August 9, 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

PRELUDE *Balm In Gilead* Spiritual
St. Arbucks Quartet arr. Brendan Henry

CHIMES

WELCOME Jeff Carlson

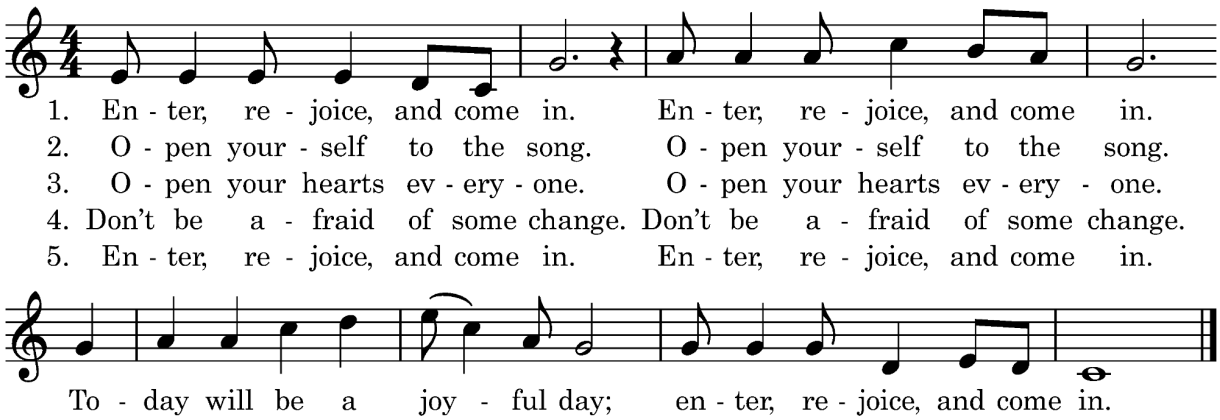
* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Wake up! The sun has risen! It's a new day!
All: Today is a gift from God. Each and every moment of life.
One: Take a deep breath, and let God's Spirit fill your lungs.
All: God, open our ears to hear your voice.
One: Listen, the voice of love is calling your name!
All: Listen! Christ is risen! Don't be afraid!

** Please stand as you are able.*

* HYMN *Enter, Rejoice, and Come In*



PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Psalm 69) Liz Nickerson

Lord God, help me. I'm in over my head.
I have sunk into deep mud.
My feet can't touch the bottom, andI have entered deep water.
I am tired of crying.
My throat is hoarse.
My eyes are exhausted with waiting for you.
God, you know my foolishness.
My wrongdoings aren't hidden from you.
In your great and faithful love, answer me with your certain salvation.
Save me from the mud; don't let me drown.
Save me from the watery depths.
Answer me, Lord, for your faithful love is good.
Turn to me in your great compassion, for I trust in you. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Sunday School students are invited to go to their classroom #204.
If you would like to accompany your child(ren),
you are welcome to drop them off and return to worship.

RESPONSE *Beautiful Savior* vv. 1 & 2

SCRIPTURE Stephen Edwards

Matthew 14:22-36

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. After the people of that place recognized him, they sent word to that whole surrounding region, and people brought all who were sick to him and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

* 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 *Beautiful Savior* vv. 3 & 4

See Previous Hymn

SERMON "Walking on Water" Jeff Carlson

* HYMN *Will You Come and Follow Me?*

OFFERTORY *Fantasiestücke* Op.73 Robert Schumann

(Fantasy Pieces)

Zart und mit Ausdruck (Tender and with expression)

