

November 21, 2021

Totenfest

Baptism Sunday

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

Children are asked to go to Sunday School before worship begins.

*Bibles for use during worship are available at each entrance to the Sanctuary.
Assisted listening devices and Bluetooth hearing aid guides are in the Narthex.*

Please silence cell phones.

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

*The more I love God, the more gladly I exist. The more immediately and wholly I exist.
Life itself is glorious, and here joy in existence can be had for nothing.*

Jürgen Moltmann

PRELUDE

There'll Be Peace in the Valley for Me
St. Arbucks Quartet

Thomas Dorsey

I'm tired and so weary
But I must go alone
Till the lord comes and calls, calls me away, oh yes
Well the morning's so bright
And the lamp is alight
And the night, night is as black as the sea.,

There will be peace in the valley for me, some day
There will be peace in the valley for me, oh Lord I pray
There'll be no sadness, no sorrow
No trouble, trouble I see
There will be peace in the valley for me, for me

CHIMES

INTROIT

The Countless Hosts in White Array 17 Century Norwegian
Chancel Choir arr. Edvard Grieg

The countless hosts in white array, that in God's presence ever stay,
All bearing palms, singing psalms, what are these; whence came they?
These are the ransomed souls that bore on earth great tribulation sore;
They overcame through Jesus' name, won life for evermore.

WELCOME

Benny VanDerburgh

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

All: Let us worship God with gladness!

One: Let us come into God's presence with singing.

All: For you, O God, are the Holy One. You have made us, and we belong to you. We are your people, and the sheep of your pasture.

One: We come before you with thanksgiving and we bless your name.

All: For you are good; your steadfast love endures forever, and your faithfulness to all generations.

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

* HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

1. For the_beau - ty of the earth, for the splen - dor of the skies,
2. For the_won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3. For the_joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child.
4. For the_good that love in - spires, for a world where none ex - clude,

For the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
For a faith that nev - er tires, and for ev - ery heart re - newed,

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Benny VanDerburgh

**Giver of every good gift, always more ready to hear than we are to pray,
We confess that we take your good gifts for granted.
Our mouths are full of complaints.
The beauty of the earth is defaced by our greed.
The splendor of the skies is darkened by our smoke.
Forgive us.
Melt our cynical hearts and renew our sense of wonder in your good world.
Open our eyes to the gifts that surround us every day,
Especially the gift of mercy and grace in your Son Jesus Christ,
In whose name we pray. Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RESPONSE

We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer, Creator

v. 1

1. We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
2. We wor - ship you, God of our moth - ers and fa - thers;
3. With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer,

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
through life's storm and tem - pest our guide you have been.
and glad - ly our song of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you, we kneel and a - dore you;
When per - ils o'er - take us, you nev - er will for - sake us,
Our sins now con - fess - ing, we pray for your bless - ing;

we bless your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
and with your help, O God, in life's strug - gles we win.
to you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM OF

Michael Quintin Sanz

Pastor: Michael, receive now the Light of Christ. May you walk always as a child of light. May your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to God. Michael is now received into the love and care of the church. See what love God has given us that we should be called children of God.

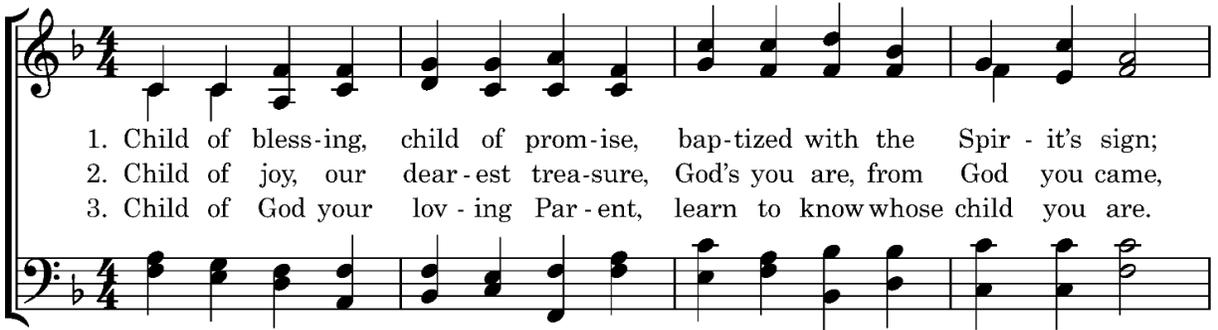
All: Almighty God, giver of life, you have called us by name and pledged to each of us your faithful love. We pray for your child, Michael. Inspire his life. May he sing many songs, know many joys, heal many wounds, and embrace many people in your name. We pray for his parents, that they may be guided by your love so that they may know your presence. May we walk together with this family as witnesses to your gospel, as those for whom you have lived and died and live again. Amen.

