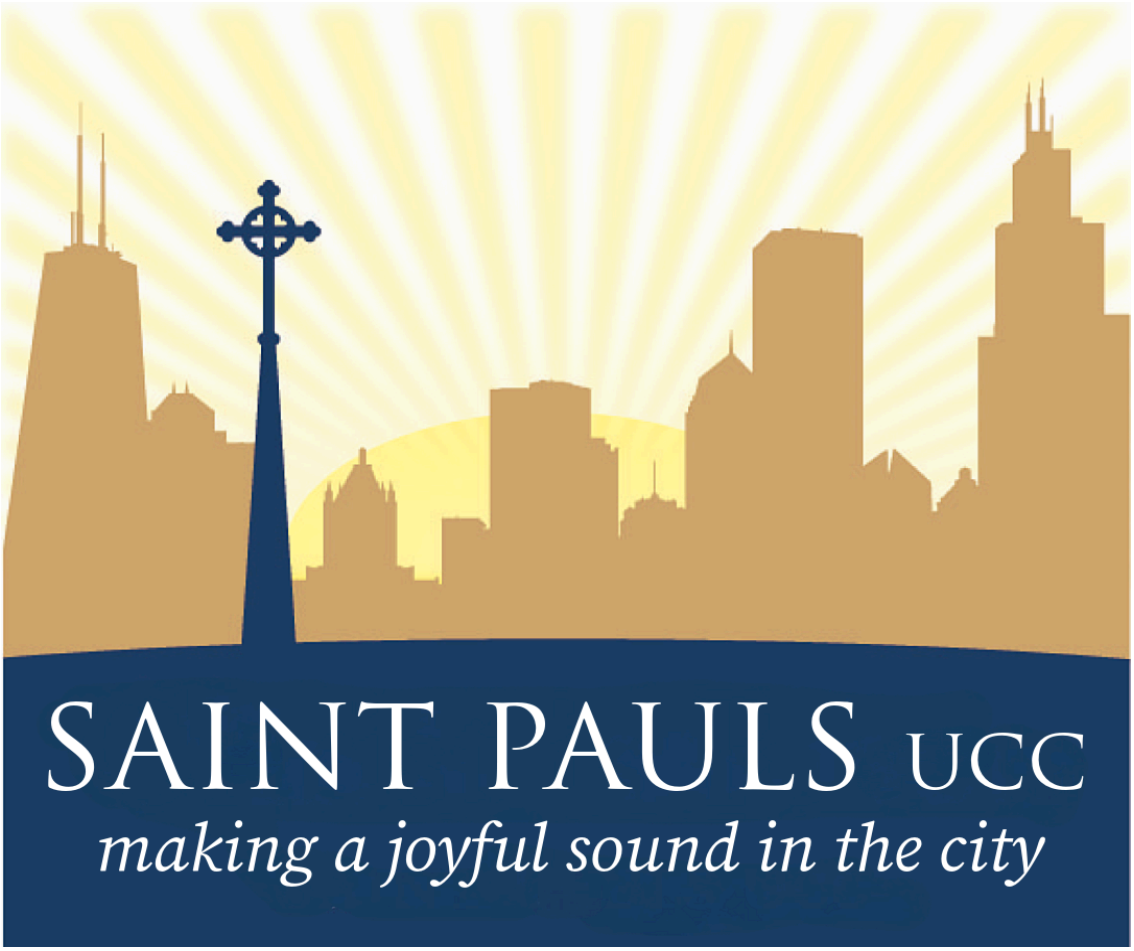


August 30, 2026

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.
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 — Dorothee Solle

"Toleration of oppression, and injustice points to a condition lying like a pall over the whole of society; this condition is apathy, an unconcern that is incapable of suffering."

