</i>
Stage Set-Up & Large Prop Director	<i>Gerald Wilk</i>
Lead Choreographer	<i>Haley Weldon</i>
Pastoral Liaison	<i>Jeff Carlson</i>
Additional Planning Team	<i>Breanna Coe, Joe JaQuay, Philip Smedley</i>
Group Leaders/Wranglers	<i>Jessica Ashley, Cindy Zinn Ball, Mary Brown, Christina Cedeño Smedley, Leslie Chamberlain, Nathan Chamberlain, Tom Clancy, Kaili Emmrich, Winnie Kearns, Jen Kew, Molly McGrath, Stacy O’Connell, Wayne Parman, Pat Ruch, Philip Smedley, Meg Tazelaar, Annika Viktorson, Peg Wander, Haley Weldon</i>
Choreographers	<i>Haley Weldon, leader, Mary Brown, Cindy Ball, Christina Cedeño Smedley, Leslie Chamberlain, Nathan Chamberlain, Tom Clancy, Winnie Kearns, Jen Kew, Jana O’Brien, Philip Smedley, Meg Tazelaar, Annika Viktorson, Peg Wander</i>
Song Lyricists	<i>Jeff Carlson, Breanna Coe, Jana O’Brien, Philip Smedley, Kecia Waldschmidt</i>
Costume Assistants & Contributors	<i>Sue Finkle, leader, Noah Bashiti, Myers Emmrich, Mabel Fletcher, Annika Hull, Kirsten Ekdahl Hull, Barb Kaiser, Molly McGrath, Natalie Mutch, Jana O’Brien, Stacy O’Connell, Marcia Opp Ekdahl, Linda Patton</i>
Makeup Team	<i>Christina Cedeño Smedley, Kristy Combs, Kate DeMonte, Kaili Emmrich, Graham Hicks, Winnie Kearns, Molly McGrath, Andrea Reed</i>
Stage/Set Assembly and Crew	<i>Gerald Wilk and Peg Wander, Co-Directors; Andrew Broderick, Myers Emmrich</i>
St. Arbucks Quartet	<i>Brendan Henry, piano; Alex Austin, bass; Kris Hansen, trumpet & vocals; Matt Plaskota, percussion</i>
Sound/Music Consultant & Engineer	<i>Jim Alrutz, Kevin Dzierzawski</i>
Youth Education Leaders	<i>Pastor Liz Nickerson, Erin Fitzgerald, Danielle Mayfield</i>
Riser Set-up Team	<i>Gerald Wilk (leader), Andrew Broderick, Adrian Broderick, Brandon Fletcher, Kevin Hull, Tom Sadler, and the L.P.H.S. Freshman Basketball Team (and a younger brother)</i>
Rehearsal Space Set-up/Assistance	<i>Ramiro Gonzalez, Fernando Diaz, Vince Luri</i>
Office Assistance	<i>Aubraea Cleveland, Maddy Lockhart</i>
BOB Camera Operators	<i>Jim Alrutz, Marie Ankenman, Bob Ball, Brian Hafner, Trevor Hafner, Maurice Wallace</i>
2026 Bible Off Broadway Logo	<i>David Hewlett</i>

Special Lyrics for “Dynamic Duos of the Bible” Songs

“It Takes Two”

Original recorded by Marvin Gaye and Kim Weston, written by Wm. "Mickey" Stevenson and Sylvia Moy
Special lyrics by Jana O'Brien

*One can have deep faith, people
Two can share a faith so real.
One can talk about God's love;
Two can share how that faith feels.
One can pray for God's great grace;
Two can hope that prayer comes true.
One can stand alone in the dark;
Two can watch God's light shine through.*

*Tales of two people
Tales of two people
Just for you
Some tales of two.*

*Tales of two people
Tales of two people
Just for you
Some tales of two.*

*One can have a sinning heart,
living in misery.
Two can ease each other's pain,
like a perfect remedy.
One can be alone in a crowd,
like an island, he's all alone.
Two can make just-a anyplace
feel like a heavenly home*

