

September 27, 2020  
Virtual Worship

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

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"Through color, I have sought to concentrate on beauty and happiness, rather  
than on man's inhumanity to man." Alma Thomas

PRELUDE *A Change Is Gonna Come* Sam Cook  
St. Arbucks Trio

CHIMES

INTROIT *Yigdal Eylochim Chai* Hebrew Melody  
Chancel Choir

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Jeff Carlson

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

**All: Thank you for turning leaves, blue water whitecaps, 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.**

HYMN

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

Led by Lee Lichamer

1. I sing the might - y pow'r of God, That made the moun-tains rise,  
2. I sing the good - ness of the Lord, That filled the earth with food;  
3. There's not a plant or flow'r be - low, But makes thy glo - ries known;

That spread the flow - ing seas a-broad, And built the loft - y skies.  
He formed the crea - tures with his word, And then pro-nounced them good.  
And clouds a - rise and tem - pests blow By or - der from thy throne,

I sing the wis - dom that or - dained The sun to rule the day;\_\_  
Lord, how thy won - ders are dis - played, Wher - e'er I turn my eye:\_\_  
While all that bor - rows life from thee is ev - er in thy care,\_\_

The moon shines full at his com-mand, And all the stars o - bey.  
If I sur-vey the ground I tread Or gaze up - on the sky!  
And ev - 'ry - where that man can be, Thou, God, art pres-ent there.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Jeff Carlson

**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.**

SERMON

“The ‘nothing’ destroyed by God’s creative act”

Matt Fitzgerald

SCRIPTURE

Breanna Coe

*Genesis 1:1-31 translation by Robert Alter*

When God began to create heaven and earth, and the earth then was water and waste and darkness over the deep and God’s breath hovering over the waters, God said, “Let there be light.” And there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good, and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And it was evening and it was morning, first day. And God said, “Let there be a vault in the midst of the waters, and let it divide water from water.” And God made the vault and it divided the water beneath the vault from the water above the vault, and so it was. And God called the vault Heavens, and it was evening and it was morning, second day. And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered in one place so that the dry land will appear,” and so it was. And God called the dry land Earth and the gathering of waters He called Seas, and God saw that it was good. And God said, “Let the earth grow grass, plants yielding seed of each kind and trees bearing fruit of each kind, that has its seed within it.” And so it was.

And the earth put forth grass, plants yielding seed of each kind, and trees bearing fruit that has its seed within it of each kind, and God saw that it was good. And it was evening and it was morning, third day. And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the heavens to divide the day from the night, and they shall be signs for the fixed times and for days and years, and they shall be lights in the vault of the heavens to light up the earth." And so it was. And God made the two great lights, the great light for dominion of day and the small light for dominion of night, and the stars. And God placed them in the vault of the heavens to light up the earth and to have dominion over day and night and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And it was evening and it was morning, fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters swarm with the swarm of living creatures and let fowl fly over the earth across the vault of the heavens." And God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that crawls, which the water had swarmed forth of each kind, and the winged fowl of each kind, and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the water in the seas and let the fowl multiply in the earth." And it was evening and it was morning, fifth day. And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of each kind, cattle and crawling things and wild beasts of each kind. And so it was. And God made wild beasts of each kind and cattle of every kind and crawling things on the ground of each kind, and God saw that it was good.

And God said, "Let us make a human in our image, by our likeness, to hold sway over the fish of the sea and the fowl of the heavens and the cattle and the wild beasts and all the crawling things that crawl upon the earth.

And God created the human in his image, in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them.

And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and conquer it, and hold sway over the fish of the sea and the fowl of the heavens and every beast that crawls upon the earth." And God said, "Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the face of all the earth and every tree that has fruit bearing seed, yours they will be for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and to all the fowl of the heavens and to all that crawls on the earth, which has the breath of life within it, the green plants for food." And so it was. And God saw all that He had done, and, look, it was very good. And it was evening and it was morning, the sixth day.

