September 13, 2026
Homecoming 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

"My family and I don't go to church to deny the existence of the darkness.
We go to look so hard at the light that our eyes water."

Dorothy Fortenberry

PRELUDE *Oh Happy Day* Edwin Hopkins
St. Arbucks Quartet

CHIMES

INTROIT *The Lord Is in His Holy Temple* George F. Root
Chancel Choir

The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence,
keep silence before him.

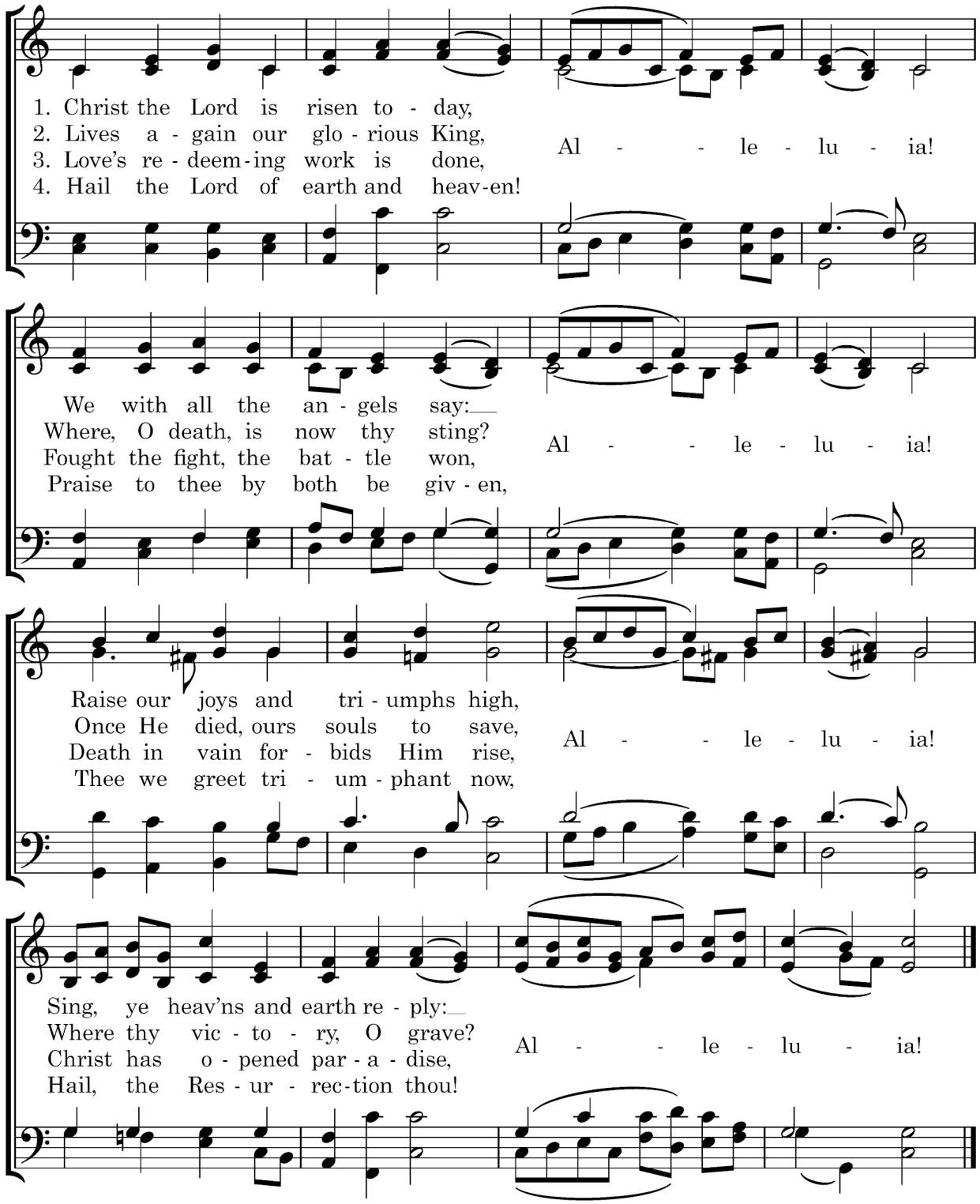
WELCOME Matt Fitzgerald

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Praise God in the church!
All: Praise Him under open skies!
One: Praise His acts of power;
All: Praise His magnificent love!
One: Praise Her with a trumpet cry;
All: Praise Her with rhythm and cymbals!
One: Praise Him with laughter and dancing;
All: Praise Him with voices ringing!
One: Let everything that lives *sing*!
All: Praise the Lord!

