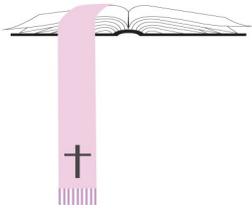


# ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

201 N. PERRY STREET • ST. MARYS, OHIO, 45885  
419-394-3811 opt. 3 \* [www.stpaulsuccsm.com](http://www.stpaulsuccsm.com)

## THE COMMUNICATOR March 2026



*“Food For Thought, Food for the Soul  
and Some Mashed Potatoes on the Side.”*

### **Making Room (Again... and Again... and Again)**

By the time you read this, we are already well into Lent, and, if you're anything like me, you may already be wondering how it got here so fast. One minute it's Epiphany... and the next minute the church has placed ashes on you and said, "Let's talk about your life."

This Lent, our worship is centered on one simple, but not easy idea: **Making Room...** Making room to slow down. Making room for truth. Making room for change. Making room for others. Making room for grace. And yes, making room for a King.

At the heart of it all is this: Making room for Christ and his teachings is not an extra feature of our faith, it is the core of our journey. But let's be honest, the world is very good at rearranging our priorities for us. Sometimes without asking, sometimes with snacks and free Wi-Fi, before we know it, prayer gets squeezed out. Worship becomes optional. Listening for God's voice gets replaced with listening to whatever is loudest in the moment, not because we stopped believing, but because we got busy.

Here is where Lent speaks to us so gently and so stubbornly. This season does not shame us for drifting. It simply calls us back. Many of us hesitate to return because we quietly wonder if it even matters anymore. We worry that we have been gone too long. We assume God has moved on to someone more organized, more disciplined, or at least someone with a better spiritual calendar. The good news? God has not given away your place. Lent reminds us that it is never too late to make room again. Not perfectly. Not dramatically. Just honestly. So, if your faith feels crowded out right now, take heart. God is still making space for you.

- Pastor Ed



### **SPECIAL TIMES**

**Adult Forum 8:45 am**  
**Sunday School 9:00 am**  
**Sunday Worship 10:00 am**

**Sunday Services Live  
Streamed on Facebook  
and YouTube**

**Televised Service—TSC  
Cable, Channel 2, Digital  
Channel 1 (1 week delay)  
Monday 7:00 pm**

**Lenten Worship Services  
Wednesdays, March 4th,  
11th, 18th at 7:00 pm**





We will have 3 Lenten Worship Services in the month of March: The 4th, 11th, and 18th, always at 7:00 pm. We will also have Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. 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 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.



**Prayer and Care Ministry**

**Prayer Team:** Prayer requests are welcome for any concern or thanksgiving. Requests are kept confidential and not included on the public worship screen unless specifically requested. Contact Carol Schmidt with a prayer request at [Lschmidt@bright.net](mailto:Lschmidt@bright.net), the church office, or text 419-305-6164.



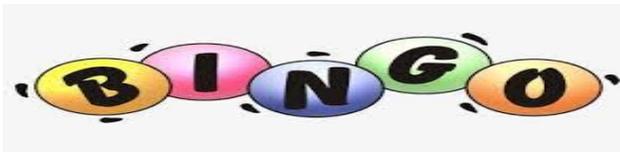
**You are invited** to the Caregiving from the Heart Support Group held at St. Paul's on **the first Monday of each month, at 7pm in the Chapel.** This is a gathering for any caregivers (and others who are involved), whether you are providing within your home, within your loved one's home, or if your loved one resides in a care facility. Sessions will be led by Rev. Jeanette Tangeman (or Ruth Knous in Jeanette's absence). This gathering is to support each other, learn from each other, and find helpful resources. Please call Jeanette at 419-234-7935, or Ruth Knous at 419-953-6274 with any questions at 563-210-3508.

