

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
"We Shine for All Through Christ"
St. Marys, Ohio

December 3, 2023	First Sunday of Advent	10:30 a.m.
Hanging of the Greens -- Order of Service		

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES
CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP**

WELCOME *(New among us today? Please fill out the Welcome card located in the pew rack and drop it in the offering plate.)*

PRELUDE

CHANGING OF THE PARAMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: In the days to come, the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills, all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say:

People: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us God’s ways, and that we may walk in God’s paths.”

Leader: With what shall we come to God's house?

People: We should bring branches of cedar and holly, evergreens and- a pine tree, and wreaths and garlands.

Leader: Let us make the church fragrant with the scent of living things and be our holy place.

People: In acts of hanging greens and listening to the words of prophets, let us make our hearts and this space a place for preparation for the One who is to come.

***OPENING HYMN #154** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 2:-1-5
WREATHS AND CANDLES
THE ADVENT CANDLES

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

Announcements
Introduction of Guests

Joys and Concerns of our Church Family Birthdays

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.
(Please offer God's peace to those nearby)

***HYMN # 181** “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

THE GREENS
THE TREES

OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD

***DOXOLOGY**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

THE POINSETTIA

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Matthew 24:36-44
SERMON / HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Rhonda Hainer

THE CRECHE

THE BELLS “Stille, Stille, Stille” arr. by Martha Lynn Thompson

***HYMN # 153** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE/BELL CHOIR “Christmas Joy” Michael Helman

***Denotes those who are able to are invited to stand in body and in spiritDepart to serve**



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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email for Rev. Rhonda A. Hainer: rhainer@bright.net and cell phone number: (563) 210-3508
email for prayer team requests to Carol Schmidt: cschmidt@stpaulsuccsm.com
email for Christian Education: jnjl2021@gmail.com
email for youth director: youth.stpaulsucc@gmail.com email for media: spmedia@bright.net

Rev. Rhonda A. Hainer, Pastor	Joan Leffel and Jane Nuss, Children's Ministry Coordinators
Cynthia Hanover, Choir/Church Pianist	Amy Keller, Confirmation Teacher
Ann Vogel, Organist	Andrea Spencer, Organist
Nick Frankenhauser, Youth Director	Madeline Frankenhauser, Children's Music Director
Carolyn Garrison, Administrative Assistant	Brad and Nam Gehrllich, Custodians
Rich Spencer, Audio and Video	Tracy Winget, Sunday Nursery Supervisor
Becky Anderson, Church Pianist, and	Jeanette Tangeman, Back Bay Missionary
Volunteer Coordinator of Special Music	Jim Huckemeyer, Multi-Media

Reader David Hainer
AcolytesConfirmands
Missionaries.....Members of our Congregation

Our Giving to God, November 26, 2023
Current - \$1149.02 / Mission - \$25.00
Attendance – 67


Altar flowers today are given by Carolyn Garrison
In loving memory of her father, Robert VonAschen

The loose offering today is designated to the Organ Refurbishing Fund.
Next Sunday, the loose offering is designated to the Current Fund

PRAYER CANDLES

If you would like someone to light a candle for you, place a card in the basket (located in the back center of the sanctuary), and a designated helper will light a candle for you.

AGAPE TOILET PAPER MISSION – YTD total is only 1253: Let’s get rolling and collect toilet paper rolls in the Hospitality Room. Rolls can also be purchased by giving donations to Janet Gibson, Terri Kerns or the office. We will be glad to help out. So, let’s just keep the paper rolling. Thank you for your past and present support on this project.



If you are not already on the prayer team email list and would like to be, please provide Carol Schmidt with a valid email address. Carol’s email is: lschmidt@bright.net

The Giving Tree is up and ready to be decorated with **NEW** hats, scarves, gloves and mittens! **New this year** we are asking for socks and slippers too! **All** items donated are given to Goodfellows to distribute to needy. We will be collecting from Nov. 19th through Dec. 17th.