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

* HYMN *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* arr. Chip DeStefano

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Liz Nickerson

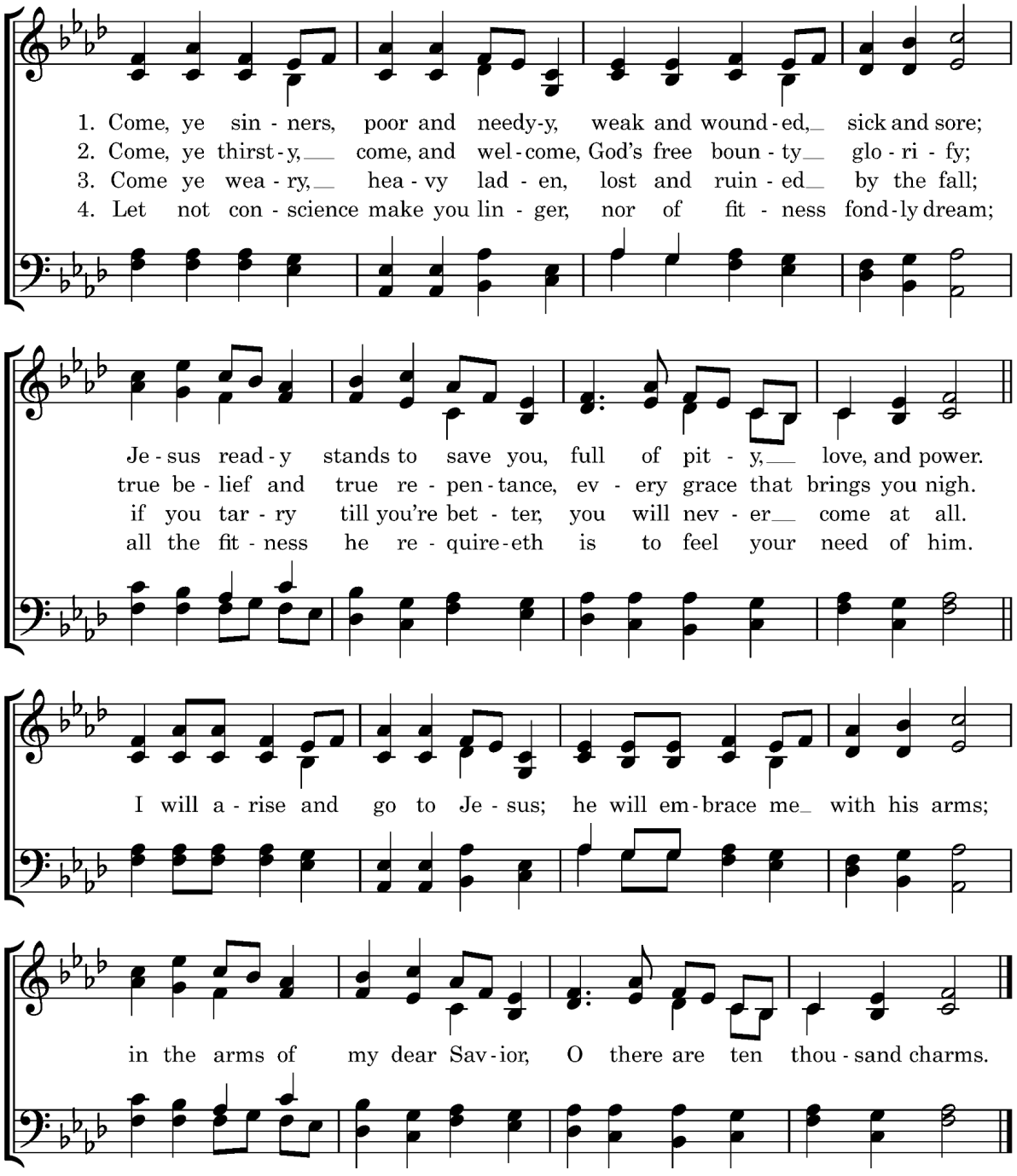
O God, forgive us into new lives.
Turn us upside down with your love.
Change us. Remake us.
When we burnish grudges,
love us into mercy.
When our wounds enthrall us,
forgive us into healing.
When we judge others,
humble us with your glory.
Turn us into your
new creation.
Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

