

May 22, 2022

“Thank God the Kids Are Back”

Bible Off Broadway Lite

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

Please silence cell phones.

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

PRELUDE

Kids in America
St. Arbucks Trio

Ricky Wilde
& Marty Wilde

INTROIT

Home
Special Lyrics by Philip Smedley
Max Waldschmidt, trumpet
Breanna Coe, recorder

Jade Castrinos
& Alex Ebert

Alabama, Arkansas
I sure love my dear St. Pauls
Just about as much as I love you
Well, holy moly, me oh my
God's the apple of my eye
Lord, I've never loved one like you
Man, oh man, you're my best friend
I scream it to the nothingness
There ain't nothing that I need
Well, you have opened up my eyes,
Holy spirit, Jesus Christ
There ain't nothing please me more than you

Oh, home, finally home
Home is wherever we're with you
Oh, home, finally home
Home is wherever we're with you
(trumpet)

La, la, la, la, take me home
St. Pauls, I'm coming home

Oh, home, finally home
Home is wherever we're with you
Oh, home, finally home
Home is wherever we're with you
(trumpet)

La, la, la, la, take me home
St. Pauls, I'm coming home

CHIMES

WELCOME

Matt Fitzgerald

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP POEM

The Power of Gratitude
Read by Zack Murray

Maria Meziani

In the darkness of the night,
or the brightness of the day
In the depths of the sea,
or the heights of the sky
In the silence of the streets,
or the chaos of the house
I am forever grateful for everyone and everything.
This mere feeling of gratitude,
overrides the inevitable solitude in our hearts
It has the ability to turn sadness and happiness,
a house into a home, an enemy into a friend
It can turn helplessness into helpfulness,
failure into success, procrastination into productivity
Evil into Good
Therefore, I am grateful for my family, friends and teachers.
By surviving we are thriving,
And by appreciating we are creating,
Creating a better world for the rest of us,
Those of us that are left.

* HYMN

Take My Gifts



1. Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
2. Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree your Spirit sowed,
3. Take what - ev - er I can offer— gifts that I have yet to find,



gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free,
harvest of your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God,
skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind,



now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
spiced with humor, laced with laughter— flavor of the Jesus life,
things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be:



now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!
tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief.
take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Benny VanDerburgh

**God of all creation, we cry out to you together
As your children. Too often we go about our days
Without prayer and without praise, without rejoicing
In the gifts you have given us to share and grow.
Too often we live only to consume and not create,
Too often we ignore the wisdom of your youngest children.
Forgive us for our sins today, God. Help us
Join together in praise for all that you have made
And continue to make. Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RESPONSE

God, We Thank You for Our People

vv. 1-2

1. God, we thank you for our peo-ple, roots dug deep with-in the soil,
 2. Thank you, God, for gen-tle plea-sure: les-sons learned and se-crets told,
 3. Still we must con-fess be-fore you, some-times, Sav-ior, we have failed;
 4. By your Spir-it of cre-a-tion keep us bold for risk-ing still,

har-dy spir-its, rich in lov-ing, strong for strug-gle, bold for toil.
 hopes and mem-ories saved as trea-sure, passed to young ones by the old,
 though we wor-ship and a-dore you, some-times love has not pre-vailed.
 ea-ger in an-ti-ci-pa-tion, ev-er strong to do your will.

Faith-ful Rock of gen-er-a-tions, you whom par-ents' par-ents praised:
 Pranks and glo-ries, songs and sto-ries, food by lov-ing hands pre-pared.
 Tem-pers rac-ing, dev-il chas-ing, hearts es-tranged by ice or flame
 Bind us close to one an-oth-er, shar-ing life and death and birth,

Here in hope as we re-mem-ber may our song to you be raised.
 God, we bless you for your pres-ence in our tears and laugh-ter shared.
 You trans-form by ways for-giv-ing. Grace a-maz-ing! Grace, your name!
 Wel-com-ing as sis-ter, broth-er, all your chil-dren on the earth.

