

Communion Sunday  
November 6, 2022

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.*

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"I am thought of, therefore I am."

Karl Barth

PRELUDE

*Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele, BWV 654*  
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

J. S. Bach

CHIMES

INTROIT

*Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread*  
Chancel Choir

WELCOME

Matt Fitzgerald

\* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: May God be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

One: Lift up your hearts!

**All: We lift them to God!**

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise!**

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

\* HYMN

*I Come with Joy*



1. I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2. I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4. And thus we meet, and bet - ter know the Pres - ence, ev - er
5. To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, in friend - ship we will



free,\_\_\_\_\_ The life of Je - sus to re - call, in  
fed,\_\_\_\_\_ The new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
ends,\_\_\_\_\_ The love that made\_ us, makes us one, and  
near,\_\_\_\_\_ And join our hearts and sing with joy that  
stay,\_\_\_\_\_ And go with joy\_\_\_\_\_ to love the world and



love laid down for me,\_\_\_\_\_ in love laid down for me.\_\_\_\_\_  
Christ's com - mu - nion bread,\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.\_\_\_\_\_  
strang - ers now\_ are friends, and strang - ers now\_ are friends.  
Christ is ris - en here,\_\_\_\_\_ that Christ is ris - en here.\_\_\_\_\_  
live the way\_ we pray,\_\_\_\_\_ and live the way\_ we pray.\_\_\_\_\_

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, we confess that we have squandered your gifts.**

**We have neglected to care for the land.**

**We have grasped for goods.**

**We have used each other.**

**We have loved power more than people.**

**Forgive us, Holy One.**

**Come into our hearts, and make us new again,**

**We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

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.**

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

*Please come forward for communion.  
Take the bread and eat it. Then take the cup and drink.  
Deposit the cups in the baskets on the way back to your seat.  
The outer ring of cups contains grape juice. The inner rings contain wine.  
A gluten-free bread option is wrapped and available on a separate tray.  
Return to your seat by the side aisles.  
All are welcome to take part in communion.*

COMMUNION MUSIC

*Arioso*  
Graham Hicks, piano

J.S. Bach  
arr. Max Pirani

\* HYMN OF THANKSGIVING *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

*As the hymn is sung, Sunday School students are invited to go to their classrooms.  
If you would like to accompany your child(ren),  
you are welcome to drop them off and return to worship.*



1. Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2. Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,
3. Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.  
give us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!

*Refrain (first time p, second time f)*



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

## SCRIPTURE

Carrie Bruggers

*Mark 12:18–27*

Some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus and asked him a question, saying, “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that ‘if a man’s brother dies, leaving a wife but no child, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother.’ There were seven brothers; the first married and, when he died, left no children; and the second married her and died, leaving no children; and the third likewise; none of the seven left children. Last of all the woman herself died. In the resurrection whose wife will she be? For the seven had married her.”

Jesus said to them, “Is not this the reason you are wrong, that you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God? For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the story about the burning bush, how God said to him, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is God not of the dead, but of the living; you are quite wrong.”

## \* A 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

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*



1. Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,  
2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,



There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee;  
Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove



Thou chang - est not, Thy com - pas - sions they fail not;  
Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness



As Thou hast been Thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed Thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed— Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

\* HYMN

*Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day,  
 2. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King, Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 3. Love's re - deem - ing work is done,  
 4. Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven!

Sons of men and an - gels say:—  
 Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won,  
 Praise to thee by both be given,

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,  
 Dy - ing once, he all doth save, Al - - - le - lu - ia!  
 Death in vain for - bids him rise,  
 Thee we greet tri - um - phant now,

Sing ye heav'ns and earth re - ply:—  
 Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise,  
 Hail, the Res - ur - rec - tion thou!

GIVING MOMENT

Sandi Weiskirch

OFFERTORY

*The Promise of Living*  
from The Tender Land

Aaron Copland

Karin Magnuson, Amy Petersen Beck, and Nathan Streeter, soloists  
Jeff Wagner, Piano  
Chancel Choir

The promise of living  
With hope and thanksgiving  
Is born of our loving  
Our friends and our labor.