*Tales of two people
Tales of two people
Just for you
Some tales of two.*

*Tales of two people
Tales of two people
Just for you
Some tales of two.
Tales of two's
Just for you...*

“Make New Friends”

Traditional children's round
Special lyrics by Jana O'Brien

*Make new friends, both wise and bold
Bring them gifts of silver and of gold.*

*Make new friends, a king and queen
Answer questions about everything!*

“Wannabe”

Original written and recorded by the Spice Girls (Melanie Chisholm, Melanie Janine Brown, Emma Lee Bunton, Richard Frederick Stannard, Victoria Caroline Beckham, Matt Rowe, Geri Halliwell)
Special lyrics by Jana O'Brien

*Yo, we're bringin' what you want,
what you really, really want
So, we know what you want,
what you really, really want
It's nutmeg, (ha) cumin, (ha)
thyme (ha), salt (ha),
And ginger (ha), and mint (ha),
and saffron (ha), and cloves.*

*If you wanna have our spices
You gotta answer all the Q's
Prove that you've got wisdom
You'll be front page news...
Now don't go wasting
Our precious time
Answer all her questions
All will be just fine...*

“The Queen of Sheba” (“Abracadabra”)

Original written and recorded by Lady Gaga
Special lyrics by Jana O'Brien

*The-uh Queen of Sheba, Sheba
Show....her!
The-uh Queen of Sheba, Sheba
Show...her!*

*Pay respect to the great king
Who's renowned both near and far;
I'll fill your head with my questions;
Prove to me how wise you are*

*Answer everything I ask
I have heard you're quite up to the task
Prove you're blessed
by God's great power ---
The man of the hour!*

*The Queen of Sheba
Came from Africa
Bringing you great gifts
Carried from afar
The Queen of Sheba
Had to see firsthand
In her tongue she said
Prove your worth tonight!*

*Many questions read,
answered out of your head
You are the wisest man on the earth.
Praise be to your Lord,
on your head he's poured
Faith and wisdom proving your worth!*

*The Queen of Sheba
Came from Africa
Bringing you great gifts
Carried from afar
The Queen of Sheba
Had to see firsthand
In her tongue she said
You've proved your worth tonight!*

*The-uh Queen of Sheba,
you have shown....her!
The-uh Queen of Sheba,
you have shown...her!*

"She Drives Me Crazy"

Original recorded by the Fine Young Cannibals, written by David Steele and Roland Gift
Special lyrics by Jana O'Brien

*(MARTHA) I can't stop the way I feel
The things she does just don't seem real
There she sits not doing a thing;
Her laziness has got us bristling.
I don't get why she can't help;
She's always all about herself...*

*She drives me crazy
Like no one else;
She drives me crazy
And I can't help myself.*

*(MARY) I choose to be with the Lord --
How often will I witness his Word?
There she is focused on food;
In my mind, she is just rude!
Our Lord will stay just a short time;
To stay away would be a crime...*

*She drives me crazy
Like no one else;
She drives me crazy
And I can't help myself.*

*(ALL) You drive me crazy
Like no one else!
You drive me crazy
And I can't help myself!*

"Martha, My Dear"

Original written by John Lennon/Paul McCartney and recorded by The Beatles (White Album)
Special lyrics by Jana O'Brien and Jeff Carlson

*Martha, my dear
I am here engaged
in conversation
Please, remember me
Martha, my love
Don't forget me
Martha, my dear.*

*Put your work down
You busy girl
It will get done.
When you have the chance
to hear the Savior's Word
Help yourself to the grace of God
that's all around you,
Busy girl.*

*Take a good look around you
Take a good look, you're bound to see
That time with me
Is meant to be
Above all other,
Busy girl.*