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you always.

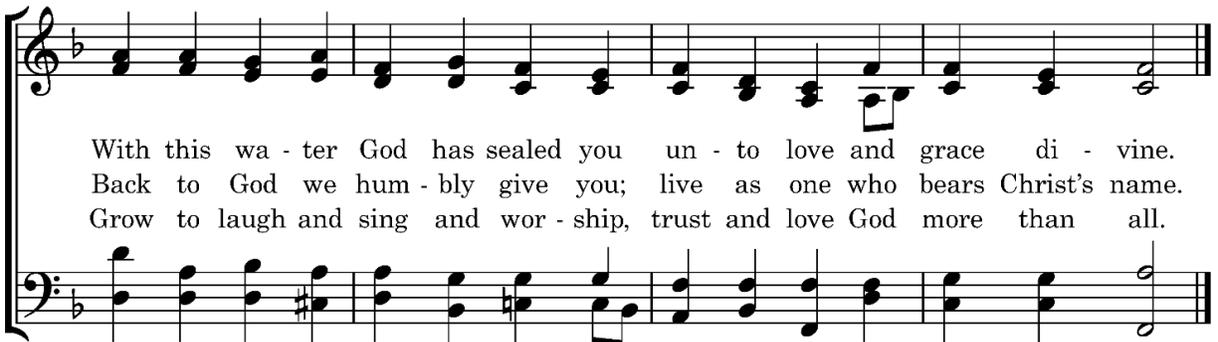
All: Amen

RESPONSE

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise



1. Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap-tized with the Spir - it's sign;
2. Child of joy, our dear-est trea-sure, God's you are, from God you came,
3. Child of God your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to know whose child you are.



With this wa - ter God has sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
Back to God we hum - bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.
Grow to laugh and sing and wor - ship, trust and love God more than all.

SCRIPTURE

Kirsten Simonton

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,

like the watercourses in the Negeb.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

Revelation 21:1–5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.”

* STATEMENT OF FAITH

**We believe in God who has created and is creating,
who has come to us in Jesus Christ to reconcile and make us new,
who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.**

**We trust God. God calls us to be the Church,
to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to care for creation,
to seek justice and to resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

In life and death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

(adapted from the United Church of Canada)

* RESPONSE

We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer, Creator

v.2

See previous response

SERMON

"Memories of Laughter"

Jeff Carlson

* HYMN

Now Thank We All Our God

v. 1 Sung in German, Choir

vv. 2&3 in English, Congregation

1. Nun dank - et al - le Gott, mit Herz - en, Mund und Händ - en,
2. Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voic - es,
3. All praise and thanks to God Our Mak - er now be giv - en,

der gro - sse Ding - e tut an uns und al - len End - en;
Who won - drous things has done, In whom this world re - joic - es,
To Christ, and Spir - it, too, our help in high - est heav - en,

der uns von Mut - ter - leib und Kind - es - bein - en an
Who, from our par - ents' arms, Has blessed us on our way
The one e - ter - nal God, Whom earth and heav'n a - dore,

un - zäh - lig viel zu gut bis hier - her hat ge - tan.
With count - less gifts of love, And still is ours to - day.
For thus it was, is now, And shall be ev - er - more.