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

RESPONSE *Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy* vv. 1 & 2



SCRIPTURE Mark Sancya

2 Corinthians 5 selections

Struggle here only reminds us of the spaciousness to come – for we walk by faith, not by sight. Do you suppose a few ruts in the road or rocks in the path are going to stop us? Still, when the time comes, we will be plenty ready to exchange exile for homecoming. But neither exile nor homecoming is the main concern. Cheerfully pleasing God is the main concern. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, and take what is coming to us.

That keeps us vigilant, you can be sure. It is no light thing to know that we'll all one day stand in that place of Judgement. That is why we work urgently with everyone we meet. If I acted crazy, I did it for God; if I acted in my right mind, I did it for you. Christ's love has moved me to such extremes. His love has the first and last word in everything we do.

The love of Christ urges us on: One man died for everyone, therefore all have died. We are all in the same boat. He included everyone in his death so that everyone could also be included in his life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own. Because of this, we don't judge people by what they have or how they look. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

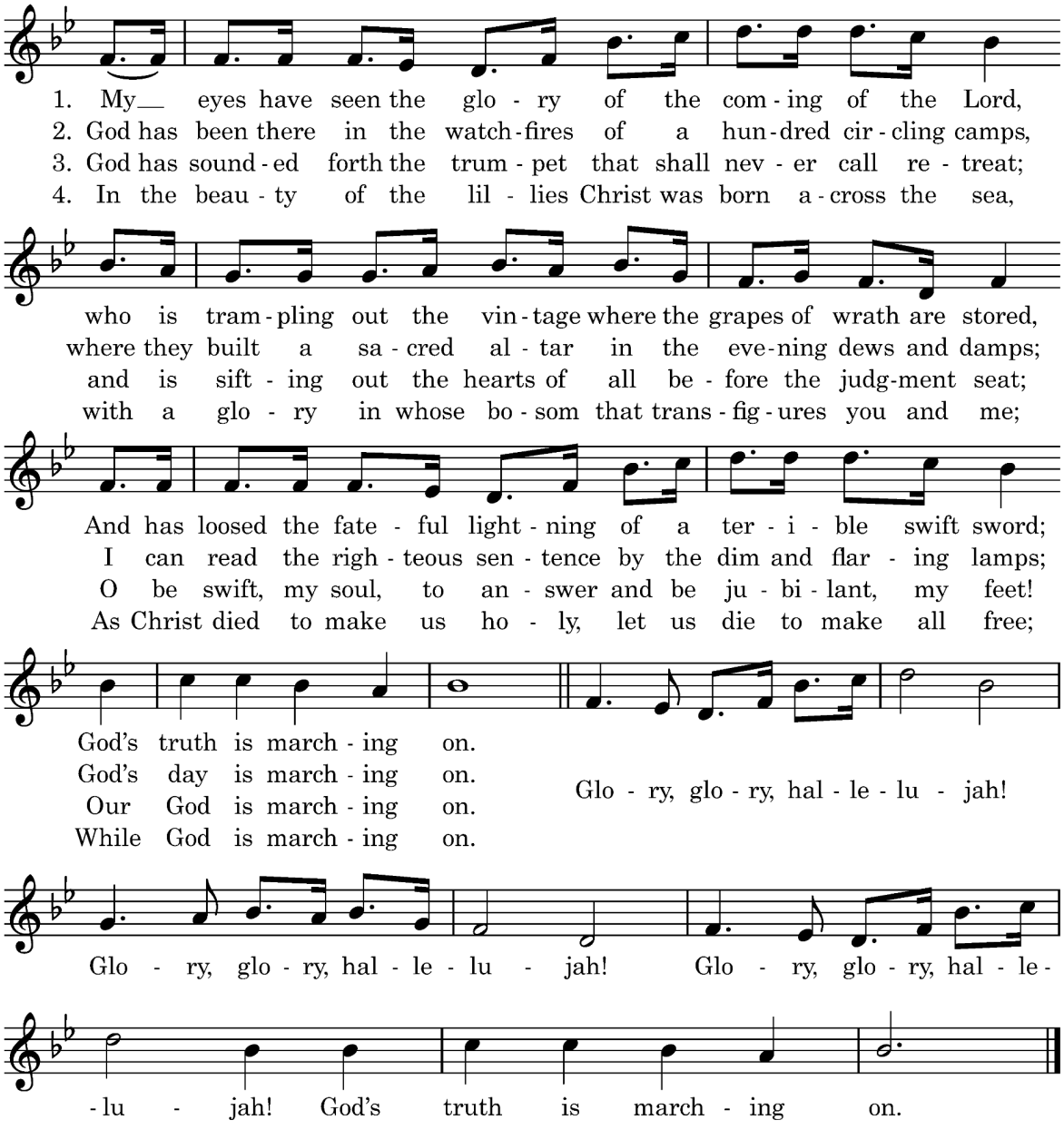
* STATEMENT OF FAITH

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	*Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy* (see previous hymn)	vv. 3 & 4
SERMON	"New Creation"	Matt Fitzgerald

* HYMN

My Eyes Have Seen the Glory

OFFERTORY *Psalm 150* Paul Basler

Chancel Choir
Fiona Chisolm, Horn

Praise ye, praise ye, praise, praise ye the Lord!
Praise ye, praise ye, praise the Lord, praise ye, praise ye the Lord!
Praise him for his mighty deeds…, praise ye, praise ye the Lord!
Praise him with trumpet blast…, praise ye, praise ye the Lord!
Praise him with lyre and harp! Praise him with strings and mutes!
Praise him! Praise him with clashing cymbals; praise him with clanging, clashing cymbals!