*Martha, my dear
I am meant to be your great salvation.
Please, spend time with me
Martha, my love
Don't forget me
Martha, my dear.*

“Hair”

Original from the musical “Hair” by James Rado and Gerome Ragni

Special lyrics by Jana O’Brien

*Don’t ask me why
I’m just a hairy guy
I’m hairy noon and night
I’m a Na-a-zi-ir-rite
I’m hairy high and low
Don’t ask me why
God only knows!
People...
Give me a head with hair
Long, beautiful hair
Shining, gleaming,
steaming, flaxen waxen
Give me down to there (hair!)
Shoulder length or longer (hair!)
My hair gives me strength, people,
Stronger than anybody
Hair (Hair, hair, hair, hair, hair, hair....)
Flow it (Hair)
Show it (Hair)
God has made me grow it, my hair.*

*They’ll be gaga at the agora
when they see him in his toga
His toga made of blonde, brilliantined,
Biblical hair
Hair like the ancients wore it
Hallelujah, we adore it
Hallelujah, God has blessed Samson
His strength is all due to his
Hair
(Hair, hair, hair, hair, hair, hair, hair, hair)
Flow it (Hair) Show it (Hair)
Long as God can grow it, his hair
(Hair, hair, hair, hair, hair, hair, hair)
Long as God can grow it, my hair!*

Mash-Up: “I’m Gonna Cut That Man Right Out of His Hair” with “Cut It Off”

Originals: “I’m Gonna Wash That Man Right Out of My Hair” from *South Pacific* by R. Rodgers & O. Hammerstein and “Shake It Off” by Taylor Swift)

Special Lyrics by Jeff Carlson and Jana O’Brien

*I’m gonna cut that man right out of his hair
I’m gonna cut that man right out of his hair
I’m gonna cut that man right out of his hair
And take his strength away...
I’ve waited so long
To learn what makes you strong
And you have steered me wrong, mm-mm
You have steered me wrong, mm-mm
But the Philistines are mad
And for Delilah that is bad!
So today must be the day, mm-mm
Today must be the day, mm-mm
So Samson tell me
The secret of your strength, see
It’s like the answer’s right there on your mind
So tonight’s gotta be the night... ”*

*‘Cause your hair is very long
long long long long
It’s the thing that makes you strong
strong strong strong strong
But that won’t last very long
long long because we’ll
Cut it off, cut it off (whoo-hoo-hoo).
Then the Philistines arrive-rive-rive-rive-rive
And no matter how you strive
strive strive strive strive
You will not survive
vive vive vive vive vive
We’ll cut it off, cut it off
(whoo-hoo-hoo)
Cut it off, cut it off
Cut it off, cut it off...*

“Loser” (Chorus Only)

Original song recorded by Beck, written by Beck, Karl Stephenson and Tom Rothrock
Special lyrics by Jana O’Brien

*Now that my strength is gone,
I’m a loser, baby,
So why don’t you kill me?
I didn’t honor God
I’m a loser, baby,
So my strength has failed me.*

*Now that your strength is gone
You’re a loser baby,
So we’re gonna blind you.
Now that your strength is gone
You’re a loser baby,
so we’re gonna jail you*

“Just the Two of Us” (Offertory)

Original song written and recorded by Grover Washington and Bill Withers
Performed by Kecia Waldschmidt and Kris Hansen
Special lyrics by Jana O’Brien

*We see our children standing tall
And the beauty of it all
Is seeing their faith come shining through.
To see God’s lessons come to life
Helps us shed our stress and strife
As they tell us stories two by two.*

*Biblical pairs, through joy and tears
Facing challenges and fears
Pushing on through their highs and lows.
God’s grace will come to those who wait
But not for those who wait too late
We must have faith, that much we know.*

*Just the two of us
We can make it if we try
Just the two of us
(Just the two of us).
Just the two of us
Hearing God’s stories from on high
Just the two of us, you and I.*