NOTICE – CONGREGATION/ANNUAL MEETING

On Sunday, December 17th, there will be a Congregation Annual Meeting immediately following service. We will be voting/approving the 2024 Church Budget, the 2024 New Consistory Member, and do a brief review of the committee events of 2023. Information on Budget and Consistory Member items will be included in the December Communicator. Please plan on reviewing the documents as well as attending the meeting on December 17th. The 2023 Annual Report will be out in late January.

TODAY- Christmas Party Carry-In—Fellowship Hall 5-7:30 pm Special music and a Christmas Carol sing-a-long. Be sure to wear your most beautiful Christmas sweater, or your “ugliest” Christmas sweater!



Advent

K H T N E V D A Y U C R C Z M Y W I M E F B P N
B Q J E L T J H S E D D M E Z P B E E Q D F T P
I R G V C L X A I J S I X B C U J D G E J L L X
Y G L L O O D E P I N K V G I C E K K Z A B C V
X P F N Z O L P X D R I P E L J S I D P M D A T
G P Y H L I H T H W W B P O R O J O B X C Z N Z
M P H Y N P T E C X W D S Z E O J L C L D Q D S
D C G M N N A J V Y G E A Z Q V L C A T T E L L
R V T V T A E P I V R M Q I B X J V R K B Z E B
P H Z Z E R R G M T H K A F L L K Z J K T E S A
I S J U C E W X O N P R C L N Y P U R P L E Q H
R Y P Y K V T J S R J N Z J G J P T L O V E U M
D I E Y G Y E Q W A B E E H W B I R T H D A Y D
N C T Y X S G Z Y A C P F J E L C N A I C K O W
O G V I U X Z D R E T R I G R Q C S V Y G C D K
S X Y S R A S S A R U N I Z C Y M E O I E B D P
A M Q L S Q M V E A U K V F P Z C I A Y Q R L R
E P P R C U F S R P X F S K I N S D L B C A X W
S T S F N G J X D E H F W T A C I X D T K N R Y
T C R L T V M I J R H X S N D P E H L G F Y Y H
S M D Y A F D P I P K L E Y U M J E X G Z I J D
R E D O F E F Y X N R P R J V B I D T X J Z C K
I H L H G L G R N K N P E V L Z F J M U C G B P
F H U C Z R U X S D Y J F T F A X K K I L A Z W

- Penance

Candles

Pink

ClosetoJesus

Advent
- Sacrifice

DailyPrayer

Purple

Birthday
- FirstSeason

Wreath

Love

Prepare

WELCOME! St. Paul's strives to create a faith community where ALL God's people are welcome to come and explore God's presence in the world. If you are visiting for the first time, we are Glad you are here. If you are a returning visitor, Welcome Back. Please complete the Welcome card located in the pew pocket in front of you and place it in the offering plate. Should you have a prayer request, please complete the Prayer card and place in the offering plate.

ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE

Don't forget that we now have online giving! It is available now by downloading Vanco Payment Solutions onto your mobile device by going to the app store or Google Play and search for "Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement" The download is free. We also have a button on our website that will also take you to the Vanco site. This service is available for your convenience!

- PRAYER REQUESTS**
- Please keep the following people in your prayers: Rev. Jeanette Tangeman, Beverly Miller, LeRoy Kogge, Janet Keller, Kathy Raymond, Evelyn Horner, Cheryl Kline, John Long, Laura Yelton, and Virginia Larmore (daughter-in-law of Kendra Strand). Also, pray for all of our military.
 - Remember to pray for our shut-ins and for their caregivers that take care of them.
 - All prayer requests shall be given to the lead person of our Prayer Team, Carol Schmidt: cschmidt@stpaulsuccsm.com, or you can call or text her at 419-305-6164.
 - We **ALWAYS** need liturgists and volunteers to bring flowers for the altar. The **2023/2024 Altar Flower Charts, and the Liturgist sign-up sheets** are located here in the sanctuary on the bulletin board by the sound system equipment.

