

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

February 4, 2024 **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany** **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.*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CHIMES

WELCOME

PRELUDE "There is a Balm in Gilead" Spiritual

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Gather us in, the brokenhearted and the joyful...

People: **Gather us in, the weak and the strong...**

Leader: Gather us in, the fearful and the brave...

People: **Gather us in, the young and the old...**

Leader: Gather us in, to sing of God's works...

People: **Gather us in, to praise Jesus Christ...**

Leader: Gather us in, to worship and wonder...

People: **Gather us in, to know of God's love...**

*** UNISON PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER (using debts and debtors)**

Jesus, You are the Light of the World. Shine Your light in us today. Chase away the darkness of sin, fear, doubt and despair. Fill us with the light of Your truth, Your Word.

Produce in us the fruit of righteousness ... the evidence that Your Holy Spirit lives in us, works in us, and works through us. Teach us what is pleasing to You. Make us a shining example of Your amazing grace, redeeming love, and life-changing power. May others be drawn to You through us. Hear us now as we continue to pray, Our Father.....

*** HYMN # 481** "Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

Announcements

Joys and Concerns

***HYMN #522** "Shall We Gather at the Organ" **(see insert)**

ON THE STEPS WITH THE CHILDREN

*** 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 #422** "Amazing Grace"

OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD "Humbly I Adore Thee"

Robert Lay

*** DOXOLOGY**

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 40:21-31

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 1:29-39

SERMON **Our Deserted Place** Rev. Rhonda Hainer

*** HYMN #61** "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

*** BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "Psalm XX" Gordon Young

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

***COMMUNION WILL BE OFFERED IN THE FRONT PEWS FOLLOWING THE SERVICE.**

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Back Bay Missionary: Rev. Jeanette Tangeman
Children's Ministry: Joan Leffel and Jane Nuss
Children's Music: Maddy Frankenhauser
Youth Director: Nick Frankenhauser
Confirmation: Amy Keller
Custodians: Brad and Nam Gehrlach
Missionaries: All Members of our Congregation

Audio and Video: Rich Spencer
Multi-Media: Jim Huckemeyer
Pianist/Music Coordinator: Becky Anderson
Pianist: Cynthia Hanover
Pianist: Kathlene Larson
Organist: Ann Vogel
Organist: Andrea Spencer

Liturgist: Dane Marsee
Acolytes: Confirmands

Our Giving to God, January 28, 2024
Current - \$1,653.00 / Mission - \$225.00
Attendance - 83

Altar flowers are given by Ann Vogel in honor of today's musical program

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
February 4, 2024

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



Ash Wednesday Worship Service February 14th

7:00 p.m.

*Plan now to attend the service of worship offered for Ash Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. **This will be a traditional worship service that will include a message by Pastor Rhonda and both the imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.***

Helping Each other Adjust to Loss

We can all agree this has been a difficult year, full of challenges and many losses. It has been especially painful for those who are grieving the death of a loved one. HEAL is the St. Paul's grief support group led by Pastor Rhonda Hainer, who is trained to assist persons in times of loss, struggle, or crisis. HEAL will meet in the Chapel adjacent to the sanctuary on February 15, at 1:30 p.m., and is open for anyone in our community who is seeking comfort, clarity, hope for a path forward.

ATTENTION CE&N COMMITTEE: There will be a meeting of the Christian Education and Nurture Committee at 6 p-m on February 7 in Heritage Hall.

THE JTDMH AUXILIARY dues are now being collected. All are welcome to belong and support our local hospital. Dues are \$15 and checks should be made out to JTDMH Auxiliary. Money or check should be given to Ann Vogel by February 18.

AGAPE TOILET PAPER MISSION The Church did an amazing job collecting toilet paper for Agape in 2023, donating 1,353 rolls. Our goal for 2024 is 1,500! That averages 125 rolls per month. So far, in January we have collected 143 rolls. Keep up the good work! It is greatly appreciated by the Agape clients.

Janet Gibson and Terri Kerns

ORGAN AND 175TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEES HAVE MUSIC CONCERT TODAY!