SCRIPTURE

Breanna Coe

Psalm 95:1-7

Come, let's shout praises to God,
Let's sing to the Lord;
He is the Rock who saved us.
Let's march into his presence singing praises,
 lifting the rafters with our hymns!
And why? Because the Lord is great.
 High King over all the gods.
In one hand he holds deep caves and caverns,
 in the other hand grasps the high mountains.
He made the Ocean. The seas are his.
 His hands sculpted the Earth!
So come, let us worship: bow before him,
 on your knees before God, who made us!
For he is our God,
And we are the people of his pasture,
 the flock he feeds,
 the sheep of his hand.

* 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

God, We Thank You for Our People

v. 4

POETRY READING

See previous hymn

Pandemic

Lynn Ungar

Read by Jareth Renfrow

ANTHEM

Waiting on a Miracle

Special Lyrics by Kecia Waldschmidt

Chloe Combs, soloist

Don't be upset or mad at all

Don't feel regret or sad at all

Hey, we're still a part of our family of St Pauls

And we're fine, aren't we totally fine?

We will stand up and make the light shine

We're still yours, you're still mine!

We can't come to St Pauls

We can't shake the feeling of doom

We can't take another class staring at Zoom

Waiting on a miracle

We still feel so broken

Can't control the crazy things running through our brain

Can't keep down the unspoken invisible pain

Always hoping for a miracle, a miracle

Always waiting at home

Always wanting for more

Like we're still at the door longing to find

Light that all of you shine

All we need is a change

All we need is a chance

All we know is we can't stay on the side

Open your doors, open your arms, open your eyes!

We could prove we're faithful

Make new paths for life to grow

Someone please just let us know, when can we go?

We are waiting on a miracle, a miracle

We could heal what's broken
Show this family what to do
Let us all inside, so we can come through!
We're sick of waiting on a miracle, so here we go
We are ready, come on, we're ready
We've been patient, and steadfast, and steady
Bless us now as you blessed us all those years ago
When you gave us a miracle
Because our church is a miracle.

SERMON

"Back How?"

Winnie Kearns
& Matt Fitzgerald

* HYMN

Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers



1. Thank our God for_ sis - ters, broth - ers, one by_ grace, in_ har - mo - ny,
2. Praise to_ God for_ con - gre - ga - tions, keep - ing faith with Christ as guide;
3. Ho - ly_ is your name for - ev - er! Heal di - vi - sions that re - main;



Join - ing heart to_ heart with oth - ers, mak - ing strong com - mu - ni - ty.
Man - y_ tongues of_ man - y na - tions, song and ser - vice u - ni - fied.
Bless the_ church's new en - deav - ors; make our_ wit - ness one a - gain.



With the_ cross of Christ our_ stan - dard, let us_ sing as with one_ voice,
Sweet the psalm and sweet the_ car - ol, when our song is raised as_ one.
One in_ Christ and in Christ's gos - pel, make us_ one we now im - plore.



Glo - ry, _ glo - ry, _ yours the prom - ise: we who are the church re - joice.
Glo - ry, _ glo - ry, _ yours the pow - er, as in heaven your will be done.
Glo - ry, _ glo - ry, _ yours the glo - ry, then and now and ev - er - more.

OFFERTORY

Ho Hey

Jeremy Fraites

Special Lyrics by Philip Smedley

& Wesley Schultz

Owen Waldschmidt, cello

Josiah, Toby, and Philip Smedley, solo ensemble

(Ho) I been staying' here instead

(Hey) I been sleepin' in my bed

(Ho) I been sleepin' in my bed

(Hey)

(Ho)

(Ho) I missed church family

(Hey) All the people I could see

(Ho) I sure know where I belong

(Hey) Even when I know I'm wrong

(Ho) But I can sing a song

1.2.3.(Hey)

I belong with you, you belong with me

You're my St. Pauls

I belong with you, you belong with me

You're my Saint...Pauls!

(Hey)

Doesn't matter where you've been

(Hey) God forgives our every sin

(Ho) Take a bus to Fullerton

(Hey) We'll be standing here again

(Ho) in Christianity

(Hey)

(Ho) And you'll be standin' next to me

(Hey)

I belong with you, you belong with me
 You're my St. Pauls
 I belong with you, you belong with me
 You're my St. Pauls
 Love, we need it now
 Let's hope for some
 'Cause, oh, we're bleedin' out
 I belong with you, you belong with me
 You're my St. Pauls
 I belong with you, you belong with me
 You're my Saint...Pauls!