Small Group Bible Study — Every Tuesday Afternoon 1:00 pm in the church chapel - led by Derick Johnson. Join us for study, reflection, and fellowship as we grow closer to Jesus Christ. **The Bible Study Class will be taking a break for the holidays and will return on Tuesday, January 9th! A new study series will begin at that time. All are welcome.**

5 for 5 Special Offering
Christmas Fund–Veterans of the Cross
SPECIAL OFFERING December 17th

Have you checked out our church website? www.stpaulsuccsm.com

- Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ!**
- ✚ **NURSERY AND PRE-SCHOOL TODDLER CARE** - For your convenience, we have a staffed nursery located in the educational building. Should it become necessary for you to leave the sanctuary during worship, you can view the morning service on the TV in the nursery. **PLEASE NOTE** - Only Newborn to Kindergarten age children are permitted in the Nursery during our morning worship service to allow safety for the newborns and toddlers. Children 1st Grade and older need to remain in the church. Thank you for your understanding.
 - ✚ **HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE** restroom is located on the sanctuary level near the elevette room, and it also contains a baby changing table.
 - ✚ **ENLARGED BULLETINS & HEARING DEVICES** - Available if needed (consult an usher).
 - ✚ **TELEVISED WORSHIP SERVICE** - Our worship service here at St. Paul's is shown on **TSC cable - Digital channel 1 or non-digital channel 2**, every Sunday at 10:30 am and also on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm. This is now shown LIVE on Sundays and shown a day later on Mondays.
 - ✚ **WORSHIP SERVICE ON THE INTERNET** – If you do not have TSC cable, you can watch our service on our church web page at www.spuccsm.com or on YouTube.
 - ✚ **EMERGENCY AED** – There is an emergency AED Unit located on the wall behind the soundboard in the Sanctuary.
 - ✚ **RECYCLE YOUR BULLETIN** - On the registers at the North and South entrances you will see a tray where you can place your bulletin to be recycled (if you do not wish to take it home). Thank you!

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S		
Handicap Accessible and Live Streamed		
Today	9:15 am	Sunday School / Confirmation / Adult Forum
	10:30 am	Worship with Rev. Rhonda Hainer- Hanging of the Greens
	5:00-7:30 pm	Family Event – Christmas Carry-In
Mon.	7:00 pm	Caregivers Meeting
Tues.	9:30 am	Ladies Advent Breakfast at Zion Lutheran Church
	5:30-6:30 pm	Bingo at Otterbein
Wed.	9:00 am	Quilting
	7:00 pm	Advent Service
Thurs.	11:30 am	Ladies Luncheon at JT's
	6:00 pm	Personnel Meeting
Next Sun.	9:15 am	Sunday School / Confirmation / Adult Forum
	10:30 am	Children's Christmas Program
	6:00-7:30 pm	Live Nativity Scene – Perry Street

WANTED: The supplier of yearly calendars that we use in all the Sunday School classrooms, office and kitchen is no longer giving out **free** calendars. If you happen to receive any free 2024 calendars that you don't personally need, please drop them off at the church office. Thank you.

Isaiah 2:1-5

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Future House of God

2 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house

shall be established as the highest of the mountains

and shall be raised above the hills;

all the nations shall stream to it.

3 Many peoples shall come and say,

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,

to the house of the God of Jacob,

that he may teach us his ways

and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction

and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

4 He shall judge between the nations

and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

they shall beat their swords into plowshares

and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation;

neither shall they learn war any more.

5 O house of Jacob,

come, let us walk

in the light of the LORD!

THANK YOU FOR ALL OF THE LANTERNS!

Our goal was to purchase 100 lanterns, and we exceeded that amount with the final total of 134! Thank you to everyone who have supported this mission!