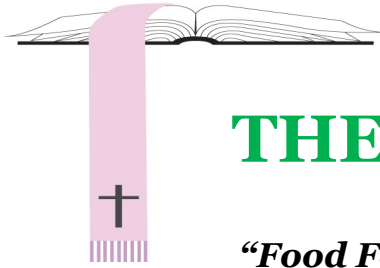


ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

201 N. PERRY STREET • ST. MARYS, OHIO, 45885
419-394-3811 opt. 3 * www.stpaulsuccsm.com

FEBRUARY 2026



THE COMMUNICATOR

**"Food For Thought, Food for the Soul, and
Some Mashed Potatoes on the Side."**

Growing Up, Looking Out, and Letting Go (Just a Little)

February is a short month, but spiritually speaking, it doesn't mess around. Over these weeks, we'll be wrestling with some big questions, questions that don't always come wrapped in comfort, but do come wrapped in grace.

One theme we'll hear is that the Spirit calls us to maturity, not comfort. Now, that may sound suspiciously like something a parent says right before taking away the car keys. But spiritual maturity isn't about becoming stiff or serious; it's about becoming rooted. Faith that grows up learns to trust God not only when life is smooth, but when the road is under construction.

Another thread running through our worship is this truth: we are called for the sake of the world. Faith was never meant to be a private hobby or a members-only club. God's work in us is always meant to flow through us, into our homes, our neighborhoods, and sometimes into conversations we'd rather avoid at the grocery store.

All of this leads us to a central question: Who is God calling us to become? Not who we were ten years ago. Not who we think we *should* be compared to someone else. But who God is shaping us to be right now, together, as a community.

By the end of the month, we step into the season of Lent, a season that invites us to slow down, let go, and pay attention. Lent is not about giving up chocolate (though some of you will bravely try). It's about making room, room for honesty, growth, and grace.

February may be short, but God isn't finished with us yet. Let's lean in and see where the Spirit leads.

- Pastor Ed



SPECIAL TIMES

Adult Forum 8:45 am
Sunday School 9:00 am
Sunday Worship 10:00 am

**Sunday Service Live Streamed
on Facebook and YouTube**

**Televised Service—TSC
Cable, Channel 2, Digital
Channel 1 (1 week delay)
Monday 7:00 pm**





Ash Wednesday, February 18th at 7:00 pm begins our annual series of Wednesday Lenten Services. Communion will be offered at the Ash Wednesday Service. There will be five services, with the last one on March 18th. We will have Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, as well. We invite you to come and make this worship experience part of your Lenten remembrance.

Prayer and Care Ministry

Prayer Team: Prayer requests are welcome for any concern or thanksgiving. Requests are kept confidential and not included on the public worship screen unless specifically requested. Contact Carol Schmidt with a prayer request at: Lschmidt@bright.net, Carol's cell (419) 305-6164, or the church office.



You are invited to the “**Caregiving from the Heart Support Group**” held at St. Paul's. **The February meeting will be on the 2nd at 7:00 pm in the church Chapel.** This is a gathering for any caregivers (and others who are involved) whether you are doing it within your home, within your loved one's home or if your loved one resides in a care facility. The session will be led by Rev. Jeanette Tangeman. The purpose of the gathering is to support each other, learn from each other, and locate helpful resources. Please call Jeanette at 419-234-7935 if you have any questions.



FEBRUARY MEALS:



Feb. 12th

Feb. 19th

Feb. 26th

Breaking Bread will be serving from **4:30 to 5:15 pm**, unless food is all gone. **Grab and Go from your car only.** We look forward to providing delicious free meals to our community every Thursday except the first Thursday of the month.

BREAKING BREAD COMMUNITY DINNER NEWS

If you would like to make a financial contribution to help with costs for the weekly community dinner, these will be gratefully accepted. Donations can be placed in the Sunday offering plate or mailed to the church office. Please be sure to indicate your name on the envelope if you would like to receive credit on your giving statement. Contributions of #10 canned food are also accepted.

Our kitchen remodel is complete and we are up and running again!



QUILTERS: Our quilting ladies meet on Wednesdays from 9:00 am to ?? in the sewing room. Questions? Call Margaret Hunter at 419-733-4332.

BINGO will be held on the following Tuesdays:

February 3rd

March 3rd

April 7th

We are in need of BINGO helpers and cookies

Please call Janice Katterheinrich at (419) 394-3264 to let her know if you can help in any way.



Women's Guild Upcoming Events for February

Our February Mission Project is Valentine bags/cards for our Legacy members and college/military members.

The Ladies luncheon will be February 5th at 11:30 am at JT's. At that time we will also decorate Valentine bags for our Legacy members. Some supplies will be furnished but feel free to bring your own decorative materials. Time to be creative!!! These bags will be displayed in the sanctuary a couple of weeks before Valentine's Day for the congregation to fill with cards and goodies.