PRELUDE — *The Peace May Be Exchanged* — Dan Locklair
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

CHIMES

WELCOME — Matt Fitzgerald

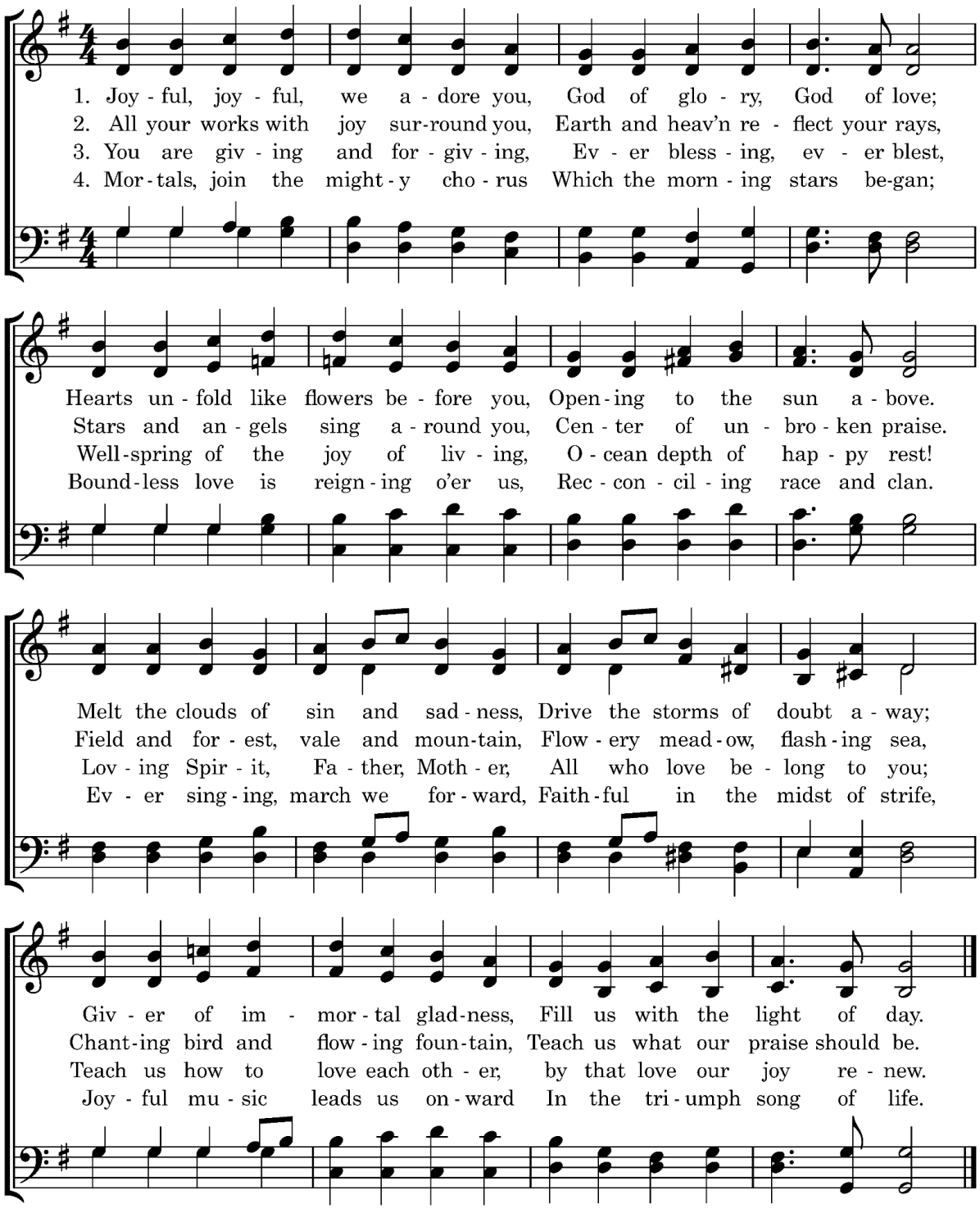
* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: It was the power of God that threw off Pharaoh's chains!
All: All praise be unto God!
One: It was the power of God that freed Jesus from the tomb's cold grip!
All: All praise be unto God!
One: It is the power of God that makes us whole!
All: All praise be unto God!

