

May 16, 2021
Virtual Worship

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

PRELUDE *Have Thine Own Way, Lord* George C. Stebbins
Matt Plaskota, marimba Harmonization by Brian Blade
Transcribed by Matt Plaskota

CHIMES

INTROIT *When Morning Gilds the Skies* Joseph Barnby
Chancel Choir

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Matt Fitzgerald

One: A new day has begun!

All: A fresh start is given to us.

One: Today you have the opportunity to do something new.

All: Jesus is entering our lives in a new way.

One: Come, let us worship God, who is inviting us into life in a new way, a way
that transcends death, a way of hope and faith.

**All: Love wins! Let us worship Christ, who overcame death to give us new
life!**

HYMN

We Are Marching in the Light of God

Led by Margot Frank

The musical score is written on three staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with several triplet markings. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with some words underlined. The first staff ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The second staff begins with a first ending bracket and a '1.' marking. The third staff begins with a second ending bracket and a '2.' marking. The piece concludes with a final double bar line.

We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the light of God.

— We are march - ing in the light of God. — We are march - ing, —

— Oo, — we are march - ing in the light of God. —

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Jeff Carlson

O God, You who are always doing a new thing,
we confess that we sometimes close windows
against the fresh air of new ideas,
against the noise of other people's worries,
against the winds of change.

God of every place and time,
we confess that we often draw the curtains
against people who are different,
against world news or community concerns.

Forgive us our insulation in our locked homes,
our shuttered churches,
the security systems on our hearts.
Open up our lives,
and let your Spirit blow through. Amen

SCRIPTURE

Karen E. Johnson

Acts 1:1-11 The Message

Dear Theophilus, in the first volume of this book I wrote on everything that Jesus began to do and teach until the day he said good-bye to the apostles and was taken up to heaven. After his death, he presented himself alive to them in many different settings over a period of forty days. In face-to-face meetings, he talked to them about things concerning the kingdom of God. As they met and ate meals together, he told them that they “must wait for what the Father promised.”

When they were together for the last time they asked, “Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now? Is this the time?”

He told them, “It is not for you to know the times the Father has set. Timing is the Father’s business. What you’ll get is the Holy Spirit. And when the Holy Spirit comes, you will be able to be my witnesses to the ends of the earth.”

These were his last words. As they watched, he was taken up and disappeared in a cloud. They stood there, staring into the empty sky.

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 "Staring Into the Empty Sky" Sarah Garcia