The Rebecca Circle is scheduled to meet on February 16th at 1:00pm in the Hospitality Room, weather permitting.



H.E.A.L.

HEAL is a once-a-month grief support group which provides a safe place where you or perhaps a friend of yours who has experienced a deep loss can feel surrounded by others who are walking the same or a similar path. Too often, well-meaning friends and family try to empathize with us in our grief by saying "I know how you feel". The truth is, no one really knows how you feel. Everyone must deal with bereavement in their own unique way. Grief does not go away or disappear in a few months, contrary to what others might expect and tell you. It is important to allow yourself time to grieve and time to begin to reshape the world that has changed all around you. Pastor Ed Karges invites you to come and experience comfort and a safe place of belonging, the 3rd Thursday of each month at 1:30 pm in the chapel at St. Paul's UCC.



We wish to extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Janet Swartz, who passed away on January 15th. We pray God's Peace and Comfort at this time.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!

2nd — Madilyn Mauter
8th — Jillian Frankenhauser
8th — Hailey Burden
9th — Allie Long
16th — Maya McDonald
16th — Austin Winget
28th — Toby Turner

The children had a Great Holiday break and are back in the swing of things! The 6th and 7th graders had a fun night of games on January 17th, and will be making Suncatchers for the Legacy Members. We have begun working on music for the Palm Sunday Worship Service, as well.

Aluminum Can

Recycling for the Youth Group

Thank you to everyone who is saving aluminum cans for the **YOUTH GROUP!** We continue to save, collect, and recycle cans. Cans need to be **rinsed out** and brought to St. Paul's. **Just leave them behind the curtain under the stairs of the Creation Station door.** If you have a lot of cans and would like to take them to the recycling center and donate the money, it may be just as easy once they are in your vehicle. Thank you for your support.



If you would be willing to Volunteer to help stuff the Newsletters for mailing, please email us at smucc@bright.net and we will add you to the list. This only takes about two hours, once per month.

If you would be interested in receiving the Newsletter via email, rather than through the mail, please notify the church office and we will add you to the email list. This lowers the Church's printing costs, paper usage, and also postage expense.

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.

ST. PAUL'S HISTORY

NOTES, STORIES, FACTS FROM THE PAST ISSUE 7



Becky Anderson

Our volunteer music

Coordinator

Has provided us with
special music from
around St Marys

and our own
congregation.



These pictures are only a
small number of the very
talented people or groups
that have
entertained us .

Say thanks to Becky and
all of these
performers when you
see them



FINANCIAL REPORT

December 2025

Current Fund:

Budgeted through Dec. 31 2025 = \$ 266,907.00
Received through Dec. 31, 2025 = \$ 219,200.00
Expenses through Dec. 31, 2025 = \$ 222,216.43
Received through Dec. 31, 2024 = \$ 222,499.00

Mission Fund:

Budgeted through Dec. 31, 2025 = \$ 15,000.00
Received through Dec. 31, 2025 = \$ 14,295.00
Received through Dec. 31, 2024 = \$ 14,828.00

STATUS OF 2026 BUDGET:

Current Fund:

Budgeted through Jan. 31, 2026 = \$ 22,542.39
Budgeted through Jan. 11, 2026 = \$ 11,271.20
Received through Jan. 11, 2026 = \$ 7,509.00

Mission Fund:

Budgeted through Jan. 31, 2026 = \$ 1,250.00
Budgeted through Jan. 11, 2026 = \$ 625.00
Received through Jan 11, 2026 = \$ 536.00

FEBRUARY LOOSE OFFERINGS

- ♦ February 1—Organ Refurbishing Fund
- ♦ February 8—Back Bay Mission



*Deadline for articles,
announcements, etc. for the*

March 2026

*Communicator will be
February 19th*

Recent Memorial Gifts:

**To the Endowment Fund
in memory of Tyson
Goubeau, from Ron &
Margaret Hunter**

THANK YOU!

Dear St. Paul's Consistory,

Thank you for the Christmas gift. It is my privilege to be a part of the music ministry at St. Paul's. Thanks again, - Darryl Smith

Dear St. Paul's United Church of Christ,

Thank you very much for the monetary Christmas Gift—Very Kind! Like always, there's nothing better than having a warm, loving church family! Very Blessed! Thanks again.

- Andrea Spencer

Members of the Consistory,

Thank you for the Christmas gift. Even though I don't do what I do for recognition, it is still nice to know that someone has notice. Thank You!

