

July 8, 2018

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.*

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

“The main thing God wants to do with the Bible is not to satisfy our curiosity about his nature, but rather to point the way out of our predicament.” -Neal Plantinga

PRELUDE

*Peace Piece*  
St. Arbucks Trio

Bill Evans

WELCOME

Sarah Garcia

\*WELCOMING EACH OTHER

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God of power, we thank you for making us alive through your creation!

**All: Thank you for green leaves, blue water, campfire, cool breeze.**

One: Thank you for the blood in our veins and the hope in our hearts!

**All: Thank you for being the source of every wonder! Amen.**

*\*Please stand if you are able*

\*HYMN

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

Black Hymnal No. 12

I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,  
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.  
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;  
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of our God that filled the earth with food;  
God formed the creatures with a word, and then pronounced them good.  
Oh, how your wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye:  
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glory known.  
The clouds arise and spread their showers by order from your throne.  
All life is but a gift from you and ever in your care;  
Wherever people gather, you, O God, are present there.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord, our God, it is almost inconceivable  
that we may call you  
*Our God, our Creator,  
our Father, our Mother,  
our Help, our Savior.*  
Even though you know  
every sinful thing about us,  
you still want our love.  
So we give you our cares,  
that you may care for us;  
our fears, that you may quiet them;  
our thoughts, that you may cleanse them;  
our disbelief, that you might transform it,  
all this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RESPONSE

Black Hymnal No. 256, v. 1

We live by faith and not by sight;  
No gracious words we hear from Christ  
Who spoke as none e'er spoke,  
Who still we know is near.

THE BIBLICAL WORD FOR THIS DAY

Cheryl Kennedy

Mark 6:1-6

He left that town and went to his own part of the country, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came round he began to teach in the synagogue, and most of them when they heard him were confounded. They said: 'Where did the man get *this* from? What is this wisdom that has been given to him, and these miracles that are brought about through him? Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joseph and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters with us here? They were shocked by him.

But Jesus said to them: 'A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, his own family and his own house.' And he was unable to do there any miracles of note, though he did lay his hands on a few sick people and cure them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

\*A 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

Black Hymnal No. 256, v. 2-3

We may not touch Christ's hands and side,  
Nor follow where Christ trod;  
But in confessing we rejoice:  
Our Savior and our God!

Help then, O Christ, our unbelief;  
And may our faith abound  
To call on you when you are near  
And seek where you are found.

SERMON

"Amazing Gracelessness"

Matt Fitzgerald

\*HYMN

*My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

Black Hymnal No. 403

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' love and righteousness;  
I dare not trust this earthly frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

When shadows veil my Savior's face, I rest upon unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil.  
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

Christ's oath and covenant and blood support me in the rising flood;  
When all around my soul gives way, Christ then is all my hope and stay.  
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

When Christ shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Love be found,  
Dressed in God's righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before the throne.  
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

MISSION MOMENT

Strategic Plan Progress Update

David Baker

OFFERTORY

*Et misericordia* from Magnificat  
Margot Frank, soprano; and Jeff Wagner, piano

John Rutter

And His mercy is on them from generation to generation.  
My soul magnifies the Lord. *Luke 1:50 & 46*

\*FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts,  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Sarah Garcia

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

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

Red Hymnal No. 34

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,  
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,  
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.



*As if There Were Only One*

In the morning God pulled me onto the porch,  
a rain-washed gray and brilliant shore.  
I sat in my orange pajamas and waited.  
God said, "Look at the tree." And I did.  
Its leaves were newly yellow and green,  
slick and bright, and so alive it hurt  
to take the colors in. My pupils grew  
hungry and wide against my will.  
God said, "listen to the tree."  
And I did. It said, "Live!"  
And it opened itself wider, not with desire,  
but the way I imagine a surgeon spreads  
the ribs of a patient in distress and rubs  
her paralyzed heart, only this tree parted  
its own limbs toward the sky – I was the light in that sky.  
I reached into the thick, sweet core  
and I lifted it to my mouth and held it there  
for a long time until I tasted the word  
tree (because I had forgotten its name).  
Then I said my own name twice softly.  
Augustine said, *God loves each one of us as if  
there were only one of us*, but I hadn't believed him.  
And God put me down on the steps with my coffee  
and my cigarettes. And, although I still  
could not eat nor sleep, that evening  
and that morning were my first day back.