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

* HYMN Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You



PRAYER OF CONFESSION Liz Nickerson

Lord God,
rather than honoring you,
we bow before
the power of strength
the power of privilege
the power of shame
the power of self
the power of intellect
the power of nation
the power of wealth
the power of guilt.
We repent and turn to you,
the source of all,
the God of all.
Forgive us. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Sunday School students are invited to go to their classroom.
If you would like to accompany your child(ren),
you are welcome to drop them off and return to worship.

RESPONSE *Amazing Grace* *v. 1*

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.

* 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!

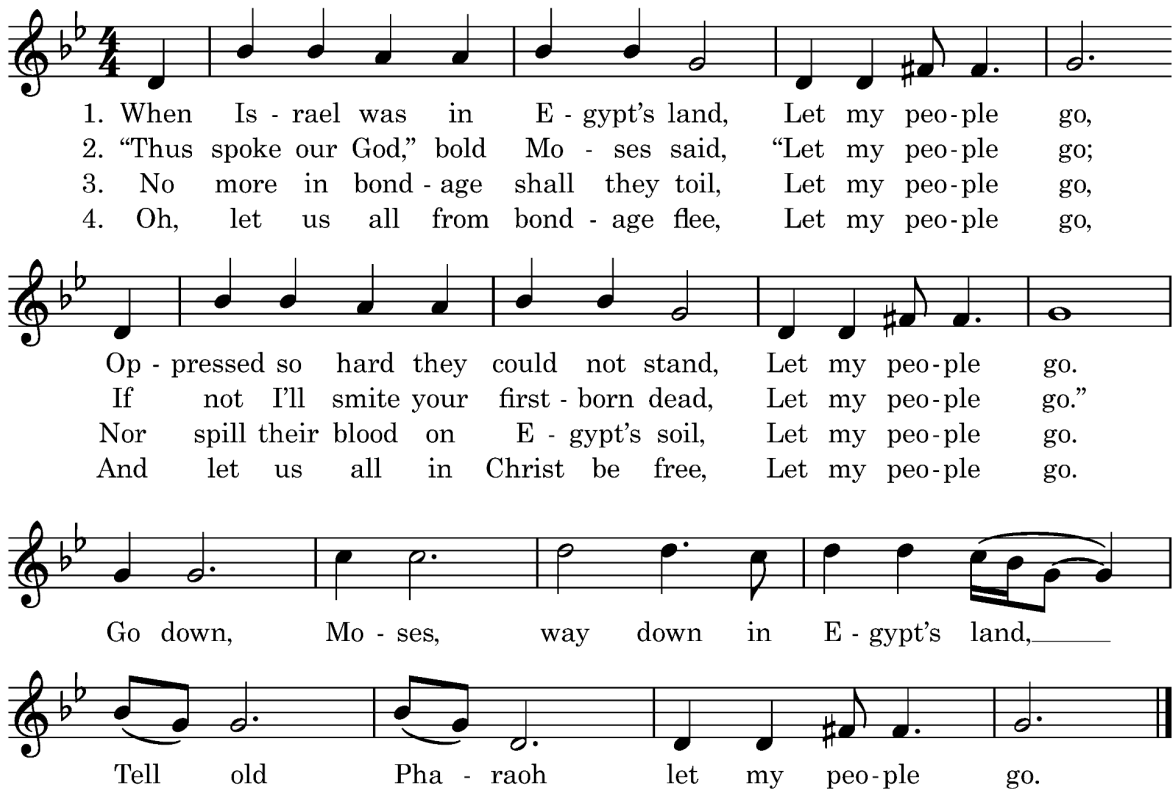
(adapted from the United Church of Canada)

* RESPONSE *Amazing Grace* vv. 2 & 3

(see previous hymn)

SERMON "Exodus for Egyptians" Matt Fitzgerald

* HYMN *When Israel Was in Egypt's Land*



OFFERTORY *It Is Well with My Soul* Phillip P. Bliss
arr. Timothy DeWitt

St. Pauls Brass

When peace like a river attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, thou has taught me to say
It is well, it is well with my soul

And Lord haste the day when my faith shall be sight
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend
Even so, it is well with my soul.