**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.**

**-Worship and Arts committee**







**Bingo upcoming dates:**

- Tuesday, March 3rd – Vancrest 6:30–7:30 pm
- Tuesday, April 7th–Otterbein 5:30–6:30 pm
- Tuesday, May 5th – Vancrest 6:30–7:30 pm

**We are in need of BINGO helpers and cookies** *Please call Janice Katterheinrich at (419) 394-3264 to let her know if you can help work the Bingo or if you can bring cookies.*



**BREAKING BREAD COMMUNITY DINNER NEWS**

Breaking Bread will be serving from **4:30 to 5:15pm** (unless food is all gone before then).

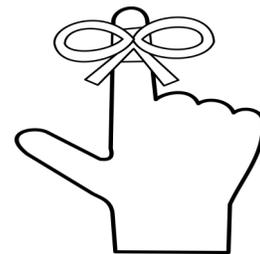
**Grab and Go from your car only.** We are looking forward to providing delicious, free meals to our community, every Thursday except the first Thursday of the month.

**Upcoming Dates:      March 12      March 19      March 26**

If you would like to help with costs for the weekly community dinner, donations are greatly appreciated. Donations can be placed in the Sunday offering plate or mailed to the church office. Please be sure to indicate your name on the envelope if you would like to receive credit on your giving statement. Contributions of #10 canned food are also accepted.

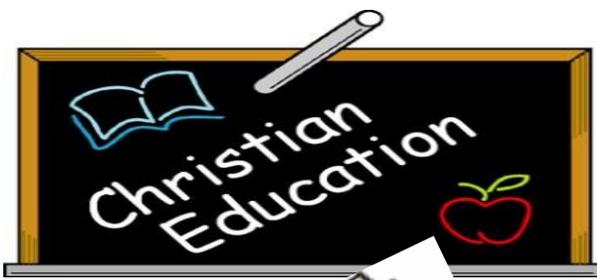
**ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE**

Don't forget, we 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 take you to the Vanco site. This service is available for your convenience!



***Deadline for articles, announcements, etc. for the April 2026 Communicator will be March 19th.***

**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.**



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS!

6—Carson Long  
13—Ava Winget  
20—Piper Marsee



The children made a paper chain for lent, called “40 days of kindness.” that they took home. They have one task to do per day, to show kindness every day. They are also busy with Lent season, and will be singing in the morning Worship Service on Palm Sunday.

## Youth Group News



### Aluminum Can Recycling for the Youth Group

Happy Spring to you all! The high school youth group has been studying the background and practices of our Lenten season recently, as well as more challenging topics like righteous anger. Also, in February, several of our members showcased their musical skills at the Ohio Music Educators Association District 3 Solo & Ensemble event and achieved the highest ratings. If you would like to see more of their talents, several of our members will also be performing in the Memorial High School spring musical, Damn Yankees! Lastly, the youth group will once again be providing Easter Sunday breakfast after the sunrise service. As usual, we are asking for pastry donations the week before.

‘Thank you’ to everyone who is saving aluminum cans for the **YOUTH GROUP!** We will continue to save, collect, and recycle cans. Cans need to be **rinsed out** and brought to St. Paul’s. **Just leave them behind the curtain under the stairs of the Creation Station door.**

If you have a lot of cans and would like to take them to the recycling center, please donate the money to the youth group. Thank you for your support.