- Jim Huckemeyer

The Bulletin Board

- ♦ If you will be going to the hospital or if someone you know is hospitalized, please call the church office and let us know. The hospitals are not permitted to inform churches when a member is admitted.
- ♦ Please email the church office at smucc@bright.net with address corrections or if you do not see your Birthday or Anniversary listed during the correct month. Or, call 419-394-3811.
- ♦ **CALL-EM-ALL:** Please let the church office know if you are experiencing any issues with the Call-Em-All phone messages. Also, if you would like to be removed from the call list, listen to the broadcast and at the end follow their directions to “opt out” of any future broadcasts. This will remove your number from the calling list.
- ♦ **ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE:** *Don't forget that we 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!*
- ♦ **OFFERING ENVELOPES** - are distributed by quarterly mailing. Please notify the church office if you are not receiving envelopes and would like to be added to this mailing list. Also, if you are giving through VANCO and no longer wish to receive giving envelopes, please let the office know so we can stop the envelopes.
- ♦ **COPIES:** If you need copies made of any personal items, you may stop by the church office and we will be glad to make them for you. The Cost for making copies for church members is 15 cents per copy if you use the office paper, or 10 cents per copy if you bring your own.



On January 11th the new Consistory members were installed. Pictured here are the new members along with some of the members returning for 2026.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!

FEBRUARY

- 3 - Ramona Cook
Connie Dennings
Lynn Schmidt
Trey Yelton
- 4 - Teresa Wood
Karen Nuss
Morgan Brown
Brett Speckman
- 5 - Jackie Hays
Katie Lucas
- 7 - Hayley Caywood
- 9 - John Bowers
- 10 - Lindsay Fox
Hailee Andreoni
AJ Dieringer
- 11 - Jeanna Godby
- 13 - Diane Gayer
Ashley Behr
- 15 - Trent Wale
- 17 - Gary Bradford
Carol Waesch
- 18 - Kara Collins
Dex Yelton
- 19 - Heather Selby
- 20 - Kirt Gilbert
- 21 - Sandi Hirschfeld
Sophia Lynch
- 22 - Ronald Hunter
- 23 - Brandon Sullivan
Tom Knous, III
- 24 - Barbara Bradford
Britney Knous

- 26 - Miles Strand
Kendra Strand
Kara Birt
- 27 - Ruth Cisco
Darrin Henning
- 28 - Sheryl Keighley
Becky Anderson
Justin McGee



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

FEBRUARY

- 7 - Miles & Kendra Strand
- 14 - Charles & Judy Cooper
- 19 - Jerry & Charlett Wolfe
- 21 - Karen & Brian Bower
- 28 - Tom & Jill Dickman

"True love comes quietly, without banners or flashing lights. If you hear bells, get your ears checked."

~Erich Segal

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 <u>Endowment</u> <u>Committee 6:00pm</u> Caregiving Support Group 7:00 pm	3 Bingo at Otterbein 5:30 pm	4 <u>Quilting 9:00 am</u>	5 Ladies Luncheon at JT's 11:30 am Personnel Committee Meeting 6:00 pm	6	7
8 Stewardship Committee Meeting After Morning Worship Service	9	10	11 <u>Quilting 9:00 am</u> Consistory 6:00 pm	12 Breaking Bread 4:30 pm – 5:15 pm	13	14 <u>Valentine's Day</u>
15	16 Rebecca Circle 1:00 pm	17	18 <u>Quilting 9:00 am</u> Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm	19 H.E.A.L. 1:30 pm Breaking Bread 4:30 pm – 5:15 pm	20	21
22	23	24	25 <u>Quilting 9:00 am</u> Lenten Service 7:00 pm	26 Breaking Bread 4:30 pm – 5:15 pm	27	28

Rev. Ed Karges, Interim Pastor
(260) 409-0974 edwardkarges74@gmail.com
Steve Slawson, Administrative Assistant
Jane Nuss, Children's Ministry Coordinator
Maddy Frankenhauser, Children's Music Director
Amy Keller, Confirmation Teacher
Nick Frankenhauser, Youth Director
Becky Anderson, Church Pianist, and
Volunteer Coordinator of Special Music

Andrea Spencer, Organist

Ann Vogel, Organist

Darryl Smith, Organist

Kathlene Larson, Pianist/Organist

Jeanette Tangeman, Back Bay Missionary

Rich Spencer, Audio and Video

Jim Huckemeyer, Multi-Media

Derick Johnson, Multi-Media

Brad and Nam Gehrlich, Custodians

Fred Scheer, Church Historian

Church email: smucc@bright.net

Website: www.stpaulsuccsm.com

Email for Prayer Team: cschmidt@stpaulsuccsm.com
or text Carol at (419) 305-6164.

Email for Christian Education: jnjl2021@gmail.com

Email for Youth Director: franken.nick@gmail.com

Email for media: spmedia@bright.net

FEBRUARY

2026

THE COMMUNICATOR

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