

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

February 12, 2023	Sixth Sunday After Epiphany	10:30 a.m.
Order of Service		

Welcome to our Worship Service today. Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God.

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES
CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

WELCOME *(Here at St. Paul's we strive 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 new among us today, please fill in the Welcome card located in the pew rack and drop it in the offering plate.)*

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Strength is commanding the wind and sea to obey,
People: **Strength is wielding a slingshot in the face of a raging giant.**

Leader: Strength is accepting vulnerability from inside the boat,

People: Strength is standing in solidarity with the powerless.

Leader: Strength is turning a cheek,

People: Strength is loving an enemy.

Leader: We come to worship a God who redefines our vision of strength.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Holy Jesus, You call us into a life that others have told us is easy, but it is not. You challenge us to forgive, to love our enemies, to bless those who curse us. We want the easy way, but You have given us the hard path. Grant us the patience and endurance to journey with You, to allow ourselves at times to stumble, to live into the hard way so that we might fully experience Your love, grace and peace in this world, by becoming a people full of love and grace and forgiving others. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN #68** "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

Announcements	Joys and Concerns of our Church Family
Introduction of Guests	Anniversaries

***PASSING OF THE PEACE** Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

(People offer God's peace to those nearby with whatever you are comfortable with)

SPECIAL MUSIC

Andy Francis

WE OPEN UP TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(using debts and debtors)

OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD *DOXOLOGY PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOD SPEAKS TO US

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION Kathlene and Richard Larson

Congregational Response: “We welcome you with joy in the common life of St. Paul’s United Church of Christ. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God’s knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.”

***HYMN #458** "Oh Jesus, I Have Promised"

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

THE GOSPEL LESSON Luke 6:27-38

SERMON "An Unreasonable Love" Rev. Rhonda Hainer

WE RESPOND WITH FAITH AND COMMITMENT

***HYMN #612** "When Love Is Found"

***BENEDICTION**

WE GO FORTH TO WITNESS AND SERVE

*POSTLUDE

*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: smucc@bright.net website: www.stpaulsuccsm.com
 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: jnl2021@gmail.com
 email for youth director: youth.stpaulsucc@gmail.com email for media: spmedia@bright.net

Rev. Rhonda A. Hainer, Pastor
 Cynthia Hanover, Choir/Church Pianist
 Ann Vogel, Organist
 Nick Frankenhauser, Youth Director
 Carolyn Garrison, Administrative Assistant
 Rich Spencer, Audio and Video
 Becky Anderson, Church Pianist, and
 Volunteer Coordinator of Special Music

Joan Leffel and Jane Nuss, Children's Ministry Coordinators
 Amy Keller, Confirmation Teacher
 Andrea Spencer, Organist
 Madeline Frankenhauser, Children's Music Director
 Brad and Nam Gehrlich, Custodian
 Tracy Winget, Sunday Nursery Supervisor
 Jeanette Tangeman, Back Bay Missionary

LiturgistKarlie Lucas
 AcolytesMiddle School Youth
 Children's offering.....Sunday School Youth
 Missionaries.....Members of our Congregation

Our Giving to God, February 5, 2023
Current - \$4718.25 / Mission - \$285.00
Attendance – 84

The loose offering today is designated to Back Bay Mission.

Become part of our church family! Join us for our "Third Sunday Membership Opportunity" on the third Sunday of the month. Sunday, February 19 at 11:45 am, following the 10:30 am Worship Service.

If you are feeling led to be a part of our ministry and to join us as a member of Christ's body by becoming a member of the congregation of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, we invite you to our "Third Sunday" membership opportunity. You can meet with the Pastor and a few elders from the Consistory following the worship services on the Third Sunday of each month. We meet in the former library (on the left side of the church). Please contact Pastor Rhonda with any questions at 563-210-3508.



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

201 N. Perry St., St. Marys, Ohio
 February 12, 2023

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



Super Bowl Organ Concert: The Lima Area Chapter of American Guild of Organists will present their Super Bowl Concert this year. It will be held at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 301 West Market Street, Lima, Ohio, **TODAY** at 3:00 pm. A free will offering will be taken.

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ATTENTION: Our home bound/shut-ins love to receive notes and cards. If you would like to send some cards to them, call or email the church office for a list of names and addresses!

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You are invited to the Caregiving from the Heart Support Group held here at St. Paul’s. **The group meets on the first Monday of each month at 7p in the church Library.** 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. It will be led by Rev. Jeanette Tangeman (or Ruth Knous in Jeanette’s absence) and will be a gathering to support each other, learn from each other, and find helpful resources. Any questions, please call Jeanette at 419-234-7935, or Ruth Knous at 419-394-8085.