GIVING MOMENT

Michael Sanders

OFFERTORY

Goin' Home

Antonin Dvořak

Jennifer Kew, Breanna Coe, and Todd Coe, soloists
Chancel Choir

Goin' home, goin' home, I'm a goin' home
Quietlike, some still day, I'm jes' goin' home.
It's not far, jes' close by, through an open door
Work all done, care laid by, Gwine to fear no more
Mother's there, 'spectin' me, Father's waiting, too
Lots o' folk gathered there, all the friends I know. All the friends I know.
Nothin' lost, all's gain, no more fret nor pain
No more stumblin' on the way, no more longin' for the day
Gwine to roam no more
Mornin' star lights the way, restless dream all done
Shadows gone, break o' day, real life jes' begun.

Dere's no break, ain't no end, jes' a livin' on
Wide awake with a smile, goin' on and on
Goin' home, goin' home, I'm jes' goin' home.
It's not far, jes' close by, through an open door
I'm a goin' home. I'm jes' goin' home.

You can give to St. Pauls by:

Scanning this code with your cell phone camera,

At spucc.churchcenter.com/giving,

Or through Zelle with your bank to giving@spucc.org.



TOTENFEST TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Matt Fitzgerald

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 All the Saints



1. For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, Who
2. Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might:_____
3. O blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine!_____
4. And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long,_____

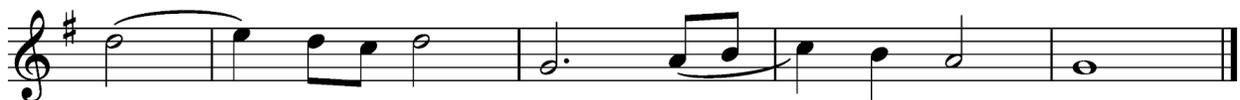


thee_____ by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
Thou, Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight;_____

We fee - bly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; Yet
Steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, And



name O_____ Je - sus, be for - ev - er_____ blest.
Thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one_ true_ light.
all are_____ one in thee, for all_ are_ thine.
hearts are_____ brave a - gain, and arms are_ strong.



Al - - le - lu - ia! Al - - le - lu - ia!

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

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

POSTLUDE

Symphony No. 4—Finale
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

Charles-Marie Widor

If you would like someone to pray with you today, Stephen Ministers are present after the Postlude at the right front of the Sanctuary.

Following Worship, all are invited for a Social Hour time of fellowship in the gym. At this time, we will not be serving coffee so everyone remains masked while indoors.

THE MEANING OF TOTENFEST

This is the last Sunday of the church year. The new church year begins next week with the First Sunday in Advent. Today, we remember those in our congregation who have died and we give thanks for their lives. We lift up in prayer the families and friends of those who have lost loved ones. From St. Pauls' German heritage, we call this day Totenfest, which means "a festival celebration for those who have died." The liturgical color for this Sunday is white, a symbol of resurrection.

THE TOTENFEST ROLL

*Members of St. Pauls who have died this church year, and friends
at whose services a St. Pauls pastor officiated:*