ELECTRONIC OFFERING OPTIONS

Scan this code with your cell phone camera,

Church Center at spucc.churchcenter.com/giving,

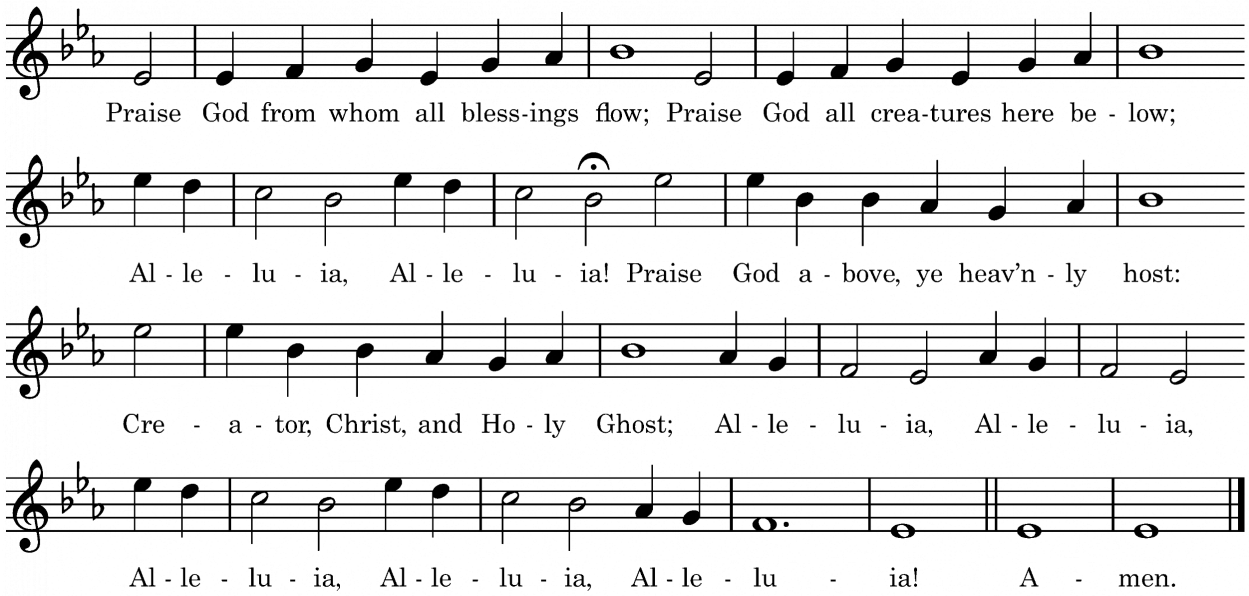
PayPal at spucc.org/paypal, or Zelle to giving@spucc.org.

WELCOME CARD

If you are a visitor, welcome! Thank you for worshiping with us today!

If would like to learn more about the church, please scan the QR code.

* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH Liz Nickerson

THE LORD'S PRAYER

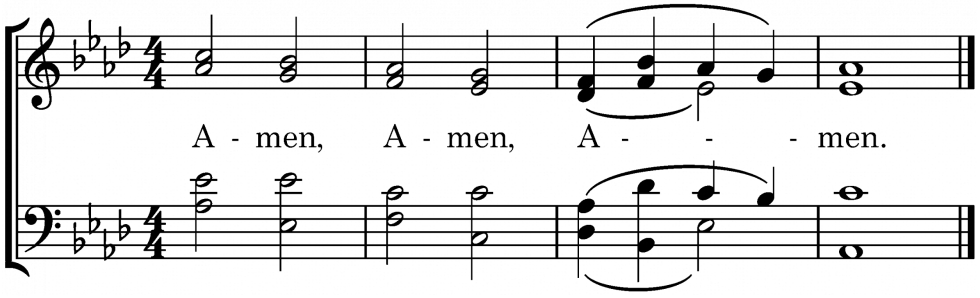
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,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