Ross Penniman, cello

Jeff Wagner, piano

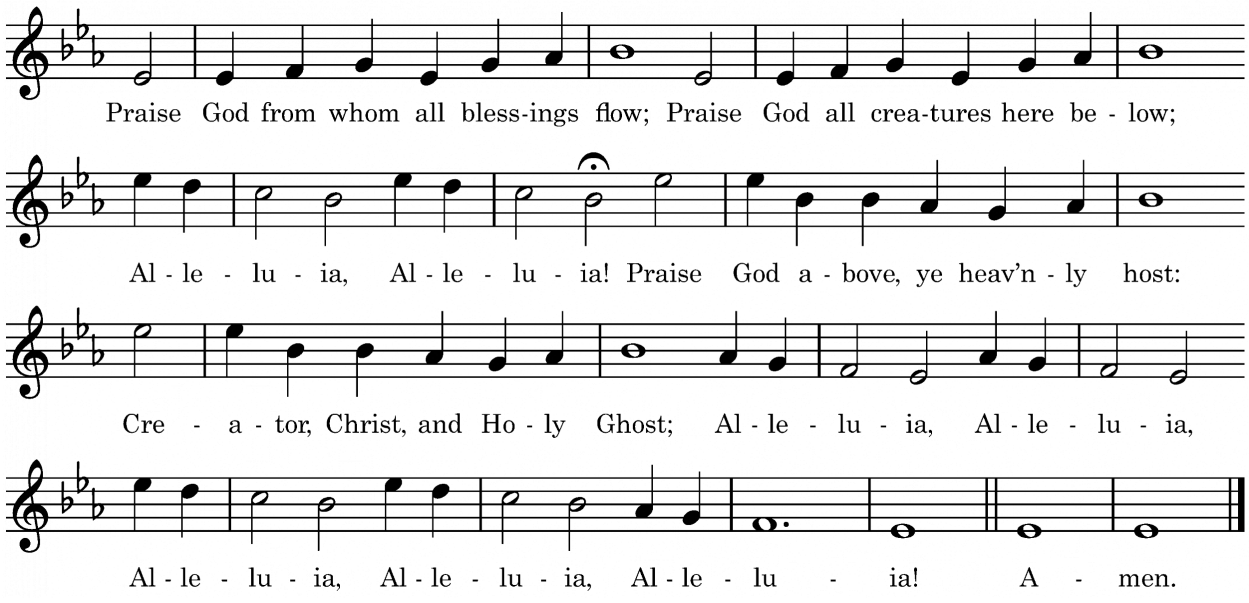
ELECTRONIC OFFERING OPTIONS

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

