

January 17, 2021

Peace Sunday

Virtual Worship

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

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Sarah Garcia

PRELUDE

I'll Get Home Someday Traditional Gospel
Lincoln Park High School Gospel Choir text Rev. Maceo Woods

CHIMES

INTROIT

Lift Every Voice and Sing J. Rosamond Johnson
Chancel Choir

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Jeff Carlson

One: Beautiful are the feet that bring good news of peace!

All: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God!

One: You are God's beautiful, blessed children.

All: Let us worship the God of peace!

One: Peace be with Chicago!

All: Peace on earth to the highest heavens!

Lord, make us instruments of your peace!

HYMN

Here I Am, Lord



1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in deep - est sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them, they turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.



I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?____
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?____
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?____



Here I am, Lord.____ Is it I, Lord?____ I have heard you



call - ing in the night.____ I will go, Lord,____ if you lead me. _



____ I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Sarah Garcia

Gracious God, forgive us for what we could have been but failed to be.

We confess that we need your help,

Thank you for the inspiration of Jesus.

**Grant that we will love you with all our hearts, souls, and minds,
and love our neighbors as we love ourselves,
even our enemy neighbors.**

**And we ask you, God, in these days of emotional tension,
when the problems of the world are gigantic in extent,
and chaotic in detail,**

to be with us in our going out and our coming in,

in our rising up and in our lying down,

in our moments of joy and in our moments of sorrow;

Until the day when there shall be no sunset and no dawn. Amen.

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

SCRIPTURE

Jake Niztsche

Matthew 27:27-32

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross.

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)

SERMON

"Lean on Me"

William E. Hall
UCAN Staff Chaplain

MEDITATION

Improvisation
Kris Hansen, trumpet

OFFERING INVITATION

Sarah Garcia

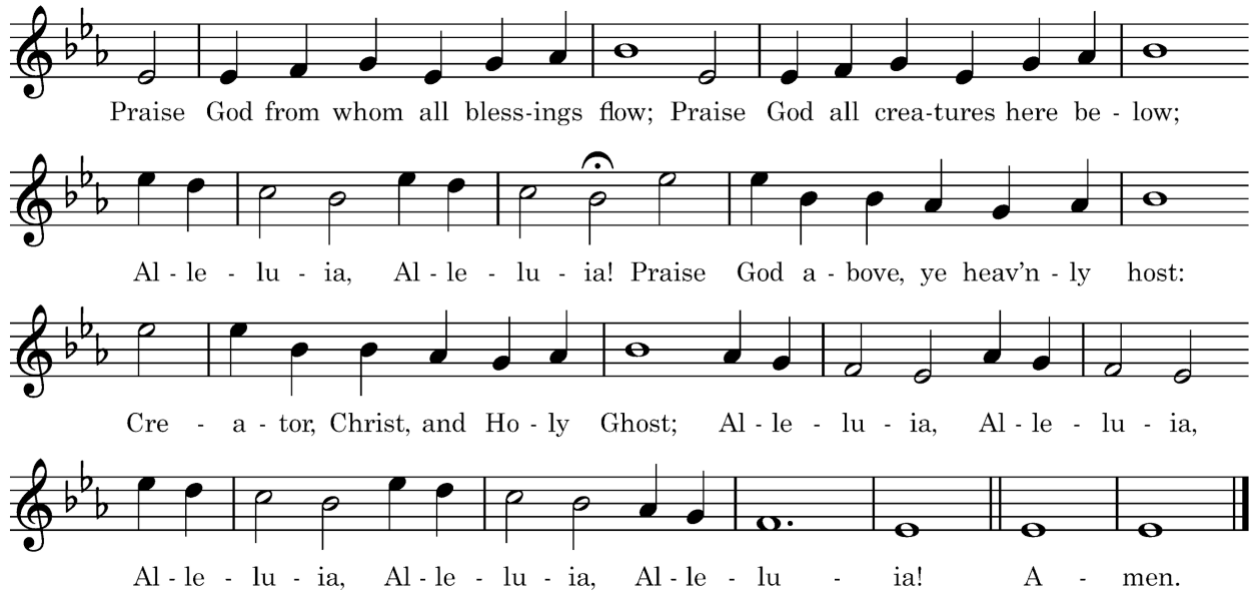
OFFERTORY

I Don't Feel No Ways Tired
St. Pauls Chancel Choir
Kris Hansen, soloist

Rev. James Cleveland

Give to St. Pauls with Zelle: giving@spucc.org or spucc.org/about-us/giving-to-st-pauls

FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



The musical notation consists of four staves of music in a single system, all in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God above, ye heav'n - ly host: Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost; Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men."

