

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

March 1, 2026

Second Sunday in Lent

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** "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Search us, O God, and know our hearts.

**People: Test us and know our thoughts.**

Leader: In this season of Lent, we come not to impress You, but to be honest before You.

**People: Shine Your light into the places we would rather keep hidden.**

Leader: If there is any hurtful way within us, any pride, fear, resentment, or wandering.

**People: Lead us back to the way everlasting.**

Leader: We do not gather because we are finished products. We gather because we are being formed.

**People: Shape us, refine us, and restore us, O God. Search us and make us new.**

**\*MORNING PRAYER**

Gracious and patient God, like Nicodemus, we come with questions. We come with a partial understanding, wanting faith without surrender and clarity without change. You tell us we must be born from above, born of water and Spirit. Yet new life requires making room. In this season of Lent, help us release what crowds You out, our pride, our fears, our need

for control. Blow through us with Your Spirit. Create in us hearts ready for renewal. We thank You, that You did not send Your Son to condemn the world, but to save it, and to save us. So, reshape us, renew us, and lead us into the life that is truly life. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

**\*HYMN #507**

**"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"**

**CELEBRATING COMMUNITY**

Announcements    Joys and Concerns    Visitors    Birthdays

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE** (Offer God's peace to those nearby)

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: and also with you.

**\*HYMN #51**

**"How Great Thou Art"**

**OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY**

**"The Wonderful Cross" arr. Carol Tornquist**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**THE GOSPEL LESSON**

**LUKE 18:9-14**

**SERMON**

**"Making Room for Truth"**

**Pastor Ed Karges**

**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #260**

**"The Old Rugged Cross"**

**\*DIMINISHING LIGHT**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE:** "How Great Is Our God" arr. Carol Tornquist

\*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  
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: [JNJL2021@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JNJL2021@GMAIL.COM)

**Back Bay Missionary:** Rev. Jeanette Tangeman  
**Audio and Video:** Rich Spencer  
**Pianist/Music Coordinator:** Becky Anderson  
**Organist:** Andrea Spencer  
**Confirmation:** Amy Keller  
**Youth Director:** Nick Frankenhauser  
**Children's Music:** Maddy Frankenhauser  
**Administrative Assistant:** Steve Slawson  
**Missionaries:** All Members of our Congregation

**Multi-Media:** Jim Huckemeyer  
**Multi-Media:** Derick Johnson  
**Organist:** Ann Vogel  
**Organist:** Darryl Smith  
**Pianist:** Kathlene Larson  
**Children's Ministry:** Jane Nuss  
**Church Historian:** Fred Scheer  
**Custodians:** Brad and Nam Gehrlich

**Liturgist:** Diane Gayer  
**Our Giving to God, February 22, 2026**  
**Current - \$ 2,225 / Missions - \$ 85**  
**(Includes Vanco e-giving for the week)**  
**Attendance – 90**

**Loose offering today will go to the Organ Fund**

Altar Flowers are given today by Fred & Pam Scheer in honor  
of all the March Birthdays

#### **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.



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
201 N. Perry St., St. Marys, Ohio  
March 1, 2026

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



**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
	6:30 pm	BINGO at Vancrest
Wednesday	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Church Office Hours
	9:00 am	Quilting
	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship Service
Thursday	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Church Office Hours
	11:30 am	Ladies Luncheon at JTs
	6:00 pm	Personnel Committee
Friday	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Church Office Hours
Next Sunday	8:45 am	Adult Forum Class
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Morning Worship with Pastor Ed Karges

**ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS**

Applications for the STEVA-KOHLER GRANT are now available in the chapel. These must be submitted to the office by Noon on Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> in order to be considered.

The 2024 St. Paul's Annual Report is complete. You can pick one up in the Hospitality Room, the Chapel, or in the church office. If you would like to have it emailed to you, please notify the church office at:

[smucc@bright.net](mailto:smucc@bright.net)

It is time to pay JTDMH Hospital Guild Dues. Our dues are \$15 and can be paid by cash or check. Checks should be made out to "JTDMH Auxiliary". These dues help to purchase needed equipment for the hospital. Please have dues to Ann Vogel today.

BINGO will be this Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30 pm at Vancrest.

The Ladies Luncheon will be this Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am at JTs.

Please be sure to join us for Lenten Worship Services the next 3 Wednesdays, with the last one on March 18th. We will have Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, as well, all at 7:00 pm. We invite you to come and make this worship experience part of your Lenten remembrance.

**Rest, Pray Listen in the Chapel** - Once again, the Chapel is available through Lent. Lenten devotional and prayer materials are available for use while sitting in the Chapel or are available to take home to read at your leisure. The Chapel is open every day, at any time during office hours, and prior to or following worship on Sundays. The Chapel will also be open before or after Lenten Services on Wednesday evenings. Everyone is invited to stop by the Chapel for a moment or longer to rest, pray, and listen.

**The annual 'One Great Hour of Sharing' offering will be on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.**

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It connects you to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. When disasters strike, or when individuals are displaced due to violence or poverty, OGHS ensures immediate response and ongoing recovery.

Through your support, OGHS funds comprehensive development programs in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, microfinancing, and women's empowerment. By partnering with Global Ministries and international response networks, OGHS maximizes its impact. Your contributions help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities.

The March meeting of the Caregiving Support Group has been moved from March 2<sup>nd</sup> to Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

Donations of spring flowers for the Easter service would be greatly appreciated. Please have your flowers in the hospitality room by 2pm on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.

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 behind the Media Table in the Sanctuary.

**ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE:** Don't forget that we have online giving for your convenience! It is available now by downloading Vanco Payment Solutions onto your mobile device. Go 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 take you to the Vanco site.

**DON'T FORGET TO MOVE YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR NEXT SATURDAY NIGHT !!**

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

- Please continue praying for: Jeff Lemming, Ron Ketchum, Jean Smith, JoAnn Bambauer, Lucas Knatz, Robert Wehner, and Ann Langenkamp,
- Joyce Greenawalt, who is recovering from surgery,
- Kim Rammel , who is now in hospice care,
- A young woman in Oklahoma, Kensey Carmack, who needs a new heart,
- All Legacy Members and Shut-ins, and the caregivers who provide them care,
- All those illnesses which cannot be seen.

*All prayer requests should be given to the lead person of our Prayer Team, Carol Schmidt: [Lschmidt@bright.net](mailto:Lschmidt@bright.net), 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.*

### **THE SERVICE OF DIMINISHING LIGHTS**

*Lent is a journey, not just toward Easter morning, but toward the cross. Each week during Lent, a candle will be extinguished at the close of worship. As the light gradually fades, we remember the growing tension, rejection, and suffering that surrounded Jesus as He moved steadily toward Jerusalem.*

*The light is not extinguished because hope is lost.*

*It is dimmed because Christ willingly enters the darkness of the world.*

*On Good Friday, the Christ Candle will be extinguished, and we will wait in silence, trusting that even in darkness, God is still at work.*

### **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 (1 week delay), and 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.

**[Interested in joining our church? Please see Pastor Ed for information.](#)**

## 03.01.26 Scripture

### **LUKE 18:9-14**

#### **The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector**

<sup>9</sup> He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: <sup>10</sup> “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ <sup>13</sup> But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ <sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”