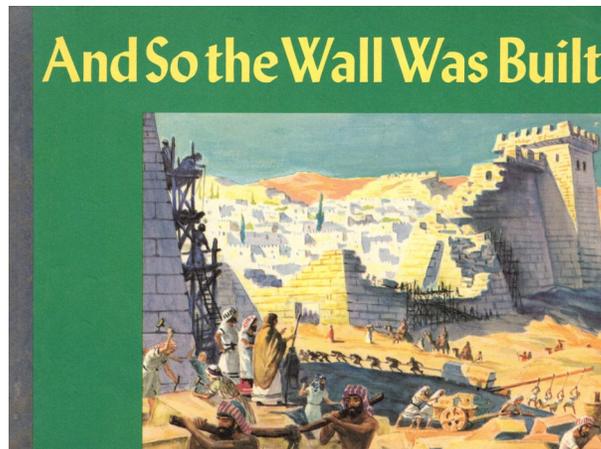
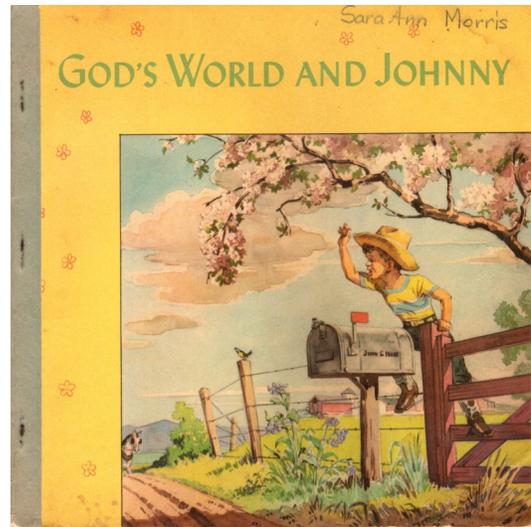
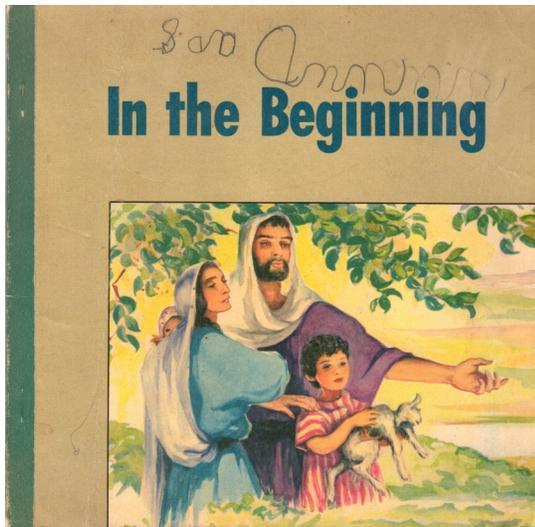
In Christ,  
Nick Frankenhauser  
High School Youth Director

ST. PAUL'S HISTORY

NOTES, STORIES,  
FACTS  
FROM THE PAST  
ISSUE 9



**Do you remember reading  
these books in Sunday school  
when you where a kid in the fifties?**



# Thank You

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the lovely Valentine Bag, the sweet cards, and the yummy treats. Thank you to Ann Vogel for dropping off my Valentine Bag and the nice visit. Thank you for thinking of me.

Blessings, Sandra Clausing

St. Paul's Friends,

After my surgery in January, I was supported by you in many ways, including prayers, cards, visits, phone calls, text messages, and meal delivery. Your generosity and love are greatly appreciated.

- Jean Smith

Thank you, ladies of St. Paul's, for the Subway gift card. I can finally eat out, instead of going to the Dining Hall again. Thank you for all the Love and support. - Ashlie Nuss

Thanks so much for thinking of me on Valentine's Day! The "Sweets" along with the notes, etc. was much appreciated. Thanks, again! - Mary Smith

Thank you so much for the Valentine Cards and Candy! We enjoyed the candy, and reading the cards brought back fond memories of St. Paul's - Bernie & Marilyn Schroer

Dear Church Family,

I would like to thank you for the Valentine's Day bag. I really appreciate all the cards and goodies! Also, thank you to the church ladies who bring me cookies.—David Hainline

Thank you for allowing our English Class to use the classroom downstairs. We really appreciate your kindness and support.—Sandy Henkener

Dear friends at St. Paul's,

Thank you for all of your thoughts of me with Valentine Cards and Candy. Thank you for all the "Thinking of You" cards from "The Lunch Bunch", and also for the cookies and visit every month. I am so glad the Worship Service is on TV. I watch every Sunday. God bless all of you.

- Eleanor Morgan

St. Paul's UCC,

Thank you very much for your generous gift. I am very blessed to have such a supportive church family. Thanks.

- Cody Birt

St. Paul's UCC,

Thank you so much for the Valentine's Day Card and Subway gift card! I am very thankful for such a generous and supportive church family!