MEDITATION *Ode to Joy* Ludwig van Beethoven
Owen Waldschmidt, trumpet

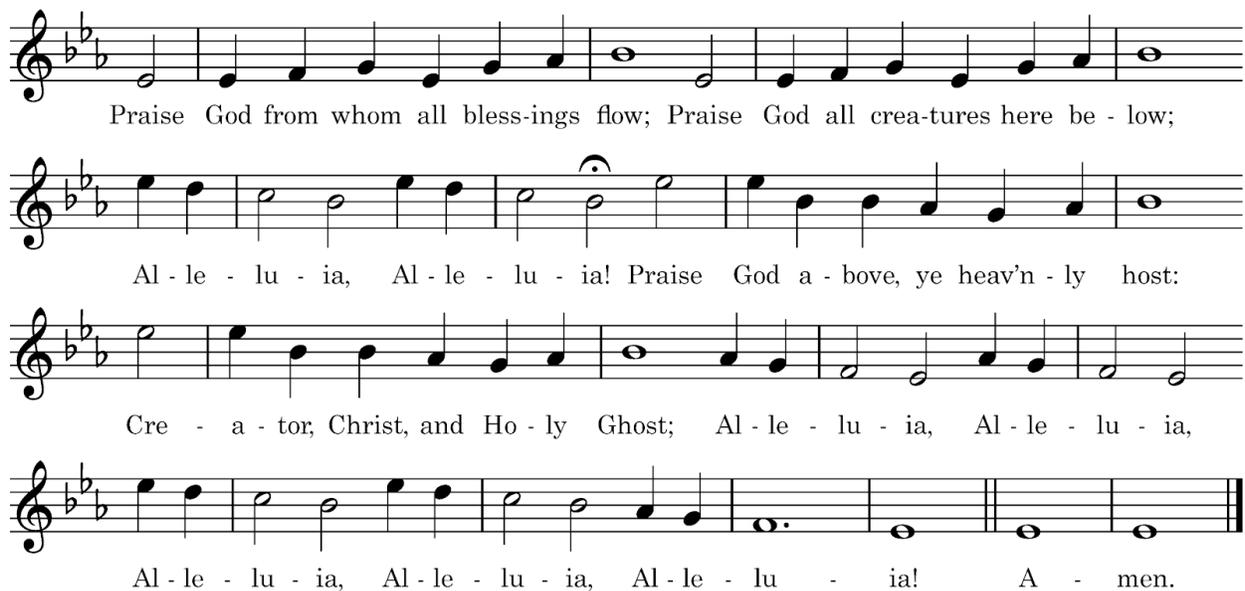
OFFERING INVITATION Matt Fitzgerald

OFFERTORY *Lift Thine Eyes* from Elijah Felix Mendelssohn
Women of the Virtual Chancel Choir
Breanna Coe, director

Lift thine eyes to the mountains,
From whence cometh thy help.
Thy help cometh from the Lord,
The Maker of heaven and earth,
He hath said, Thy foot shall not be moved.
Thy keeper will never slumber.
from Psalm 121

Give to St. Pauls at spucc.churchcenter.com/giving or with Zelle to giving@spucc.org

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

Benny VanDerburgh

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

I Know Where Love Comes From
Written and performed by Chuck Kent

I know where love comes from,
I know where love comes from.
Love comes from God, through Jesus, to us,
I know where love comes from.

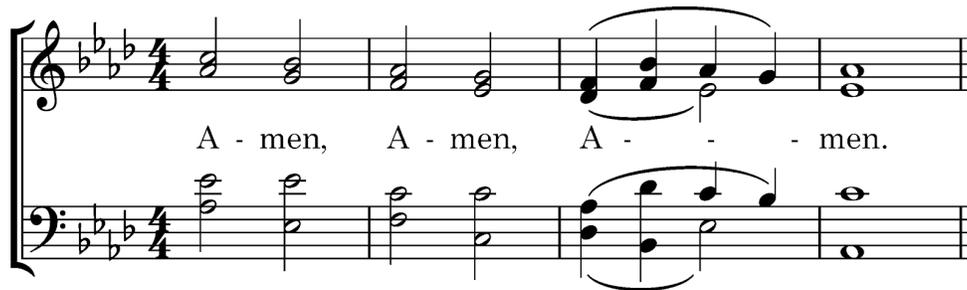
I know that God loves me.
I know that God loves me.
He loves me with friends and family.
I know that God loves me.

I know that God loves you.
I know that God loves you.
And if God loves you, I should, too.
I know that God loves you.

I know where love comes from,
I know where love comes from.
Love comes from God, through Jesus, to us,
I know where love comes from.

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE



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

POSTLUDE

Amazing Grace
Kevin Dzierzawski, piano

arr. J. Ray

Coffee Hour is on Zoom!

*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***

*Morning worship at Saint Pauls will be streamed online until further notice,
on Sundays at 10 a.m. Central, at spucc.org/streaming.*

For updates about in-person afternoon worship, see the announcements section below!

*You can also call in to listen to our services at **(312) 626-6799** at 10 a.m. Central on
Sundays. 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

Matt Plaskota

A donation was made by Liz Raiman in memoriam of Mary Yoder Payne.

BORN THIS WEEK IN MAY

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.*

May 16 Grace Magliola

May 17 Fred Deters, Kris Gallagher, Larry Damron, Hendrix Thomas

May 18 Jay Gleason, Tara Magner, Gaby Godinez

May 19 Dede Koldyke, Jeff Calore, Mike Pechnyo, Nancy Voigts Godinez,
James Keller

May 20 Gustav Schmidt, Ryan Braun, Claire Hamp, Nate Gallagher

May 21 Nate Combs, Scott Moehrke

May 22 Leslie Chamberlain, Julian Chaiken

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REOPENING UPDATE

We are eager to see church members and friends in person. While the entire staff hasn't yet been vaccinated, we are moving toward that goal. To see a pastor at church during the week, please contact Matt, Sarah, or Jeff by telephone or email to schedule. If you need to come to the church building for another reason on a weekday, please contact Claire, chiggins@spucc.org, or Maddy, mlockhart@spucc.org, in the church office to schedule your visit. Masks are required inside the building.

IN-PERSON AFTERNOON WORSHIP

In-person worship is each Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m., in addition to our 10 a.m. virtual worship service. Attendance is currently limited to 50 people, including staff, while we work on transitioning to new CDC guidelines. Please make sure you register everyone who will be attending. See more info and registration details at: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/category/34510

CREATION CORNER

Less than 9% of Chicago's waste is recycled. This is very poor compared to suburban areas in our region and some other urban locales. But the city isn't giving up despite the abysmal record. Stay locally informed and contact your elected officials! During the pandemic, our use of recyclable products has diminished. Much of our take-out food comes in containers that head to landfills. Try to purchase food from restaurants that use recyclable materials and decline plasticware whenever possible (do so in the special instructions portion of your order).

