

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

March 22, 2026

Fifth 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

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: When we were weak, Christ came for us.

People: When we were lost, Christ came for us.

Leader: God did not wait for us to become perfect.

People: God showed love for us while we were still sinners.

Leader: This is the love that calls us together today.

People: A love stronger than our failures, a grace deeper than our doubts.

Leader: Come, let us gather in gratitude and hope.

**People: We come to worship the God who loves us
and gave Christ for us.**

***MORNING PRAYER**

Merciful God, from the depths of our hearts we call to you. You know our struggles, our fears, and the burdens we carry. Hear our prayer and draw near to us with your mercy. If you were to keep account of our failures, none of us could stand before you. Yet with you there is forgiveness, and through your grace we find new life. Teach us to wait for you with patient and trusting hearts. Help us to place our hope not in ourselves, but in your steadfast love and faithful promises. Renew us this

day, O Lord. Lift us from the depths of despair, fill us with your peace, and guide us to live in the light of your redeeming love. We place our hope in you, for with you there is steadfast love and abundant redemption. It is in this spirit that we pray together, Our Father...

***HYMN #502**

"Be Thou My Vision"

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 #466**

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

THE GOSPEL LESSON

JOHN 8:1-11

SERMON

"Making Room for Grace"

Andy Seipel

***CLOSING HYMN #422**

"Amazing Grace"

***DIMINISHING LIGHT**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE:

*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
WEBSITE: WWW.STPAULSUCCSM.COM

PASTOR ED KARGES
EMAIL: EDWARDKARGES74@GMAIL.COM
MOBILE: (260) 409-0974

PRAYER REQUEST EMAIL (CAROL SCHMIDT): CSCHMIDT@STPAULSUCCSM.COM
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EMAIL: JNJL2021@GMAIL.COM

Back Bay Missionary: Rev. Jeanette Tangeman	Multi-Media: Jim Huckemeyer
Audio and Video: Rich Spencer	Multi-Media: Derick Johnson
Pianist/Music Coordinator: Becky Anderson	Organist: Ann Vogel
Organist: Andrea Spencer	Organist: Darryl Smith
Confirmation: Amy Keller	Pianist: Kathlene Larson
Youth Director: Nick Frankenhauser	Children's Ministry: Jane Nuss
Children's Music: Maddy Frankenhauser	Church Historian: Fred Scheer
Administrative Assistant: Steve Slawson	Custodians: Brad and Nam Gehrlich
Missionaries: All Members of our Congregation	

Liturgist: Kathlene Larson
Our Giving to God, March 15, 2026
Current - \$ 2,486 / Missions - \$ 474
(Includes Vanco e-giving for the week)
Attendance – 104

Loose offering today will go to the Current Fund

Altar Flowers are given today by Miriam Lynch

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 22, 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

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

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, the Sunday School Children will be singing.

Next Sunday will also be the last time the Adult Forum 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 1st 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 4th

Discover Your Spiritual Gifts - An 8-Week Class

Have you ever wondered how God has uniquely gifted you? Pastor Ed will host this 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 full for this Spring session, but there will be another opportunity in the future. Keep an eye on the Bulletins/Newsletter for information future dates.

EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST

St. Paul's UCC High School and Middle School Youth Groups will once again be hosting an Easter Breakfast after the Sunrise Service on April 5th. The breakfast is free to all members and guests of the church, although donations are accepted. All funds donated will go to Breaking Bread! If you would like to donate any pastries to help with this breakfast, that would be much appreciated. We hope you will join us for good food and fellowship as we give praise to God for the sacrifice of His Son and the Good News that it brings us!

