



January 18, 2026  
Martin Luther King, Jr.  
& UCAN Sunday

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

***Please silence cell phones.***

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

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"The state thought that violence could stop God's purposes. For the Christian,  
the resurrection makes clear the futility of the attempt."

Esau McCaulley

PRELUDE

*Precious Lord*  
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

Wilbur Held

INTROIT

*Lift Every Voice And Sing*  
Chancel Choir

J. Rosamond Johnson

CHIMES

WELCOME

Jeff Carlson

\* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Beautiful are the works of God!

**All: Beautiful also are all of God's people!**

One: Beautiful is the mind of God!

**All: Beautiful also are the hopes of God's people!**

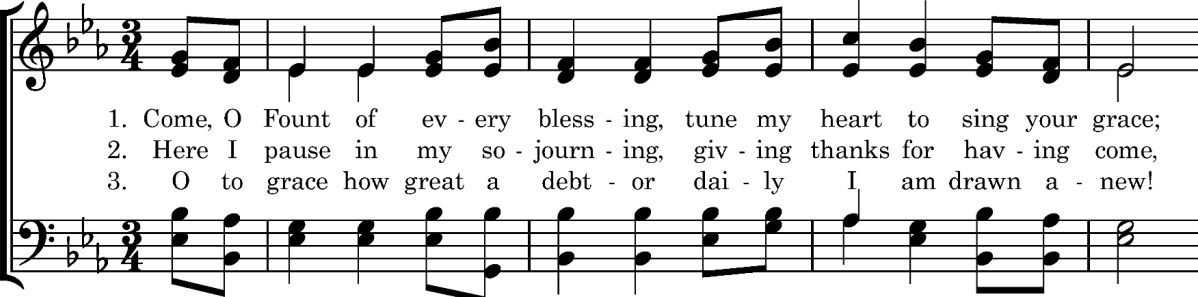
One: God made the heavens and the earth!

**All: To God be the glory for the things God has done!**

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

\*HYMN


*Come O Fount Of Every Blessing*



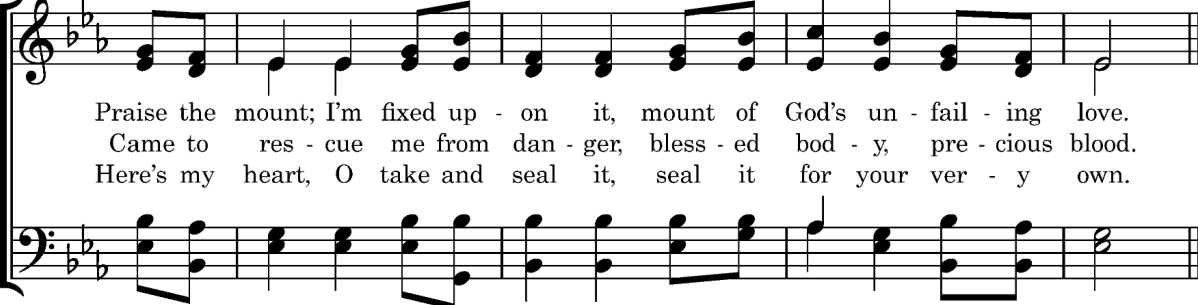
1. Come, O Fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;  
2. Here I pause in my so - journ - ing, giv - ing thanks for hav - ing come,  
3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of end - less praise.  
come to trust, at ev - ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe - ly home.  
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to you.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove,  
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan - dering from the fold of God,  
Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan - der from the love I've known:



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail - ing love.  
Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless - ed bod - y, pre - cious blood.  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liz Nickerson

**Gracious God,  
forgive us for what we could have been but failed to be.  
We confess that we need your help,  
Thank you for the inspiration of Jesus.  
Grant that we will love you  
with all our hearts, souls, and minds,  
and love our neighbors as we love ourselves,  
even our enemy neighbors.  
And we ask you, God, in these days of emotional tension,  
when the problems of the world  
are gigantic in extent and chaotic in detail,  
be with us in our going out and our coming in,  
in our rising up and in our lying down,  
in our moments of joy and in our moments of sorrow,  
until the day when there shall be no sunset and no dawn.  
Amen.**

(a prayer written by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Sunday School students are invited to go to  
Bible off Broadway rehearsal with their teachers.*

RESPONSE

*Goodness Of God* Jenn Johnson, Brian Johnson,  
INSPIRE! - UCAN Gospel Choir Ed Cash, Jason Ingram,  
and Ben Fielding

I love You, Lord  
For Your mercy never fails me  
All my days, I've been held in Your hands  
From the moment that I wake up  
Until I lay my head  
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

'Cause all my life You have been faithful  
And all my life You have been so, so good  
With every breath that I am able  
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice  
You have led me through the fire  
In darkest night  
You are close like no other  
I've known You as a Father  
I've known You as a Friend  
And I have lived in the goodness of God

'Cause all my life You have been faithful ...