*Just the two of us
We can make it if we try
Just the two of us
(Just the two of us).
Just the two of us
Hearing God’s stories from on high
Just the two of us, you and I.*

“Golden”

Original song recorded for KPop Demon Hunters and written by Eun Jae Phoebe Kim, Hee Dong Nam, Hong Jun Park, Jeong Hun Seo, Joong Gyu Kwak, Mark Sonnenblick, Yoo Han Lee
Special Lyrics by Breanna Coe

*I was the queen, never alone, hah
In the palace, hah, with the women (Ah)
Given the throne,
I didn't know how to believe
I was the queen that I'm meant to be
I live my life, try to play both sides
But I like to get my own way
Called a problem wife
'cause I caused some strife
And now I'm being pulled off the stage
(but ya see...)*

*I'm done hiding,
now I'm shining like I'm born to be
He cut me loose,
I signed no truce, 'cause I believe*

*I'm going up, up, up, it's my moment
You know together we're glowing
Gonna be, gonna be golden
Oh, up, up, up with our voices
Unbreakable forever
Gonna be, gonna be golden*

*Oh, I'm done hiding, now I'm shining
like I'm born to be
Oh, it's my time, no fears, no lies
That's who I'm born to be*

*I'm going up, up, up,
it's my moment
You know together we're glowing
Gonna be, gonna be golden
Oh, up, up, up, with our voices
Unbreakable forever
Gonna be, gonna be golden*

*Oh, I'm done hiding, now I'm shining
like I'm born to be
Oh, it's my time, no fears, no lies
That's who I'm born to be*

*You know I'm gonna be, gonna be golden,
I'm gonna be, gonna be
Born to be, born to be glowing,
I'm shining brightly
You know that it's my time, no fears, no lies
That's who I'm born to be!*

“What Doesn’t Kill You Makes You Stronger”

Original recording by Kelly Clarkson, written by Kelly Clarkson, Jörgen Elofsson, Ali Tamposi,
and David Gamson

Special lyrics by Jana O’Brien

*You know the world seems colder
With Haman near the throne
His evil's getting bolder
My king does what Haman wants*

*He thinks he got the best of us
Thinks he's had the last laugh
Bet now he thinks
the Jews will soon be gone
Thinks he's left us broken down
Think we won't be comin' back
Haman, you don't know us,
'cause you're dead wrong*

*What doesn't kill us makes us stronger
Stand a little taller
Doesn't mean our people stand alone
What doesn't kill us makes us fighters
Do as God requires
Make us all survivors strong as stone
What doesn't kill us makes us stronger,
stronger
Just me with God on high
What doesn't kill us makes us stronger
Stand a little taller
No matter our trials, we still rise*

*After you, we'll get a new law started
After you, we will not be departed
After you,
the Jewish people are free
You know it's true,
the day you left was just our beginning
In the end.*

*What doesn't kill us makes us stronger
Stand a little taller
Doesn't mean our people stand alone
What doesn't kill us makes us fighters
Do as God requires
Make us all survivors strong as stone
What doesn't kill us makes us stronger,
stronger
Just me with God on high
What doesn't kill us makes us stronger
Stand a little taller
No matter our trials, we still rise

We're not alone.*

“You’re My Best Friend”

Original recording by Queen, written by John Deacon
Minimal lyric changes by Jana O’Brien and Kecia Waldschmidt

*Ooh, you make me live
Whatever this world can give to me
It's you, you're all I see
Ooh, you make me live now, Johnny
Ooh, you make me live

Oh, you're the best friend that I ever had
I've been with you for a short time
You're my sunshine
And I want you to know
That my feelings are true
I really love you
(Ooh) Oh, you're my best friend*

*Ooh, you make me live
Ooh, I've been battling 'round
But I still come back to you
(Ooh, still come back to you)
In rain or shine, you've stood by me, pal
I'm happy at home
You're my best friend

