

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

March 15, 2026

Fourth 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**

"Shepherd Me, O God" arr. M. Hayes

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any sharing in the Spirit,

**People: We gather as one people, united in Christ.**

Leader: If there is any compassion and mercy among us,

**People: Let us come with humble hearts.**

Leader: Let us set aside rivalry and pride and seek the good of one another.

**People: Let us be of one mind, sharing the love of Christ.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the One who calls us into unity.

**People: We come to worship, seeking the mind of Christ.**

**\*MORNING PRAYER**

Gracious and loving God, you are our Shepherd, and in you we find all that we truly need. You lead us beside still waters and restore our weary souls. When life becomes uncertain and the path ahead feels unclear, remind us that you walk with us and guide us in your ways. Teach us to trust your care, to follow where you lead, and to rest in the goodness of your presence. Help us remember that we are not alone, for your love surrounds us and your mercy renews us each day. Fill our hearts with gratitude for the ways you provide for us, and shape us into people who reflect your peace, your kindness, and your

grace to those around us. Lead us this day in the paths of righteousness, so that our lives may honor you and our hearts may dwell always in your presence. It is in this spirit that we pray together, Our Father...

**\*HYMN #50**

"Great Is the Lord"

**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.**

**\*HYMN #426**

"Blessed Assurance"

**OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY**

"What A Friend" arr. F. Lopez

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**SPECIAL MUSIC - Carol Waesch "He's The Lily of the Valley" – Mark Hayes**

**THE GOSPEL LESSON**

**LUKE 10:33-35**

**SERMON**

"Making Room for Others"

Pastor Ed Karges

**COMMISSIONING OF BACK BAY MISSIONARIES**

**\*CLOSING HYMN #255**

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

**\*DIMINISHING LIGHT**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE:**

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus" arr. M. Hayes

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

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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:** *Becky Anderson*  
**Our Giving to God, March 8, 2026**  
**Current - \$ 7,638 / Missions - \$ 302**  
**(Includes Vanco e-giving for the week)**

**Attendance – 75**  
**Loose offering today will go to the Current Fund**

**Altar Flowers are given today by Kaye Burd**

#### **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 15, 2026

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



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS**

Please join us for the remaining Lenten Worship Service this Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. We will also have Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, all beginning at 7:00 pm. We invite you to come and make this worship experience part of your Lenten remembrance.

Pastor Ed will be on a Mission trip to Back Bay Mission, March 19<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>. If there is a pastoral emergency while he is gone, please call Pastor Adam Shanaman at Buckland UCC, (419) 657-2597.

The Adult Forum class will NOT meet next Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The following Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> will be the last time the class meets for this Spring season.

Applications for the Steva-Kohler Grant are available in the chapel. These must be submitted to the office by Noon on Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> to be considered.

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>

**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.

**Discover Your Spiritual Gifts - An 8-Week Class | Beginning April 9**

**Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 PM** - Have you ever wondered how God has uniquely gifted you? Join us for an 8-week class as we explore spiritual gifts, take a gifts inventory, and discern how God is calling each of us to serve with joy and purpose. Space is limited to 12 participants to allow for discussion.

A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board by the Sound & AV station.

**THE 'ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING' OFFERING IS TODAY.**

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.

Information about Church Camp has been printed. Flyers are available in the Chapel and the Hospitality Room, and also in the church office.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

- Please continue praying for: Jeff Lemming, Ron Ketchum, Lucas Knatz, JoAnn Bambauer, Joyce Greenawalt, Robert Wehner, and Ann Langenkamp,
- Jeanette Tangeman who is currently at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS
- A young woman who is experiencing a new onset of health symptoms of unknown origin,
- A young man who is experiencing ongoing neurological issues,
- Cindy Glass of Lima, as she endures End of Life Care. Cindy has endured an Alzheimer's diagnosis & is the niece of Ron & Margaret Hunter,
- Prayers for this world as conflicts continue to be on going,
- 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: 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 419-305-6164.

## 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
	1:00 pm	Rebecca Circle
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	Lenten Worship Service
Thursday	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Church Office Hours
	1:30 pm	H.E.A.L.
	4:30 pm – 5:15 pm	Breaking Bread
Friday	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Church Office Hours
Next Sunday	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Morning Worship with Pastor Ed Karges

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.

## 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 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.***

## 03.15.26 Scripture

### LUKE 10:33-35

<sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.'