SERMON

*conclusion*

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)*

## HYMN

*Be Still, My Soul*  
Led by Lila Brown

Jean Sibelius



1. Be still, my soul: for God is on your side; \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Be still, my soul: for God will un - der - take \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. Be still, my soul: the hour will soon be here \_\_\_\_\_



— bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain; \_\_\_\_\_ Leave to your  
 — to guide in fu - ture days as in the past. \_\_\_\_\_ Your hope, your  
 — when we shall be with God whom we a - dore, \_\_\_\_\_ with dis - ap -



God to or - der and pro - vide; \_\_\_\_\_ in ev - ery change God  
 con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake; \_\_\_\_\_ all now mys - te - rious  
 - point - ment gone, no grief nor fear, \_\_\_\_\_ sor - row re - placed with



faith - ful will re - main. \_\_\_\_\_ Be still, my soul: your best e - ter - nal  
 shall be clear at last. \_\_\_\_\_ Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still  
 joy for - ev - er - more. \_\_\_\_\_ Be still, my soul: when change and tears are



friend \_\_\_\_\_ through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.  
 know \_\_\_\_\_ how Je - sus' pow - er ruled them long a - go.  
 past, \_\_\_\_\_ all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

## OFFERING INVITATION

Sarah Garcia

OFFERTORY

*Avinu Malkeynu*  
(Sung in Hebrew)

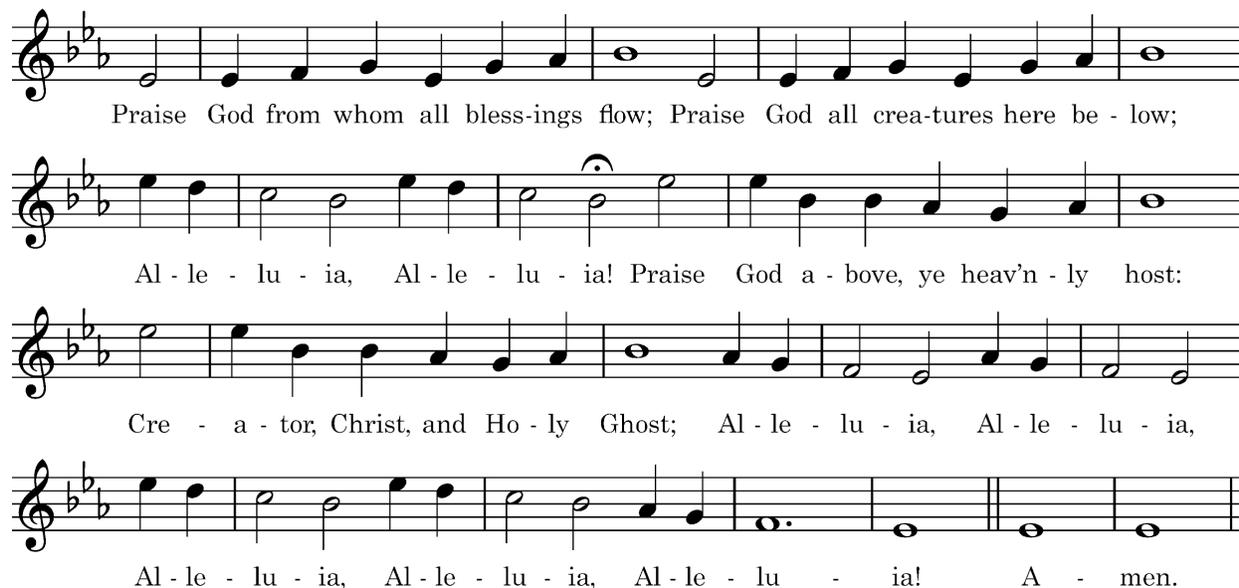
Max Janowski

Theresa Hansen and Nancy Pifer, soloists  
Chancel Choir

Our Father, our King, hear our prayer.  
Our Father, our King, we have sinned before Thee.  
Our Father, our King, have mercy upon us and upon our children.  
Our Father, our King, keep far from our country pestilence,  
war and famine.  
Our Father, our King, cause all hate and oppression to  
vanish from the earth.  
Our Father, our King, inscribe us for blessing in the  
book of life.  
Our Father, our King, grant unto us a year of happiness.