Dan Nitzsche
November 19, 2020

Larry Butcher
March 3, 2021

Carole Knuti
August 12, 2021

Shirley Rieck
November 30, 2020

Ruth Cuzman
April 10, 2021

Marilyn Parsons
August 13, 2021

Sheryl Mooney
January 7, 2021

Karl Wirsum
May 6, 2021

Delcie White
August 18, 2021

Amy Newman
January 23, 2021

Susann Craig
June 28, 2021

David Killius
September 10, 2021

Nial Joseph
February 13, 2021

Noor JaQuay
August 1, 2021

James Hammac
October 2, 2021

TOTENFEST MEMORIALS

Lance Nogle from Sally Fletcher

Wanda Ellithrope-Fletcher from Sally Fletcher

Scott Reichard from Sally Fletcher

Leroy and Henrietta (Scholten) Dykstra from Andrew and Lynn Davis

Lee Kenton Dykstra from Andrew and Lynn Davis

Edward Seeley Davis from Andrew and Lynn Davis

Sharon Sikes from Andrew and Lynn Davis

Amy Newman from Tilly Wilhoite

Judy Anderson from Tilly Wilhoite

Caryl Wilhoite from Tilly Wilhoite

Sue Adler from Tilly Wilhoite

Julie Brooks from Tilly Wilhoite

Ed Zasadil from his spouse, Larry Simpson

Jeanne Strauss from Larry Simpson

Thomas Solorsano from Larry Simpson

Karl Wirsum from Larry Simpson

Rosemary Schnell from Larry Simpson

Nial Joseph from Gloria Joseph

Charles and Marion Joachim from Maxine Joachim

Nancy Brandt from Bill Borden and Allen Heinemann

Karl Wirsum from Ruby, Zack and Lorri Gunn Wirsum

Dan Nietzsche from Linda, Jake, Kyle and Claire Nietzsche

Colleen Henry from Tom, Anya, Brendan and their family

TODAY'S MUSIC

Thomas Dorsey (1899-1993) is truly the originator of gospel music, a fusion of church music with jazz. He is a Chicago original and beloved worldwide. He wrote ***There'll Be Peace in the Valley for Me*** in 1939 for Mahalia Jackson (1911-1972). It was the first gospel recording to sell more than 1 million copies. It has been covered by singers from country and western singer Red Foley (1910-1968) to Elvis Presley (1935-1977).

The Countless Hosts in White Array is a Norwegian folk melody from the 17th century. DEN STORE HVIDE FLOK, which is the tune name, is the first line of the Norwegian poem by Hans Adolf Brorson (1694-1764), who composed the poem c. 1760. Helen A. Dickinson (1875-957) provided the translation into English in 1907. This hymn arrangement was by one of Norway's most famous composers, Edvard Grieg (1843-1907). Among Grieg's many great works is the *Peer Gynt Suite* and his *Piano Concerto*.

The text for ***For the Beauty of the Earth*** was written by Folliott S. Pierpont (1835 - 1917). In the spring of 1863, Pierpont sat on a hill above his home in Bath, England, and this text flowed from his gratitude for the wonders of nature. The tune DIX was composed by German composer Konrad Kocher (1786 -1872). He was trained as a teacher and eventually founded the School for Sacred Song in Stuttgart.

The tune, KREMSER, is an unattributed Dutch folksong and dates from the 16th century. We also know a more traditional Thanksgiving text in English, *We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing*. The text of this version, **We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer, Creator**, was written by Julia C. Cory (1882-1963) in 1902. Because her father was a Sunday school superintendent and an amateur hymn writer, Julia began composing hymn texts at a very early age.

The text for ***Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*** was written in 1981 by a UCC pastor and teacher of theology, Ronald Cole-Turner (b. 1948). The tune, STUTTGART, was composed in 1715 by Christian Friederich Witt (1660-1716). Witt completed a huge hymnal *Psalmodia Sacra* the year before his death. Of the 774 hymns (!!!), nearly 100 were composed by him. He was Kapellmeister of the Gotha court in Stuttgart at the same time that Bach was in Leipzig, just 300 miles north. As an interesting side note, Nathan Laube, world renowned organist and friend of St. Pauls, is currently on the organ faculty at the Hochschule für Musik in Stuttgart.

Now Thank We All Our God is a translation by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878) of the original German by Martin Rinkart (1586-1649) written in 1636. Winkworth, although born in England, spent many years in Dresden, which is why she was so adept at translating German chorales. She was also a tireless fighter for women's rights. Rinkart became a scholar at St. Thomas School in Leipzig where Bach would later be Kapellmeister. The tune, NUN DANKET, takes its name from the first words of the German text. It is most often attributed to Johann Crüger (1558-1662), who in reality was the publisher of the psalter where this hymn tune first appeared.

Goin' Home is an anthem based on a beautiful theme in the *Symphony No. 9, "From the New World"* by Antonin Dvořák (1841-1904). Dvořák was a Czech composer who spent a very important part of his career in the United States. He was deeply affected by folk music of his Bohemian heritage, so it is not surprising that during his time in our country that he was also moved by the African American spirituals he heard. The famous African American composer Harry T Burleigh worked with Dvořák, so for many years, it was assumed that the tune we associate with *Goin' Home* was a spiritual Dvořák had heard. The problem is that there is no record of a spiritual with that title or melody. It is a tribute to Dvořák that he created a melody that was an homage to a musical genre that was foreign to him but also tugged at the roots of his love for Bohemian folk music. The words were added in 1922 by one of his American students, William Arms Fischer, who expressed the hope and belief of life beyond death just *close by, through an open door*.