* HYMN

Guide Me O My Great Redeemer

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE *Hallelujah, Amen* George Frideric Handel
from *Judas Maccabaeus* arr. Walter H. Barnes

St. Pauls Brass

Hallelujah, amen
O Judah rejoice in songs divine
With Cherubim and Seraphim harmonious join
And in songs divine, harmonious join
Hallelujah, amen.

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

Are you going through a crisis, such as the death of a loved one, a diagnosis, a divorce, a job loss, etc? Extensively trained in Christian caregiving, Stephen Ministers are also available to listen, support and offer confidential caring on a weekly basis to our members at a mutually agreeable time. If you wonder whether this may be helpful to you, please contact Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org

Following worship all are invited for coffee and snacks in the Social Hall downstairs, directly beneath the sanctuary. If you're visiting, please stop by the Welcome Table so we can greet you.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Matt Fitzgerald, Liz Nickerson
Music Director: Stephen Edwards
Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski
St. Arbucks Quartet: Brendan Henry, piano; Alex Austin, bass; Matt Plaskota, drums; Kris Hansen, trumpet & vocals
St. Pauls Brass: Kristofer Hansen, Jake Nitzsche, Jim Brandt, Trumpets; Jeanine Woodman, Trumpet and Flügelhorn; Tom Clancy, Rick Peterson, Horns; Nancy Pifer, Tenor Horn, Lorne Frank, Trombone; Mark Swanson, Trombone and Euphonium; Chris Bettler, Tuba.
Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji
Greeters: Mercedes Ridao
Ushers: Fred Pearson, Dodd Brown, Doug Clark
Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown
Camera Operators: Nana Addadzi-Koom, Jim Alrutz, Marie Ankenman, Bob Ball, Brian Hafner, Trevor Hafner
Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS in celebration of Rick Peterson and Wayne Bradley's 42nd Anniversary, the 12th Anniversary of their wedding celebration here at St Pauls, and, as always, for the St. Pauls Brass, many of whom played at that celebration.

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

BORN THIS WEEK IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

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.

August 30 Ashley Pensinger-Sok, Audrey Bettner, Ed Keller, Greg Clemons
August 31 Ben Baughman, Cecilia Badanes
September 1 Jill Lawrence, Sue Derison
September 2 Gretchen Althen, Mary Train
September 3 Erika Keegan, Nana Addadzi-Koom, Natalie Mutch
September 4 Beatrix Kompare
September 5 Brent Bunch, Hayley Leaf, Isaiah Fitzgerald, Tom Stephenson

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.

- For our Director of Operations, Aubraea Cleveland, on the deaths of her father and grandfather.
- For Kurt Hansen's sister, Kristin, going through major life transitions.
- Friends and loved ones of Pat Kirby at her death. Pat's memorial service will be held in the sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 19th.
- Charles Michod and family as they grieve the death of his wife, longtime Saint Pauls member Susan Michod.
- To the family of Ninon Freeman's dear friend, Tim Rooney, upon the death of his mother, Magda Rooney.
- Friends and loved ones of Dianne Witkowski at her death.
- The Coleman family as they seek strength, healing, justice, and peace through life's many challenges.
- Nadia Jiménez's cousin Dayana being treated for cancer.

Continue to hold these loved ones in prayer:
Randy Lyons, Jim Stovall, Megha Whiteman, David Folkes, Donn Schimp, Beverley Petrunich, Doug Dobmeyer

The sanctuary is reserved monthly on the fourth Tuesday from 1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. for prayer.