*Give to St. Pauls with Zelle: [giving@spucc.org](mailto:giving@spucc.org) or [spucc.org/about-us/giving-to-st-pauls](http://spucc.org/about-us/giving-to-st-pauls)*

FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



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

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

*Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me*  
Led by Kecia Waldschmidt



1. Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me o - ver life's tem - pes - tuous sea;  
2. As a moth - er stills her child, you can hush the o - cean wild;  
3. When at last I near the shore, and the fear - ful break - ers roar,



Un-known waves be - fore me roll, hid-ing rock and treach-erous shoal;  
Bois-terous waves o - bey your will when you say to them, "Be still."  
Keep - ing me from peace-ful rest, then, while lean - ing on your breast,



Chart and com - pass ev - er be; Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.  
Won - drous Sov - ereign of the sea, Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.  
May I hear your words so true, "Fear not, I will pi - lot you."

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

A - men, A - men, A - - - men.

POSTLUDE

*Fanfare*

J. Lemmens

Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

*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 on Tuesdays at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Central, on Saint Pauls website, [spucc.org/streaming](http://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: **832 5646 7176**, Password: **388462***

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

*Coffee Hour is on Zoom!*

*Please join our pastors and other members after worship for this hour of fellowship. Using a computer or smartphone app, use Meeting ID: **882 5733 7213**, Pswd: **Coffee**  
By phone, dial **(312) 626-6799**, Meeting ID: **882 5733 7213**, Password: **530750**.*

## **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 SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER**

### **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.*

- Sept 27 Allen Smart, Douglas Roewer, William Carter
- Sept 28 Betsy Kalmar, Brian Gallagher, Carrie Liebergen, Heather Kopnick,  
Olivia Block, Toby Rogers
- Sept 29 Andy Vahey, Hannah Fitzgerald, Jill Brennan, Jonathan Leaf,  
Miles Davidson, Miller Avery, Tallulah Avery
- Sept 30 Claire Terborg, Greyson Lavin, Hannah Tatum, Layton Olson
- Oct 1 Amy Akers, Paul Schrimpf, Theresa Herlevsen, Katlyn McVey, Ryan  
Stoner
- Oct 3 Barb Javorcic. Jesse Russell. Andy Cory, Grace Gillmore

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **BEGINNING A NEW BEGINNING**

A new fall sermon series rooted in the book of *Genesis* that starts September 27. While we wait for the pandemic to end, God is already at work, beginning a new beginning. God is beginning a new beginning for Saint Pauls, for Chicago, for our families, and our own lives. This series will help attune us to this fact, so that we can feel God's creative power at work right now. We will look through the lens of some of scripture's best stories, asking questions like: What happened before history? How is God at work in times of chaos? Why do our families hurt and heal us? Why is love between siblings so complex? Are faith and morality the same thing? When is it good to laugh at God?

### **USE THE PANDEMIC - READ THE ENTIRE BIBLE IN A YEAR**

Join Pastor Matt and a group of church members who are going to read the entire bible over the next twelve months. We will start on Sunday, October 3, with *Genesis* and conclude on October 3, 2021 with the last verse of *Revelation*. These twelve months promise to be intense. Walking with the Bible will help decrease anxiety, while increasing faith. We'll follow a careful plan with a reading assigned to each day of the year - and we'll meet every two weeks to check in and discuss. Email Matt: [mfitzgerald@spucc.org](mailto:mfitzgerald@spucc.org) to register.

### **DON'T SIT THIS ONE OUT!**

Election Day, November 3, is fast approaching, and this election is gearing up to be one of the most important in our lives with so much at stake for our city, state, and country. The United Church of Christ, through its "**Our Faith Our Vote**," program, believes that no matter your opinion or political affiliations, your voice - your vote - matters. Through voter registration and education (like that supported by our Faith and Public Issues program), members of churches like St. Pauls can, through participation in the political process, support and lift up the common good and the betterment of society. <https://www.ucc.org/ourfaithourvote> get-out-the-vote.

The late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg said, "Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time." **Help create change** by participating in the 2020 election process by educating yourself about important issues, writing letters to politicians or to voters that might not otherwise vote, personally and perhaps financially supporting the candidates and positions of your choice, and - of course - voting!

