

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

March 8, 2026 Third 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 "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley" - Hugh S. Livingston Jr.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old.

People: We release what was. We open our hearts to what will be.

Leader: For thus says the Lord: I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

People: Open our eyes, O God, to see what You are doing among us.

Leader: I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

**People: Where we see dryness, You bring life. Where we see no path,
You create a way.**

Leader: The Holy One is at work, even now.

People: We gather in hope, ready for the new thing You are doing.

***MORNING PRAYER**

O God, our Rock of our salvation, we come before You with praise and thanksgiving. You formed the mountains and shaped the sea. We are the people of Your pasture, the sheep of Your hand. Today, help us hear Your voice. Where our hearts have grown hard, soften them. Where we resist change, give us courage. Where we cling to comfort, teach us

trust. Make room in us for Your leading. Shape us, stretch us, and guide us in Your way. We belong to You. Lead us forward. It is in this spirit that we pray together, Our Father...

***HYMN #261 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"**

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

Announcements Joys and Concerns Visitors Anniversaries

***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 #2 "O Worship the King"**

OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD

OFFERTORY "How Deep the Father's Love for Us" - Carol Tornquist

***DOXOLOGY**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SPECIAL MUSIC Logan Taylor - French Horn, Reese Long - Piano

THE GOSPEL LESSON LUKE 19:1-10

SERMON "Making Room for Change" Pastor Ed Karges

***CLOSING HYMN #253 "Lead Me to Calvary"**

***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
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PRAYER REQUEST EMAIL (CAROL SCHMIDT): CSCHMIDT@STPAULSUCCSM.COM
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EMAIL: JN JL2021@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: Dane Marsee
Our Giving to God, March 1, 2026
Current - \$ 4,169 / Mission - \$ 335
(Includes Vanco e-giving for the week)
Attendance – 86

Loose offering today will go to Disaster Kits

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 8, 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
	7:00 pm	Caregiving Support Group
Tuesday	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Church Office Hours
	6:00 pm	Consistory
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
	4:30 pm – 5:15 pm	Breaking Bread
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

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.

[Thank you, Pastor Ed for your visits. I appreciate and enjoy your time and prayers. Also, thanks to all for the cards, candies, cookies, phone calls and visits. Especially the Valentine bag full of goodies. I appreciate all that St. Paul's does for me. Thanks again, Janet Hoge.](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

The Caregiving Support Group will meet tomorrow, at 7:00 pm.

The Adult Forum class will not meet on Sunday, March 22. Then, Sunday, March 29th will be the last time the class meets for this Spring season.

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

Please join us for the remaining Lenten Worship Services on Wednesdays, March 11th and 18th. We will also have Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, 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 is next Sunday, March 15th.](#) 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.

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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please continue praying for: Jeff Lemming, Ron Ketchum, Jean Smith, JoAnn Bambauer, Joyce Greenawalt, Lucas Knatz, Robert Wehner, and Ann Langenkamp,
- Jeanette Tangeman who is currently at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS
- The family of Steve & Sandy Rammel as they mourn the loss of their daughter, Kim (Rammel) Cummins. Kim’s funeral was this past week,
- 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, 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 or text 419-305-6164.

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 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.

03.08.26 Scripture

LUKE 19:1-10

Jesus and Zacchaeus

19 He entered Jericho and was passing through it. ² A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” ⁶ So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷ All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” ⁸ Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” ⁹ Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”