The promise of growing  
With faith and with knowing  
Is born of our sharing  
Our love with our neighbor.

The promise of living  
The promise of growing  
Is born of our singing  
In joy and thanksgiving.

For many a year we've know these fields  
And known all the work that makes them yield,  
Are you ready to lend a hand?  
We're ready to work,  
We're ready to lend a hand.  
By working together we'll bring in the harvest,  
The blessing of harvest.

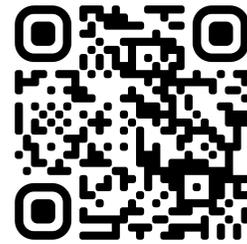
We plant each row with seeds of grain,  
And Providence sends us the sun and the rain,  
By lending a hand, By lending an arm,  
Bring out, bring out from the farm,  
Bring out the blessings of harvest,  
The blessings of harvest.

Give thanks there was sunshine,  
Given thanks there was rain,  
Give thanks we have hands to deliver the grain,  
[Come join us in thanking the Lord for his blessing.]  
O let us be joyful,  
O let us be grateful to the Lord for His blessing.

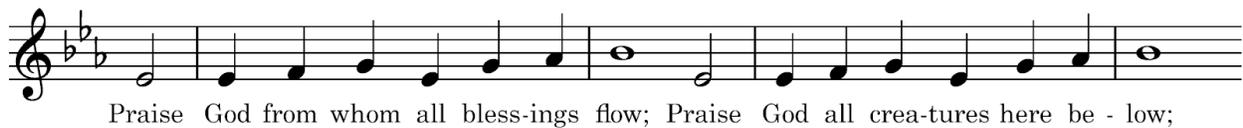
The promise of ending  
[Oh let us sing our song, and let our song be heard]  
In right understanding  
[Let us sing our song with our hearts, and find a promise in that song.]  
Is peace in our own hearts  
And peace with our neighbor.

The promise of living  
The promise of growing  
The promise of ending  
Is labor and sharing and loving.

*You can give to St. Pauls electronically by:  
Scanning this code with your cell phone camera,  
At [spucc.churchcenter.com/giving](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/giving),  
Or through Zelle to [giving@spucc.org](mailto:giving@spucc.org).*



\* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



\* HYMN

*O God Beyond All Praising*



1. O\_\_ God be - yond all prais - ing, We wor - ship you to - day  
2. Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, Ac - cept the love we bring,



And sing the love a - maz - ing That songs can - not re - pay;  
That we who know your fa - vor May serve you as our king;



For\_\_ we can on - ly won - der At\_\_ ev - 'ry gift you send,  
And\_\_ wheth - er our to - mor - rows Be\_\_ filled with good or ill,



At\_\_ bless - ings with - out num - ber And mer - cies with - out end:  
We'll tri - umph through our sor - rows And rise to bless you still:



We\_\_ lift our hearts be - fore\_\_ you And wait up - on your word,  
To\_\_ mar - vel at your beau - ty And glo - ry in your ways,



We\_\_ hon - or and a - dore you, Our great and might - y Lord.  
And make a joy - ful du - ty Our sac - ri - fice of praise.

\* BENEDICTION

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



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

POSTLUDE

*Walk All Over God's Heaven*  
St. Arbucks Quartet

Mahalia Jackson

***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 in the Social Hall.***

### TODAY'S MUSIC

***Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele***, BWV 654 by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) is a hymn tune we know in English as *Deck Thyself My Soul with Gladness*. It is one of the great German communion hymns. It is often referred to by church musicians as "the queen of communion chorales." SCHMÜCKE DICH (*Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness*) was composed by Johann Crüger (1598-1662). Crüger also composed *Nun danket alle Gott* (*Now Thank We All Our God*).

***Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread*** is a text written in 1825 by James Montgomery (1771-1854). He was of Moravian parentage, and because of his parents devotion, he became a very committed missionary. He was imprisoned in England for composing a song in support of the French Revolution and was also an ardent abolitionist. ST. FLAVIAN is an unattributed melody from the 16th century that lends itself to being sung in canon, a round, as you will hear it today.

The text of ***I Come with Joy*** was written by Brian Wren (b. 1936), who is a pastor in the Congregational Church in England. He wrote the hymn as a summary of a series of sermons on the meaning of communion. The tune is an old American hymn, DOVE OF PEACE, from

the *Southern Harmony* hymnal, part of the Sacred Harp tradition. It was arranged by Austin Lovelace (1919-2010), who was Organist and Choirmaster for a number of years at First United Methodist Church in Evanston.

***Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*** uses a tune, LINSTEAD, of Jamaican origin. Fred Kaan, (1929-2009), who wrote this text in 1975, was born in The Netherlands. After surviving the horrors of occupation during World War II (his parents were active in the Dutch resistance), he became a committed pacifist. He emigrated to England after the war where he became a member of the United Reform Church.

***Great Is Thy Faithfulness***, tune FAITHFULNESS, dates from 1923 and was composed by William M. Runyan (1870-1957). He finished his ministry in Kansas and was particularly fond of the poet Thomas Chisholm (1866-1960), who wrote this text. Runyan set 25 of Chisholm's poems to music. Chisholm based this text on Lamentation 3:22 & 23: *Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed.*

***The Promise of Living*** is the Act I finale from the opera *The Tender Land* (1952-1954). It was composed by Aaron Copland (1900-1990), one of the greatest American composers of the 20th century. His music uses American folk themes for pieces like *Appalachian Spring*, *Billy the Kid* and *The Lincoln Portrait*. *The Tender Land* is his second and last opera. The story concerns the coming of age of a young woman at the time of her high school graduation in the 1930s. The story is set during harvest time on a large midwestern grain farm. The libretto was written by Copland's partner at the time, Erik Johns, a.k.a. Horace Everett, (1927-2001) and is based on the book *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men* by James Agee. The text is equally appropriate for Thanksgiving and communion.

***O God Beyond All Praising*** is by Gustav Holst (1874–1934). The tune is called THAXTED, which is the main theme of the Jupiter movement from Holst's *The Planets*. It is truly a majestic hymn. Thaxted is the village where Holst grew up. It was Ralph Vaughan Williams that adapted "Thaxted" as a hymn. The author of our text is Michael A. Perry (1942–1996). He began studies as a physicist and changed to theology.

***Walk All Over God's Heaven*** is more a new creation than an arrangement by Mahallia Jackson (1911-1972). She took inspiration from the old hymn *I Got a Robe, You Got a Robe*. Mahallia has a direct connection to St. Pauls. Brendan Henry grew up loving her music and her deep spiritual commitment that his daughter is named after her. Mahallia Jackson was born in Mississippi but her connection to Chicago was long and deep. She had a lifelong commitment to the civil rights movement and stood behind Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as he spoke at the Lincoln Monument. In recordings of that event, you can hear her shouting at Dr. King, "Tell them about the dream, Martin!" Although she toured the world, she called Chicago her home and Studs Terkel was among her devoted fans and champions. She came home to Chicago during her final illness.

## TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

**Clergy:** Matt Fitzgerald, Jeff Carlson, Liz Nickerson

**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:** Carrie Bruggers

**Lay Liturgical Administrator:** Kevin O'Brien

**Head Usher:** Beatrice Jaji

**Ushers:** David Baker, Doug Clark, Jen Luerksen, Jeff Matthews, Fred Pearson

**Communion Coordinator:** Jana O'Brien

**Gatekeeper:** Dodd Brown

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

**Custodian:** Ramiro Gonzalez

*Communion bread baked by Marcia Knudson.*

## 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 6 Kelli Fitzgerald, Larry Howell, Scott Banjavcic

Nov 7 Chloe Combs

Nov 8 John DeCoster

Nov 9 Jae Renfrow, Kristy Tavas, Catherine Demery, Jareth Renfrow

Nov 10 Joel Chaiken, Daniel Pechnyo

Nov 11 Andrew Keller, Hazel Grachan

Nov 12 Eileen Felson, Robert Manrique

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

See our full event calendar online at [spucc.churchcenter.com/calendar](https://spucc.churchcenter.com/calendar).

