

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

March 19, 2023 Fourth Sunday in Lent 10:30 a.m.
Order of Service

Welcome to our Worship Service today. Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God.

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES
CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

WELCOME *(Here at St. Paul’s we strive to create a faith community where ALL God’s people are welcome to come and explore God’s presence in the world. If you are new among us today, please fill in the Welcome card located in the pew rack and drop it in the offering plate.)*

EXTINGUISHING THE LENTEN CANDLES

PRELUDE “Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley” Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is the gathering place of God and all God's People.
Give thanks to God, for God is good.
People: God's steadfast love endures for all time.
Leader: Come, all who need justice,
People: God weaves in us the path of life.
Leader: Come, all who need peace,
People: God weaves in us the way of truth.
Leader: Come, all who need comfort,
People: God weaves in us a sure hope.
Leader: Come, all who need healing,
People: God weaves in us the promise of wholeness.
Leader: Come, all who need community,
People: God weaves in us the love of Christ.
Leader: Come, all who need God,
People: God weaves in us the heart of the Divine.

Leader: Give thanks to God, for God is good.
People: God's steadfast love endures for all time.

*OPENING PRAYER

May this be a place to celebrate your presence. May we tell stories of you finding us when we are at our lowest, of you reaching us when we feel excluded, of you holding us when everyone else has let go, of you bringing us in when we feel apart, of you touching us when we feel broken, of you calling us when we feel unworthy. May this be a place to celebrate your presence, and show the world your steadfast love for all.

*HYMN #461 “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

Announcements Joys and Concerns of our Church Family
Introduction of Guests

*PASSING OF THE PEACE Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.
(People offer God's peace to those nearby with whatever you are comfortable with)

WE OPEN UP TO GOD

LENTEN PRAYER IN SONG “Create in Me a Clean Heart”

THE LORD’S PRAYER

OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD *DOXOLOGY PRAYER OF DEDICATION
“I’ve Got Peace Like a River” arr. Mark Hayes Leslie Hullinger

GOD SPEAKS TO US

SPECIAL MUSIC “Down to the River to Pray” arr. Mark Hayes Leslie Hullinger

THE GOSPEL LESSON John 11:1-45

SERMON “Jesus, the Unbinder” Rev. Rhonda Hainer

WE RESPOND WITH FAITH AND COMMITMENT

*HYMN #355 “This Is a Day of New Beginnings”
*BENEDICTION

WE GO FORTH TO WITNESS AND SERVE

***POSTLUDE**

“Lenten Prayer”

Brian Glyncannon

***Denotes those who are able to are invited to stand in body and in spiritDepart to serve**

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Rev. Rhonda A. Hainer, Pastor
Cynthia Hanover, Choir/Church Pianist
Ann Vogel, Organist
Nick Frankenhauser, Youth Director
Carolyn Garrison, Administrative Assistant
Rich Spencer, Audio and Video
Becky Anderson, Church Pianist, and
Volunteer Coordinator of Special Music

Joan Leffel and Jane Nuss, Children's Ministry Coordinators
Amy Keller, Confirmation Teacher
Andrea Spencer, Organist
Madeline Frankenhauser, Children's Music Director
Brad and Nam Gehrlach, Custodian
Tracy Winget, Sunday Nursery Supervisor
Jeanette Tangeman, Back Bay Missionary

LiturgistJeff Dieringer
AcolytesMiddle School Youth
Missionaries.....Members of our Congregation

*Our Giving to God, March 12, 2023/
Current - \$3186.00 / Mission - \$315.00
Attendance – 124*

*Altar flowers today are from Ron and Margaret Hunter.
May the luck of the Irish be with you always.*

REMINDER: Today is Membership Sunday. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a member of St. Paul's, we invite you to meet with Pastor Rhonda in the chapel (former library) to learn about the UCC and how you may be received into membership of St. Paul's.

During the season of Lent, the old Library has been converted into a Chapel, where different prayer stations will be set up each week.



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

201 N. Perry St., St. Marys, Ohio
March 19, 2023

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



In honor of Auglaize County's 175th Anniversary, St. Patrick Catholic Church, 6959 Glynwood Road, Glynnwood, will host a concert of traditional Irish music by the band Mad Maudlin on Sunday, March 26, 2 pm. The event is open to the public and a free will offering will be accepted. Mad Maudlin is an Ohio-based traditional Celtic folk Band with roots in Scottish and Irish music. The members come from a variety of musical backgrounds including classical, folk, and highland piping.

WOMEN’S OVERNIGHT RETREAT: *ATTENTION WOMEN OF ST PAUL’S:* Women’s Guild would like to host a women’s overnight retreat at the Retreat House in Maria Stein. It would be Friday, June 23rd, starting at 6:00 PM and ending on June 24th at 4:00. We will have a fun filled time with crafts, exercise, spiritual reflection, and most of all, time for yourself and friendship. If you are interested in this time together, please call the office by March 1st, so we can get an idea of how many would love to participate. We will be staying in their dorm room, with a cost of \$25 which is dorm cost and breakfast. But if you would want a room to yourself, that can be arranged, but at your expense. Everything else will be covered by the Guild. Once we get a pretty good count of interest, then more information will follow. Guaranteed to be a fun and memorable weekend.