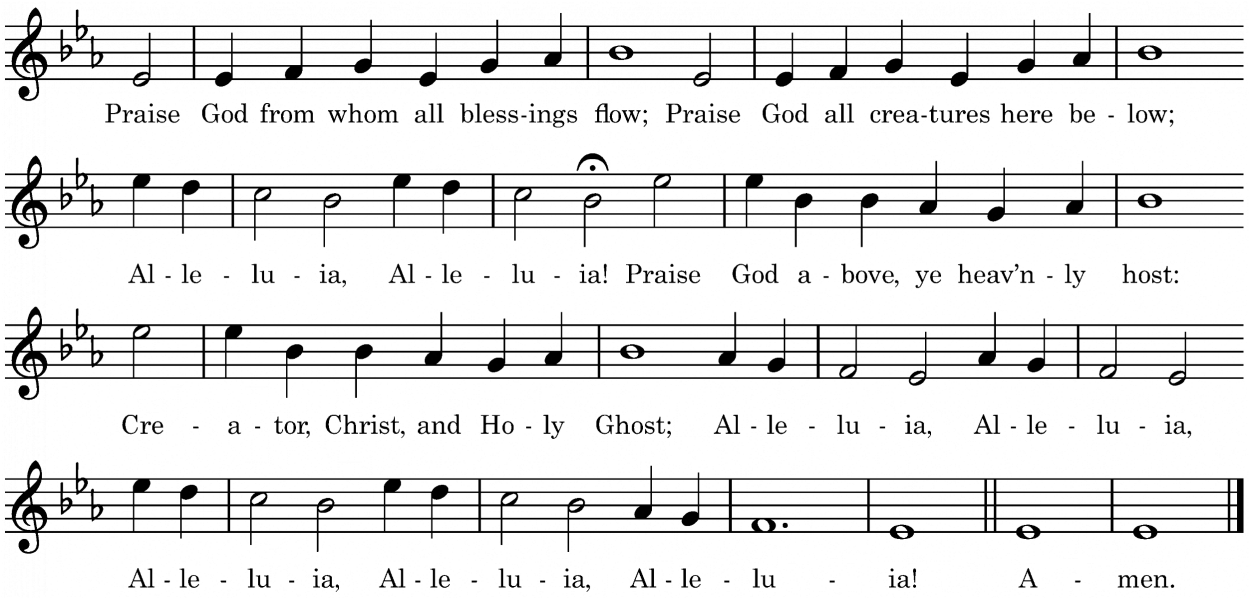
ELECTRONIC OFFERING OPTIONS

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

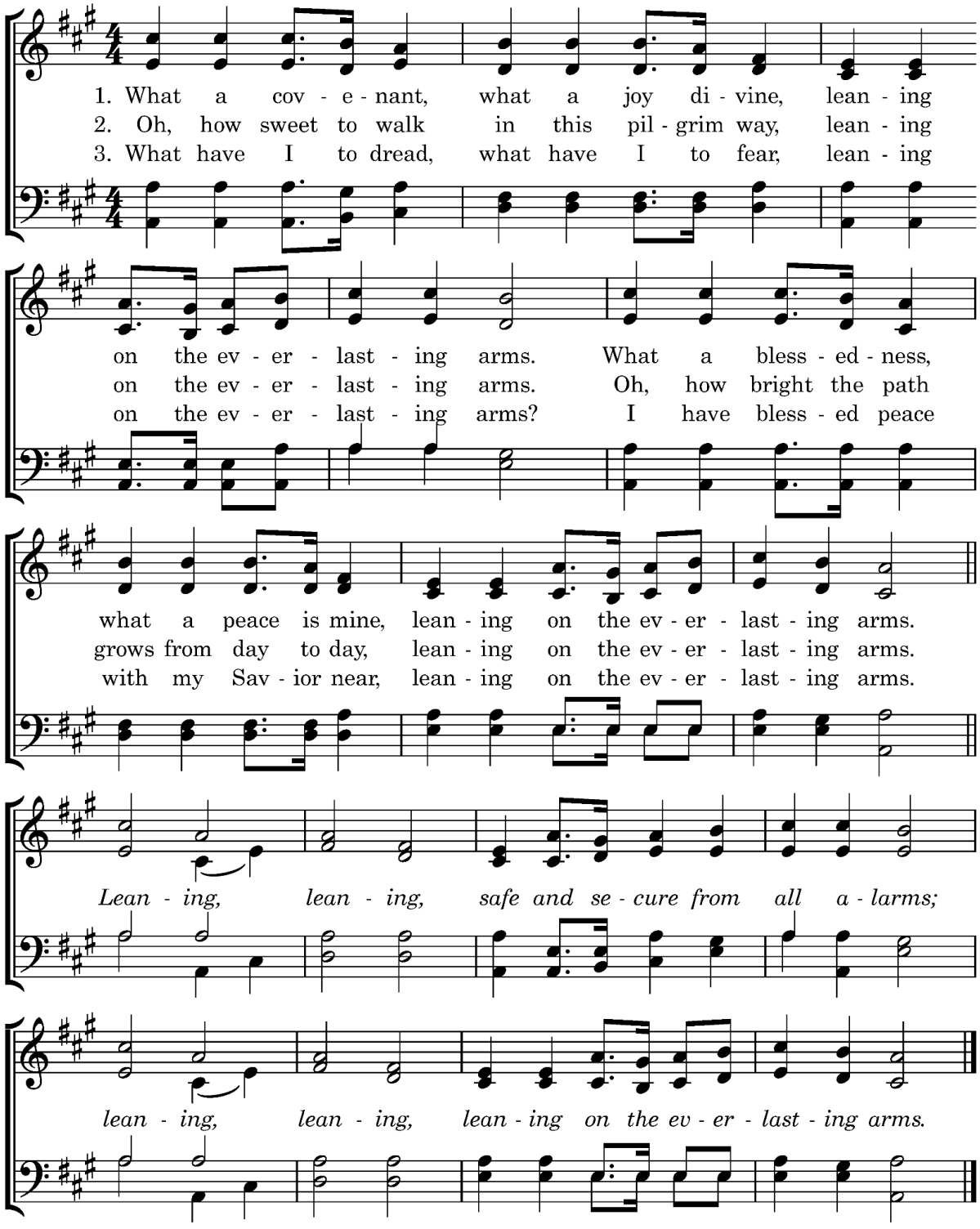


PRAYER OF THE CHURCH Jeff Carlson

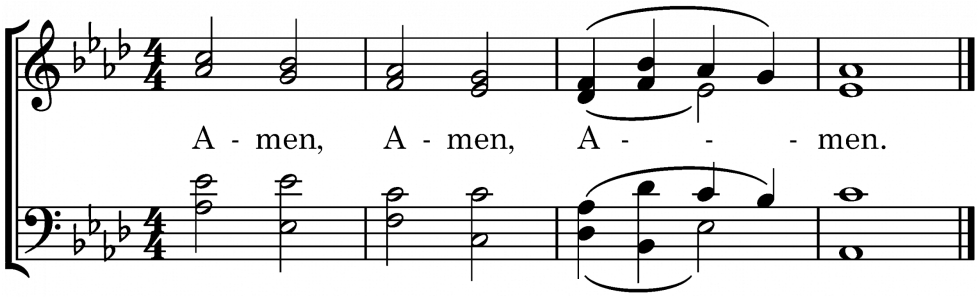
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

What a Covenant

* BENEDICTION Terril Murff

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE *Symphony No. 1—Finale* L. Vierne
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

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.

Special Meeting of the Congregation — September 20th

Please join us for a brief congregational meeting in the sanctuary following worship on Sunday, September 20. At this brief meeting, we will do a bit of financial housekeeping in order to align our financial year with the budget approved at each year's March Annual Meeting. The congregation will vote on:

- Moving St. Pauls' annual budget year from the calendar year to April 1-March 30.
- Authorizing a one-time, three-month transition budget managed by the Church Council in the first quarter of 2027.

This change will align congregational approval of the budget with the budget's implementation. Currently, our financial year begins January 1, three months before the budget is actually approved. This bookkeeping change will not affect the timing of our Annual Giving Campaign or year-end giving statements. All are welcome to attend; St. Pauls' members may vote.