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be - low;

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:

Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost; Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

HYMN

This Little Light of Mine
Led by Kris Hansen
Combined Choirs
St. Arbucks Trio

African-American Spiritual
arr. Sam Hill

POLAR PEACE MARCH

Matt Fitzgerald & Fred Long

To help contain the spread of COVID-19, worship at Saint Pauls will be streamed online until further notice. Worship services are streamed on Sundays at 10 a.m. Central, and re-streamed every day at 10 a.m., 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Central, on Saint Pauls website, spucc.org/streaming.

*You can also call in to listen to our services at **(312) 626-6799** at 10 a.m. Central on Sundays and use Meeting ID: **816 5093 8507**, Password: **459359***

If you would like someone to pray with you this week, Clergy and Stephen Ministers are available for phone calls.

VIRTUAL WORSHIP PRODUCTION TEAM

Chuck Kent

Mary Beth Hughes, Big Thinking By The Hour

Jim Courtright, Big Thinking By The Hour

VIRTUAL MUSIC PRODUCTION TEAM

Kevin Dzierzawski

Breanna Coe

Kristofer Hansen

BORN THIS WEEK IN JANUARY

We celebrate and give thanks for your life at St. Pauls.

A perfect way to celebrate is by giving one dollar for each year of your life to our Birthday Fund, which supports A Just Harvest.

Jan 17 Mark Weglarz, Allie Roehm

Jan 18 Annie Holland, Brian Nach, Cara Hotz, Jacob Peterson, Boris Tong

Jan 20 Tom Kompare, Judson Harper

Jan 21 Ann Carstensen, Joanne Tong, Pamela Smith, Abby Simonton,
Summer Abraham

Jan 23 Dan Abercrombie

SPUCC CHURCH CENTER

See below for additional information and updates to last week's announcement.

Thank you to everyone who has logged in and connected with our new portal for the Saint Pauls community! If you haven't yet, get started on a computer or smart device at spucc.churchcenter.com, or by downloading the "Church Center App" and using "60614" in the manual search during app setup. You'll see our Saint Pauls logo in the top results.

Giving online with Church Center:

- Use the Give page to give online one time or set up a recurring donation. Click your profile icon to view "My Giving" – see 2021 giving history (including Zelle, cash, and check), track pledge progress, and download statements.
- *If you were using our previous giving portal for a recurring donation towards your pledge, you will need to cancel it and set up a new recurring donation in Church Center before the end of March. Visit the giving page for the Vanco link to cancel, or email Melissa for help .*
- *If your pledge has changed from last year and you would like to evenly distribute your donations throughout the year, you will need to adjust your donation amount accordingly for any method of giving you use.*
- Contact Melissa Miller Furgeson at bookkeeper@spucc.org for pledge and donation assistance.

Using the Member and Friend Directory with Church Center:

- Stay in touch with the new Directory and upload personal and family photos to share with other members and friends.
- Once you log in, you'll be able to update your contact information for the church database and choose your shared information for the directory.
- *The office has developed a solution to the opt-in only directory format. Beginning next week, we will be working to update the directory to include the primary contact information of members and friends – as was available in the previous online directory. After the update, you will continue to be able to choose what information you would like to share from "My Directory Settings."*
- *This directory is only visible to members and friends of Saint Pauls who log in with a phone number or email address listed in the church database.*
- If you have any questions or need help getting started, please email me at chiggins@spucc.org for profile or general assistance.

Children's Virtual Polar Peace March

To participate in the Children's Virtual Polar Peace March program, please join families with children of all ages on Monday, January 18 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom to learn about Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and pledge together what we can do to uphold his legacy of peace and racial reconciliation. Bring some paper and markers. You can also send Corie Gallemore a picture or video of yourselves marching with your PPM masks and signs. Email Corie for the Zoom link, corie.gallemore@gmail.com.

