

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

**December 21, 2025**                      **Fourth Sunday of Advent**                      **10:00 am**

**Order of Service**

*Welcome to our Worship Service today.*  
*Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life.*

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**CHIMES**

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE**    “Angels from the Realms of Glory/  
                    Angels We Have Heard on High” - Band

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE**

**CELEBRATING COMMUNITY**

Announcements                      Joys and Concerns                      Visitors

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**            (Offer God's peace to those nearby)  
Leader:    The Peace of Christ be with you.  
**People:**    and also with you.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: People of God, come and gather, for the Lord has given us a sign of His everlasting love.  
**People:** **A young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be Emmanuel, God with us.**  
Leader: In a world anxious for certainty, God offers not a force, but a Child.  
            Not a decree from afar, but Love drawn near.  
**People:** **We come to worship the God who chooses closeness, who enters our fears with courage and our darkness with light.**  
Leader: As we light the Advent candle of Love, we remember that God’s promise is not distant, it is alive, it is present, it is unfolding among us.  
**People:** **God is with us. God is for us. God’s love is here.**

Leader: Let us open our hearts, prepare room for the promised One, and worship the God who keeps His word.

**People:** **Come, Lord Jesus, Emmanuel, Love in the flesh.**

**\*MORNING PRAYER**

Loving and Holy God, on this Fourth Sunday of Advent we light the candle of Love and remember Your promise that the desert will bloom, and the weary will find new strength. As You lead Your people along the Holy Way, guide us this morning into Your presence. Open our eyes to Your glory in our midst, steady our hearts with Your peace, and fill us with the joy of Your redeeming Love. Come, Emmanuel, renew us, restore us, and shape us into a people who reflect Your light. It is in this spirit that we pray together, Our Father...

**\*HYMN #229**                      “The First Noel”

**Video**                                      “Joseph”

**Special Music**                      “Joseph’s Song”                      Pastor Ed

**THE GOSPEL LESSON**                      **LUKE 2:1-7**

**HYMN #191**                                      “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

**SERMON**                                      “Love That Chooses to Stay”                      Pastor Ed Karges

**OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY**                                      “Christmas Offering” - Paul Baloche  
**\*DOXOLOGY**                                      **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**CLOSING HYMN: #186**                      “Silent Night”

**\*BENEDICTION**

**Postlude:**                                      “I Wonder as I Wander” - Band

\*Denotes those who are able are invited to stand in body and in spirit.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
201 N. PERRY ST.  
ST. MARYS, OH 45885  
December 21, 2025  
CHURCH OFFICE: (419) 394-3811  
CHURCH FAX: (419) 394-8733  
EMAIL: [SMUCC@BRIGHT.NET](mailto:SMUCC@BRIGHT.NET)  
WEBSITE: [WWW.STPAULSUCCSM.COM](http://WWW.STPAULSUCCSM.COM)

PASTOR ED KARGES  
EMAIL: [EDWARDKARGES74@GMAIL.COM](mailto:EDWARDKARGES74@GMAIL.COM)  
MOBILE: (260) 409-0974  
PRAYER REQUEST EMAIL (CAROL SCHMIDT): [CSCHMIDT@STPAULSUCCSM.COM](mailto:CSCHMIDT@STPAULSUCCSM.COM)  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EMAIL: [JN JL2021@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JN JL2021@GMAIL.COM)

<b>Back Bay Missionary:</b> Rev. Jeanette Tangeman	<b>Multi-Media:</b> Jim Huckemeyer
<b>Audio and Video:</b> Rich Spencer	<b>Multi-Media:</b> Derick Johnson
<b>Pianist/Music Coordinator:</b> Becky Anderson	<b>Organist:</b> Ann Vogel
<b>Organist:</b> Andrea Spencer	<b>Organist:</b> Darryl Smith
<b>Pianist:</b> Kathlene Larson	<b>Youth Director:</b> Nick Frankenhauser
<b>Children's Ministry:</b> Jane Nuss	<b>Children's Music:</b> Maddy Frankenhauser
<b>Confirmation:</b> Amy Keller	<b>Church Historian:</b> Fred Scheer
<b>Administrative Assistant:</b> Steve Slawson	<b>Custodians:</b> Brad and Nam Gehrlich
<b>Missionaries:</b> All Members of our Congregation	

*Liturgist: Audrey Birt*  
*Our Giving to God, December 14, 2025*  
*Current - \$ 3,325 / Mission - \$ 96*  
*(Includes Vanco e-giving for the week)*  
*Attendance – 133*  
*Loose offering today will go to the Christmas Fund Offering*

Altar Flowers are provided by Richard and Kathlene Larson to the glory of  
God and in memory of their son, Daniel Ray.