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 "Worship Bags" are available in the Narthex for children to use during the service.
- SUNDAY SCHOOL and CONFIRMATION classes are in session. Students are dismissed with their teachers during the worship service, and parents pick up children immediately after the service in their classrooms.
    - K-2nd grade Room #17 (Lower Level, next to nursery)
    - 3-4th grade Room #204 (Upper Level)
    - 5-6th grade Room #28 (Lower Level)
- HIGH SCHOOL class meets on the first and third Sundays of the month starting on September 20. High schoolers meet immediately following the service by Pastor Matt's office. Parents and teens should join the High School Group on Church Center for up-to-date information.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Matt Fitzgerald, Liz Nickerson, Jeff Carlson
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: Mark Sancya
Communion Coordinator: Jana O'Brien
Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji
Ushers: Doug Dunham, David Baker, John Balevic
Greeters: Mercedes Ridao
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 honor of Marcia Opp and Jon Ekdahl seven grandchildren: Annika Hull, Oscar Hull, Ellery Ekdahl, Anderson Ekdahl, Sophie Rix, Nathaniel Rix, and Margot Rix.

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

A GIFT in honor of Pat Kirby was made by Lynn and Andy Davis
A GIFT in honor of Dianne Witkowski was made by Lynn and Andy Davis
A GIFT in honor of Dianne Witkowski was made to the Sexton Fund by Glen Timmerman
A GIFT in honor of Larry Damron's 80th birthday and all the decades of Larry's St. Pauls good works was made to the Campaign to Expand and Elevate Our Openness by Jana O'Brien and Wayne Parman
A GIFT in honor of Dianne Witkowski was made by Meridyth McIntosh
A GIFT in honor of Colleen and Tom Henry was made by Nancy Honeysett

BORN THIS WEEK IN 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.

September 13 Drew Occhipinti, Henry Weil, Layla Baumann, Ryan Castle, Sharon Collins
September 14 Hannah Bryant, Kevin Hull
September 15 Janet Musich, Linda Nitzsche, Sean Atkinson
September 16 Marcel Baumann, Melinda Stinnett, Sylvia Pine
September 17 Jeff Johnson
September 18 Sean Patton
September 19 Chuck Kent

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 Ella Vincent's mother, Maggie Vincent, struggling with serious health issues.
- 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:
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 - 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

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

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 - 2ND GUIDED TOUR OF 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.