Additionally, the children of St. Pauls have the opportunity to assemble care packages for the children living in the UCAN therapeutic home. Items for the care packages have been purchased - you will need to pick up the items from Corie, assemble them into packages on your own, include a card wishing for peace in each package, and return them to Corie. Please sign-up here: <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/407024258323760033/true#/invitation>.

Let Corie know if you have any questions:
corie.gallemore@gmail.com or (336) 848-2846.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEER TO READ SCRIPTURE

While we worship virtually, volunteers are needed to send in a recording of the scripture reading each week. The week before the service for which you've volunteered, the pastor preaching that Sunday will send you the scripture passage and recording/uploading instructions.

Sign up here: <https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/686988>.

CALLING ALL STORYTELLERS

There have to be a lot of good, unusual, true stories in our congregation. St. Pauls Social is looking to plan a "Moth Radio Hour" type event for those stories to be told. If you've got a story to tell, or if you'd like some help writing your story, let Pastor Jeff know in order to help us plan, jcarlson@spucc.org.

LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SERVICES NEEDS YOUR HELP!

This St. Paul's founded organization provides comprehensive social services to our neighbors experiencing homelessness. LPCS is looking for volunteers to provide meals during this time. Open dates are: **January 20 and February 3, 10, 17**. Please contact Sally Fletcher to sign up at sfletcher1443@gmail.com, or (312) 848-5400. Needed are 20 lunches, including 3 vegetarian, at the 600 W. Fullerton location on each of these days. For other LPCS volunteer opportunities, visit their website at lpcschicago.org to get involved, or contact volunteer coordinator Jameela Chaudhry at volunteer@lpcschicago.org.

PASTORS' VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

Want to talk? We are here for you! You can always reach out to one of our pastors, but we are also offering regularly scheduled virtual office hours, beginning next week. To "drop in" during virtual office hours, contact a pastor to make an appointment.

Benny, Pastoral Intern: Mondays, 3-5 p.m.

Pastor Matt: Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Pastor Jeff: Fridays, 3-5 p.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JAN 20 - WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK - 12 p.m. Zoon

A Non-Biblical Bible Study. Join us as we take a look inside a first-Century Christian document called *The Didache*, or the Teaching. This fascinating writing gives us a glimpse from outside the pages of the Biblical canon into what was important to early Christians as they lived as a minority within the Roman Empire. Email Pastor Jeff if you'd like to sign up, jcarlson@spucc.org.

JAN 20 - PRAY FOR PEACE - 7:30pm, Zoom

We invite you to join with us in a prayer service for peace this Wednesday. Our world needs all the prayers we can muster and we need to see one another. Email Matt for the Zoom link, mfitzgerald@spucc.org

JAN 21 - CHURCH CENTER WALKTHROUGH, Q&A - 6-7 p.m., Zoom

If you would like a walkthrough of any aspect in the new Church Center portal, or help getting logged in or downloading the Church Center app, please come to this open question hour with Claire from the church office. Please RSVP for the Zoom link, chiggins@spucc.org

JAN 24 - SPIRITUALS AND CULTURAL APPROPRIATION - 3 p.m., Zoom.

Join us for a lecture and discussion with internationally known composer, conductor and educator Dr. Rollo Dilworth. Dr. Dillworth will speak about the history of spirituals and also address the important issue of cultural appropriation. Register at spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/685602.

JAN 26 - WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - 7:30 p.m., Zoom

Please join us for the women's book group. We will be reading *Accidental Saints* by Nadia Bolz-Weber. All are welcome. Email Corie Gallemore for more information: corie.gallemore@gmail.com.

JAN 28 - LEARN TO KNIT WITH LEE AND ST. PAULS SOCIAL - 7 p.m., Zoom

Have you ever wanted to learn to knit? Or perhaps in another life you enjoyed knitting and during this pandemic, when we are staying home more than we would like, you would like to refresh your skills. Well, our very own knitting guru, Lee Lichamer, will be teaching the art of knitting on Zoom. Have needles and a favorite color of yarn, sit back, and to learn how to cast on, knit, and pearl. RSVP to Lee at lichamer@ameritech.net by January 27. You will be sent the Zoom link on that date.