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
This summer, we will continue to collect items for the Common Pantry. The Pantry has many gluten-intolerant clients but rarely has gluten-free items in the pantry. St. Pauls has been asked to help fill their shelves with gluten-free items. There is also a continued need for personal hygiene items (shampoos, razors, feminine hygiene, toothpaste, diapers, baby wipes, etc.) and, of course, proteins are always in demand. The Pantry can always use reusable bags, backpacks, duffles, suitcases and roller bags to transport their food items. Thank you for supporting our neighbors in need.

TODAY - CONFIRMATION ICE CREAM SOCIAL - 11:00 a.m., Gym
Calling all new and returning Confirmation students! Join us for an Ice Cream Social as we kick off a new year of faith, friendship, and fun. Meet new classmates, reconnect with returning students, and enjoy a sweet treat together before the Confirmation year begins. We hope you'll join us! Please register here: tinyurl.com/53bpsc8w

TODAY - GUIDED TOUR OF ALFRED CALDWELL LILY POOL - 12 p.m., Offsite
Green Team has arranged a guided tour of the Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool, a recently restored hidden jewel in Lincoln Park. Alfred Caldwell designed this sanctuary to represent a glacial river with Midwestern native plants. Its structures are strongly influenced by the Prairie School of Architecture. Due to the Lily Pool's small area, this tour is limited to eight people. Please e-mail Ninon Freeman at: nlanda05@yahoo.com to indicate your interest. A second opportunity to visit the Alfred Caldwell Lily Pond is available for Sunday, September 13th, at noon.

SEPTEMBER 1 - AFTER SCHOOL LEGO CLUB - 4:30–5:30 p.m., Room 017
Young builders aged 5 –13 and their parents or guardians are invited to use their imaginations to build and create together with LEGO bricks. This free club builds creativity and community connection in a fun environment. Join us anytime during the hour to participate. Register: tinyurl.com/nhj6m8nj

SEPTEMBER 5 - YOUNG ADULT WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP - 7 p.m., Off-site
If you're 22 to 35, join us on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. for a weekly summer Small/Life Group at a member's apartment. Form stronger bonds with women at church, make new friends, and grow in your faith! For more information, email youngadults@spucc.org.

SEPTEMBER 8 - FALL READING GROUP - 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., ZOOM
Our monthly Reading Group continues on September 8 and October 13 with *Rivermouth* (A Chronicle of Language, Faith and Migration) by Alejandra Oliva. Carrie Bruggers will lead what promises to be lively discussions. On November 10, Lydia Murray will lead our adventure with *The Book of the Dun Cow* by Walter Wangerin, Jr. All discussions are over ZOOM at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Questions? Contact Marti Pechnyo at mpechnyo@gmail.com. Join us! Sign up here: tinyurl.com/yjutaszj

SEPTEMBER 13 - K-6TH SUNDAY SCHOOL ORIENTATION BREAKFAST - 9:00 a.m., Social Hall All families of children K-6 are invited to breakfast to meet teachers and learn about the theological framework for learning at each stage of your child's development. Come learn about how your children will grow in their faith and connect with families here at St. Pauls!

SEPTEMBER 13 - KICK OFF SUNDAY FINGER FOOD POTLUCK - 11:00 a.m., Gym
Celebrate the start of a new church year together! Reconnect with friends and welcome new faces with food and fellowship. Bring a dish based on your last name to share. R.S.V.P. on Church Center: tinyurl.com/4rbcbtt9

SEPTEMBER 13 - MEAL-MAKING FOR LPCS - 11:15 a.m. & 4 p.m., Kitchen
Join us in the kitchen 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 p.m. Prepare dinner at the church and help deliver the meal to LPCS (600 W. Fullerton). Sign up for Dinner: tinyurl.com/5n92ywpk

SEPTEMBER 15 – RETIREMENT GROUP MEETING – 10 a.m., Parlor
Please join other retirees to discuss our transition paths, what's meaningful, what's on our minds, what brings (and has brought) us joy and sorrow, what's keeping us occupied, and what's next. For more information, contact Jana O'Brien at (708) 846-9415 or janaobrien1@gmail.com.

