

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

July 30, 2023 Ninth Sunday After Pentecost 10:00 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 *(St. Paul's strives 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 today, please fill in the Welcome Card located in the pew rack and drop it in the offering plate.)*

PRELUDE "A Quiet Reflection" Kevin Boesiger

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Hungry for meaning, acceptance, and love,
People: we gather within the mystery of God.
Leader: Yearning for greater peace and equity,
People: we gather within the friendship of Christ.
Leader: Open to renewed generosity and compassion,
People: we gather within the enfolding of the Holy Spirit.

***UNISON OPENING PRAYER**

Generous Giver of Life, you, who with each sunrise, breaks open a love that renews and sustains all of creation, come to us in this place, creating a renewed hunger for generous lives of spirit and human goodness. For it is in the name of Jesus, our bread of life, that we ask. Amen.

***HYMN #591** "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"

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.
(Offer God's peace to those nearby)

***HYMN #84** "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

WE OPEN UP TO GOD

OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD ***DOXOLOGY** **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**
"Lord, I Need You" arr. Mark Hayes

GOD SPEAKS TO US

SPECIAL MUSIC "Find Us Faithful" Rev. C. David Hainer

OLD TESTAMENT 2 Samuel 11:1-15
GOSPEL Matthew 5:1-12, 7:24-27

SERMON "Yertle the Turtle" Rev. Rhonda Hainer

WE GO FORTH TO WITNESS AND SERVE

***HYMN #451** "Be Still, My Soul"

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE** "They'll Know We Are Christians" Mark Hayes
***Denotes those who are able to are invited to stand in body and in spirit** Depart to serve

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 201 N. PERRY ST., ST. MARYS, OH 45885
 (419) 394-3811 (Church Office) (419) 394-8733 (Church Fax)
 email: smucc@bright.net website: www.stpaulsuccsm.com
 email for Rev. Rhonda A. Hainer: rhainer@bright.net and cell phone number: (563) 210-3508
 email for prayer team requests to Carol Schmidt: cschmidt@stpaulsuccsm.com
 email for Christian Education: jinl2021@gmail.com
 email for youth director: youth.stpaulsucc@gmail.com email for media: spmedia@bright.net

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 Gehrlich, Custodians
 Tracy Winget, Sunday Nursery Supervisor
 Jeanette Tangeman, Back Bay Missionary
 Jim Huckemeyer, Multi-Media

LiturgistDiane Gayer
 AcolytesDeacons
 Missionaries.....Members of our Congregation

Our Giving to God, July 23, 2023
Current - \$2245.00 / Mission - \$50.00
Attendance – 67

Altar flowers today are from Jim and Neva Rowen

NEXT SUNDAY the loose offering is designated for the Organ Refurbishing Fund

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.

“Heartland Conference House Build”

♣ Calling all able-bodied servants! Our Disaster Ministries Team is sponsoring a “Help Build Hope” House Build on August 25 and 26 at Camp Templed Hills, partnering with CrossRoads Mission and Habitat for Humanity. CrossRoads Mission will be providing all of the materials and tools, and ALL skill levels are welcomed and needed! We need 25 folks for the Friday evening “Cut Team”, and 120 on Saturday morning for the “build”. Participants will not only be fulfilled through the assembly of the walls, but also enjoying the serenity and beauty of Templed Hills! Information and registration can be found at heartlanducc.org. Questions can be directed to DM Team members Jim Huckemeyer, or Kevin Gehres. Please consider answering God’s call in reaching out to assist those less fortunate. 🧑 🧑 🧑 🧑



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

201 N. Perry St., St. Marys, Ohio

July 30, 2023



STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Please note the colored notecards in the pews. 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! Either include your name on the card, or you can remain anonymous. Responses will be compiled and shared on the screens before church services.

Stay tuned for our next question in August!

Everyone is invited to the “Caregiving from the Heart Support Group” held at St. Paul’s, **which meets on the first Monday each month at 7p in the church Chapel.** This is a gathering for any caregivers (and others who are involved) whether you are doing it within your home, within your loved one’s home or if your loved one resides in a care facility. The session will be led by Rev. Jeanette Tangeman. The purpose of the gathering is to support each other, learn from each other, and find helpful resources. Please call Jeanette at 419-234-7935, if any questions.

WANTED!! Sunday School Teachers/Volunteers: As a Sunday School Teacher/Volunteer, your job will be to create a positive atmosphere for the children in your care. You will teach, nurture and help them develop as individuals and as part of a Christian community. Lesson plans will be pre-planned, so all you need to do is implement the lesson plans. Let Jane Nuss or Joan Leffel know if you are interested!