Martha Serpas

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

**Head Usher:** Beatrice Jaji

**Ushers:** Layne Lebahn, Lauren Vega, David Baker, Bruce Voice

**Head Greeter:** Greg Mooney

**Gatekeeper:** Dodd Brown

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are given by Barbara Kaiser in celebration of all the wonderful youth and adults who went to Puerto Rico.

BORN THIS WEEK IN JULY

**Donations to the Birthday Fund support A Just Harvest**

*We celebrate and give thanks for your life at St. Pauls. A perfect way to celebrate and help St. Pauls: give one dollar for each year of your life to our Birthday Fund.*

July 8 Anna Schloerb, Eithne McMenamin, John Paquette

July 9 Barb Kaiser, Dana Leo, Devin Abraham, Sophia Miller

July 10 Andrew Patton, Michael McGuire

July 11 Hayden McGuire, Joe Womack

July 12 Becca Kent, Cooper Kohler, Lynn Davis Dykstra

July 13 Brad Riegel, Dan Nietzsche, Derek McMahan

July 14 Bill Borden, Creighton Hartanov, Janine Fletcher, Tim Nowack

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LINCOLN AVENUE PARKING GARAGE CONSTRUCTION** - Starting Monday, July 16th, the main entrance of the Lincoln Avenue parking garage will be closed for construction for approximately three months. The parking lot will be accessible via another entrance. Visit [LincolnCommon.com](http://LincolnCommon.com) for additional project details.

**DONATIONS NEEDED FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN** - Chicago non-profit Heartland Alliance has cared for unaccompanied refugee children for many years and is housing 66 children that were separated from their parents. St. Pauls is sponsoring the collection of supplies: simple board games; books for toddlers, pre-teens, and young adults; soccer and basketballs; puzzles. Check our newsletter for a complete list. Please contact Pauline Taylor at [paulinetaylor933@gmail.com](mailto:paulinetaylor933@gmail.com) or Kelly Martin at [kraemartin1@att.net](mailto:kraemartin1@att.net) to report your donation. Collection bins in the Narthex or near the office until next Sunday.

**CHURCH GRANDPARENTS** - We will pair Saint Pauls "grand members" with church families who have infants and young children. As these new friendships form, each will take its own shape. Activities could include praying for each other, reading stories, visiting, etc. Saint Pauls older members are incredible people! Saint Pauls young families are remarkable, as well. Let's get to know each other. You can still sign up by emailing Pastor Sarah at [sgarcia@spucc.org](mailto:sgarcia@spucc.org).

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED FOR NEXT YEAR** - If you enjoy being with children and are interested and willing to explore the Christian faith with them, you should consider being a Sunday School teacher. We have teaching teams so you do not have to teach every Sunday. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Sarah [sgarcia@spucc.org](mailto:sgarcia@spucc.org).

**ALL CHURCH RETREAT** - Sign up now to join us for a weekend of relaxation, fellowship and growing in faith at the Lakeside Inn in beautiful Lakeside, MI, July 27 to 29. All church members are encouraged to come! Cost is \$300 per room and includes breakfasts and dinners. Some financial assistance available. Email Pastor Sarah [sgarcia@spucc.org](mailto:sgarcia@spucc.org) if you would like to sign up.

**FEED THE HUNGRY** - Open dates in July, August, and September for Community Engagement Program (CEP) meals. Each week St. Pauls welcomes homeless and hungry people to Sunday dinner. Volunteers prepare and serve dinner. To find available dates and to sign up, contact Brent Carstensen at [bcarsten959@yahoo.com](mailto:bcarsten959@yahoo.com).

**PETITION TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE** - Petition for the Combating Illegal Gun Trafficking Act (SB 337). This Act would require that state policy certify gun dealers. This certification may help reduce guns entering into illegal markets and allow law enforcement to crack down on corrupt gun dealers. Sign a petition being circulated by the Illinois Coalition for Gun Violence Prevention and others by requesting it from Anna Sardar at [asardar@spucc.org](mailto:asardar@spucc.org).