SEPTEMBER 17 – MOMS' GROUP - Thursday, 11:30 a.m., Nursery
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. R.S.V.P. to lnickerson@spucc.org.

SEPTEMBER 22 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL - 12:00 - 1:30 p.m., Social Hall
Building Walk and Windows that Talk. After lunch, Jeff Carlson will take us on an updated building tour put together by our Facilities Ministry, including a peek through one of Jeff's favorite hidden doorways. We'll end our tour with Larry Simpson as he relates the stories behind some of our beautiful sanctuary windows. Adults of all ages are invited. Connect with new and old friends with lunch (please bring your own), fellowship, fun and discussion. Childcare provided; register at tinyurl.com/une5bdd9

SEPTEMBER 26 - OKTOBERFEST - 1:00 - 8:00 p.m., Courtyard
It's "Munich meets Chicago" as St. Pauls hosts Oktoberfest in celebration of our German heritage. What better way to tap into the excitement of this Bavarian tradition than with authentic German food, local Oktoberfest beers, live music and dancing, a jumpy-house, and activities for all ages. This year's live entertainment will feature acclaimed children's entertainer, Laura Doherty (1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.), and everyone's favorite oompah band, Die Musikmeisters (3:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.). This free event is open to the public and family-friendly, so invite your neighbors and friends and join us at the corner of Fullerton and Orchard. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held in our gymnasium. Stay tuned for volunteer opportunities in the coming weeks.

SEPTEMBER 27 - GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - 11:30 - 12:45 p.m., Room 211
You don't have to grieve alone. Grief can feel overwhelming, isolating, and difficult to explain. Our peer-led Grief Support Group offers a safe, welcoming, and supportive space for people who are grieving to come together, share their experiences, listen to others, and find connection.

What to Expect:

- A welcoming and supportive environment
- Opportunities to share your story—or simply listen
- Conversations about coping with grief and loss
- Support from others who understand
- Practical ways to care for yourself during the grieving process
- Respect for each person's unique experience and pace

No one is required to share. We'll meet one Sunday a month.
Led by Stephen Ministry Leader Joe JaQuay. You can sign up to join the group here: tinyurl.com/hktte7xd

OCTOBER 17 & 18 - OPEN HOUSE CHICAGO - 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Onsite

For the first time ever, St. Pauls will open our doors as one of the sites for Open House Chicago, a free public program of the Chicago Architecture Center where buildings around the city are open to the public to visit. Hundreds of visitors will be coming to visit our beautiful church and we need YOU to be one of our volunteer greeters and welcome folks into St. Pauls. No experience necessary! Greeters will be spaced throughout the church to help direct people through our building. We'll need nine greeters for each of the two-hour shifts on Saturday between 9:30-5:30 and Sunday between 11:30-5:30. You can sign up for more than one shift. Questions? Contact Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org. You can sign up for a Volunteer Greeter shift here: tinyurl.com/3sth5mek

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Please register for Nursery/Preschool childcare, K-6th Sunday School, 7th and 8th grade Confirmation, and High School classes by scanning this QR code.

Nursery

Our nursery is staffed by trustworthy child care professionals who have been with Saint Pauls for years. Parents are welcome to drop their children off before worship. The nursery is next to our Social Hall, on the garden level directly under the sanctuary. Parents will be contacted during worship if their infant or toddler needs assistance.

Sunday School K-6th

All families of children K-6 are invited to breakfast at 9 a.m. in the Social Hall on 9/13. Meet your teachers and learn about the theological framework and goals for learning at each stage of your child's development. There are three parts to youth education at St. Pauls: Sunday School, Service Projects, and Social Events to build community. Come learn about how your children will grow in their faith and connect with families here at St. Pauls!