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me  
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me  
With my life laid down, I surrendered now  
I give You everything  
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me

And all my life You have been faithful ...

SCRIPTURE

David Faulkner

*Psalm 137:1-4*

By the rivers of Babylon—

there we sat down, and there we wept  
when we remembered Zion.

On the willows there

we hung up our harps.

For there our captors

asked us for songs,

and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying,

“Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”

How could we sing the LORD’s song

in a foreign land?

\* 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)*

RESPONSE

*Precious Lord*  
Chancel Choir

Thomas A. Dorsey  
arr. Arnold Sevier

Precious Lord, take my hand;  
Lead me on, let me stand.  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
Thro' the storm, thro' the night,  
Lead me on to the light  
Take my hand Lord  
And lead me home.

When my way grows drear  
Precious Lord linger near.  
When my life is almost gone  
At the river, Lord, I stand!!  
Guide my feet and hold my hand.  
Take my hand Lord and lead me home.

SERMON

"How to Sing in a Strange Land"

Fredrick Wilson

\* HYMN

*O For A World*

1. O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,  
2. O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,  
3. We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice  
4. The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.  
5. O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.  
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.  
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.  
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.  
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

MISSION MOMENT

Christa Hamilton, UCAN CEO

OFFERTORY

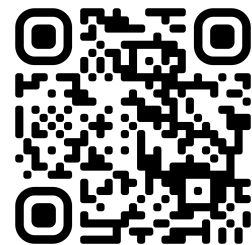
*Trouble Don't Last Always*  
INSPIRE! - UCAN Gospel Choir

Rev. Timothy Wright

I'm so glad trouble don't last always  
I'm so glad  
Trouble don't last always  
May not come when you want Him  
But He's on time (on time)  
In times of trouble, found Him to be  
A friend of mine (of mine)  
In time storm clouds rise  
He'll be there (be there)  
All your burdens  
I know the Lord will help you to bear (bear)  
Weeping may endure for a night  
Keep the faith it will be alright  
Weeping may endure for a night  
Keep the faith it will be alright, right  
  