Ooh, you make me live
(Live, live, live)
I'm happy, happy at home
You're my best friend, oh
Oh, you're my best friend*

“King Saul’s Dark Side” (Based on “Mr. Brightside”)

Originally recorded by The Killers, written by Brandon Flowers and Dave Keunig
Special lyrics by Jana O’Brien

*Sittin’ there on my throne,
and I was doing just fine
Reveling in my power,
because all power’s mine
He started out with a stone,
but now something’s amiss
Yeah, now something’s amiss...
there is something amiss.
Now I’m losing my grip,
while David’s winning out there
Palling up with my son,
gaining fans everywhere*

*Now they're loyal best friends,
and my stomach is sick
Could be all in my head, but I’m losing
my...
Mind now...Saul’s being
Unkind now...David must go
And Saul just can't look, it's killing him
He's losing control...

Jealousy, turning Saul’s mind upside down
Fearing he will lose the crown,
David’s feats just get him down
But it's just a fact today,
destiny is calling Dave
King Saul has those evil eyes –
We’re King Saul’s Dark Side!!*

"See You Again"

Original song recorded by Wiz Khalifa and Charlie Puth,

written by Wiz Khalifa, Charlie Puth, DJ Frank E, and Andrew Cedar

Special lyrics by Philip Smedley

*It's been a long day
without you, my friend
And I'll tell you all about it
when I see you again
We've come a long way
from where we began
Oh, I'll tell you all about it
when I see you again
When I see you again*

*God, who knew?
Tyrants we overthrew,
wars we lived through
That I'd be standin' right here
talkin' to you
'Bout another path,
took your royal robe and armor patch
But somethin' told me that it wouldn't last
Saul switched up, looking at me different,
seeing an evil picture
You got me through those days,
knit together, warm embrace.
Now I see you in a better place
(see you in a better place) - uh
How the mighty have fallen
when your family's all I've got?
Everythin' I went through,
you were standin' there by my side
And now you gonna be with me
for the last time*

*It's been a long day
without you, my friend
And I'll tell you all about it
when I see you again
We've come a long way
From where we began*

*Oh, I'll tell you all about it
when I see you again
When I see you again
... Oh, oh
Ooh (yeah)*

*First met you in your Father's court,
and the vibe was feelin' strong
And what's small turned to a friendship,
a friendship turned to a bond
And that bond'll never be broken, the love
will never get lost*

*And when brotherhood come first,
then the line'll never be crossed
Picked you over King Saul
when that line had to be drawn
And that line is what we reached,
so remember me when I'm gone*

*It's been a long day
without you, my friend
And I'll tell you all about it
when I see you again
We've come a long way
from where we began
Oh, I'll tell you all about it
when I see you again
When I see you again
... Oh (uh), oh (yeah-yeah, yeah)
Ooh (yo, yo, uh)
When I see you again (see you again, yeah,
yeah)
Oh (yeah), oh (yeah, yeah, oh-oh)
Ooh (uh-huh, yup)
When I see you again
(Yup) When I see you again*

FINALE: "Good News"

Original recording by Shaboozey, written by Shaboozey, Sean Cook, Michael Pollack,
Sam Roman (RØMANS), Nevin Sastry, and Jake Torrey
Special lyrics by Kecia Waldschmidt and Jana O'Brien

*Man, what a heck of a year it's been
The world keeps losin', can't seem to win
So much sorrow,
we feel sad, but then
We turn to God to learn how to win.*

*Today we shared stories
of some Bible pairs
Maybe you've found
some of yourself in there
No matter what happened,
God was everywhere;
Life's joys and sorrows
are meant to be shared...*

*We've heard some Good News
Stories from the Bible told in two's
God always knows
what we're goin' through
With the devil
tryin' to walk in our shoes...
My God has shown me
Livin' this life can be lonely
We need each other to be whole, see
Sharin' and learnin' in two's.
All we really need is the Bible's Good News.*