**ST. PAULS SUMMER CAMP FOR KIDS**, July 5 - August 3.

We're offering half-day camp for 2 and 3-year-olds and full day camp for 4 to 12-year-olds. Also, we're offering before and after-care. Campers play in the local parks, go to the zoo, beach, museums, pool, and have tons of fun! Email Sarah Garcia at [sgarcia@spucc.org](mailto:sgarcia@spucc.org) for more information.

**Date Change! JULY 16** - CHRISTIANITY 101, 7:30 p.m., Parlor.

Join Pastor Matt and fellow young adults for a lively discussion of the real-life questions we face in our daily lives. There is no need to prepare in advance. Email Hannah at [youngadults@spucc.org](mailto:youngadults@spucc.org) with RSVP or questions.

**JULY 10** - HAITIAN HISTORY BOOK DISCUSSION - RELOCATED

Laurent Dubois' book, "Haiti: The Aftershocks of History," chronicles the history of Haiti directly relevant to our contemporary attempts to struggle with issues of race, economic development, political dysfunction, and the complicated traumas of the past. Led by Steve Peterson and Steve Schwartzberg, the final session on this book will be Tuesday, July 10 at 7 p.m. in the Saint Pauls Parlor.

**JULY 11** - MOMS NIGHT OUT - Parents of Little Ones is having a Moms Night Out at 7:30 p.m. at Drawl, 2423 N. Clark St. RSVP to Pastor Sarah at [sgarcia@spucc.org](mailto:sgarcia@spucc.org).

**JULY 11**- BRANDI CARLILE, 5:30 p.m., Petrillo Music Shell, Grant Park. Join the Young Adults Group at the Taste of Chicago seeing a great folk rock artist. There is free lawn seating and you can bring chairs and blankets. The opening act starts at 5:30, and Brandi will likely go after. Email Nick at [nswinehart@uchicago.edu](mailto:nswinehart@uchicago.edu) to RSVP.

**JULY 14** - SQUARE ROOTS FESTIVAL, 6 p.m. Begin at Maggie's home before heading to Lincoln Square. Join the Young Adults Group for an outing to the folk music street fest. Bring wine or makings for your favorite cocktails. Hang out in Maggie's AC before heading over to the Square Roots Festival down the street. Suggested donation at the entrance. Contact Maggie Arden at [maggie.arden@me.com](mailto:maggie.arden@me.com) to RSVP.

**JULY 15** - BEACH VOLLEYBALL, 2 - 4 p.m., North Avenue Beach.

Join the Young Adults Group for an afternoon of volleyball! We'll meet at the courts adjacent to Castaways towards the south end of the beach. You don't need to bring anything more than your serves of steel and any light snacks to share. All skill levels welcome. RSVP to the Punchbowl invitations and email Jen at [youngadults@spucc.org](mailto:youngadults@spucc.org) with any questions.

**JULY 22** - ROCK 'N ROLL HALF MARATHON & 10K, 6:30 a.m., Grant Park.

Come run with the Young Adult group! The Humana Rock 'n Roll 10K and half marathon is a scenic lakefront course that begins and ends downtown near Grant Park. You'll be done in time to limp over to church afterwards. RSVP to the Punchbowl evite to join the running group. Questions? Email Derek at [derekjaydiemer@gmail.com](mailto:derekjaydiemer@gmail.com).

**July 28** - SATURDAY BIBLE STUDY, 10 - 11:30 a.m., Parlor. We continue our study of the book of Ephesians, an early Christian document attributed to Paul. But did he really write it? Newcomers always welcome. RSVP: [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org).

**JULY 28 & 29** - VOLK'S FARM WEEKEND GETAWAY, Starved Rock.

St. Pauls women are invited to the Volk's farm the weekend of July 28-29. You may hike at Starved Rock, tour an old mansion, pick wildflowers, zipline, watch the birds, visit farm animals, or just enjoy the great companionship. Carpools usually available. Bed available for the first 12 to sign up. Email Marcia Volk for details at [marcia@volkonline.com](mailto:marcia@volkonline.com) or call 773-307-6866.

