

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

**"We Shine for All Through Christ"**

**St. Marys, Ohio**

**February 18, 2026,**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**7:00 pm**

**Order of Service**

*Your Ash Wednesday offering may be placed in the offering plates at the back of the sanctuary.*

**PRELUDE** "What Wondrous Love Is This" – Anna Laura Page

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: **God of salvation's joy, we gather to celebrate and worship you.**

People: **We come, realizing that we are broken. Forgive and re-make us.**

Leader: **God of unfailing love, we gather to worship and honor you.**

People: **We come, and because of your compassion, forgive and renew us.**

Leader: **God of new beginnings, we gather to praise and thank you.**

People: **We come, and through your grace and mercy, forgive and restore us, so that with clean hearts we may truly worship you.**

**\*OPENING HYMN #461** "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Leader: **As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, study and works of love help us return to that love. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to love God and neighbor by confessing your sin and by asking God for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.**

**SILENCE for Reflection and Prayer**

Leader: **Let us pray.**

People: **Most holy and merciful God: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

Leader: **We have not loved you with all our hearts and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.**

People: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Leader: **We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.**

People: **Have Mercy on us God.**

Leader: **We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness, the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives.**

People: **We confess to you, O God.**

Leader: **Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.**

People: **Accept our repentance, O God.**

Leader: **Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.**

People: **Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great. Amen**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON: MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-33**

**\*HYMN #589** "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"

**MESSAGE:** "Letting Go of Hurry" Pastor Ed

**THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES** Pastor Ed

***"REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST AND TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN"***  
(Please Notify a deacon if you are unable to come forward for imposition of ashes and Pastor Ed will come to you.)

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**PRAYER**

**POSTLUDE** "Lord, Throughout These Forty Days" – American Medley

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

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

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**Pastor Ed Karges**

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**Mobile: (260) 409-0974**

**Special Thanks to all who helped with the service tonight.**

**Organist:** Ann Vogel

**Audio and Video:** Rich Spencer, Ralph Heckler

**Multi-Media:** Jim Huckemeyer

**Multi-Media:** Derick Johnson

**All Deacons and Elders**



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

**201 N. Perry St., St. Marys, Ohio**

**Ash Wednesday,**

**February 18, 2026**

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."



**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**