Trouble don't last always  
No, no, no trouble don't last always

*ELECTRONIC OFFERING OPTIONS*

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



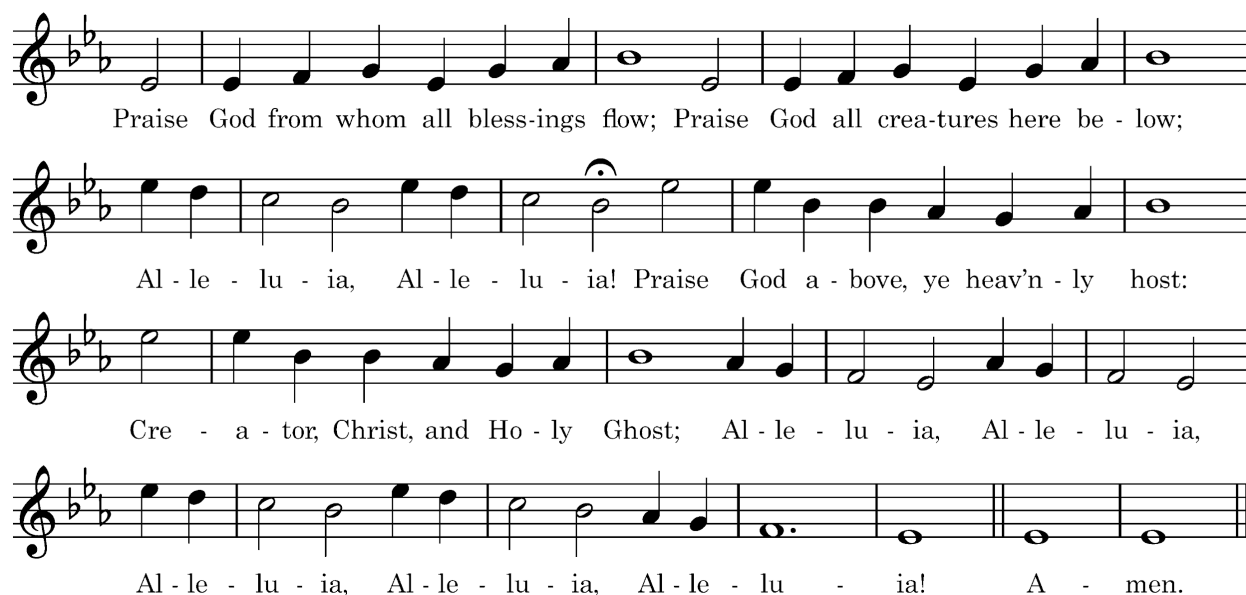
*WELCOME CARD*

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





\* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



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, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Matt Fitzgerald

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

*God Is Working His Purpose Out*



1. God is work - ing his pur - pose out As year suc -
2. From ut - most east to ut - most west, Wher - e'er man's
3. March we forth in the strength of God With the ban - ner of
4. All we can do is noth - ing worth Un - less God



- ceeds to year; God is work - ing his pur - pose out, And the  
foot hath trod, By the mouth of man - y mes - sen - gers Goes  
Christ un - furled, That the light of the glo - rious gos - pel of truth May  
bless - es the deed; Vain - ly we hope for the har - vest - tide Till



time is draw - ing near; Near - er and near - er draws the time, The  
forth the voice of God; Give ear to me, ye con - ti - nents, Ye  
shine through - out the world; Fight we the fight with sorrow and sin To  
God gives life to the seed; Yet near - er and near - er draws the time, The



time that shall sure - ly be, When the earth shall be filled with the  
isles, give ear to me, That the earth may be filled with the  
set their cap - tives free, That the earth may be filled with the  
time that shall sure - ly be, When the earth shall be filled with the



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

\* BENEDICTION

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE     *God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again*  
Combined Choirs

God be with you till we meet again,  
By good counsel guide, uphold you,  
With a shepherd's care enfold you,  
God be with you 'til we meet again.

Till we meet, till we meet,  
Till we meet at Jesus' feet.  
Till we meet, till we meet,  
God be with you 'til we meet again.

POSTLUDE                     *I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free*                     Billy Taylor  
St. Arbucks Quartet

**INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES**

- Childcare is available for babies and toddlers up to age 5 during worship from 10 to 11 a.m. downstairs in the Nursery and Toddler Room.
- Activity "busy bags" are available in the Narthex for children to use during the service.
- New visitors with children interested in participating are invited for a meet and greet before worship begins to preview their classroom and meet teachers. Find Erin Fitzgerald or Danielle Mayfield in the main office for a brief tour and to answer any questions you may have.

***If you would like someone to pray with you today, Stephen Ministers are present after the postlude at the right front of the Sanctuary.***

***Following Worship, all are invited for coffee and snacks in the Gym.  
If you're visiting, be sure to stop by the Welcome Table so we can greet you and you can find out more about St. Pauls!***

## TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

**Clergy:** Jeff Carlson, Liz Nickerson, Fredrick Wilson, Matt Fitzgerald

**Music Director:** Kurt R. Hansen

**Organist:** Kevin Dzierzawski

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

**Mission Moment Speaker:** Christa Hamilton

**Scripture Readers:** David Faulkner

**Head Usher:** Beatrice Jaji

**Ushers:** David Baker, Ron Koepke, David Faulkner

**Greeters:** Andrea Koepke

**Gatekeeper:** Dodd Brown

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

**Custodian:** Ramiro Gonzalez

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

A gift in memory of Kevin O'Brien was made by Tom & Kelly Clancy.

A gift in honor of Bill Kennedy was made by Paul & Kathy Berghoff.

A gift in memory of John & Doris Drost was made by George & Beth Drost.

A gift in honor of Leo Becker's baptism was made by Rebecca Elfring-Roberts.