The Organ Committee, along with the 175th Anniversary Committee, have planned a concert to be held on Sunday, February 4, at 3 p.m., in our Sanctuary. Community members will be performing some outstanding and special numbers. A free-will offering will be taken for the organ fund. You will not want to miss this concert, and you will not be disappointed!

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 in your prayers: *Ron Ketchum, Beverly Miller, Bernie Schroer, Sharon Sullivan Janet Keller, John Long, Kathy Raymond, Evelyn Horner, & a close friend of Andra Spencer.* Brad Anderson who has been admitted to OSU hospital.
- Remember to pray for our shut-ins and the caregivers who provide 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 Sunday School Department is asking for extra-large, empty cereal boxes to be used in an Easter craft. Please drop them off in the Sunday School Gathering Room by February 14th.

The Safety Committee, working with the St. Marys Fire Department, will be offering to church members CPR classes throughout 2024. Classes will be held at the fire department on Saturdays, May 4, August 3 and Nov. 2, from 9 am to noon. The classes are free (unless you want a card of certification). Those interested must register at the fire department, 419-394-2361.

Have you checked out our church website? www.stpaulsuccsm.com

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ!

- ✚ **NURSERY AND PRE-SCHOOL TODDLER CARE** – Currently, while our nursery is not staffed during worship, parents are welcome to use the nursery and remain with your child. 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 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**, 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
Handicap Accessible and Live Streamed

Today	9:15 am 10:30 am 3:00 pm	Sunday School / Confirmation / Adult Forum Worship with Rev. Rhonda Hainer Music Concert in the Sanctuary
Monday		<u>Church Office closed</u>
Tuesday	9 am – noon And 1 – 3 pm	Church Office Hours
Wednesday	9 am – noon And 1 – 3 pm	Church Office Hours
	9:00 am 6:00 pm 6:00pm	Quilters CE&N, Heritage Hall 175 th Anniversary Committee, Chapel
Thursday	9 am – noon And 1 – 3 pm	Church Office Hours
Friday		<u>Church Office closed</u>
Next Sun.	9:15 am 10:30 am	Sunday School / Confirmation / Adult Forum Worship with Rev. Rhonda Hainer

We **ALWAYS** need liturgists and volunteers to bring flowers for the altar. The **2024 Altar Flower Chart and the Liturgist Sign-Up Sheet** are located in the sanctuary on the bulletin board by the sound system equipment.

THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND NURTURE COMMITTEE will meet at 6 pm on Wednesday, February 7.

VALENTINE BAGS: *Women’s Guild will again send Valentine cards to our Senior home bound members. There will not be bags for the college/military members, as Women’s Guild will again be sending them a gift card. On Sundays, February 4th and 11th, a table with the bags will be set up. **We will be sending only cards.** If you can help deliver these cards, please contact Jane Nuss or Kris Vanderhorst.*

Cookies for Crossroad – Gathering cookies for Crossroad has been a tradition of our church for many years. Youth at Crossroad look forward to these. Please bake your favorite cookies and bring them to the church kitchen or the Hospitality Room by Sunday morning, February 11th. They can be decorated, plain, or bar cookies – **No nuts!** **Please pack them in a gallon or quart zip lock bag to keep them fresh.** Any questions, please call Kris Vanderhorst, 419-733-2112.

The Women’s Guild will also be collecting socks and underwear for the residents of Crossroad. Bikini or boy shorts for the girls and boxer/briefs for the boys. Sizes needed are for youth and adult, sizes small to 2XL.

QUILTERS: Our quilting ladies meet on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to ??? in the sewing room. Questions? Call Margaret Hunter at 419-733-4332. *(Note: We don’t meet in the summer months)*

Isaiah 40: 21-31

God's People Are Comforted

²¹ Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers,
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain
and spreads them like a tent to live in,
²³ who brings princes to naught
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
²⁵ To whom, then, will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?
He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.
²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob,
and assert, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?
²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;

his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ He gives power to the faint
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted,

³¹ but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

Mark 1:29-39

Jesus Heals Many at Simon's House

²⁹ As soon as they^[a] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹ He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³² That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed by demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons, and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

A Preaching Tour in Galilee

³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸ He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also, for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹ And he went throughout all Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.