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

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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

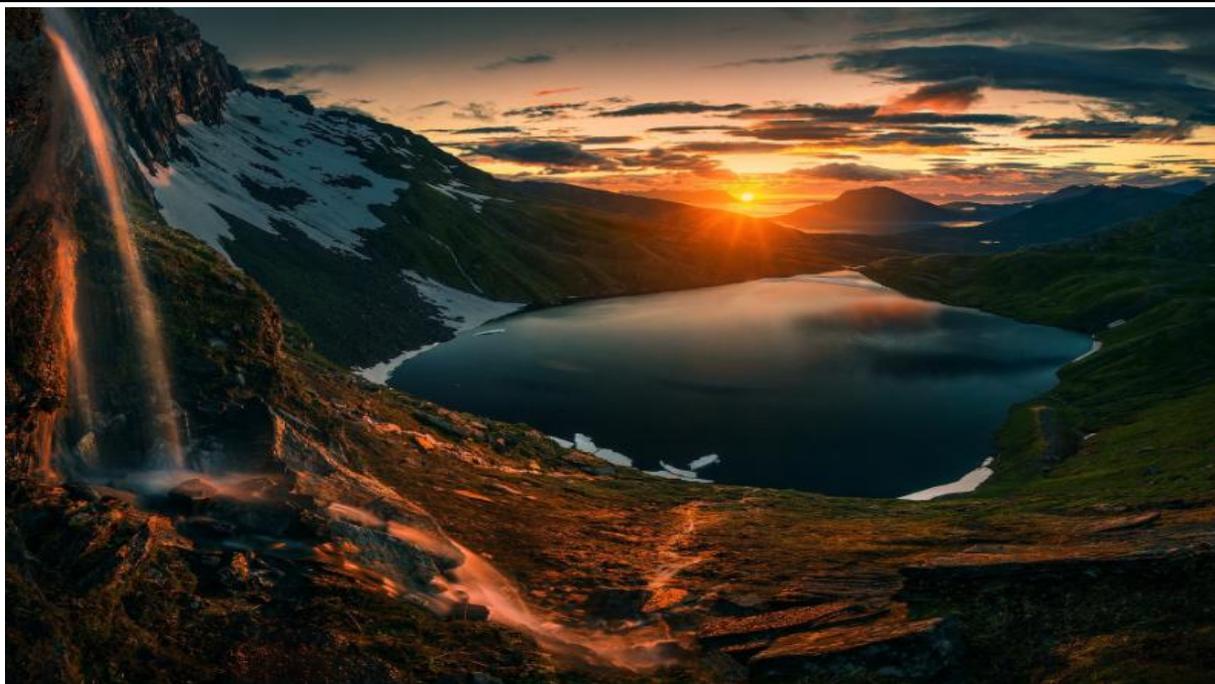
- Please continue praying for: Jeff Lemming, Ron Ketchum, Lucas Knatz, JoAnn Bambauer, Joyce Greenawalt, Robert Wehner, and Ann Langenkamp,
- Jeanette Tangeman, who is currently at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS,
- All those from St. Paul's who will be traveling to back Bay Mission soon,
- A young woman 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 enters End of Life Care. Cindy has Alzheimer's and is the niece of Ron & Margaret Hunter,
- Prayers for all the Soldiers who find themselves in harm's way throughout the world at this time,
- 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	9:00 am 10:00 am	Sunday School Morning Worship with Andy Seipel
Monday	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Church Office Hours
Tuesday	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Church Office Hours
Wednesday	9:00 am – 2:00 pm 9:00 am	Church Office Hours Quilting
Thursday	9:00 am – 2:00 pm 4:30 pm – 5:15 pm	Church Office Hours Breaking Bread
Friday	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Church Office Hours
Next Sunday	8:45 am 9:00 am 10:00 am	Adult Forum Class Sunday School Morning Worship with Pastor Ed Karges



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 10:00 a.m. (1 week delay), and again on Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

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 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.](#)

03.22.26 Scripture

JOHN 8:1-11

8 ¹ while Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ² Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them. ³ The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, ⁴ they said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. ⁵ Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” ⁶ They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷ When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” ⁸ And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰ Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹ She said, “No one,

sir.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.”