### **NOV 6 - UCAN CHRISTMAS GIFT DRIVE** - Narthex

St. Pauls has asked for 100 wish lists of \$50 gift cards for our members to give to youth that UCAN serves. Head over to the table in the Narthex, staffed by our Outreach and Benevolence committee, to claim a wish list by November 27.

### **NOV 9 - WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY** - 12 p.m., Zoom

The Book of Ruth. We'll explore this short book about a relationship between two women in three sessions. All are welcome! Get the Zoom link from Pastor Jeff at [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org).

### **NOV 13 - ST. PAUL FINANCE MEETING** - 11:20 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room

Thirty-seven thousand nine hundred (37,900). No, this isn't the number of babies baptized in the 180-year history of St. Pauls. **It's the church electric bill for 2022!** Join the church's Finance Committee on Sunday, November 13, to learn how this number and many, many more help us make a joyful sound in the city. Bring your questions about the dollars and cents of the church's operations to this open discussion as you prayerfully consider your 2023 Giving Pledge.

### **NOV 14 - WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HAITI?** - 7 p.m., Zoom

Three Angels Haiti ([threeangelshaiti.org](https://threeangelshaiti.org)) is one of the charitable agencies St. Pauls supports. Haiti is the most impoverished country in the Western Hemisphere, the government is more fragile than ever, and gang violence is out of control. Three Angels is impacted by these issues in many ways. Please pray for them and join us November 14 for this Zoom mission event with Three Angels representatives. We will learn about what's going on and explore how we can help the children and community Three Angels serves. For the Zoom link, please sign up at [tinyurl.com/2s3cbfn5](https://tinyurl.com/2s3cbfn5). You can submit questions for Three Angels in advance by sending them to Pastor Jeff, [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org).

### **NOV 18 - WINDY CITY WINDS FALL CONCERT** - 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Windy City Winds, "Chicago's Community Band," will present its fall concert "Our New Day" in our Sanctuary on Friday evening, November 18 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free! St. Pauls member Chris Bettler will be the featured soloist performing the *Tuba Concerto* by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Other music on the program includes *Colas Breugnon: Overture*, *Symphonic Dances* from *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Adoration* by Florence Price, and *Of Our New Day Begun* by Omar Thomas, based on the hymn *Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing*. Windy City Winds is conducted by St. Pauls members Mark and Sarah Mosley.

**DEC 1 - ST. PAULS SOCIAL HOLIDAY COOKING CLASS** - 6 p.m., St. Pauls Kitchen  
Join St. Pauls Social and professional chef Molly McGrath for an in-person holiday cooking class. We will learn and practice a few holiday dishes. Menu is TBD - **RSVP by Wednesday, November 23** to be part of the selection committee! Cooking along is welcome but certainly not required! Cost is \$10/person.  
Please RSVP to Molly at [mollymcgrath906@gmail.com](mailto:mollymcgrath906@gmail.com).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PECAN PIES FOR THE YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Pecan pie sales are back! Our pecan pie sales will now support the Youth Mission Trip. Pies are wonderful fresh but can be frozen (still wonderful)! Order and pay by credit card online by November 20. \$20/pie, limit two pies per person. You can also order a pie to be donated to UCAN's residential home kitchen. Pickup: November 21, 2-6 p.m.; or November 22, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Questions/concerns, please contact Mary Brown, [doddbrown@sbcglobal.net](mailto:doddbrown@sbcglobal.net), or 847-989-5966.  
Purchase your pies here: [spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1498977](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1498977)