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 15 - 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 16 - 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 17 – MOMS' GROUP - Thursday, 9:15 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 18 - HIGH SCHOOL PIZZA PARTY - Friday, 6:30 p.m., Social Hall
Teenagers get to know each other, enjoy pizza, play games, and hear about high school class for the upcoming year on Friday 6:30-8:30 p.m. Register Here: tinyurl.com/3ajvp5n6

SEPTEMBER 19 & 20 – GREAT LAKES CLEAN-UP - Saturday and Sunday, Offsite
The Alliance for the Great Lakes works to protect the Great Lakes, our source of drinking water. On September 19 and 20, there will be two opportunities to help with the annual beach cleanup, collecting and counting trash to support pollution research and protect our shoreline.

1. Montrose Beach in association with the Sierra Club on Saturday, September 19th. Hours are 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Register here: tinyurl.com/f7cmnurz
2. Fullerton Beach on Sunday, September 20th from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (possibly longer), in conjunction with Lincoln Park Presbyterian. This activity is part of a celebration, and St. Pauls is invited to an ice cream social beforehand. Ninon Freeman from the Green Team will be there. Register here: tinyurl.com/4f836rdp

In BOTH cases, please let Ninon Freeman know you are going at nlanda05@yahoo.com, and ALSO sign up as appropriate at greatlakes.org, "Join a Shoreline Cleanup" and key-in the beach and date. Children and youth under 18 need to be accompanied by an adult.

SEPTEMBER 21 - PEACH JAM MAKING - 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., Offsite
Have you ever wanted to learn how to make jam? Join St. Pauls Social and host Jan Bail for a hands-on "jam session" to make peach jam. Bring a friend and join us for a paJAMa party. Wear your pajamas, and please bring a pair of new large pajamas to be donated to the guests at the Lincoln Park Community Shelter. Each person will go home with their very own jar of jam, and the remainder of the jam will be given to the LPCS for their guests to enjoy. We'll be jammin'! R.S.V.P. to janbail@me.com, Church Center: tinyurl.com/3pj9v2wy or text (773)472-5678. There is a class maximum.

SEPTEMBER 22 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL - 12:00 - 1:30 p.m., Social Hall & Gym
"End of Life Decision-Making Before End of Life" facilitated by Lynn Dysktra Davis. Adults of all ages are invited. Connect with new and old friends with lunch (please bring your own), fellowship, fun and discussion. After lunch, all are welcome to continue the afternoon with a Labyrinth Walk in the gym from 1:30–2:30 p.m. Take a few quiet moments to walk, reflect, and recharge. Childcare provided; register at tinyurl.com/une5bdd9

SEPTEMBER 26 - OKTOBERFEST - 1:00 - 8:00 p.m., Courtyard
Oktoberfest is just a few weeks away, and we are looking forward to tapping into the excitement of this Bavarian tradition with authentic German food, local Oktoberfest beers, live music and dancing, a jumpy-house, and other fun activities. This year's live entertainment will include acclaimed children's entertainer, Laura Doherty (1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.), and the Midwest's premier oompah band, Die Musikmeisters (3:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.).

It takes over 100 volunteers to pour 700 beers, serve 500 brats and hot dogs, and run kids' activities for seven hours. Can we count on you to join our team? As a volunteer, you will work a 2-hour shift and receive a free food/drink ticket.

You will also meet new friends and can help extend St. Pauls' hospitality to our guests and neighbors. Please sign up at: tinyurl.com/yf4ehv42

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 4 – VACCINATION CLINIC BY MARIANO'S PHARMACY - 9 a.m., Gym
Vaccinations will be provided by Mariano's pharmacy, including COVID boosters, shingles, pneumonia, and flu shots. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Don't forget to bring your COVID vaccine card and your Medicare or insurance card! **Register now** at tinyurl.com/kroger-scheduler to book your appointment!