You can give to St. Pauls electronically by:

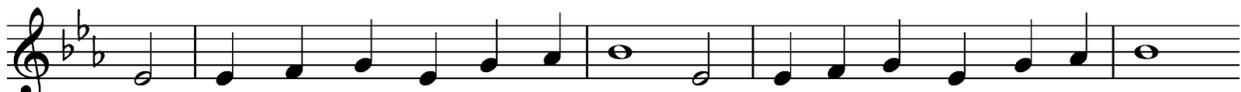
Scanning this code with your cell phone camera,

At spucc.churchcenter.com/giving,

Or through Zelle to giving@spucc.org.



*** FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY**


 Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures 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.

POETRY READING

Ode to Thanks

Pablo Neruda

Read by Olivia Kearns

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.**

* BENEDICTION

* FINALE

Thank God for Lettin' Us

Sylvester (Sly) Stewart

Be Saint Pauls Again

Special Lyrics by Jana O'Brien

Two long years of COVID, stayin' close to home

Separated members; tired of bein' alone.

Worship went to streaming; watching on a screen;

No church school, no cookies -- made us want to scream!

We just want to thank God, for-uh lettin' us

Come to church again!

Thank God, for-uh lettin' us

Be Saint Pauls, again!

Now here we are together, gathered Sunday morn.

Praying, singing, learning, feeling we're reborn.

Thank God for the science that led to the vaccine.

Thank God for helping guide us back to our routine!

(ON FINAL VERSE, CONGREGATION JOINS IN TO SING CHORUS)

We just want to thank God, for-uh lettin' us

Come to church again!

Thank God, for-uh lettin' us

Be Saint Pauls, again!

POSTLUDE

The Kids Are Alright

Peter Townshend

St. Arbucks Trio

Kecia Waldschmidt, Soloist

with Breanna Coe and Jana O'Brien, back-up

Special Lyrics by Jana O'Brien

Thank God for the kids who came to church today
We're blessed by the spirit they've shown every day
Through two years of shutdown they've shown spirit and might
God won't leave them behind, so the kids are alright
The kids are alright.

We don't mind when our children sometimes give us hell
That's fine, just as long as they've all stayed well
And we know that our kids still see God's blessed light
God won't leave them behind, so the kids are alright
The kids are alright.

On Sunday, we feel we've gotta get away
Bells chime, and God calls us all to church that day
And we know if we don't go we'll go out of our mind
God won't leave us behind, so the kids are alright
The kids are alright
The kids are alright!

***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 coffee and snacks
downstairs in the Social Hall.***

TODAY'S MUSIC

Kids in America is a song recorded by British singer Kim Wilde that was largely inspired by the synth-pop style of the times. It was released in the United Kingdom as Wilde's debut single in January 1981 and in the United States in the spring of 1982. The single reached No. 2 on the U.K. Singles Chart and the Top 40 in the USA.

Home was written and recorded by American group Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros, an American folk-rock band formed in Los Angeles in 2007. It was released in January 2010 as the second single from the album, *Up from Below*, and has been featured in films, a range of episodes of television programs, and advertising campaigns. The original recording is sung by composers Alex Ebert and Jade Castrinos as a duet.

Take My Gifts is a relatively new text (1998) that was penned by Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020). She lived her entire life in New Zealand, wrote numerous hymn texts, married a Presbyterian minister, and was committed to both inclusive language and the use of Maori language in some texts. TALAVERA TERRACE was composed by another New Zealander, Colin Gibson (b. 1933). He wrote many hymns, both texts and music, collaborated often with Murray, and was a professor in a theater department at a university in his homeland.

The original text for ***Thank Our God for Our People*** was written in 1948 by Roger K. Powell (1914-2003) as a rallying song for The National Council of Churches meeting in 1952. The text was updated for our *New Century Hymnal*. HOLY MANNA is an unattributed melody from the great American series of shaped-note hymnals from the early 19th century, including *The Sacred Harp*.