### TOTENFEST MEMORIALS

Totenfest will be held on Sunday, November 20. During worship, we will give thanks for the lives of the members and friends of our congregation who died during the past year. Totenfest is a German word meaning "Festival of the Dead." You can make a memorial gift for Totenfest honoring a loved one online at the link below, or by any of our other giving methods. Please email your memorial dedication to Claire at [chiggins@spucc.org](mailto:chiggins@spucc.org) by **November 17**. [spucc.churchcenter.com/giving/to/totenfest](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/giving/to/totenfest)

### ACT NOW TO COMBAT HOMELESSNESS!

"Bring Chicago Home," [tinyurl.com/27dxr8a9](http://tinyurl.com/27dxr8a9), is a proposal to create a dedicated revenue stream to fight homelessness supported by our UCC Chicago Metropolitan Association. They ask that you call your alderman to request they "attend the hearing and special City Council meeting on 'Bring Chicago Home' happening on November 14 at 9 a.m. Please call their office every day starting now until we get confirmation that they will attend. If we do not get 26 aldermen to show up at the meeting, then our effort to get on the February ballot will be over." Find your alderman's contact information here, [tinyurl.com/2p8w3rcj](http://tinyurl.com/2p8w3rcj).

### RETIREMENT GROUP FORMING

A new group is forming for people who have retired recently, or are contemplating retirement. Retirement is a process that brings new challenges and questions. If you'd like to share these with others, please call Marcia Knudson (773) 480-4189 and together we will make plans for meeting.

## **ELECTION WATCH 2022: “Laugh about it! Shout about it!” - NOW is the time.**

**VOTE!** If you have not voted already, please vote on or before Election Day, Tuesday, November 8. A recent poll from the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs, cited in the October 18, 2022 *Chicago Tribune*, found 71% of registered voters “think the very future of the U.S. is at stake” in the upcoming election, regardless of their political party affiliation. “While about two-thirds of voters say they are pessimistic about politics, about 8 in 10 say casting their ballot this year is extremely or very important.” The AP-NORC survey also found that the upcoming elections are unique, “with voters both exhausted by the political process and determined to participate in shaping it.” Clearly, these are difficult, complex and challenging times - and as those who aspire to who love and serve others, care for creation, and seek justice and resist evil, it is incumbent upon each of us to thoughtfully and prayerfully participate and vote.

## **REFUGEEONE WINTER COAT DRIVE**

RefugeeOne just completed their Winter Coat Drive. They gave away over 300 coats to their clients! But, they are completely out of coats for folks who arrive in the near future. They are looking to collect 20-30 more coats to have in stock for new arrivals. They need heavy winter coats for adults only (men’s or women’s) that are new or gently used. They do not need children’s or lighter weight coats. If you can contribute to this, please drop them off in the office by Sunday, November 20th.

## **JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC**

**It’s Time to Get Ready.** November is Native American Heritage Month. It is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people both past and present. In this and the following Sundays, we recommend listening to four contemporary Indigenous voices, starting with Chief Oren Lyons (Faithkeeper of the Wolf Clan) asserting that “It’s Time to Get Ready.” [youtu.be/EzUpOpNR6aE](https://youtu.be/EzUpOpNR6aE)

## **CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team**

### **REDUCE HOLIDAY WASTE**

Did you know the holiday season in America generates 25% more trash, plus more food waste, and more emissions than the rest of the year? Oops! In the name of Jesus, we can be careful as we celebrate.

- This holiday season, choose gifts and behaviors with care for God's gift of creation in mind.
- Turn your shopping green by exploring companies that are environmentally focused, give back a percentage of profits to support environmental actions, have ethical practices, as well as great products that won’t end up in a landfill.
- Talk about what you are doing.