SUMMER CAMP!

We are excited to have you join us for summer camp this year! Along with arts and crafts, games, and water activities, campers enjoy exploring local parks and going on daily adventures! St. Pauls Summer Camp is for school aged children 6-12. Summer camp will run July 5 through July 30 with options for Full Day (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) or Half Day (9 a.m.-12 p.m.). Sign up on a weekly basis, Monday to Friday. Learn more and sign up here: <https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/823571>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MAY 13 & 20 - BOOK DISCUSSION: *CLIMATE CHURCH, CLIMATE WORLD*

7-8 p.m., Zoom

Why should people of faith engage the moral challenge of climate change – and how should we do it? This book, recently featured in the [Chicago Tribune](#), helps answer these questions and empowers the reader to join others in taking action. The author, Rev. Jim Antal, serves as Special Advisor on Climate Justice to the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. Discussion sponsored by our St. Pauls Green Team. RSVP: <https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/827095>

MAY 26 - BOOK DISCUSSION: *HOW TO FIGHT RACISM* - 5 p.m., Zoom

How can you individually, or we as a church, act to promote racial justice? Join us for our last meeting – Focus on Commitment, pp. 141-206 – in the three-part exploration using Jemar Tisby's *How to Fight Racism: Courageous Christianity and the Journey toward Racial Justice*. This timely book attempts to move beyond talking about racism to equipping people with practical tools to fight against it. Cindy Ball will lead the series. For additional information and to register, contact Cindy Ball, cindyball11@gmail.com.

MAY 31 - PARKING LOT PICNIC- 5 p.m. - Church Parking Lot

Pack your own picnic and join hosts Rick Peterson and Jen Luerssen for a St. Pauls Social socially distanced picnic in the church parking lot, for adults of all ages. We'll have spaces marked out for up to 30 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 at the link below so we can respect social distancing: <https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/864813>

JUNE 6 - PLAYFUL PRAISE - 5 p.m. - Courtyard

In-person kid-centered worship! If it rains we will be in the gym. We will have live music, a craft, and interactive storytelling. Masks, social distancing and registration required: <https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/864915>

JUNE 14 - BOOK DISCUSSION: *THE ONCE AND FUTURE KING* - 7 p.m. Zoom

The Long, Classic Novels Reading Group invites you to read and discuss this book by T.H. White. Ursula LeGuin writes, "A fierce and damaged man, T. H. White wrote about fierce and damaged people—and children, and animals—with a brilliant, painful innocence that has no equal in literature. He is so good at hurt and shame—how did he also manage to be so funny? I have laughed at his great Arthurian novel and cried over it and loved it all my life." RSVP: Jeff Carlson, jcarlson@spucc.org for Zoom link.

OPPORTUNITIES

CHURCH CENTER – spucc.churchcenter.com is our new portal for the Saint Pauls community. See our calendar, register for events, update your contact information, join and view our photo directory, manage your online donations, see your giving history, and more!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM (CEP)

We are seeking **CEP Laundry volunteers on Saturday mornings**. One volunteer is needed each week to greet street-based guests and launder their clothes on-site at St. Pauls from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. If you have any interest in **cooking in-person** meals for homeless neighbors in the coming months, please contact Jennifer Kew at CEPsupper@gmail.com. If you are not interested in in-person activities, we continue to have opportunities to drop off meals for LPCS.

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 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 & 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, 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.

GREEN TEAM Help us as a congregation live out what we say in our Statement of Faith: God calls us to care for creation. This is the perfect time to plan, as we prepare to reenter and reimagine our common bodily life together. Joe Womack and Jan Fraccaro have volunteered to co-chair our efforts, both bringing a great deal of experience and ideas. To attend, or to be in the email list for future meetings, email Jan at jan.fraccaro@gmail.com.

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.

MEALS FOR LPCS

Lincoln Park Community Services is a St. Pauls founded organization that provides comprehensive social services to our neighbors experiencing homelessness. LPCS is looking for volunteers to provide meals during this time. Please contact Sally Fletcher to sign up at sfletcher1443@gmail.com, or (312) 848-5400. Needed are 35 lunches, including 3 vegetarian, at the 600 W. Fullerton location.

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 & 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 Jennifer Kew, JenniferLKew@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).