~*~*~*~*~

LUNCHEON PLANNED: On Saturday, April 1st, Craig Steenkamp from Back Bay Mission is going to be meeting with folks from some Ohio churches. We are gathering for a casual lunch at 1pm at Buckland UCC with folks from that church as well as folks from St. Paul UCC in Wapakoneta. Everyone is welcome, whether you have ever been to Back Bay or not, and would like to meet Craig and others who have gone. You may remember Craig was here for our shrimp boils. The only thing we need is a basic idea of how many might attend. If you are interested, please let Carolyn know in the office or Jeanette (can text her at number found in church directory) 419-234-7935. Hope you will take advantage of this opportunity.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Take note that there are colored notecards in the pews. Please take a minute before church to answer the monthly “Stewardship Reflecting Question” that will be printed in the bulletin. Please write your response on your notecard and drop it in the offering plate! You can include your name on your response, or you can remain anonymous. Responses will be compiled and shared on the screens before church services.

March Question: What are 3 examples of being a good steward for your church by using your time, talents and treasures?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Jesus Raises Lazarus

Y Y H X Z E A V G S D F R Z L C A
B B Z B R P L U B M S U R A Z A L
R C A T H A V R F E K D R X E R G
G Z P E S E Y V W L F Q U E Z R X
J E G N I P E E W L B U R I E D U
W Y U T I B O B L J M A R T H A T
Y L I D M F D D S I S T E R S Y E
Z O P S L Z H K C R Q P T L P Z A
I H S K B E G B J H A M E J K A C
B Y V C O Y S N E U Y I E N Q M H
M R Z I T N T M Y Q Y B S F V A E
O A A S N A K D D B T A Y E J V R
T M S E D L Y K X W I C I E A H L
K Q J N G Y A B S D T E S T T X V
Y N A H T E B Q I E N U F K W O Y
I A J P V J I D B Z S R U I E C P
E O A F P B R O T H E R E T L L B


WEPT	WEEPING	TEACHER	SMELL
SICK	LIFE	LAZARUS	SISTERS
BROTHER	BURIED	RAISE	BETHANY
TOMB	MARTHA	MARY	JESUS

WELCOME! Here at St. Paul’s, we strive to create a faith community where ALL God’s people are welcome to come and explore God’s presence in the world. If you are visiting for the first time, we are Glad you are here. If you are a returning visitor, Welcome Back. Please complete the Welcome card located in the pew pocket in front of you and place it in the offering plate. Should you have a prayer request, please complete the Prayer card and place in the offering plate.

ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE

Don’t forget that we now 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!

- PRAYER REQUESTS**
- Please keep the following people in your prayers: Connie Gibson, Sharon Sullivan, Cheryl Kline, John Hall, Diana Prichard, Shirley Harold, and John Long. Also, pray for all of our military, medical, and emergency services.
 - Please keep Mindy Hunter, daughter of Ron and Margaret Hunter, in your prayers as she recovers from surgery on her hand.
 - Kelly Kill & her family. Kelly's sister, Jeanette Castello, and sister-in-law, Sandy Lemming, are experiencing significant health issues at this time.
 - Remember to pray for our shut-ins and for their caregivers that take care of them.
 - All prayer requests shall be given to the lead person of our Prayer Team, Carol Schmidt: cschmidt@stpaulsuccsm.com, or you can call or text her at 419-305-6164.
- The **2023 Altar Flower Charts**, and the **Liturgist sign-up sheets** are located here in the sanctuary on the bulletin board by the sound system equipment.



Wednesday Lenten Services
There will be six services, with the last one occurring on March 29th. Make this worship experience part of your Lenten remembrance.

- Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ!**
- ✚ **NURSERY AND PRE-SCHOOL TODDLER CARE** - For your convenience, we have a staffed nursery located in the educational building. Should it become necessary for you to leave the sanctuary during worship, you can view the morning service on the TV in the nursery. **PLEASE NOTE** - Only Newborn to Kindergarten age children are permitted in the Nursery during our morning worship service to allow safety for the newborns and toddlers. Children 1st Grade and older need to remain in the church. Thank you for your understanding.
 - ✚ **HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE** restroom is located on the sanctuary level near the elevette 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**, every Sunday at 10:30 am and also on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm. This is now shown LIVE on Sundays and shown a day later on Mondays.
 - ✚ **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 soundboard in the Sanctuary.
 - ✚ **RECYCLE YOUR BULLETIN** - On the registers at the North and South entrances you will see a tray where you can place your bulletin to be recycled (if you do not wish to take it home). Thank you!

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL’S		
Today	9:15 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Adult Forum
	10:30 am	Worship with Rev. Rhonda Hainer Fourth Sunday of Lent <i>Interested in joining St. Paul’s? Meet Pastor Rhonda in the chapel.</i>
Mon.	9:00 am	Newsletter Deadline
Wed.	1:00 pm	Rebecca Circle
	9:00 am	Quilting
Thurs.	7:00 pm	Wednesday Lenten Service
	4:30-5:15 pm	Breaking Bread Community Meal
Next Sun.	9:15 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Adult Forum
	10:30 am	Worship with Rev. Rhonda Hainer Fifth Sunday of Lent

WE NEED LITURGISTS! Sign up by sheets by the sound board.

St. Paul’s Grant Applications are now available in the library. Deadline April 1st.

John 11:1-45

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Death of Lazarus

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. **2** Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. **3** So the sisters sent a message to Jesus,^[a] "Lord, he whom you love is ill." **4** But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." **5** Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, **6** after having heard that Lazarus^[b] was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

7 Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." **8** The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" **9** Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. **10** But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." **11** After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." **12** The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right."^[c] **13** Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. **14** Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. **15** For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." **16** Thomas, who was called the Twin,^[d] said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus^[e] had already been in the tomb four days. **18** Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, **19** and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. **20** When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. **21** Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. **22** But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." **23** Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." **24** Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." **25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.^[f] Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, **26** and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" **27** She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah,^[g] the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

Jesus Weeps

28 When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." **29** And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. **30** Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. **31** The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. **32** When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." **33** When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. **34** He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." **35** Jesus began to weep. **36** So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" **37** But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

The Plot to Kill Jesus

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.