OPPORTUNITIES

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.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM (CEP) - CEP meals in the St. Pauls courtyard have been discontinued until warm weather returns. We are currently offering laundry services to street-based guests - hygiene services are particularly important during the pandemic. If you are looking for other ways to help our neighbors experiencing homelessness, please contact Jennifer Kew at CEPsupper@gmail.com.

EMAIL LIST SIGN-UP - Are you new to St. Pauls and want to get more connected, or have you been a longtime friend and missed signing up for our email? Either way, you can go here: spucc.org/connect-learn/signups to fill out our virtual fellowship card to begin receiving our weekly email and special congregational emails, introduce yourself and receive a call from a pastor, request more information about Children and Youth Programming, and more!

FAITH IN ACTION – Some people call it showing up for a protest. Others call it public witness for the values inherent in our faith. Most of us appreciate being able to do both with like-minded congregational members. We are continually building a Faith-in-Action list of people who wish to receive notice of such protests and gatherings – frequently on short notice due to swift governmental action. Please join this email list by contacting Claire Higgins at chiggins@spucc.org.

FAITH AND PUBLIC ISSUES – Help us connect our faith to critical public issues. Do you wish you knew more from a faith perspective about current issues that are important to our public life? Racism, climate change, immigration, to name a few? FPI programs provide opportunities to ask questions, help us understand issues in depth, and discuss possible action. The FPI Task Force plans these programs and we could use your ideas. Contact Toby Rogers at toby@rogers-home.com for information about meetings.

GIFTS, PASSIONS, SKILLS – If you have not already completed our GPS Survey, we still need to hear from you. Please go to forms.gle/jK54YezLs8Ea27uW8 to fill it out. This is an important component of our overall member engagement initiative, as mentioned in the November 10, 2019 congregational meeting. If you prefer to complete a paper document, they are available on the front counter of the office next to the labeled return box. Thank you in advance for your participation.

LITTLE LIGHTS is a St. Pauls early childhood program with classes for 2, 3, and 4-year olds. We are now accepting applications for 2021. Check out www.littlelightslp.org. Email Little Lights Director Erin Fitzgerald at littlelights@spucc.org.

NG, CLASSIC NOVELS READING GROUP –

This year we read four books from the Zora Canon, written by African American women. Our meetings for 2020 have concluded and readings for 2021 are being set, so stay tuned! Anyone is welcome to join us. Please RSVP to Pastor Jeff for email updates: jcarlson@spucc.org.

NEW OR EXPECTING PARENTS – If you have a new baby or are expecting a baby, please let Corie Gallemore know so that we can find ways to support you (meals, prayer, etc.). Email Corie at corie.gallemore@gmail.com.

OUTREACH AND BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE – Do you have a passion for reaching out to others? The St. Pauls O&B Committee would love to have you join us in keeping our church engaged in community outreach. For more information contact Pauline Taylor, paulinetaylor933@gmail.com, or Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org.

PARENTS OF LITTLE ONES (POLO) has play dates, Moms night out, Dads night out, family pizza parties, prayer groups, and more activities to support families with little ones between the ages of 0 and 5. If you have young children and would like to get involved, please contact Joanne Tong at jctong@yahoo.com.

SAINT PAULS SOCIAL – Get better acquainted with other adults at St. Pauls. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Jen Luerksen at jenluerksen@yahoo.com. Subscribe to the distribution list at eepurl.com/gQ4Eg1, or look out for future events announced in the bulletin calendar.

SAINT PAULS TOGETHER – Our Facebook Group, “Saint Pauls Together,” is for St. Pauls Members and Friends to connect and share uplifting thoughts and stories. Check out our Facebook Page to request an invitation if you’re a member or friend!

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), Marti Pechnyo (mpechnyo@gmail.com), or Barb Kaiser (bkaiser2213@gmail.com).

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY – Now meeting every Wednesday at noon via Zoom. Newcomers are always welcome. Increase your faith and your knowledge of the Bible. RSVP: Pastor Jeff at jcarlson@spucc.org to get the Zoom link.