COOKIES FOR CROSSROADS – The Women’s Guild mission and outreach project for this month is to aid Crossroad of Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Crossroad is a home for troubled teens in the surrounding area. Gathering cookies for Crossroad has been a tradition of our church for many years. We would like to continue this worthy mission with your help. Bake your favorite cookies and bring them to the church kitchen or the elevette room by **TODAY**. They can be decorated, plain, or bar cookies. The cookies will be delivered to Crossroad during the following week. **Please pack them in a gallon or quart zip lock bag to keep them fresh.** Any questions, please call Kris Vanderhorst.

Women’s Guild also collecting socks and underwear for residents of **Crossroad**. Ages of the youth are 6-18. Bikini or boy short for the girls and boxer/brief for boys. Any type of socks. A basket will be picked up today.



JTDMH Guild #20 Dues: The Joint Township District Memorial Hospital Auxiliary dues are now being collected. All are welcome to belong and support our local hospital. Dues are \$15 and checks should be made out to “JTDMH Auxiliary”. Money or checks should be given to Ann Vogel by February 19, 2023.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Take note that there are colored notecards in the pews. Please take a minute before church to answer the monthly “Stewardship Reflecting Question” that will be printed in the bulletin. Please write your response on your notecard and drop it in the offering plate! You can include your name on your response, or you can remain anonymous. Responses will be compiled and shared on the screens before church services.

February question is: What is Stewardship and what does it mean to you?

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St. Paul’s Grant Applications are now available in the church office, or on the podium in the library

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Name: _____

Luke 6: 27-38

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

wood	saying	act	understand	tolerate
criticise	tiniest	Jesus	easier	someone
good	right	others	change	notice
see	jesus	splinter	speck	mistake
eye	disciples	plank	hypocrite	

WELCOME! Here at St. Paul’s, we strive 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: Connie Gibson, Cara Mabry, Sharon Sullivan, Cheryl Kline, John Hall, Diana Prichard, Shirley Harold, John Long, and Vern Luedeke. Also, pray for all of our military, medical, and emergency services.
 - Please pray for Ron and Margaret Hunter’s daughter, Melinda Hunter, who has developed a staphylococcal infection in her thumb.
 - Kelly Kill & her family. Kelly's sister, Jeanette Castello, and sister-in-law, Sandy Lemming, are experiencing significant health issues at this time.
 - 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.
- The **2023 Altar Flower Charts, and the Liturgist sign-up sheets** are located here in the sanctuary on the bulletin board by the sound system equipment.

Agape Ministries is in need of volunteers! If you are interested, contact Kris Rasneor, Program Manager at Agape Ministries, 419-394-8700.

ANNUAL MEETING: The annual meeting of the congregation is **today** following worship. First there will be a soup and sandwich luncheon, followed by the meeting in which the efforts of 2022 will be reviewed, annual reports received, and the election of President and Vice President of the congregation will be conducted.

- 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		
Today	9:15 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Adult Forum
	10:30 am	Worship with Rev. Rhonda Hainer
	11:30 am	Annual Meeting/Soup and Sandwich
Wed.	9:00 am	Quilting
	5:00 pm	Stewardship Meeting – Basement meeting room
Thurs.	1:30 pm	Heal Group
	4:30-5:15 pm	Breaking Bread Community Meal
	7-8:00 pm	Bell Choir
Fri.	9:00 am	Newsletter Deadline
Next Sun.	9:15 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Adult Forum
	10:30 am	Worship with Rev. Rhonda Hainer
	11:45 am	Membership Sunday – church library
	5:00-7:00 pm	Family Room Event/Potluck Dinner -Fellowship Hall

Psalm 37:1-11

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

- ¹ Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers,
² for they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.
³ Trust in the LORD and do good live in the land and enjoy security.
⁴ Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.
⁶ He will make your vindication shine like the light and the justice of your cause like the noonday.
⁷ Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out evil devices.
⁸ Refrain from anger and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
⁹ For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.
¹⁰ Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;
though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.
¹¹ But the meek shall inherit the land
and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

Psalm 37:39-40

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

- ³⁹ The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD;
he is their refuge in the time of trouble.
⁴⁰ The LORD helps them and rescues them;
he rescues them from the wicked and saves them
because they take refuge in him.

Luke 6:27-38

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Love for Enemies

²⁷ "But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; ²⁸ bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. ^[a] Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Judging Others

³⁷ "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."