### **OPPORTUNITIES**

**ST. PAULS SOCIAL** - Get better acquainted with other adults at St. Pauls. If interested in hosting, please contact Jen Luerssen at [jenluerssen@yahoo.com](mailto:jenluerssen@yahoo.com) and stay tuned for future events.

**ALTAR FLOWER SIGN UP** - Providing flowers for the altar is a great way to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or honor someone special in your life. You can sign up in the Social Hall or online at <http://tinyurl.com/h55pl82>. There are many Sundays available, but be sure to sign up early so you can bring flowers on your preferred date. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

**AMAZON SMILE** - Support St. Pauls when buying Amazon products, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from eligible purchases to St. Pauls. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/2179808>.

**COLLEEN HENRY WRITING CENTER - Tutors Needed**

This program at Lincoln Park High School was initiated by St. Pauls and developed in connection with the English and Social Studies Departments. Tutors volunteer once a week, Monday through Thursday. Training and mentoring are available. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Nancy Brandt, [nhbrandt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nhbrandt@sbcglobal.net).

**CONNECTORS** reach out providing networking and support for members and friends of St. Pauls. Membership is open to all who have the time and the inclination to help. Contact Marcia Volk at [marcia@volkonline.com](mailto:marcia@volkonline.com).

**CONSIDER THE LILIES** - Deliver our Sunday altar flowers to members and friends who need to know St. Pauls is thinking of them. If you would like to be part of this initiative, please contact Maureen Grunst at [mvgrunst@gmail.com](mailto:mvgrunst@gmail.com).

**FAITH IN ACTION** - Saint Pauls Strategic Plan calls us to be “Increasingly bold and active as we try to live out our faith in an age of rising injustice.” If you would like to receive advance notice of protests and actions that call for our faithful witness, join the Faith in Action email list by contacting Anna Sardar at [asardar@spucc.org](mailto:asardar@spucc.org).

**FAITH AND PUBLIC ISSUES** - Whether you're interested in supporting women or LGBTQ persons or immigrants and refugees, or interested in planning programs on critical issues, you can find St. Pauls people involved and join them now. Contact Toby Rogers at [toby@rogers-home.com](mailto:toby@rogers-home.com) for more information.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT** - Visit our Food for Thought blog <http://www.spucc.org/blogs/food-for-thought>.

**GET YOUR NEW NAME TAG!** - Email Virgie at [vberry@spucc.org](mailto:vberry@spucc.org).

**LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SHELTER NEEDS OVERNIGHT VOLUNTEERS**

- To sign up: [volunteer@lpcsonline.org](mailto:volunteer@lpcsonline.org) or call 773-549-6111.

**LITTLE LIGHTS** is a St. Pauls early childhood program with classes for 2, 3, and 4-year-olds. We are now accepting applications for 2018-2019. Check out [www.littlelightslp.org](http://www.littlelightslp.org). Email Virgie Berry at [vberry@spucc.org](mailto:vberry@spucc.org).

**LONG, CLASSIC NOVEL READING GROUP** - Summer/Fall book is Victor Hugo's classic "Les Miserables." First half discussion: Sept. 17, 7 p.m., Parlor. New members are always welcome. For more information or to RSVP: Jeff Carlson at [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org).

**NEW OR EXPECTING PARENTS** - If you have a new baby or are expecting a baby, please let Corie know so that we can find ways to support you (meals, prayer, etc.) and so that we can inform you of opportunities in our Parents of Little Ones (POLO) group. Also, let her know if you have small children and are new to the church. Contact Corie Gallemore at [corie.gallemore@gmail.com](mailto:corie.gallemore@gmail.com).

**SARAH'S SISTERS** gather every Wednesday morning to make 40 bag lunches to be distributed to homeless people. Come to the church kitchen at 9:30 a.m.

**STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS** - If you're in need of support through a tough time and would like to be matched with someone who would support you with companionship and prayer, or you're feeling called to offer support, speak to Pastor Jeff Carlson [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org), Marti Pechnyo [mpechnyo@gmail.com](mailto:mpechnyo@gmail.com), or Diana Laskaris [dianaminlead@gmail.com](mailto:dianaminlead@gmail.com).