## BORN THIS WEEK IN JANUARY

*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.*

Jan. 18 Annie Holland, Cara Hotz

Jan. 20 Judson Harper, Keith Mandell, Tom Kompare

Jan. 21 Summer Abraham

Jan. 23 Armanyelis Hernandez

Jan. 24 Bruno Nobile, Hamish Fyfe, Kelly Martin

## 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](http://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.*

- 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. Kevin's memorial service is Saturday, January 24th, at 10 a.m.
- 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.
- Barbara Benjamin's husband, Tom Coffield, recovering from surgery.
- 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 – FILL THE SILLS**

Let's line our window sills with donations of whole grains, pasta and dried beans to help Common Pantry's efforts to address the challenges that result from economic instability!

### **TODAY – BIBLE OFF BROADWAY REHEARSALS - 9:30 a.m., Social Hall**

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](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QDF538W) so we know what your child would like to do!

### **JANUARY 18 – 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](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org).

### **JANUARY 20 – RETIREE GROUP - 10-11:30 a.m., Parlor**

Join other retirees for interesting, uplifting, and supportive conversation and fellowship as we discuss the joys and challenges of the retirement years

### **JANUARY 21 & 28 – 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](https://tinyurl.com/y3w7fkpw).

### **JANUARY 22 - LABYRINTH WALK- 2-3 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. The first of these sessions will be on Thursday, January 22, anytime between 2 and 3 PM. 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: [tinyurl.com/57z6psvm](https://tinyurl.com/57z6psvm)

**JANUARY 26 – GAME NIGHT FOR GROWN-UPS - 6–8 p.m., OMR**

Join us for a laid-back evening of games, conversation, and connection—designed for adults who want to unwind, laugh, and enjoy good company. Whether you love board games, card games, or simply hanging out and chatting, you're welcome here.

Bring a favorite game to share—or jump in with games on hand like Pictionary, Jenga, or Sorry. Snacks are encouraged but not required; feel free to bring something to share if you'd like.

This is a drop-in, drop-out evening, so come when you can and stay as long as you'd like. Register at this link: [tinyurl.com/ypuwptae](https://tinyurl.com/ypuwptae) Questions? Text Wendelin (Lin) at (773) 304-6734 or email [wendelin@wendelindunlap.com](mailto:wendelin@wendelindunlap.com).

**JANUARY 27 – FOOD FOR THE SOUL: MUSIC AND WORSHIP HISTORY – PERSONAL HISTORY AND INTERFACE - 12–1:30 p.m., Social Hall**

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

**JANUARY 27 – 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](https://tinyurl.com/425d5jwu).

**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](mailto:marcia@volkonline.com) or (773) 307-6866, or Gloria Joseph at [glrjoseph@yahoo.com](mailto:glrjoseph@yahoo.com).

**JANUARY 29 – 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](https://tinyurl.com/4cpmednw)

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

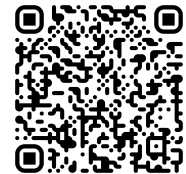
Join pastors, members and others curious about St. Pauls for our New Member Class. Together, we'll talk about faith and our community and we'd love for you to be part of the conversation! We'll meet after worship and childcare will be provided as needed. See upcoming dates here: [spucc.org/new\\_member\\_classes](http://spucc.org/new_member_classes).

**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](http://tinyurl.com/4r9c6e8e). Contact St. Pauls' treasurer Allen Heinemann via Church Center with questions or feedback.

**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!

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING THANK YOU!**

100% of this year's Christmas Eve offering is going to support our Migrant Housing Project, with a total of nearly \$15,000. Each year our Activism and Advocacy Ministry, with the support of the Church Council, designates a beneficiary for this offering. Thanks for your generosity!

**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.

**CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION**

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





## **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."

## **MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY OPPORTUNITIES JANUARY 19th**

- **COMMUNITY RENEWAL SOCIETY** invites you to *Confronting Pharaoh: A Free Community Organizing and Movement Training*, a two-hour Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Faith In Action Assembly rooted in Dr. King's legacy of faith, courage, and collective action. This training, at Kenwood UCC, is open to all. You can find out more and register here: [tinyurl.com/2rn8mv4w](https://tinyurl.com/2rn8mv4w)

- **CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM** has a family-focused celebration of Dr. King's ongoing influence on the fight for civil rights, enjoy hands-on activities and learn how to become more civically engaged in our community. Admission is free for Illinois residents on this day. You can find out more here: [tinyurl.com/4aejed2s](https://tinyurl.com/4aejed2s)

## **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](https://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.