Waiting on a Miracle comes from the wildly popular Disney film, *Encanto*. It is a bambuco song, a traditional Colombian music genre. During the 2018 research trip to Colombia, the filmmakers noticed that local musicians in Barichara were playing Colombian music in 3/4 waltz time. Composer Lin-Manuel Miranda wrote the song in that time signature to symbolize how Mirabel is in a "different rhythmic universe than the rest of her family."

The original text for ***Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers*** was written in 1948 by Roger K. Powell (1914-2003) as a rallying song for The National Council of Churches meeting in 1952. The text was updated for our *New Century Hymnal*. PLEADING SAVIOR was first published in 1830 and is attributed to Joshua Levitt (1794-1873). Levitt was a Yale graduate and became a Congregational minister. He aided a slave to escape the South and raised funds for the defense of the Armistad captives.

Ho Hey is a song by American folk-rock band The Lumineers that was released in 2012 as the lead single from their debut self-titled studio album. The song reached No. 1 for 18 non-consecutive weeks on the *Billboard* Rock Songs Chart, also charting on the Alternative, Adult Pop and Mainstream charts.

Thank You (Falettinme Be Mice Elf Agin) was recorded in 1969 by Sly and the Family Stone. The tune reached No. 1 on the Soul Single Charts for five weeks and reached No. 1 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 in February 1970. The title is an intentional sensational, funky spelling of "thank you for letting me be myself again." Stone wrote the song because he felt listeners were not hearing the messages in his songs. His band was integrated and tried to spread the message of racial harmony, but Stone thought that message was getting lost.

The Kids Are Alright was written by Pete Townshend and recorded by the English rock band The Who. It appears as the seventh track on their 1965 debut album *My Generation*. While not a huge hit at the time, the song became an anthem for the band and the Mod subculture of England in the 1960s. It later became the name of the 1979 documentary about the band.

Sources for BOB song notes: Wikipedia and Songfacts.com

“Thank God the Kids Are Back”
Bible Off Broadway Lite 2022

The Bible Off Broadway Team	Carrie Bruggers, Breanna Coe, Jana O’Brien, Philip Smedley, Kecia Waldschmidt
Music Director	Kecia Waldschmidt
Accompaniment	St. Arbucks Trio, Kecia Waldschmidt
Solo Instrumentalists	Breanna Coe, Max Waldschmidt, Owen Waldschmidt
Staff Liaisons	Danielle Mayfield, Pastor Matt Fitzgerald
Poetry Readers	Olivia Kearns, Zack Murray, Jareth Renfrow
Reader Coach	Wayne Parman
Sound Production	Kevin Dzierzawski
Photography	Sue Finkle

The Bible Off Broadway Lite Performers

Warren Bettler	James Mix
Ryan Castle	Thomas Mix
Winnie Castle	Jareth Renfrow
Cecilia Chamberlain	Kai Renfrow
Chloe Combs	Abby Simonton
Holland Emmrich	Maira Simonton
Myers Emmrich	Josiah Smedley
Everett Hamm	Toby Smedley
Jennie Hamm	Lee Waldschmidt
Alayna Mack	Max Waldschmidt
Eva Mack	Owen Waldschmidt
Thea Mack	

Our heartfelt thanks to the parents, grandparents, and child stewards who helped these children rehearse and engage in this joyful experience after a two-year hiatus from in-person participation. We “Thank God” for you and your faithful spirits, too.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Matt Fitzgerald, Benny VanDerburgh, Jeff Carlson

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: Breanna Coe

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, Mary Ann Brown

Head Greeter: Greg Mooney

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

Camera Operators: Jim Alrutz, Marie Ankenman, Bob Ball, Jose Cruz, Brian Hafner, Chuck Kent

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are in celebration and thanks to the Bible off Broadway team – Carrie Bruggers, Breanna Coe, Jana O'Brien, Philip Smedley, and Kecia Waldschmidt.

BORN THIS WEEK IN MAY

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.