**SAINT PAULS BASKETBALL WEDNESDAYS** - 7 p.m. Our weekly pickup game is co-ed. Ages range widely and skill levels go from from enthusiastic to "I think she played in college, you guard her." All are welcome! [pastormatt@spucc.org](mailto:pastormatt@spucc.org).

**ST. PAULS PLAYGROUP** for children from birth to 3 years old in the church Nursery. Drop in anytime from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Wednesdays. Corie Gallemore at [corie.gallemore@gmail.com](mailto:corie.gallemore@gmail.com).

**WANT MORE VARIETY AT COFFEE HOUR?** - Sign up to bring it at <http://www.signupgenius.com/index.cfm?go=w.ProcessDateWindow>.

**YOUNG ADULTS** - A group for fun and fellowship for folks in their twenties and thirties. All are welcome! Volunteers needed! Any ideas for future events? Email them at [youngadults@spucc.org](mailto:youngadults@spucc.org).

**YOUTH GROUP** for kids in 4th-8th grade. Meets each Tuesday from 4-6 p.m. in the gym. Pizza dinner, fun, and Christian fellowship. Contact Pastor Sarah for more details at [sgarcia@spucc.org](mailto:sgarcia@spucc.org).

**BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please send any announcements you would like in the following week's Friday email to [announcements@spucc.org](mailto:announcements@spucc.org) no later than 10 a.m. on Tuesday. Please limit announcements to 70 words. Thank you.

## SAINT PAULS PRAYS

*Please clip this page, take it home and pray for those who are named below. We only print requests we receive. To make a request, simply ask a pastor in person, on the phone or by email. Our new 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.*

- Karen Lyons at the death of her father.
- Rob Castle's mother, Kathie, in hospice care for Alzheimer's.
- Ramiro Gonzalez and family at the loss of his brother.
- Loved ones of Rachel Rockwell, friend of Caroline Heffernan, grieving her death.
- Larry Howell, recovering from kidney stone surgery and suffering from lymphoma.
- Julie, friend of Pat Kirby, recovering from hip replacement.
- Ivy's brother and his wife, who are going through serious financial difficulty.
- Don Vossburg, former St. Pauls member.
- Maryn, 6-year-old friend of the Ashley family, with a rare brain tumor.
- Betty Voice, recovering from knee surgery.
- Marti Pechnyo's friend, Jane, being treated for ovarian cancer.
- Dorothy, in hospice care.
- For real change to dramatically reduce gun violence.
- Dede Koldyke, beating cancer.
- Bobbi Gannello, diagnosed with lymphoma.
- Amy Newman's sister, Linda, being treated for cancer.
- Carole Crowley, recovering from a stroke.
- All those struggling to conceive.
- All those struggling with eating disorders.

You are beloved - to others, to the world you live in, and most importantly, to God. God knows your struggles and failures, as well as your joys and triumphs. Even when you walk through the valley of shadows, God is with you. If you or someone you love has lost hope, is feeling completely alone or like life doesn't matter, reach out for help. Contact one of the pastors today for information about mental health care advocacy and resources that can help you and your loved ones. Contact information for the pastors is at the back of this bulletin.

## **St. Pauls UCC 20/20 Vision Implementation July 1, 2018**

### Introduction

Over the past two months, we have shared the objectives and tactics of our Vision 20/20 plan with pastors, committees and task forces charged with implementation. Each committee/task force will develop over the summer a specific plan and time line for implementation. Meanwhile see below for tasks that have been completed or are ongoing, and those that are in progress.

David Baker, Chair, 20/20 Vision Committee

### Completed/Ongoing

*God is calling us to grow toward each other...*

- New “Lectio Divina” prayer groups led by St. Pauls’ members
- Revised membership process involving longtime members as “Shepherds.”
- On June 22nd, sent 50 St. Pauls adults and youth to Puerto Rico for a ten day work project to help rebuild the hurricane-ravaged island.

*God is calling us to growing toward God together...*

- Dinner church.
- Pancake Church
- Prayer groups.
- Continue Youth Education Opportunities and ways to fold youth into church life.