## **JUMPSTART GYM – NOW THROUGH MARCH 19**

Little ones are invited to start off winter 2026 with 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 9-9:45 a.m. \$75/family. Register here: [tinyurl.com/78dxekpu](https://tinyurl.com/78dxekpu). Reach out to Erin Fitzgerald at [littlelights@spucc.org](mailto:littlelights@spucc.org) if you have any questions.

**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](https://tinyurl.com/3umxj6y8).

**PALESTINE STUDY GROUP**

We resume our study with 2025 National Book Award 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 media, universities, law, politics, and culture in the destruction of Gaza.

Our first discussion of chapters 1-3 will be Sunday, January 25th @ 5:00pm via Zoom. Contact David Burnett at [burnett.db@gmail.com](mailto:burnett.db@gmail.com) or join the group via Church Center.

**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](mailto: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](http://spucc.org/Governance). To be considered for a position, please reach out to Nominating Committee Chair Jan Bail at [JanBail@me.com](mailto:JanBail@me.com) or (773) 472-5678.

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

### **CHILDREN/YOUTH MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

There are many ways you can serve as a volunteer with the children and youth ministry at events, with Sunday School, and in the nursery. If you love nurturing children, this is a fun way to make a difference! Volunteers complete a background check and always serve in pairs of two, following our child safety policy. Whether you can help for a few hours a month or on a regular basis, your time and kindness will make a meaningful impact. Sign up for a Sunday nursery childcare slot here: [tinyurl.com/2j5dy6fp](https://tinyurl.com/2j5dy6fp) or contact Pastor Liz at [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org) to learn more about other opportunities to help.

### **VOLUNTEER AS A SOCIAL HOUR HOST**

Visiting a new church can feel intimidating—especially walking into Social Hour without knowing anyone. We're looking for volunteers to serve as Social Hour hosts. The role is simple: be on the lookout for people you don't know, greet them, and help them feel welcome. They might be new to St. Pauls or simply someone you haven't yet met. Either way, you'll brighten their day and make new friends. You can volunteer once a month, once a quarter, or whenever it works for you. Sign up to host on an upcoming Sunday here: [tinyurl.com/3f384fcm](https://tinyurl.com/3f384fcm).

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

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](https://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://littleglightslp.org) or contact Erin Fitzgerald at [erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org](mailto:erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org).

### **LOSS AND GRIEVING DISCUSSION GROUP**

We've all lost someone we loved. Whether you lost someone you loved last month, last year, or five years ago, you can still grieve that loss. Grief changes, but it never goes away. Would you be interested in sharing stories with others who are in similar situations? We're not therapists, just your friends and neighbors who are also grieving and would like to share our ideas and learn how others are coping. We're planning to start a grief support group at St. Pauls, but we need to make sure there's interest. Please contact Pam Woll at [pamelawoll3333@gmail.com](mailto:pamelawoll3333@gmail.com) if you think this might benefit you.

### **CREATION CORNER by Green Team**

Contemplating the Price of Pot Roast

Pot roast is a Sunday tradition. A recent foray to secure a large cut, yielded shock, frustration and a revisiting of basic farm economics. At more than \$20 per pound, the real question is: why is the price of beef so high?

The answer is a perfect storm of supply-demand:

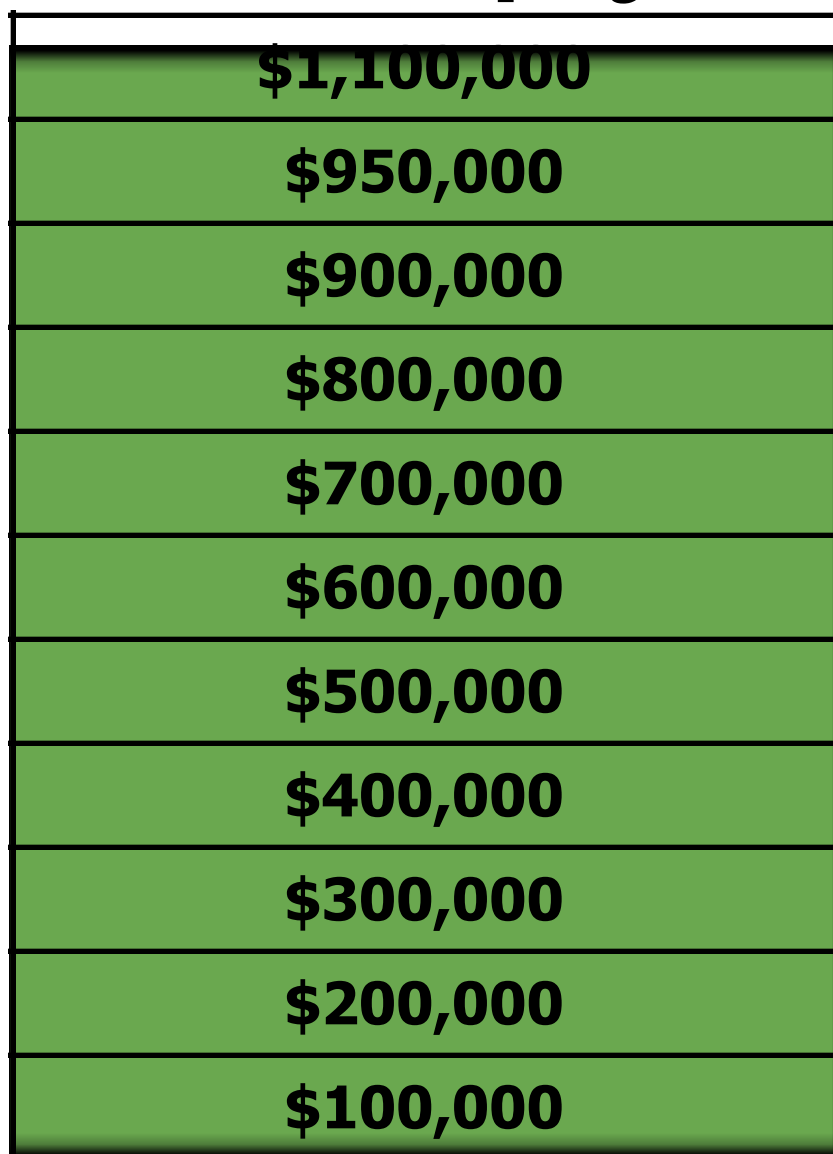
- A 50% tariff on Brazilian beef and a ban on Mexican beef due to a parasitic infestation.
- Consolidation of the meat packing industry and disruption of the labor force in abattoirs and packing, largely immigrant and often undocumented.
- Drought and overall increased herd management costs in feed, energy, and stock purchases.

This imbalance will take YEARS to correct and is a good opportunity to add more vegetables to the pot.

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

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

**St. Pauls UCC**  
**Giving Campaign 2026**  
October 12, 2025 – January 11, 2026  
Total: \$1,074,308.48  
Total households pledged: 216

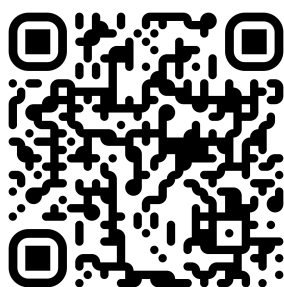


**What More Are We Building?**

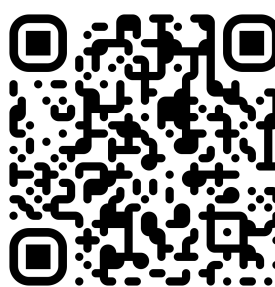
## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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

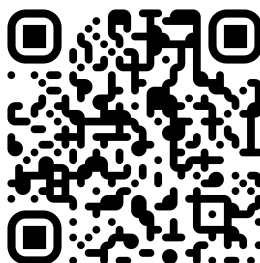
### JOIN A GROUP



### 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

***Precious Lord*** was composed c. 1940 by Thomas A. Dorsey. Wilbur Held (1914-2015) who arranged the setting, also has a deep Chicago connection. He was born in Des Plaines, studied at the American Conservatory with Leo Sowerby, and became Sowerby's assistant for 7 years at St. James Cathedral in the Loop. In addition to having been an active composer, he was also very involved in the American Guild of Organists and was also Professor of Organ Studies at Ohio State University for over 30 years.