May 22 Leslie Chamberlain, Julian Chaiken

May 23 Julie Walker

May 24 Josiah Smedley, David Wu

May 25 Carlos Cata, Karen Rieck, Becca Fayhee

May 26 Karen Brach, Mary Kay Campbell, Ryan Gillmore

May 27 Libby Braband, Norman Beck, Graham Roark

May 28 Christine Terborg, Kim Beck, Nancy Curotto, Tyler Holland, Alayna McMillen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER CHURCH CHILD CARE, SUNDAY MORNINGS

If you plan to have your 2 years old and under child(ren) attend Summer Church Child Care during June to August 2021-2022, please register at spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1306425. Email questions to Children's Program Coordinator Danielle Mayfield at danielle.mayfield@spucc.org.

SUMMER CAMP 2022

Registration for camp at St. Pauls is open! We will have structured fun inside our classrooms, in the gym, and outside in the sun.

Children ages 6-12 can register here for a half or full day week of camp, June 20-24:

spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1273864

Children ages 2-5 can register here for half-day camp options, July 5-28:

spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1250759

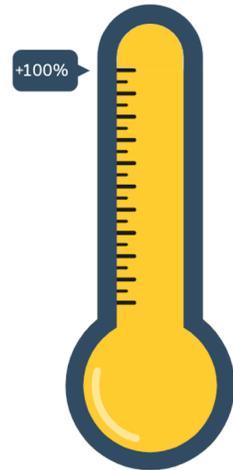
THANK YOU FOR DONATING TO THE YOUTH MISSION TRIP!

Thank you to all who have supported St. Pauls youth fundraising efforts for their service trip to repair homes and serve others in Appalachia this June. Your generosity has raised over \$10,000! Your donations help fund the tools and supplies, their van and gas, and other expenses for their week away. Thank you for helping to support our emerging congregational leaders, who have spent the last years of their adolescence altered by Covid-19.

You can still donate here:

spucc.churchcenter.com/giving/to/2022-youth-mission-trip-donations-appalachia-service-project.

GOAL: \$10,000



CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

RESPOND TO CREATION JUSTICE - Many thanks to the Church Council and Congregation for approval of the Creation Justice Covenant/Church Action Plan at the March 2022 Congregational meeting. St. Pauls Green Team is actively pursuing steps to become a Creation Justice church (ucc.org "Environmental Justice Ministries"). Our covenant states our desire that it "be reflected in all dimensions of our congregation as well as moving beyond our walls through our witness." It will take everyone to truly make a difference. We humbly ask that you **RESPOND** by taking whatever actions you can; whether large or small, one or many.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT -provided by SPARC

Make Friends - Jemar Tisby notes that the intentional segregation of races means that many white people will have to go out of their way to meet people from different backgrounds. Often, you will have to go beyond your existing social network to encounter people who are different from you and spend time in places that have racial and ethnic diversity. Ideas: Get involved in the Community Renewal Society; join a committee in our local UCC Association; volunteer with UCAN; worship regularly with our siblings at Lighthouse Church, or get involved in Lighthouse Foundation.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

See our full event calendar online at spucc.churchcenter.com/calendar

Evening meetings enter through the courtyard door

TODAY - ST. PAULS SOCIAL MENTAL HEALTH SEMINAR - 11:15 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room. Join St. Pauls Social and Nancy Curotto, clinical psychologist, for a discussion about reentering life following a pandemic and ways to cope with stress. Nancy will discuss how stressors can manifest in one's body and demonstrate ways to cope with unforeseen stress, persistent stress and frustrations.

MAY 23 - "BRING CHICAGO HOME" - 9 a.m., City Hall

Please join the Interfaith Roundtable on Homelessness in presenting a faith-based solution to Mayor Lightfoot, and call on her to do everything in her power to address homelessness in Chicago. Learn more and RSVP at bit.ly/bringchihome.

MAY 25 - NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK

MAY 28 - CEP SUPPER - 10 a.m.-12 p.m., St. Pauls Kitchen

We are seeking 4-6 volunteers to prepare lunch for the Community Engagement Project (CEP). A team leader will plan a meal and volunteers will cook a meal for 35, which we will bring to the Lincoln Park Community Services shelter on Fullerton to serve at 11:30 a.m. Volunteers for CEP suppers must be fully vaccinated. See more info and sign up here for any upcoming meal dates:

spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/category/48250

JUNE 11 - COURTYARD PICNIC/BYOB - 5 p.m., Church Courtyard

Pack your own picnic (and adult beverages, if you like) and join host Jen Luerssen for a St. Pauls Social picnic/cocktail time in the church courtyard, for adults of all ages. You will need to bring your own chairs. Please RSVP to Jen in advance if you'd like to participate, jenluerssen@yahoo.com.