The author of the text of ***For All the Saints*** was William Walsham How (1823-1897). He penned the poetry we love so much in 1864. How was an Oxford graduate and served many parishes in England throughout his life. Just to prove there can be a sense of humor even in hymn tune names, SINE NOMINE, means "no name" in Latin. The stirring music was written in 1906 by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). He is one of the greatest English composers of the post-Victorian era. He composed music for nearly all genres of performance.

The **Finale** from *Symphony No. 4 in F minor, Op 13 No. 4* was composed by Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937) and dates from 1872. Along with Louis Vièrne, Widor was one of the great Romantic symphonists for organ. Vièrne was one of his students, as was Marcel Dupré. He was born into a family of organ builders. He composed 10 symphonies for the organ. He was also the organist of Saint-Sulpice in Paris from 1870 to 1933. This Finale has been eclipsed in popularity by his Toccata from his *Symphony No. 5 in F minor, Opus 42, No. 1*, but it shows his brilliance as both a composer and his own talent as a performer.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Matt Fitzgerald, Jeff Carlson, Benny VanDerburgh

Music Director: Kurt R. Hansen

Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski

St. Arbucks Quartet: Brendan Henry, piano; Alex Austin, bass; Matt Plaskota, drums; Kris Hansen, trumpet & vocals

Scripture Reader: Kirsten Simonton

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: Doug Clark, Fred Pearson

Head Greeter: Greg Mooney

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

Streaming Service Team: Jim Alrutz, Marie Ankenman, Bob Ball, Jose Cruz, Brian Hafner, Chuck Kent

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

BORN THIS WEEK IN NOVEMBER

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

Nov 21 Gregg Taylor III

Nov 22 Mitch Holzrichter

Nov 23 Jim Miller, Kyle Mack, Tom Hanson, Cale Roschen

Nov 24 Jake Lippert, Shari Charlton, Hannah Mutch, Lincoln Thomas,
Pierce Prangle

Nov 25 Daniel Lias, Randall Kooistra

Nov 26 Owen Taylor, Carrie Bettler

Nov 27 Steve Mannina, Bennett England

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAST DAY TO ORDER PECAN PIES!

Our pecan pie sales will now support the Polar Peace March. Pies are wonderful fresh and can be frozen (still wonderful)! Order and pay by credit card online (link below), or after worship today in the Narthex by cash or check. \$22/pie, limit two pies per person. Pickup November 23 from 1-5 p.m. or November 24 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Questions/concerns, please contact Mary Brown at (847) 989-5966 or doddbrown@sbcglobal.net.

spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1061957

CHRISTMAS WREATH SALE

You can decorate your home this year and the proceeds will support St. Pauls outreach and benevolence efforts. Due to a national Christmas tree shortage, we will only have 24" or 36" wreaths available this year. Each wreath is made of fresh boughs pulled from the Christmas tree fields mounted on a metal ring for easy hanging. The 24" wreath is the typical "door sized" option. Order and pay ahead online and pick up your wreath in our church parking lot on December 4 from 11:30 a.m to 1:30 p.m., or order for delivery within Chicago.

spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1078268

SANCTUARY CHRISMON TREE SETUP

We will be assembling and decorating our sanctuary Chrismon tree on Friday, December 3 starting at 8 a.m. We know from years past that it takes roughly six hours to fully assemble the tree, so your participation is both welcome and appreciated! Please contact Lorne Frank at lornefrank@lornefrank.com if you plan to join in the holiday fun.

ADVENT MARKET ITEMS NEEDED

The Advent Market on Sunday, December 12 will help fund the cost of the Polar Peace March. We need new or gently used regiftable items such as jewelry, candles, frames, handmade items, Christmas decorations, toys, etc. (Please, no clothing unless it is holiday specific.) The drop-off dates are December 4, 5, 10, and 11 (times TBD). Questions, please text or email Kristin Lane Mack at (773) 322-7727 or klanemack@gmail.com or Carrie Bruggers at (773) 294-4446, crbruggers@gmail.com.

ALL ABOARD THE UCAN GIFT TRAIN!