## **2023 PLEDGE & GIVING INFORMATION**

Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge for 2023! Your generous support of St. Pauls is greatly needed and much appreciated. If you have yet to pledge your time, talents or treasures for 2023, you can fill out a paper pledge form and put it in the offering tray or return it to the office. Or, you can pledge online at [spucc.org/pledge](http://spucc.org/pledge) or by scanning this QR code.



Making a pledge shares with us your intention to donate your time, talents and financial support. This information helps us plan and budget for the upcoming year.

**Important Note:** If your pledged financial support for 2023 is changing from this year and you would like to evenly distribute donations towards your pledge throughout the year, you need to adjust your recurring donation amount through whichever giving method you use. Pledge forms do not authorize St. Pauls to create or update recurring donations made through our giving portal. Email [bookkeeper@spucc.org](mailto:bookkeeper@spucc.org) with questions or for help.

## **2023 GIVING CAMPAIGN - IRA QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS**

If you have an IRA and are required, or will be required, to take a minimum annual distribution (RMD) from your account, you may be interested to know that there are tax advantages to taking your distribution as a direct contribution to a charitable organization such as Saint Pauls United Church of Christ.

If the distribution is made directly from your IRA to St. Pauls UCC, then you enjoy two tax benefits: 1) the distribution does not count as taxable income and 2) the distribution does count towards satisfying your RMD if over age 72. The gift, called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), must go directly from your IRA to the organization, and your total gifts cannot exceed \$100,000 per year. You can make QCDs after you reach age 70 ½, which is earlier than the current RMD age of 72. You cannot make QCDs from your 401(k); it has to be rolled into an IRA first.

With the 2017 changes in the tax law, some have lost the ability to itemize their deductions, including charitable contributions, and are now taking the higher standard deduction. Making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a great way to still get a tax benefit for charitable giving. If you have questions about QCDs, consult your tax or financial advisor. Members of the Finance Committee are able to provide more information as well. Reach out to Committee chair Sally Fletcher at [Treasurer@SPUCC.org](mailto:Treasurer@SPUCC.org).

## OPPORTUNITIES

**ACTIVISM & ADVOCACY MINISTRY** – Do you have a passion for reaching out to others? The St. Pauls Activism & Advocacy Ministry would love you to join us in keeping our church engaged in community outreach. For more information, contact Jennifer Kew, [JenniferLKew@gmail.com](mailto:JenniferLKew@gmail.com), or Pastor Jeff, [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org).

**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. There are still many dates available this year! Sign up for 2022 dates at [spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1078968](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1078968).

**THE BOOK NOOK** – Find your next good read or drop off books to share on the north side of the Social Hal. 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](mailto:lindanitz@yahoo.com).

**CHURCH CENTER** – [spucc.churchcenter.com](http://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!

**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](mailto:marcia@volkonline.com).

**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](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/178271).

**GREEN TEAM** – As people of faith, members of St. Pauls are called to “Care for Creation.” To that end, the Green Team is seeking new members, particularly young adults and youth, as we become a Creation Justice church, recognized by the UCC. We would love to have you! If you are interested, please contact either of the new interim Green Team co-chairs, Ninon Freeman at [nlanda05@yahoo.com](mailto:nlanda05@yahoo.com) or Rick Peterson at [rnpeterson2017@gmail.com](mailto:rnpeterson2017@gmail.com).

### **HURRICANE RELIEF - provided by Outreach & Benevolence**

Looking for a way to help those impacted by Hurricanes Fiona and Ian? The UCC has issued an appeal to support immediate needs for families and communities affected by these hurricanes. The O&B committee is sending \$1,000 to this relief fund and encourages you to consider supporting the UCC's disaster relief emergency fund as well, [support.ucc.org/donate---hurricanes-2022](https://support.ucc.org/donate---hurricanes-2022).