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.

ZOOM MEETINGS – The St. Pauls Zoom account is available to start or continue groups. Email Claire Higgins at chiggins@spucc.org to schedule your meeting.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send any announcements you would like in the following week’s bulletin or Friday email to chiggins@spucc.org no later than 10 a.m. on Tuesday.

Verbal announcements are due by Wednesdays at noon.

Please limit announcements to 100 words. Thank you!

SAINT 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.

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.

- Nial, Gloria Joseph's husband, who is dealing with a cancer diagnosis and beginning treatments.
- Marci, Gloria Joseph's friend, who recently suffered a stroke.
- Greg Mooney and family at the death of Sheryl.
- Prayers for our democracy.
- Carrie Brugger's brother, Steve, and family at the death of his wife, Barb.
- Juanita Barlow's sister, Maria Dolores Guadalupe, recovering from a stroke.
- The Rieck family at the death of Shirley.
- The Nietzsche family at the tragic death of Dan.
- Kristin Mack and family at the deaths of her grandfather, Dennis Carlson, and granny, Charlotte.
- Ninon Freeman at the death of her mother, Alba Young.
- Jan Bail's sister, Marty, diagnosed with cancer.
- Michael VanZeyl's Aunt Betty, hospitalized, and Laura VanZeyl's parents, Lionel and Donna, coping with isolation.
- Molly Dierks, in the hospital.
- Erick, an Army friend of Bruce Voice.
- Bruce Voice, recovering from surgery.
- A mother and her two children going through a very difficult time.
- Patty, friend of Petrine and Garold Ashley, as she undergoes a third knee transplant.
- Mark Huddle at the death of his father, Mike.
- Mary Train, recovering from a broken wrist.
- Amy Newman, being treated for cancer.
- Rob and Shannon Castle's friend, Mike, in treatment for cancer.
- Pat Ruch's sister, Aline, beginning treatment for brain cancer.
- Carole Crowley, recovering from a stroke.
- Karl Wirsum, in rehabilitation for mini-strokes.

You are beloved – to others, to the world you live in, and most important, 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.

ABOUT ST. PAULS
Making a Joyful Sound in the City!

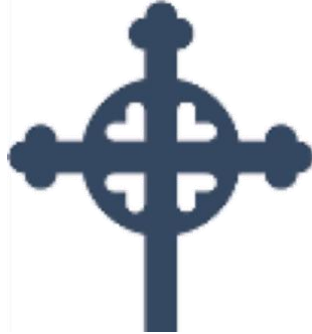
Saint Pauls UCC has a vibrant history in the city of Chicago. Founded in 1843, we are one of the city's oldest churches. In 1989, we became one of America's first congregations to declare ourselves "Open and Affirming" of LGBTQ women and men.

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 important, over the past 177 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

Matt Fitzgerald, *Senior Pastor*, mfitzgerald@spucc.org
Jeff Carlson, *Associate Pastor*, jcarlson@spucc.org
Sarah Garcia, *Associate Pastor for Children and Youth*, sgarcia@spucc.org
Tom Henry, *Pastor Emeritus*, emeritushenry@gmail.com
Benny VanDerburgh, *Pastoral Intern*, bvanderburgh@spucc.org
Karen E. Johnson, *President of the Congregation*, kejplano@aol.com
Maddy Lockhart, *Director of Operations*, mlockhart@spucc.org
Melissa Miller Furgeson, *Bookkeeper*, bookkeeper@spucc.org
Kurt R. Hansen, *Music Director*, kurtsingsbach@gmail.com
Kevin Dzierzawski, *Organist*, kdzierza@att.net
Brendan Henry, *Pianist*, brendanhenrypiano@gmail.com
Nancy Voigts, *Children's Choir Director*, nvoigtsgod@att.net
Kecia Waldschmidt, *Youth Choir Director*, keciagerman@hotmail.com
Mark Mosley, *Intergenerational Orchestra Director*, mwmosley@gmail.com
Kevin O'Brien, *Lay Liturgical Administrator*, kkobrien48@hotmail.com



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.