UCAN's annual gift drive is back and making all the station stops. Help us stay on track to deliver gifts to young people in need this holiday season. Sign up in the Narthex today to purchase a \$50 gift card for a UCAN participant. Gift cards are due at church by Sunday, December 5. For a virtual option, visit ucanchicago.org/gift-train. Reach out to Rebecca Sandoval with any questions, rebecca.sandoval@ucanchicago.org.

REFUGEE FAMILY UPDATE

We don't have an arrival date for our family yet, but we are in great shape to welcome them to Chicago. We do have openings on a couple of teams supporting this effort. We need several more people on the apartment team (i.e., moving the furniture from St. Pauls to the new apartment) and one or two more folks on the mentoring team. If you're interested, please email Mark Pellegrino, jjmarkp@yahoo.com. Thank you for your tremendous support in the preparations for our refugee family!

2022 ALTAR FLOWER & SCRIPTURE READER SIGN-UPS

Sign-ups for next year's altar flowers and scripture readers are now available! Sign up for flowers here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1078968
Sign up for reading here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1079008

CREATION CORNER

Consider ditching those 40-50 disposable razors that an average shaver uses each year for a metal handled safety razor which can last a lifetime! The razor blades decompose and are inexpensive.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DEC 1 - BIBLE STUDY: 1 CORINTHIANS 15 - THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION-
12 p.m., Zoom

St. Paul's famous words about love were written to a local church only about 7 years old. They were new Christians struggling to build a community around the good news of Jesus. For Paul, Christian faith can only be lived in community and in this letter he addresses the questions and struggles of a group of early Christians that remain surprisingly similar to our own. 1 Corinthians is a timely book to read as we reenter our in-person life together. Meets weekly on Zoom. RSVP: Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org.

DEC 2 - READING WITH ST. AUGUSTINE - 5 p.m., Cloud Room

We will gather bi-weekly on Thursday evenings in witness to Augustine of Hippo's *Confessions*, one of the first Christian autobiographies. Participation requires little to no outside reading. We will experience the text together in a contemplative gathering that will include periods of prayer and silence. This series will bridge other studies focused on the Biblical period and early church movement to take us to the early days of the Latin church, that period of global growth and imagination. How do St. Augustine's words stir us today? To join in or for more information, please email Benny at bvanderburgh@spucc.org.

DEC 9 - INTERFAITH ROUNDTABLE ON HOMELESSNESS - 6:30-8 p.m., Zoom

How can YOU make a difference in the problem of homelessness? Join an interfaith roundtable on homelessness in Chicago to learn about the Bring Home Chicago Coalition's ballot initiative to generate revenue for housing solutions. Chicago Metropolitan Association UCC Associate Minister Rev. Dr. Terrill Murff is a featured speaker. Register today at bit.ly/BCHbringinghome.

DEC 9 - LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION BLACK QUEER EQUITY INDEX UPDATE EVENT - 6:00 p.m., Zoom

Since last spring, Lighthouse Foundation has worked meticulously to establish indicators of equity for Black Queer folks in the workplace. The Black Queer Equity Index (BQEI) surveys the top LGBTQ+ serving organizations in Chicago to ensure that Black LGBTQ+ employees and board members are treated justly. During this event, you will hear an update on the BQEI, including their evaluation findings thus far and plans for the project's future. For RSVP information visit lightfoundchi.org.

DEC 13 - COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO, PART 2, DISCUSSION - 7 p.m.

The Long, Classic Novels Reading Group will discuss part two of Alexandre Dumas' page-turner adventure novel. Fast readers have time to catch up! RSVP: Jeff Carlson, jcarlson@spucc.org. Feel free to email Jeff with your nominees for next year's reading list.

DEC 14 - AN EVENING WITH SUFJAN'S CHRISTMAS(ES) - 7 p.m., Sanctuary

Did you know that Sufjan Stevens has released 101 Christmas songs? He has released three versions of *Angels We Have Heard on High* alone. Many Christians and non-Christian music lovers alike have rested in his strange and sincere covers as a way to make it through this season faithfully. Join Pastoral Associate Benny for this special listening event in our sanctuary on Tuesday, December 14 at 7 p.m. We'll quietly enjoy Sufjan's work and contemplate our own belonging in the vast tradition of preparing for the Christ child. RSVP at bvanderburgh@spucc.org – and if you have requests for what we listen to, send titles his way!