Confirmation (7th & 8th Grades)

Confirmation students meet on September 13th in Room 210, at the East end of the Upper Level at 9:55 a.m. A week later there will be a Confirmation lunch for families at 11:15 a.m. in the Social Hall. St. Pauls offers a two-year Confirmation program.

Classes meet regularly throughout the year at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. A student entering this program is not signing on to be confirmed, but rather is entering a process to help her or him decide if they would like to be confirmed.

High School
High School students, bring a friend to our kickoff party on Friday, September 18th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Join Pastor Matt and others as we feast on good food, enjoy games and conversation, and plan for an excellent year.

VOLUNTEER WORSHIP TRANSPORTATION
Help a fellow member attend Sunday worship by providing transportation assistance for Mary Stainton on selected Sundays. Volunteers will meet Mary at Warren Barr (66 W. Oak St.) at approximately 8:15 a.m. and ride the PACE bus with her to St. Pauls, then accompany her on the return trip around 12:00 p.m. (times may vary slightly each week). Your support helps ensure every member can fully participate in our church community. For more information or to volunteer, please call or text (205)799-8979.

VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE RELIEF
Critical help is needed for Venezuelans following the recent earthquakes. Immediate impacts include loss of shelter, infrastructure, disruption of basic services, and psycho-social distress. Long-term impacts are expected to include prolonged displacement and loss of livelihoods.. The UCC is working with Global Ministry partners to deliver aid. You can find out more and donate to the efforts here: tinyurl.com/4v7ejndv

TAKE ACTION TO FIGHT HUNGER
St. Pauls' letters on hunger to congresspeople are having a positive effect. For the rest of August, the Activism and Action Ministry recommends that you contact Senator Dick Durbin's office. He sits on the Agriculture Committee which has a key vote coming upon the Farm Bill. You can find a sample letter here: tinyurl.com/3kj2wppb

POP TAB COLLECTION MILESTONE
Thank you to all who have contributed to the Ronald McDonald pop tab collection bin. With our last donation, we surpassed the 100 pound donation mark! That's 100 pounds of pure aluminum that is being recycled to benefit the programs of our local Ronald McDonald House. Keep popping those tabs. Our donation bin is located in the Social Hall!

BLAST FROM THE PAST

After our founding in 1843 and the schism which resulted in the establishment of First St. Pauls Lutheran, our membership skyrocketed. This was the result of political unrest in Germany. German refugees flooded Chicago so much that our pastor Reverend Hartmann could not keep up on calls to members living south and west of the Chicago River. With our support these members in 1858 formed the Zion German Evangelical congregation. It was founded on the west side near Ashland & 14th St. In the mid 1920s, the church moved further west to the Austin neighborhood at 5442 W. Van Buren. It dissolved in the early 1970s due to the changing neighborhood.

CREATION CORNER by Green Team

From Grapes, to Barley, to Grapes, to?

The Romans introduced grapes to Britain after 43 B.C.; new varietals were added by Christians in the 2nd century, while the Domesday Book registered 40 active vineyards in 1086 A.D. after the Norman invasion. Thereafter, a long cooling cycle occurred between 1300-1850 A.D. when grapes were replaced by more viable crops such as barley.

Since the 1970s, British viniculture has been in revival. However, in 2025 and 2026, Britain reported historic spring and summer temperatures. The wine harvest in 2025 was exceptional, while the 2026 harvest is early and the grapes stressed.

This is a long climate chronicle, with one recent exceptional year in 2025. What will next year bring?

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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

CONNECT & GROW

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SPECIAL SERVICES

KIDS ACTIVITIES

NEW MEMBERS

HOLIDAYS

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 the next Sunday bulletin**. Share personal announcements/events on our Facebook group page, St. Pauls Together.
Please limit announcements to 100 words. Thank you.

NEW! OPT-IN TO TEXTING FROM ST. PAULS
Want to receive reminders and announcements via text?
Simply scan the QR code to the right and fill out the form!

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.