*Increasing diversity in our partnerships and congregation...*

- Ensure Sunday School curriculum and materials are diverse.
- Ensure hiring process is diverse.
- Expand church youth population.

*Living our faith in an age of injustice*

Initiated a petition to the Governor seeking his signature on gun trafficking legislation

Formal church participation in the March for Our Lives, one other gun control rally and the recent rally protesting the separation of families at the Mexican border.

#### *Using our building for service and mission*

- Established Building Task Force that met three times and initiated research to determine short term revenue generation and long term use strategies.

#### *Tending our finances faithfully...*

- 2018 pledges exceeded 2017 by 6% and grew 36% over 2015. When a \$50,000 special gift in 2017 is subtracted, total dollar change was 6% over 2017, and 25% over 2015. 2017 total giving exceeded \$1 million for the first time in St. Pauls history.
- Initiated "text giving" program for instant giving by visitors and new members.
- Began planning for 2018 capital campaign to be launched in fall, 2018.

#### In Progress

#### *Increasing diversity in our partnerships and congregation...*

- Invite partner ministries to regularly worship at St. Pauls.

#### *Living our faith in an age of injustice...*

- Social justice table.
- Social justice in sermons.
- Broaden visibility of existing social justice opportunities.

#### *Using our building for service and mission...*

#### *Tending our finances faithfully...*

- Educate new members on financial health of the church.
- Develop planned giving approach.

## NOTES

ABOUT ST. PAULS  
*Making a joyful sound in the city*

Saint 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 to and Affirming of" LGBT women and men.

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 importantly, over the past 174 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.

**St. Pauls United Church of Christ**  
**2335 North Orchard Street Chicago, Illinois 60614**  
**(773) 348-3829 FAX (773) 348-3858**  
**[www.spucc.org](http://www.spucc.org)**

**Matt Fitzgerald, *Senior Pastor***, [mfitzgerald@spucc.org](mailto:mfitzgerald@spucc.org)

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

**Sarah Garcia, *Associate Pastor for Children and Youth***, [sgarcia@spucc.org](mailto:sgarcia@spucc.org)

**Karen E. Johnson, *President of the Congregation***, [kejplano@aol.com](mailto:kejplano@aol.com)

**Tom Henry, *Pastor Emeritus***, [emeritushenry@gmail.com](mailto:emeritushenry@gmail.com)

**Kurt R. Hansen, *Music Director***, [kurtsingsbach@gmail.com](mailto:kurtsingsbach@gmail.com)

**Kevin Dzierzawski, *Organist***, [kdzierza@att.net](mailto:kdzierza@att.net)

**Brendan Henry, *Pianist***, [brendanphentry@hotmail.com](mailto:brendanphentry@hotmail.com)

**Nancy Voigts, *Children's Choir Director***, [nvoigtsgod@att.net](mailto:nvoigtsgod@att.net)

**Kecia Waldschmidt, *Youth Choir Director***, [keciagerman@hotmail.com](mailto:keciagerman@hotmail.com)

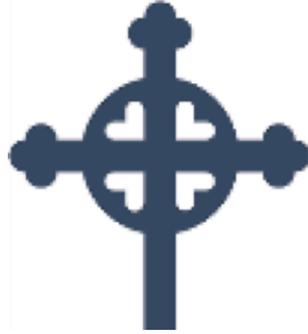
**Kristofer Hansen, *Joyful Sounds Choir Co-Director***, [TheBeatB0xer1995@gmail.com](mailto:TheBeatB0xer1995@gmail.com)

**Mark Mosley, *Intergenerational Orchestra Director***, [mwmosley@gmail.com](mailto:mwmosley@gmail.com)

**Tom Vaitsas, *Pianist***, [tomvaitsas@gmail.com](mailto:tomvaitsas@gmail.com)

**Kevin O'Brien, *Lay Liturgical Administrator***, [kkobrien48@hotmail.com](mailto:kkobrien48@hotmail.com)

Free Parking is available on Sundays from 9am-1pm at Children's Memorial Hospital  
2300 Block of North Lincoln Ave. – Vouchers Not Needed



## 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 each and to everyone.  
We are an Open and Affirming church.

We welcome all.

We are blessed by your presence and  
we are glad you are here.