## **SHOULD THE ILLINOIS CONSTITUTION BE AMENDED?**

A proposed amendment to the Illinois Constitution will be voted on during the upcoming election period that could cause the greatest change in state taxation in decades. This proposal, dubbed the “Fair Tax” by its sponsors, would replace the current mandated flat-rate Illinois income tax with a graduated-rate tax structure that increases the amount of taxes as income increases.

Supporters believe this type of graduated-rate tax structure is a fair way to shift the tax burden and generate more revenue to end the state’s financial structural imbalance, while opponents believe this type of tax structure will harm jobs and note the proposed amendment offers no guarantee that a higher tax rate might ultimately be imposed on middle-class Illinois taxpayers.

The Community Renewal Society (CRS) is a Chicago-based, UCC-related organization, with a mission “to transform society toward greater social justice at the intersection of racism and poverty.” CRS strongly supports the Fair Tax amendment. According to CRS, “[t]he Fair Tax will bring billions of much needed revenue to our state to invest in just and safe communities.” More information about the CRS position is available at [www.communityrenewalsociety.org](http://www.communityrenewalsociety.org).

St. Pauls is a long-time member of CRS. Members of St. Pauls are strongly encouraged to educate themselves about and prayerfully consider the proposed Fair Tax amendment being considered in the upcoming election.

## **NORTH SHORE EXPLORING GRIEF GROUP**

Are you or someone you know grieving the loss of a family member, partner, or friend? If so, find comfort and support in longtime St. Pauls partner SamaraCare's North Shore Exploring Grief Group. This program is offered virtually in two 8-week sessions. Local congregations have come together to sponsor this program, making it available at no cost to participants. To register for either 8-week session, please contact Joellen at (847) 446-6955, ext. 19, or [jhosler@samaracarecounseling.org](mailto:jhosler@samaracarecounseling.org). Space is limited.

**NOMINATE A SAINT PAULS HERO!** - Have you been following our St. Pauls Covid-19 Heroes posts on the Saint Pauls Together Facebook group? Scroll through to take a look, or join the group if you want to see these Heroes! We have some pretty amazing folks among us, working very hard. And, if you know a dedicated, essential worker, why not nominate them as a St. Pauls Covid-19 Hero? With the Covid crisis far from over, we're honoring those among us who continue to make valuable contributions on the front lines of the pandemic with posts on Saint Pauls Together. If there is a doctor, nurse, teacher, food provider, or other hard working "hero" you'd like to nominate, simply complete the form at the link below to provide us information and a photo. Or, you can email Wendy Love at [wlovecommunications@gmail.com](mailto:wlovecommunications@gmail.com).

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfqcowCY\\_rUePhWbmg9QiliNq9oagykLZXGn3Hd6\\_1Mya8Vg/viewform?usp=pp\\_url](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfqcowCY_rUePhWbmg9QiliNq9oagykLZXGn3Hd6_1Mya8Vg/viewform?usp=pp_url)

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM (CEP)** - CEP meals at St. Pauls continue in an outdoor format! Volunteers are needed **October 18, October 25, and November 8** to provide bag lunches with beverages. St. Pauls welcomes homeless and hungry people to enjoy a meal and get access to health services as part of the Community Engagement Program (CEP). Volunteers have the option to drop off 30 bag lunches at 1 p.m. on Sundays in the St. Pauls courtyard or stay onsite to serve guests in person. Each Sunday's meal can be provided by a single household or split with another volunteer. To sign up or get more information, contact Jennifer Kew at [CEPsupper@gmail.com](mailto:CEPsupper@gmail.com).

**LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SERVICES NEEDS YOUR HELP!** - This St. Pauls founded organization provides comprehensive social services to our neighbors experiencing homelessness. LPCS is looking for individuals to provide meals during this time and Saint Pauls has signed up to provide lunches on the following Wednesdays in **October: 21, 28, and November: 4, 11, 18, 25**. Please contact Sally Fletcher to sign up at [sfletcher1443@gmail.com](mailto:sfletcher1443@gmail.com), or (312) 848-5400. Needed are 24 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](http://lpcschicago.org) to get involved, or contact volunteer coordinator Jameela Chaudhry at [volunteer@lpcschicago.org](mailto:volunteer@lpcschicago.org).