Thanks, Emma Birt

Dear St. Paul's UCC Family,

Thank you for the thoughtful Valentine's Day Card. Your love and support is greatly appreciated. Thank you,

Tyler Birt

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### January 2025

#### Current Fund:

Budgeted through January 31, 2026 = \$22,542.39

Received through January 31, 2026 = \$11,099.00

Expenses through January 31, 2026 = \$19,168.00

Received through January 31, 2025 = \$13,130.00

#### Mission Fund:

Budgeted through January 31, 2026 = \$ 1,250.00

Received through January 31, 2026 = \$ 672.00

Received through January 31, 2025 = \$ 546.00

#### Status of 2026 Budget:

##### Current Fund:

Budgeted through February 28, 2026 = \$ 45,084.78

Budgeted through February 15, 2026 = \$ 39,449.19

Received through February 15, 2026 = \$ 10,919.00

##### Mission Fund:

Budgeted through February 28, 2026 = \$ 2,500.00

Budgeted through February 15, 2026 = \$ 2,187.50

Received through February 15, 2026 = \$ 711.00

### March Loose Offerings:

- *1st Organ Fund*
- *8th Disaster Kits*
- *15th One Great Hour of Sharing*

**The 2025 St. Paul's Annual Report is complete, and copies have been distributed. You can pick one up in the Hospitality Room, in 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)**

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

### MARCH 15TH

Through the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering, we are planting seeds of new life.

Together, we are investing in communities worldwide: providing education to girls and boys, empowering communities through vocational training, supporting microcredit lending and seeing people through to self-sufficiency, empowering families with skills to support themselves and their neighbors, and participating in sustainable solutions that offer dignity to all.

These are just a few ways the OGHS offering touches God's children, in addition to disaster relief and refugee initiatives.

Through your generosity, the world is a better place, but more is needed. Today, you have an opportunity to plant seeds into the lives of others. Be a co-worker with God. Building, planting, watering...and trusting that God gives growth to all good gifts shared in faith. Thank you for your partnership. Thank you for your generosity!

### Liturgists Needed for 2026

We are always in need of liturgists for our upcoming worship services. Let your voice ring out ... as often as you like! If your son or daughter is a Senior and plans on applying for a church grant, this is an opportune time to sign up to be a Liturgist and show your involvement in the church! Please sign up in the Sanctuary or contact the Church Office to volunteer.  
Many thanks!



# The Bulletin Board

- ◆ If you will be going to the hospital or if someone you know is hospitalized, please call the church office and let us know. The hospitals are not permitted to inform churches when a member is admitted.
- ◆ Please email the church office at: [smucc@bright.net](mailto:smucc@bright.net) with address corrections, or if you do not see your Birthday or Anniversary listed during the correct month. Or, call 419-394-3811 so we can get it corrected.
- ◆ **CALL-EM-ALL:** Please let the church office know if you are experiencing any issues with the Call-Em-All phone messages. Also, if you would like to be removed from the call list, listen to the broadcast and at the end follow their directions to “opt out” of any future broadcasts. This will remove your number from the calling list.
- ◆ **ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE:** *Don't forget that we 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!*
- ◆ **OFFERING ENVELOPES** - are distributed by quarterly mailing. Please notify the church office if you are not receiving envelopes and would like to be added to this mailing list. Also, if you are giving through VANCO and no longer wish to receive giving envelopes, please let the office know so we can stop the envelopes.
- ◆ **COPIES:** If you need copies made of any personal items, you may stop by the church office and we will be glad to make them for you. The Cost for making copies for church members is 15 cents per copy if you use the office paper, or 10 cents per copy if you bring your own.
- ◆ If you would be willing to Volunteer to help stuff the Newsletters for mailing, please email us at [smucc@bright.net](mailto:smucc@bright.net) and we will add you to the list. This only takes less than two hours, once per month.
- ◆ If you would be interested in receiving the Newsletter via email, rather than through the mail, please notify the church office and we will add you to the email list. This lowers the Church's printing costs, paper usage, and also postage expense.

# MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Mary Smith
- Amy Keighley
- Linda Rohde
- 2 - Todd Nedderman
- Dawn Brodbeck
- Rhonda Hainer
- Tyler Birt
- 4 - Ben Tuttle
- 6 - Leroy Kogge
- 7 - Wilma Dyer
- Galen Cisco
- 8 - Nathan Koepfer
- Joel Tangeman
- 9 - Rebecca Rasawehr
- 12 - John Lauth
- 13 - Sharon Anderson
- 15 - Lucy Spencer
- Connie Gibson
- 16 - Kevin Quellhorst
- Alex Spencer
- 17 - Penni Carroll
- Abby Tuttle
- 18 - Brian Scheer
- 19 - Jeff Nuss
- Christopher Lhamon
- 20 - Duane Thomas
- Howie Spencer
- Nicole Dicke
- 21 - Becky Mann
- Miriam Lynch
- 23 - Cathy Hirschfeld
- Beverly Sharpe
- Matthew Lemmerman

- 25 - Joshua Silver
- Jennifer Ruwoldt
- 26 - David Dickman
- Darren Meade
- 27 - Dania Rhoads
- Jason Clark
- Cory Steinbrunner
- 28 - Kristine Vanderhorst
- Jacie McGee
- Richard Larson
- 29 - Reece Wheeler
- 30 - Susan Braun
- Patty Striff
- 31 - Alfred Scheer

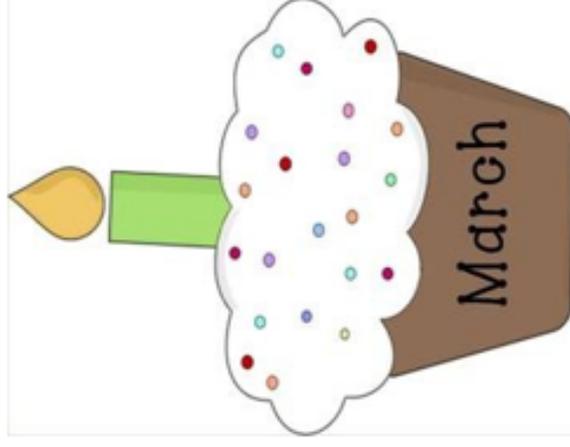
***May God give you...  
For every storm, a rainbow,  
For every tear, a smile,  
For every care, a promise,  
And a blessing in each trial.  
For every problem life sends,  
A faithful friend to share,  
For every sigh, a sweet song,  
And an answer for each  
prayer***

*~Irish Prayer*



# MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 - Richard & Cathy Hirschfeld
- 15 - Rhonda & David Hainer
- Amanda McDonald & Donna McChesney
- 21 - Donald & Karen Raymond
- 23 - Ted & Nicole Dicke
- 27 - Ronald & Linda Burris
- Steven & Joy Sibold
- 28 - Gregg & Kathy Dieringer
- 29 - Ted & Pam Fox



# March

# 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		<b>BINGO - Vancrest</b> <b>6:30 pm</b>	Quilting 9:00 am <u>Lenten Worship</u> <u>Service 7:00 pm</u>	<b>Ladies Luncheon</b> <b>JT's 11:30 am</b> Personnel Committee 6:00pm		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	<u>Caregiving</u> <u>Support</u> <u>Group 7:00 pm</u>	<u>Consistory</u> <u>6:00 pm</u>	Quilting 9:00 am <u>Lenten Worship</u> <u>Service 7:00 pm</u>	<b>Breaking Bread</b> <b>4:30pm – 5:15pm</b>		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<u>One Great Hour</u> <u>of Sharing -</u> <u>Offering</u>	<u>Rebecca Circle</u> <u>1:00 pm</u>		Quilting 9:00 am <u>Lenten Worship</u> <u>Service 7:00 pm</u>	H.E.A.L. 1:30 pm <b>Breaking Bread</b> <b>4:30pm – 5:15pm</b>		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
-----	-----	<b><u>BACK</u></b> -----	<b><u>BAY</u></b> -----	<b><u>MISSION</u></b> -----	-----	-----
			Quilting 9:00 am	<b>Breaking Bread</b> <b>4:30pm – 5:15pm</b>		
29	30	31				
<u>PALM SUNDAY</u>						