*Love can be found between any two
We see in these stories, it must be true;
They say it gets harder
with nothing to share,
So we're stickin' together
in the strength of a pair...
And we show how we care.*

*We've heard some Good News
Stories from the Bible told in two's
God always knows
what we're goin' through
With the devil
tryin' to walk in our shoes...
My God has shown me
Livin' this life can be lonely
We need each other to be whole, see
Sharin' and learnin' in two's.
All we really need
is the Bible's Good News.
All we really need
is the Bible's Good News!*

FROM BIBLE STORY THEATRE TO BIBLE OFF BROADWAY:

***A SHORT WALK THROUGH NEARLY 50 YEARS
OF BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE THROUGH SAINT PAULS' TALENTED CHILDREN***

Bible Off Broadway (formerly "Bible Story Theatre") is rapidly approaching its 50th anniversary as an annual Saint Pauls Church youth-led event. We are now seeing the grandchildren of some of the original young participants cast as performers in modern-day BOB productions. Thus, it seems a good time to share a bit of history regarding this beloved Saint Pauls Church tradition.

The following two paragraphs tell the story of the genesis of the BST/BOB program, taken from the Sesquicentennial Saint Pauls history book *Making a Joyful Sound in the City* written in 1993 by our beloved late Pastor Emeritus Tom Henry.

"Bible Story Theatre began as a cooperative effort of St. Pauls Church and the Body Politic Theatre at 2261 N. Lincoln Avenue. At first it was an opportunity for Christian education to move outside the Sunday school classroom. Children beginning with Kindergarten age, along with parents, teachers, and any other interested church members, went to the theatre for a Bible story presentation by professional actors. Following the presentation, Rev. James Shiflett, Body Politic director, led the kids and adults in a discussion of what they had seen, heard, and learned. Then, the kids had an opportunity to join the actors in presenting the story again.

As the Sunday School grew rapidly in the 1980's, it no longer was possible to go to the Body Politic Theatre. Bible Story workshops and presentations moved to the church. Under the direction of Sharon Phillips, Bible Story Theatre became an annual production involving a month of Sunday morning workshops that culminated in the presentation of the Bible story in a worship service."

From the 1980's through about the mid-2010's, Bible Story Theatre mainly presented one Bible story per year, such as "Jonah and the Whale," "Genesis," and "Noah's Ark." Professionally-trained adult actors and a few selected high schoolers assumed the individual roles, memorizing a traditional play script written and directed by Sharon Phillips herself. The remaining kids and their "adult shepherds" participated in group roles, singing and dancing their assigned well-known song standards with cleverly-rewritten lyrics by Sharon and a few adult volunteers.

After Sharon's retirement in the mid-2010's, a small group of adult volunteer leaders took the reins and evolved the newly-dubbed Bible Off Broadway to have greater youth participation. Children rather than adults/professional actors were cast in the lion's share of the annual production's roles. Songs were mainly drawn from contemporary hits rather than "old standards" so that youth would be even more excited to perform their scenes and learn their music. And at times, as in this year, multiple Bible stories that fell under a single umbrella theme were staged, offering more kids more chances to play individual roles (and to teach the assembled cast and audience even more Bible stories!). And finally, a narration approach was adopted to enable the stories to be easier to follow and to take pressure off the kids, because they no longer were required to memorize lines of a script. Not only were the kids less stressed, but the audience could follow the stories far more easily through the narrators' microphoned words.

The BST/BOB tradition has resulted in nearly 50 years of "Making a Joyful Sound in the City" through the amazing talents, energy, and enthusiasm of nearly three generations of Saint Pauls youth. Ask any child from the 1970s through today, and they will remember their song and costume, the story they brought to life, and the memories they made by being a participant. And they will know that, to enunciate properly, one needs to say with precision, *"The lips, the teeth, the tip of the tongue!"* and *"Wooh, whoa, whar, wow!"*



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.