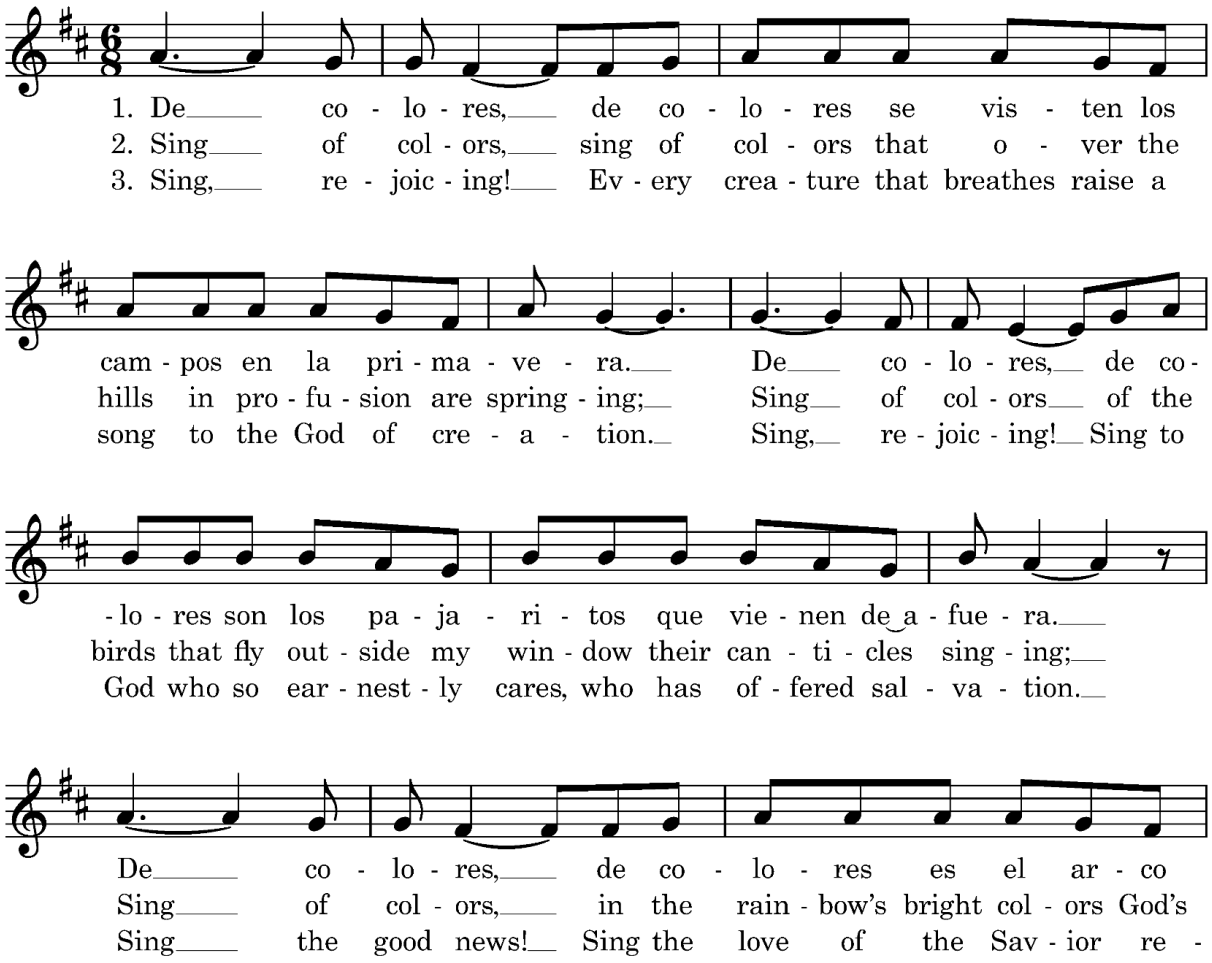


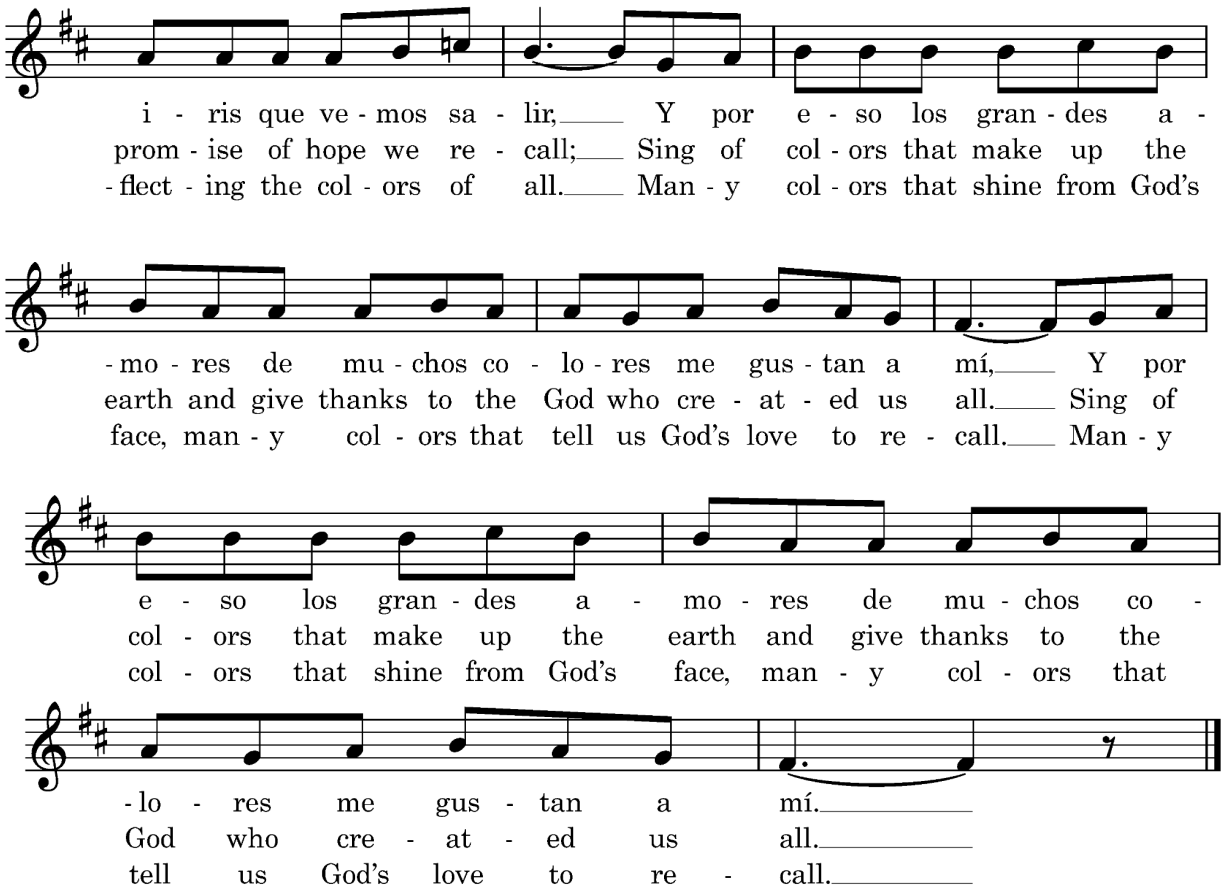
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH Liz Nickerson