OPPORTUNITIES

ALTAR FLOWERS – Providing flowers for the altar is an excellent way of celebrating a special event in your life: an anniversary, a birthday, a holiday, or just because you like flowers! Sign up at spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1078968

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 SIGN-UP – Are you new to St. Pauls and want to get more connected? You can go to spucc.org to fill out our virtual fellowship card to begin receiving our weekly email and special congregational emails, introduce yourself and request more information about our programs!

EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM & CARDS

The Emergency Contact Form developed by the Connectors has been updated. You may follow this link for additional information and to consider whether this form could be useful for you: spucc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/178271.

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. If you prefer to complete a paper document, please contact the office, info@spucc.org. 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. The Green Team welcomes your input, participation and ideas. Joe Womack and Jan Fraccaro are co-chairs. If interested or to offer suggestions, 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 three vegetarian, at the 600 W. Fullerton location.

OUTREACH & BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE – Do you have a passion for reaching out to others? The St. Pauls O&B Committee would love you to 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.

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!

SARAH’S SIBS are back and gather every Wednesday morning to make and distribute 40 bag lunches to our homeless neighbors. You are most welcome to come to the church kitchen at 9:30 a.m. and lend a hand.

SCRIPTURE READER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for the 10 a.m. in-person worship service each week to read the scripture passage of the day. Learn more and sign up here:

spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1079008

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).

SUNDAY SCHOOL – If you plan to have your child participate in Sunday School this year, we ask that you please register them. This is a one-time registration to let us know that you intend to have your child participate so we can prepare the correct staffing and activities, spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/985445

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY – 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.

- Marty, sister of Jan Bail, as she faces another cancer diagnosis.
- Jana O'Brien, recovering from surgery.
- Loved ones of Ann, mother-in-law of Erin Fitzgerald, at her passing.
- Bob Kuba as he is challenged by some significant health issues.
- Peter Doerr's mother, Annette, recovering from injuries from a car accident.
- Mary Frances Winking's parents facing health and quality of life obstacles.
- Michelle Rodriguez, on the death of her aunt.
- Adé, a young Chicago artist and bicyclist who was struck by a car and is in a coma in critical condition. Prayers are needed for him, his family and ICU caregivers.
- Friends and family of Steve Stack at his death. For service details, see stevestack.org.
- Wes Salsbury and Marcia Knudson as Wes continues to develop strength after a months-long hospitalization and rehab stay occasioned by a fall.
- Bruce and Betty Voice are now living with her son Raymond. Cards are welcome at 2763 Peach Orchard Road, Anderson, MO 64831.
- The many who have not received the COVID-19 vaccine, to get it before it's too late. May we all find our role in helping this happen.
- Al Cerkan, recovering from major back surgery.
- Carole Crowley, recovering from a stroke.

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.

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 people.

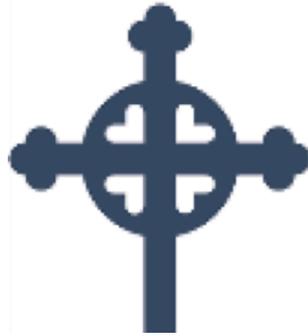
From founding Chicago's largest provider of social services to at-risk children to starting a home for the elderly, from housing protestors at the 1968 Democratic Convention to hosting Lincoln Park's first MLK day march against violence on Chicago's streets, we are proud to make a joyful sound in the city.

Most important, over the past 178 years we are glad to have introduced thousands of children and adults to the amazing, inclusive, life changing, uplifting love of God. We do so in worship that is traditional, but far from conventional.

Senior Pastor Matt Fitzgerald, mfitzgerald@spucc.org
Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, jcarlson@spucc.org
Pastoral Associate Benny VanDerburgh, bvanderburgh@spucc.org
Pastor Emeritus Tom Henry, emeritushenry@gmail.com

For a complete list of St. Pauls Staff, Governance, and Lay Leadership
Please visit spucc.org/contact

St. Pauls United Church of Christ
2335 N Orchard St. | Chicago, IL 60614
(773) 348-3829 www.spucc.org



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.