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

### **SEPT 29 - WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - 7:30 p.m., Zoom**

Please join us for a women's book group, during which we will discuss the last chapter of the book *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans. All are welcome even if you missed the other meetings or haven't read the chapter. Email Corie Gallemore for more information: [corie.gallemore@gmail.com](mailto:corie.gallemore@gmail.com).

### **OCT 1&8 - VIRTUAL NEW MEMBER CLASSES - 7 p.m., Zoom**

Our congregation may be separated, but it is still growing and thriving! Join pastors and other members on Zoom for our first virtual new member classes and talk about faith and the community here at St. Pauls. Contact Pastor Matt for more information at [mfitzgerald@spucc.org](mailto:mfitzgerald@spucc.org).

### **OCT 4 - BECOMING AN ANTI-RACIST - 5:30-6:30 p.m., Church Parking Lot**

Do you want your children to develop an understanding of racism and work to uproot racism and inequality in our society and in ourselves? Every other Sunday we will explore the roots of racism in our church, in our world, and in our own lives. We will look to see more clearly its painful consequences, and start to learn tools for how we can work to oppose racism and help build a just and equitable church and society. Led by Pastor Sarah and Children's Program Coordinator Karaçan Sayrun-Thomas. All children must wear masks.

Register here: <https://forms.gle/Szdpzi95mWsQ4a4U9>.

### **OCT 9 - PARKING LOT PRAISE, PRAYER AND PLAY - 5:30-7 p.m., Parking Lot**

Open to children in Kindergarten through 6th grade as participants, and older youth may help as leaders. Every other Friday we will dive into Bible Stories, share joys and concerns and pray for them together, play games, and be the socially-distanced but together family of God. Everyone must wear masks and should dress for the weather, rain or shine.

Register Here: <https://forms.gle/S2cd4RN8sUVRLX8L9>.

### **OCT 11 - COURTYARD PICNIC - 5 p.m., Church Courtyard**

Pack your own picnic and join host Jen Luerssen for a St. Pauls Social socially distanced Sunday picnic in the church courtyard for adults of all ages. We'll have spaces marked out for up to 18 picnickers to keep us separated. You will need to bring your own chairs. All participants are expected to wear a mask unless seated. Please RSVP in advance so we can respect social distancing. Respond to Jen if you'd like to participate, [jenluerssen@yahoo.com](mailto:jenluerssen@yahoo.com).

**OCT 20 - BOOK DISCUSSION OF BEST SELLER, *CASTE*, Pts. 1-3 - 7 p.m., Zoom**  
We invite St. Pauls members to read a new “instant American classic,” *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*. In *Caste*, Isabel Wilkerson examines the often unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions. Beautifully written and published in August 2020, *Caste* is a best seller and a 2020 selection of Oprah’s Book Club. As part of St. Pauls ongoing discussions of white privilege and racism, St. Pauls members will lead three structured Zoom discussions of the book (divided into three sections). Following discussions will be on December 8 and January 12, 2021. Please contact Rick Peterson, rnpeterson2017@gmail.com, for further information.

**OCT 21 - WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - 12 p.m., Zoom**  
Pastor Jeff is holding a Bible Study on Wednesdays at noon on Zoom. You can participate online, or call in from your phone. Email Jeff with questions or to get the meeting invitation and instructions, jcarlson@spucc.org.

### **OPPORTUNITIES**

**CHILDREN’S SUPPORT AND AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS** – Are you busy working and don’t have enough time to help your kids with school work? Do your kids whiz through their work and then end up bored and lonely? We will be offering Zoom support groups led by our licensed school psychologist, and Zoom Afterschool Clubs led by our Children’s Program Coordinator. If you are interested, email Pastor Sarah sgarcia@spucc.org.

**COFFEE HOUR** - Coffee hour is right after Sunday Worship, and now on Zoom – see the announcements for details. Join one of our pastors and other members and friends for this weekly hour of fellowship!