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.

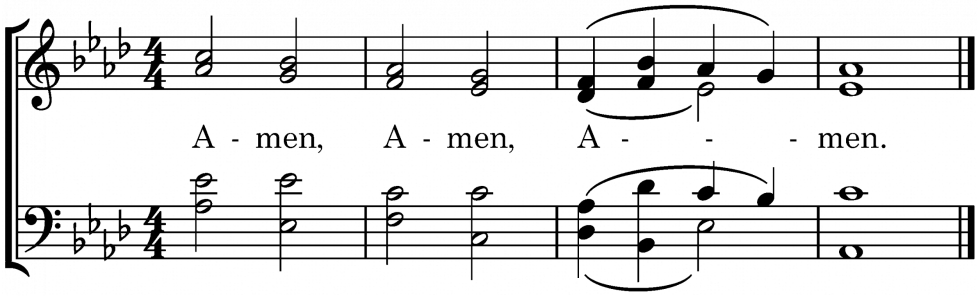
* HYMN *De Colores*




i - ris que ve - mos sa - lir, Y por e - so los gran - des a -
prom - ise of hope we re - call; Sing of col - ors that make up the
- flect - ing the col - ors of all. Man - y col - ors that shine from God's
- mo - res de mu - chos co - lo - res me gus - tan a mí, Y por
earth and give thanks to the God who cre - at - ed us all. Sing of
face, man - y col - ors that tell us God's love to re - call. Man - y
e - so los gran - des a - mo - res de mu - chos co -
col - ors that make up the earth and give thanks to the
col - ors that shine from God's face, man - y col - ors that
- lo - res me gus - tan a mí.
God who cre - at - ed us all.
tell us God's love to re - call.

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE *It Is Well With My Soul* Hotatio Spafford
St. Arbucks Quartet arr. Brendan Henry

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: Jeff Carlson, 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
Scripture Reader: Stephen Edwards
Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji
Greeters: Mercedes Ridao
Ushers: David Baker, Fred Pearson, Dodd Brown
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 are given in memory of Dianne Witkowski from your ever loving sister, Phyllis. Rest in Peace.

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

BORN THIS WEEK IN AUGUST

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 9 Eleanore McGuire, Pat Grose
August 10 Nate Davidson, Peg Wander, Sally Connolly, Scott Hibbard
August 11 Anna-Kate Trubilowicz, Ben Smith, Nathan Streeter
August 12 Natalie Douglass Grana, Rick Newbury, Susan Lloyd
August 14 David Burnett, Justin DuPont, Lorri Gunn Wirsum, Olivia Kearns
August 15 Sally Acker, Winnie Castle

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.