The Introit, ***Lift every voice and sing***, is the joyous refrain of a longer hymn that is the unofficial anthem of black churches and the civil rights movement. J. Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954), the composer, and James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938), the poet, were brothers who crafted this wonderful hymn together. They also wrote Broadway musicals and edited song collections as a team.

***Come O Fount Of Every Blessing***, to the tune NETTLETON, is from the rich American tradition of the shaped-note hymnals, specifically Wyeth's Repository Of Sacred Music. The text was written by Robert Robinson (1735-1790), who began his professional life as an apprentice to a hairdresser before committing himself to a religious life.

***Goodness Of God*** was composed by the team of Jenn Johnson (b. 1982), Brian Johnson (b. 1978), Ed Cash (b. 1971), Jason Ingram (B. 1974), and Ben Fielding (b. 1988 ). It was released in 2019 on the live album *Victory* by Bethel Music. Jenn and Brian Johnson are married and also lead Bethel Church in Redding, California. Jenn is the Senior Pastor and a senior Overseer of WorshipU, an online school of worship. Brian is a pastor of Bethel Church, which was founded by his grandfather. He is also a senior Overseer of WorshipU, which he and his wife co-founded. This gospel anthem has gained wide popularity and has been covered by CeCe Winans (b. 1964).

Thomas A. Dorsey (1899-1993) began his career as a blues pianist and songwriter. Later he became a church choir director here in Chicago at Pilgrim Baptist Church and was a co-founder of the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses. Widely known as the "father of the gospel song," he played an important role in the development of African-American gospel music. His best-known song, ***Precious Lord***, was composed following the tragic double death of his first wife Nettie and their newborn son. It was a great comfort to Mr. Dorsey in his grief and the countless others, including Mahalia Jackson, who have sung it. The arrangement was written by Mr. Severe while he was a student at Hyde Park High School in the 1970's. Arnold is a past Director of Music at Pilgrim Baptist Church where Thomas Dorsey got his



start in Gospel music. We can also celebrate that in 2021 both Thomas A. Dorsey and Mahalia Jackson were added to our music windows in our Sanctuary on the south aisle to memorialize their importance to Chicago, music history in general, and gospel music in particular.

***O For A World*** is a paraphrase of the 1739 hymn text, *O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing* by the famous Methodist hymnist and Theologian Charles Wesley (1707-1788). This text was written in 1982 by Mirian Therse Winter (b. 1938) for the Presbyterian Women's Triennial Conference. She is a Medical Mission Sister, having served in Africa and in this hemisphere. The tune, AZMON, was composed in 1828 by C. G. Glaser (1781-1829) and was later adapted to the melody we know by Lowell Mason (1792-1872). Glaser was a German composer that was educated at St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, the home church of, and in the generation following the death of Bach. Dr Mason was considered as the "Father of American Church Music." He was born and educated in New York.

***Trouble Don't Last Always*** was composed in 1992 for his album *I'm Glad About It* by the Reverend Timothy Wright (1947-2009). That album spent 4 weeks at the top of the gospel music charts. The Rev. Wright began study of the piano at age 12 and composed and directed his own gospel music as a teenager in Brooklyn at St. John's Fire Baptized Holiness Church of God. He formed his own gospel ensemble in the 1970's and he eventually became pastor of the Pentecostal Grace Tabernacle Christian Center Church of God in Christ located in Crown Heights, Brooklyn.

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

William G. Tomer, (1833-1896), composed this hymn in 1880. He was born in New Jersey and was of German ancestry. He learned his craft in "singing schools," and began teaching school at age 17. He composed 10 other hymns. The text for ***God Be With You Till We Meet Again*** was also written in 1880 by Jeremiah E. Rankin (1828-1904). He authored over 300 hymn texts, mostly in English but also in German, Spanish, and Russian. Rankin was a passionate abolitionist and part of the temperance movement. He was minister of the First Congregational Church in Washington D.C. and was a longtime correspondent with Frederick Douglass.

Billy Taylor (1921-2010) was a great African-American jazz pianist, composer, broadcaster, and educator. From 1994, he was the Artistic Director for Jazz at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. He also worked tirelessly to raise funds to

replace homes of older jazz musicians in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. **I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free** was composed in 1963 at the height of the civil rights movement and became an unofficial anthem of that movement. The New York Times called it “ one of the greatest songs of the sixties.”

## **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](mailto:mfitzgerald@spucc.org)

Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org)

Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org)

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

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

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.