JUNE 11&12 - WOMEN'S FARM WEEKEND AT MARCIA VOLK'S FARM

Please join us at the Volk farm the weekend of June 11 & 12. Carpool to the farm (about two hours southwest) and spend Saturday exploring the farm, relaxing or visiting Bishop Hill. You may enjoy walking forest trails, picking wildflowers (bring a vase), riding the 4-wheeler and zipline, boating in the creek and more. On Sunday, we will attend Marcia's summer UCC church in Lacon. We will have a potluck supper at the farm Saturday night and breakfast and lunch there Sunday. Please bring \$10 to cover expenses, if possible. First 10 people to respond get the beds, two to a bed. All beds require the ability to climb stairs. For information and to reserve your spot respond to Marcia Volk at marcia@volkonline.com or (773) 307-6866.

OPPORTUNITIES

ALTAR FLOWERS

Providing flowers for the altar is an excellent way to celebrate a special event in your life: an anniversary, a birthday, a holiday, or just because you like flowers! Sign up for 2022 dates at spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1078968. There are still many dates available this year!

THE BOOK NOOK – Love to read? We have restarted the Book Nook on the north side of the Social Hall. Find your next good read or drop off books to share. Donations are welcome – just add them to the shelf for “New Arrivals” or leave them on the floor next to the bookcase. We appreciate all genres, including books for kids. Questions or comments, contact Linda Nitzsche at lindanitz@yahoo.com.

CHURCH CENTER – spucc.churchcenter.com is our portal for the Saint Pauls community. See our calendar, register for events, update your information, join 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 Jen Kew at CEPsupper@gmail.com.

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 – You may follow this link for additional information on this form developed by the Connectors:
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.

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 2022. Check out www.littlelightslp.org. Email Little Lights Director Erin Fitzgerald at littlelights@spucc.org.

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.

PICKLEBALL – Enjoy pickleball? Join the group if you are interested in a regular pickleball game at Saint Pauls! Think you can beat your pastor?
Game Times: Tuesdays: 5-6 p.m. and 6-8:30 p.m; Fridays: 2-3 p.m.
spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/pickleball

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. 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

SPARC (St. Pauls Anti-Racism Cluster) meets monthly to discern how we as a congregation can answer the call to live our faith in an age of injustice. We invite you to join us in identifying the educational opportunities, resources, and actions to take on our journey toward racial justice. To participate or share your ideas, contact Cindy Ball at cindyball11@gmail.com.

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS – If you’re in need of support through a tough time and would like to be matched with someone who would support you with companionship and prayer, or you’re feeling called to offer support, speak to Pastor Jeff Carlson (jcarlson@spucc.org), Marti Pechnyo (mpechnyo@gmail.com), or Barb Kaiser (bkaiser2213@gmail.com).

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY – 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.

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 Wednesday.

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.

- Marilyn, Doug Clark's mom, undergoing therapy at a rehabilitation center following a stroke.
- Jeanne Heard, Shannon Castle's mother, for swift and full recovery from health issues.
- A friend of the Combs family who has suffered a serious fall.
- Ken Travers, recuperating from a broken hip and surgery.
- Two friends who had cancer surgery: Jeff on April 9 and Rob on April 18.
- Annie Johnson's mother, Jean, at home in hospice care.
- Sharon Phillips, undergoing a stem cell treatment for bone marrow cancer following five months of treatment. Prayers for a healthy and successful transplant and recovery.
- Micki Fayhee and her mother, Linda, who has begun cancer treatment.
- Angi Miller's friend, Rachelle, being treated for cancer.
- Phill, brother of Bob Ball, who has leukemia and has been diagnosed with covid-related pneumonia.
- 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 www.spucc.org/contact

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

Free Parking is available Sundays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
at Lincoln Common Parking Garage, 2300 block of North Lincoln Ave.
Parking validation is available in the Narthex.



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.