- Friends and loved ones of Dianne Witkowski at her death.
- Friends and loved ones of Pat Kirby 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.
- To the family of Timothy Rooney as they accompany their mother, Magda, in hospice.
- Nancy Mayer at the death of her sister, Karole.
- Barbara Benjamin and her family mourning the passing of her dad, John Benjamin (86) on Sunday 7/12.
- Rick Peterson's family over the unexpected death of his older brother, John Peterson.
- Cossette Millard as she recovers from surgery for a water skiing accident.

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. Thank you for supporting our neighbors in need.

TODAY - 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

AUGUST 11 - *1776* READING GROUP - 7 p.m., ZOOM
David McCullough's *1776* takes us back to the American Revolution's most pivotal year, largely defined by brutal winter conditions and devastating losses.
We feel the human costs of war through the minds of everyday soldiers, both struggling Americans and disciplined British Redcoats. George Washington is a leader worn down by relentless retreats, doubting his own judgments and often wondering whether independence is even possible.

Come explore this emotional reminder of what it takes to forge a democracy. The second monthly ZOOM discussion will be held August 11 at 7 p.m. Led by St. Pauls avid reader and Stephen Ministry Leader, Marti Pechnyo. Questions? Contact Marti at mpechnyo@gmail.com. Sign up here: tinyurl.com/5t2kjnjm

AUGUST 12 - WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - 1 & 2 Kings, Noon, ZOOM
Despite the names of these books, the Old Testament takes a critical view of monarchy. Liberated from slavery under the king of Egypt, Israel was initially governed by judges, not kings. Yet, Israel demanded a king, and they got what they asked for. In their critique of power, hubris and all of the things that draw the human heart away from the love of God, these ancient books remain surprisingly contemporary. Led by Jeff Carlson, we meet weekly from Noon to 12:40 p.m. over ZOOM. Sign up via Church Center here: tinyurl.com/y3w7fkpw

AUGUST 12 - YOUNG ADULT WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP - 7 p.m., Off-site
If you're 22 to 35, join us on Wednesday, July 22, 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.

AUGUST 13 - MAKE LUNCH FOR LPCS - 10:45 a.m. -12:15 p.m., Kitchen
Four volunteers are needed to help make lunch for the LPCS drop-in program, which provides support services for unhoused people during the day. A $25 contribution toward purchasing the food is welcome but optional. One volunteer is also needed to

join Pastor Jeff in delivering and serving the food at 1521 N Sedgwick from 12:30 to about 3. Questions? jcarlson@spucc.org Sign up here: https://tinyurl.com/y938enmd

AUGUST 16 - DEPAUL UNIVERSITY'S PAID RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY – 11:30 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room
A representative from DePaul University's Emotion & Cognition Lab will be with us to talk about this opportunity. They are seeking adults 65 years and older to participate in a paid group exercise research study. Participants will take part in an exercise program three times a week for eight weeks, complete brief surveys about their experiences, and may receive up to $150 for completing the study.
You can also learn more or see if you're eligible by contacting the research team at (773) 325-7405 or mikelsemocoglab@gmail.com.

AUGUST 18 – 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.

AUGUST 20 – 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.

AUGUST 25 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL - 12:00 - 1:30 p.m., Social Hall
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

AUGUST 28 - BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ - 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., Courtyard & Plaza
Join us for food, fellowship, and fun with your St. Pauls family! Let's spend time together and toast to a wonderful summer. Grill & full hot dog bar provided, and you're welcome to bring a side, drink, or game to share. R.S.V.P. here: tinyurl.com/8vswjj2t

AUGUST 30 - 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

SEPTEMBER 26 - OKTOBERFEST SAVE THE DATE - 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

HERBS AVAILABLE DURING SOCIAL HOUR
During Social Hour, seasonal herbs will be bundled and placed in a large wicker basket for the taking. These herbs were grown by a Green Team member. Of particular note is an abundance of summer savory, which is difficult to find in grocery stores. It is an herb that is part of the mint family and is used to season beans and lentils, poultry and stews. Also, it has been used as an herbal tea for indigestion.

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!