AGAPE TOILET PAPER MISSION: Let’s get rolling and collect toilet paper rolls in the Hospitality Room. We can also purchase the rolls for you. Just give your donation to Janet Gibson, Terri Kerns or the office. We will be glad to help out. So, let’s just keep the paper rolling. Thank you for your past and present support on this project.

SUMMERFEST 5K RUN: The Family Life Center of Auglaize County is having a 5K in conjunction with the Summerfest. It will be held on Saturday morning, August 12 at 9:00 starting and ending in KC Geiger Park. All proceeds will go to help parents and babies in Auglaize County. For more information: <https://familylifecenterofauglaizecounty-bloom.kindful.com/e/family-life-center-summerfest-5k-and-fun-run>

2nd Samuel

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

ABIDE	GOD	LEAGUE	RULER	TERRIBLE
ARK	HARPS	LINEN	SAUL	THUNDERED
BATHSHEBA	IMAGES	LODGE	SAW	TREMbled
BLEMISH	IMPUTE	LORD	SCRIBE	URIAH
BLESSED	ISRAEL	MERCY	SHAME	VALLEY
BOLT	JOAB	MIRE	SIN	VEX
BONES	JORDAN	MOURNED	SMOTE	WAR
DAVID	KINE	MULE	SOLOMON	WAVES
EVIL	KING	PHILISTINES	STRAIT	WEARY
ewe	KISSED	PLAGUE	TABERNACLE	WEPT
FIRE	LAMB	ROCK	TENT	WHELPS
FLEE	LAME	ROE		WORTHY

WELCOME! *St. Paul's strives 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: Richard Larson, Evelyn Horner, Ann Hudson, Cheryl Kline, Shirley Harold, John Long, and Virginia Larmore (daughter-in-law of Kendra Strand). Also, pray for all of our military, medical, and emergency services. Prayers of Healing for Leslie Hullinger, Rose Leffel and Lynn Schmidt.
 - Please keep the family of Martha May in your prayers. Martha's funeral was held here this past Friday.
 - Please keep Scott Anderson (Becky's son) in your prayers as they begin the process of cleaning up after a home kitchen fire.
 - 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.
- We **ALWAYS** need liturgists and volunteers to bring flowers for the altar. 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.

AGAPE School Supply Program: In order to ensure that the clients that are in need of school supplies receive what they need, Agape will be administering our school supply program differently for the upcoming school year. **We will not be collecting any supplies**, in a drive, but will be offering everyone the opportunity to sponsor a child. Each sponsorship will be \$15 each child. To sponsor a child, you can donate \$15 (or more) to Agape with a note of where the money is to go, or write School Supply Program on the memo line of your check.

- 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 Handicap Accessible		
Today	10:00 am	Worship with Rev. Rhonda Hainer
Wed.	9:00 pm	Quilting
	6:00 pm	Christian Ed Mtg. – Heritage Hall
Thurs.	11:30 am	Ladies Luncheon at JT's
	6:00 pm	Personnel Mtg.
Next Sun.	10:00 am	Worship with Rev. Rhonda Hainer

**CREATING OUR VISION FOR THE CHURCH
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Our church is embarking on a strategic planning process to create a long-range plan for our future. We anticipate a 5-month planning process, with one, 2-hour meeting each month beginning this fall. We are looking for a group of 6–9 volunteers who are willing to serve as the task force for the planning process, and ask that you give consideration to participating. If interested, or would like to learn more about what is needed, please contact Ruth Knous, who is facilitating the process. She can be reached at rknous@ohioymcas.org or by call/text at (419) 953-6274.

2 Samuel 11:1-15

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

David Commits Adultery with Bathsheba

11 In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

² It happened, late one afternoon when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. ³ David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." ⁴ So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. ⁵ The woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

⁶ So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. ⁷ When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people fared and how the war was going. ⁸ Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. ⁹ But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord and did not go down to his house. ¹⁰ When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?" ¹¹ Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths,^[a] and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house to eat and to drink and to lie with my wife? As you live and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing." ¹² Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in

Jerusalem that day. On the next day,^[b] ¹³ David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk, and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

David Has Uriah Killed¹⁴ In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. ¹⁵ In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die."

Matthew 5:1-12

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Beatitudes

5 When Jesus^[a] saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:
³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
¹¹ "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely^[b] on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 7:24-27

New Revised Standard Version Updated

Edition

Hearers and Doers

²⁴ "Everyone, then, who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. ²⁵ The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!"