#### **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.

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

decorations	North Pole	Mrs. Claus	snowflake	reindeer
snowball	snowman	carrots	cookies	Rudolph
Blitzen	Prancer	lights	Donner	Dancer
Dasher	igloo	Santa	Cupid	Comet
Vixen	snow	elf		

**WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**NURSERY AND PRE-SCHOOL TODDLER CARE** – We have a Nursery available for those that need it. Children in 1st Grade and older should remain in the church.

**HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE** restroom is located on the sanctuary level near the Hospitality 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,** on Sundays at 10:00am, and shown again on Mondays at 7:00pm.

**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](http://www.spuccsm.com) or on YouTube.

**EMERGENCY AED** – There is an emergency AED Unit located on the wall behind the Media Table in the Sanctuary.

**THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL’S**  
**Handicap Accessible and Live Streamed**

Today	8:45 am	Adult Forum Class
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Morning Worship with Pastor Ed Karges
Monday	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Church Office Hours
Tuesday	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Church Office Hours
Wednesday	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Church Office Hours
	9:00 am	Quilting
	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Worship Service
Thursday	CHRISTMAS DAY	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Friday		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Next Sunday	10:00 am	Morning Worship with Pastor Ed Karges

**Interested in joining our church? Please see Pastor Ed for information.**

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

➤ *Please continue praying for: Jeff Lemming, Wynette Mase,*

- *Jeanette Tangeman's granddaughter, Brianna, who is home and slowly recovering while caring for newborn twins,*
- *All Legacy Members and Shut-ins, and the caregivers who provide them care,*
- *All those illnesses which cannot be seen,*
- *All those, both young and old, who are facing financial or other life difficulties during this Christmas Season.*

*All prayer requests should be given to the lead person of our Prayer Team, Carol Schmidt: [Lschmidt@stpaulsuccsm.com](mailto:Lschmidt@stpaulsuccsm.com), or you can call or text her at 419-305-6164.*

*If anyone would like to become a member of the prayer team and receive emails/updates for prayer requests, please submit your email address to Carol Schmidt at: [Lschmidt@bright.net](mailto:Lschmidt@bright.net) or text 419-394-6164.*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS**

Come and see our Live Nativity Scene here at the church, this evening from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm. We will have Hot Chocolate and Cookies available.

Please be sure to join us for the Christmas Eve Service, Wednesday at 7:00 pm.

There will be no Sunday School next Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, and the Adult Forum Class will not meet. Both will resume on January 4<sup>th</sup>.

**REMINDER -- CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2025** Must be submitted to the church office no later than 12:00 Noon on December 28th in order to receive credit on your 2025 giving statement. This allows the office time to make all final deposits for the end of the year. Any contributions received after 9:00 am on December 29th will be credited to you in 2026. Thank you!!

The Caregiving Support Group will meet on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. The next BINGO event will be on Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at Vancrest at 6:30 pm.

We are ALWAYS in need of Liturgists and volunteers to bring flowers for the altar. The 2026 Altar Flower Chart and Liturgist Sign-Up Sheets are posted on the bulletin board by the sound system equipment in the Sanctuary.

The annual Christmas Fund offering is today! The Christmas Fund provides Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and Christmas “Thank You” Gift Checks for retired clergy and those facing unforeseen financial hardship. Join with others in the United Church of Christ to make “The light shine in the darkness” for those who have given so much to our church. This special offering is part of our UCC 5 for 5.

A HUGE THANK YOU for the Angel Tree gifts you provided for the children of the Marshallese Congregation! Your generosity reflects the Love you show for our wider church family. Pastor Randon expressed deep gratitude for the kindness you extended to his congregation. Thank you again for being a blessing! – Pastor Ed



## **12.21.25 Scripture**

### **LUKE 2:1-7**

#### **The Birth of Jesus**

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

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