**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.

**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](https://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, and 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](mailto: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](mailto:toby@rogers-home.com) for information about meetings.

**FEED THE HUNGRY** – Community Engagement Program (CEP) Suppers at St. Pauls welcome homeless and hungry people to enjoy a meal and get access to health services each week. Volunteers drop off 30 bag lunches at 1 p.m. on Sundays in the St. Pauls courtyard. Each Sunday's meal can be provided by a single household or split with another volunteer. See the “Help Our Community” bulletin section for Sundays to sign up, or get more information by contacting Jennifer Kew at [CEPsupper@gmail.com](mailto:CEPsupper@gmail.com).

**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](https://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.

**LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SERVICES NEEDS YOUR HELP!** - This St. Pauls founded organization provides comprehensive social services to our neighbors experiencing homelessness. LPCS is looking for individuals to provide meals during this time, particularly dinners. Both onsite and offsite volunteer opportunities available! For more information on how to get involved, visit their website at [lpcschicago.org](http://lpcschicago.org) or contact volunteer coordinator Jameela Chaudhry at [volunteer@lpcschicago.org](mailto:volunteer@lpcschicago.org).

**LITTLE LIGHTS** is a St. Pauls early childhood program with classes for 2, 3, and 4-year olds. We are now accepting applications for 2020. Check out [www.littlelightslp.org](http://www.littlelightslp.org). Email Little Lights Director Erin Fitzgerald at [littlelights@spucc.org](mailto:littlelights@spucc.org).

**LONG, CLASSIC NOVELS READING GROUP –  
2020 Selections are Four Novels by African American Women**

This year, the “Long, Classic Novels Reading Group” is reading books from the Zora Canon. Our fourth and final book is: *A Mercy* by Toni Morrison (2008) - Discussion Date: December 14, 7 p.m. via Zoom. Anyone is welcome to join us. Please RSVP to Pastor Jeff for email updates: [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 Gallemore know so that we can find ways to support you (meals, prayer, etc.). Email Corie at [corie.gallemore@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:paulinetaylor933@gmail.com), or Pastor Jeff, [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto: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](mailto:jctong@yahoo.com).

**SAINT PAULS SOCIAL** – Get better acquainted with other adults at St. Pauls. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Jen Luerssen at [jenluerssen@yahoo.com](mailto:jenluerssen@yahoo.com). Subscribe to the distribution list at [eepurl.com/gQ4Eg1](http://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](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org)), Marti Pechnyo ([mpechnyo@gmail.com](mailto:mpechnyo@gmail.com)), or Barb Kaiser ([bkaiser2213@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:youngadults@spucc.org).

**ZOOM MEETINGS** – The St. Pauls Zoom account is available to continue or start groups virtually. Email Claire Higgins at [chiggins@spucc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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. We only print requests we receive. To make a request, 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.*

- Kristin Mack and family at the death of her granny, Charlotte.
- Jenny, as she recovers from fall.
- Peter Doerr at the death of his father, Alan.
- A couple in Michigan, friends of Barb Arsenault, who both have had significant medical issues happen at the same time.
- Nial, husband of Gloria Joseph, for his improved health as he deals with a serious illness.
- Emilia, Juanita Barlow's sister, having a knee replacement.
- Lance, friend of Sally Fletcher, recently diagnosed with transformed Lymphedema.
- Patty, friend of Petrine and Garold Ashley, as she undergoes a third knee transplant.
- Mary Stainton, as she anticipates surgery on September 11.
- Surigao del Norte in the Philippines for safety from the Covid-19 virus.
- Mark Huddle at the death of his father, Mike.
- Sarah Good's brother, David, being treated for throat cancer.
- Sheryl Mooney, who is receiving treatment for leukemia.
- 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.
- Prayers of healing for the young patients at Lurie and Comer Children's Hospitals.
- Carole Crowley, recovering from a stroke.
- Karl Wirsum, in rehabilitation for mini-strokes.
- Veterans and those in wars.

**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 176 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**  
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**Kevin O'Brien, *Lay Liturgical Administrator***, [kkobrien48@hotmail.com](mailto: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.