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 you've volunteered for, the speaking pastor for that Sunday will send you the scripture passage and recording/uploading instructions.

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

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.

- Tom Henry and family at the death of Colleen Henry's 100-year-old mother, Mary Payne.
- Diane Massie's niece, hospitalized with COVID pneumonia.
- Friends of the Ashley family who are in times of crisis - Walt and Heidi, Sven and Bitten.
- Tilly Wilhoite, her brother Bert, and family, at the passing of her sister-in-law, Caryl.
- Family and friends at the death of Ruth Cuzman.
- Pauline Taylor's son, Greg, being treated for cancer.
- Jeff Johnson and family at the death of his mother, Jeanine.
- Prayers of blessing for Robin Scott as she moves to Boston for a new job.
- Family and friends of Gloria's friend, Marci, at her death.
- Al Cerkan, recovering from major back surgery.
- Friends and family mourning the loss of Larry Butcher.
- Juanita Barlow, recovering from a procedure on a blood vessel.
- Phill, brother of Bob Ball, diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia and beginning many medical treatments.
- Juggling working from home, Zoom school, and family life.
- 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.
- 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.
- Carole Crowley, recovering from a stroke.
- Karl Wirsum, receiving care at home.

Prayer, Support, Mental Health Resources

Even when you walk through the valley of shadows, God is with you. If you or someone you love is feeling completely alone or like life doesn't matter, reach out for help. 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.

Faith.Hope.Life

One Sabbath celebrating life, hope, and reasons to live

Every life matters in God's kingdom, from the youngest to the oldest, the weakest to the strongest, the infirmed to the healthy. This week, we celebrate reasons to live, every day, regardless of how you feel at the moment. Let's be honest: life can sometimes feel overwhelming. The loss of a job or a relationship, trouble in school, a serious mental or physical illness, a divorce, or the death of a loved one can happen to anyone. Life events like these can leave us feeling worthless, abandoned, or isolated.

Saint Pauls seeks to be a caring community focusing on the hope that in God's time, the travails of this life will subside. Through connections within our own community, we find strength for each day. Each of us is here for a reason and has a God-given role in life, regardless of the circumstances. Moment by moment, it is important to remember there is help and hope.

Faith.Hope.Life. is a reminder that God loves you and knows your struggles and failures, as well as your joys and triumphs. Even when you walk through the valleys of the shadows, God is with you. In the times when it feels like God is far away or doesn't hear our prayers, God gives us people who can help—friends, loved ones, co-workers, others in your faith community, your pastors, and clinical professionals such as counselors, therapists, and doctors. They can be God's heart and God's listening ear when we feel most troubled or alone. If you, or someone you know has lost hope, is feeling completely alone, or that life doesn't matter, *reach out* for help. Let others help. This is especially important if there are thoughts of suicide or wanting to die.

Resources for Help

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (24 hours): 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Pathways2Promise: Ministry and Mental Illness: pathways@mimh.edu

How Can Faith Communities Help in Suicide Prevention?

Studies show that persons experiencing mental health problems or emotional distress frequently turn to faith communities and their leaders for help. You and your faith community can help in many ways:

- **Know the facts.** Suicide does not discriminate. It can touch people of all ages and classes; all racial, ethnic, and religious groups. However, suicide is also preventable and your faith community can play a role.
- **Talk about mental illness.** Help your faith members understand mental health problems as being real and treatable in the same way that physical health problems are. Speak and pray about mental illness just as you would about physical illnesses, such as cancer, heart disease, or diabetes.
- **Promote connectedness.** Fellowship groups, choirs, service work, worship—all are ways people connect in faith communities. Such connections let people know they are not alone and that they are cared for.
- **“Narratives of hope.”** Faith communities share stories—from the Bible, the Koran, or other sacred texts--of how people have overcome adversity and experienced God’s presence in times of struggle and hardship. They also share the stories of their own lives--their faith and courage—that can give hope and strength to others.

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

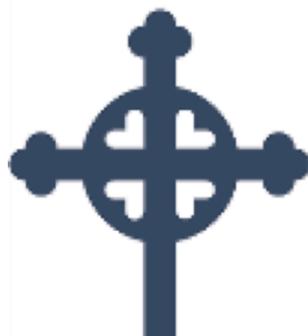
Saint Pauls UCC has a vibrant history in the city of Chicago. Founded in 1843, we are one of the city's oldest churches. In 1989, we became one of America's first congregations to declare ourselves "Open and Affirming" of LGBTQ women and men.

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

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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
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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.