1. **Enter the Benefit Code**: Use **SPUCCVAC26** when prompted.
2. **Select Your Vaccines**: Choose which vaccines you want to receive
3. **Find an Appointment**:
   - Select **10/4/2026** for the date.
4. **Pick Your Time**: Choose your preferred time slot.
5. **Check Your Eligibility:** Provide your information to confirm eligibility for vaccination.
6. **Patient Details**: Enter your contact, address, and basic info for healthcare records.
7. **Complete Consent**: Finish by filling out and electronically signing the consent form.

OCTOBER 13 - 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

OCTOBER 18 - CALMING OUR NERVOUS SYSTEM & LABYRINTH WALK - 11:15 a.m., Gym - Join us after worship for a discussion of ways we can calm our nervous system and cultivate a more relaxed and peaceful mind based on the newest neuroscience research. We will then walk the labyrinth, which is an ancient spiritual practice that can help us achieve this relaxation, peace, and a deeper connection with God. All are welcome. Register and learn more: tinyurl.com/3z9j4tt9

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.

FEED MY SHEEP
This fall, we're focusing our attention on hunger: doing something hands-on about it and learning more about its root causes and solutions. Feeding hungry people was a priority of Jesus, and so, beginning in October, we're increasing our monthly volunteer opportunities for you to cook meals for LPCS. Beginning September 27th,, we'll have three Adult Faith Formation sessions after worship about how our faith speaks to hunger as well as how to address its root causes. Our first gathering will include LPCS CEO Cheryl Hamilton-Hill. We hope you'll join us in putting our hands and hearts to work!

To volunteer for an upcoming meal, sign up at the links:
Make lunch right after church on a Second Sunday of the Month
tinyurl.com/4s7ybs2c

Make Dinner from 4-6 on a Second Sunday of the month
tinyurl.com/yhc2t82b

Make lunch on a Thursday, from 10:30-12:15
tinyurl.com/mr3fbfrv

If you'd like to contribute to the cost of the meals, you can donate here and select "community meals fund" from the menu: https://spucc.churchcenter.com/giving. And remember to keep helping us "fill the sills" each Sunday for the Common Pantry.

3, 2, 1 Friends in Christ - New (very) Small Groups! Registration begins today, September 14. Groups begin meeting on October 8.
Friendship in Christ - Spiritual friendship rooted in God for the purpose of helping each other follow Jesus.

3,2,1 - Three people gather for a two-hour meal or coffee once a month. Saint Pauls will provide conversation outlines, group norms, and a prayer guide. Register with two friends as a group, or individually to be matched with two new friends. Groups will meet twice over two months and then decide whether to continue for an additional six months. Friends will get to know one another, rejoice and commiserate together, and pray for one another. The aim is to have fun, make strong connections, go deeper with God, and follow Jesus. We will build skills in prayer, discernment, and listening, while speaking truthfully about the most important aspects of life and faith. We'll kick off with an October reception on October 8th at 6:30 p.m. at the parsonage

for everyone who registers. Here, we'll meet each other and get oriented. Register here: tinyurl.com/f6r39jd7

"Prefer a larger group? You might love ..."

SACRAMENTAL LIVING HOMEGROUP
"God comes to us disguised as our lives."
If you're intrigued by this idea -- and would like to explore what this means within a community -- we invite you to join us in a new homegroup. We will share a simple meal together and have conversations about practices which help us experience God in daily living. Topics will include contemplative prayer, taking a Sabbath, fasting, and giving. We will gather every other Friday evening from 6:00-7:30 p.m. starting on October 2 through December 11 at the home of Brian and Teri Odom at 2669 N. Orchard St. #1, Chicago. Please contact Brian at brian.c.odom@gmail.com for further details and to R.S.V.P.

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

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

The Long View of Global Warming

According to a NASA article titled 'Evidence', the Earth's warming trend is the outcome of human activities since the mid-1800s, when additional gases from manufacturing and other activities were trapped in the atmosphere. This extra energy has promoted cumulative, widespread, and rapid changes to the biosphere.

Long-term changes are now physically measurable from tree rings, rocks, and ocean sediments: carbon dioxide from human activities is increasing 250 times faster than it did during the last Ice Age, while current warming is occurring ten times faster than the average rate of warming after an ice age.

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.