CREATION CORNER by Green Team
Fire Season Changing in North America
Man-made or wild, fire season around the world is changing. This complex, global phenomenon is long-term and associated with climate change: as the planet warms, nighttime temperatures do not drop as much, translating into less rainfall, drier conditions and greater fire vulnerability due to arson, accidents and lightning.
In North America, the fire season is lasting almost six months instead of mainly summer; the fires are also more intense, covering more acreage and creeping to higher elevations, making them more difficult to contain.

Adapted from "Wildfires and Climate Change", NASA, 2026.

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!

TODAY'S MUSIC

Balm In Gilead is a Black Spiritual. In the Hebrew Bible, Gilead was the name of the mountainous region east of the Jordan River. This region was known for having skillful physicians and an ointment made from the gum of a tree particular to that area. Many believed that this balm had miraculous powers to heal the body. In the book of Jeremiah, God tells the people of Israel that though many believe in the mysterious healing power of this balm, they can't trust in those powers for spiritual healing or as a relief of their oppression. For slaves in our country, crossing the Jordan River was code for escaping their bondage by escaping to the north going over rivers such as the Potomac and Ohio. This arrangement is by our own Brendan Henry.

Enter, Rejoice, and Come In was composed in the 1970's by Louise Ruspini (1900 - 2000), who also provided the text, which is based on Psalm 100. The tune borrows from the first line of the refrain: ENTER, REJOICE.

Beautiful Savior was originally a German hymn, *Schönster Herr Jesu*, first found and attributed in a 17th century hymnal. The English tune name is CRUSADER'S HYMN. The translation was provided by Joseph Augustus Seiss (1823 - 1904), who was a Lutheran pastor in this country in the mid-1800's. *Beautiful Savior* also became the *alma mater* of St. Olaf College and is sung at the close of every concert and at important events at St. Olaf and other colleges.

The text for ***Will You Come And Follow Me*** was written by John Bell (b. 1949). He was born in Scotland and, after considering a career as a music teacher, went into ministry. He has enjoyed serving as a youth minister in impoverished areas of Scotland. THE SUMMONS is a folk melody, KELVINGROVE, which derives its name from a park in Glasgow, Scotland.

Fantasiestücke (Fantasy Pieces) Op. 73 was composed in 1849 in just two days by Robert Schumann (1810-1856), and it was originally scored for clarinet and piano. Schumann stated that the pieces might also be performed by cello or violin. The work is written in three movements, only the first of which we will hear this morning. Robert Schumann was one of the great lights of Romantic music. He married Clara Wieck (1819-1896), who was his student and also a piano virtuoso. Clara's father, Friedrich Wieck (1785-1873), was Robert Schumann's piano teacher and deeply opposed to the marriage of his daughter to Schumann. Schumann was an early champion of the music of Johannes Brahms (1833-1897). Schumann's short life was dogged by symptoms of what we would recognise now as depression. He attempted suicide in 1854 by throwing himself into the Rhine River. He was rescued

and placed in a sanatorium, where he died two years later, reportedly from pneumonia.

De colores is a folk song from the rich resources of Mexican music. It gained wide popularity when it was sung at meetings and marches of the United Farm Workers. Our New Century Hymnal was the first to share it with a wider audience, and the translation is unattributed.

Our Postlude, ***It Is Well With My Soul***, was composed by Philip L. Bliss (1836-1878) in 1876. He was a largely self-taught itinerant music teacher. He was converted at age 12 at a revival. It was Dwight L. Moody (1837-1899), famous evangelist and founder of the Moody Bible Institute here in Chicago, that encouraged Bliss to become a singing evangelist. The text was written by Horatio G. Spafford (1828-1888) in 1873. He also gave the Bliss tune its name, VILLE DU HAVRE. The tune is the name of the ship carrying his wife and four daughters from Chicago to vacation in France. The ship sank in the Atlantic after a collision with another vessel, and only his wife survived. He wrote this text *after* this loss. This arrangement was created by Colleen Henry (1946- 2014), mother of Brendan Henry and spouse of our late Pastor Emeritus Tom Henry.

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.