**LITTLE LIGHTS** is a St. Pauls early childhood program with classes for 2, 3, and 4-year-olds. We are now accepting applications for the 2022/23 school year. Check out [www.littlelightslp.org](http://www.littlelightslp.org). If you would like to schedule a tour or have additional questions, contact Little Lights Director Erin Fitzgerald at [littlelights@spucc.org](mailto:littlelights@spucc.org).

**PICKLEBALL** – Have you tried the growing sport of Pickleball yet? We hold pick-up games in the St. Pauls gym every week. Sign up at the ChurchCenter link below and show up at one of the allotted times! We have spare paddles and balls. All skill levels are invited. If you have questions, call or text Steve Garrett at (312) 208-0636.  
Game Times: Tuesdays: 5:30-8:30 p.m; Fridays: 2-3 p.m.  
[spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/pickleball](https://spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/pickleball)

**POLO STAY & PLAY** – This is a friendly group for parents and caregivers with babies and small children (ages 0-4) and expectant parents, to meet together and enjoy playtime with your children. Our group will meet in the nursery downstairs by the Social Hall on Fridays from 10-11:30 a.m. *Please note, this is not a drop-off event.* Adult supervision is required.

**ST. PAULS SOCIAL** – Get better acquainted with other adults at St. Pauls. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Jen Luerssen at [stpaulsocial@spucc.org](mailto:stpaulsocial@spucc.org). Subscribe to the distribution list below, or look out for future events in the bulletin calendar: [spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/st-pauls-social](https://spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/st-pauls-social)

**SCRIPTURE READER VOLUNTEERS** – 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](https://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](mailto: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](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org)), Marti Pechnyo ([mpechnyo@gmail.com](mailto:mpechnyo@gmail.com)), or Barb Kaiser ([bkaiser2213@gmail.com](mailto:bkaiser2213@gmail.com)).

**SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION** – Please register your kids for the 2022-23 Sunday School year at the link below. Sunday School is open to children 2-years-old to high school. Our Nursery is open for children under age 2. Email questions to Children's Program Coordinator Danielle Mayfield at [danielle.mayfield@spucc.org](mailto:danielle.mayfield@spucc.org). Register here: [spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1306755](https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1306755)

**YOUNG ADULTS** – A group for fun and fellowship for folks in their twenties and thirties. All are welcome! Volunteers needed! Any ideas for future events? Email them at [youngadults@spucc.org](mailto:youngadults@spucc.org).

**YOUTH CHOIRS** – If your child has any interest in music, please join us! Kecia Waldschmidt is leading Paul's People for 4th-8th graders. Breanna Coe and Karen Johnson are leading the Children's Choir for kids K-3rd grade. Rehearsals are at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. We can't wait to hear our youth choirs singing again!

#### **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please send any announcements you would like in the following week's bulletin or Friday email to [chiggins@spucc.org](mailto:chiggins@spucc.org) no later than 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

**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 and Lisa at the death of Tom's father, Charles Raterman.
- Three Angels Haiti – for the children, staff, community and all of Haiti, for big changes in the Haitian government, for the gangs to be overcome, and for the Haitian people to look to God daily.
- Doug Clark, at the death of his mom, Marilyn.
- Family and friends of Pat Ruch's sister, Aline Ruch Frank, at her death.
- Al Cerkan on his continuing health journey.
- Kompare family, displaced from their home after a fire in their building.
- Deon Fayhee and family on the death of his grandfather, Raymond.
- Michael Toomin, as he recovers from a back injury and is undergoing physical therapy.
- Sergio, grandson of Ivy Sanz, who doctors are concerned might have leukemia.
- Carole Crowley, recovering from a stroke.

### **Prayer, Support, Mental Health Resources**

Even when you walk through the valley of shadows, God is with you. 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](mailto:mfitzgerald@spucc.org)  
Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org)  
Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org)

For a complete list of St. Pauls Staff, Governance, and Lay Leadership  
Please visit [www.spucc.org/contact](http://www.spucc.org/contact)

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