



Congregation, please join the middle school children in singing the first verse of hymn # 186, “Silent Night”

\*BENEDICTION

WE GO FORTH TO WITNESS AND SERVE

\*POSTLUDE                    “Unto Us a Child is Born” arr. Bob Burroughs                    Bell Choir  
\*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](mailto:smucc@bright.net)                    website: [www.stpaulsuccsm.com](http://www.stpaulsuccsm.com)  
email for Rev. Rhonda A. Hainer: [rhainer@bright.net](mailto:rhainer@bright.net) and cell phone number: (563) 210-3508  
email for prayer team requests to Carol Schmidt: [cschmidt@stpaulsuccsm.com](mailto:cschmidt@stpaulsuccsm.com)  
email for Christian Education: [jnl2021@gmail.com](mailto:jnl2021@gmail.com)  
email for youth director: [youth.stpaulsucc@gmail.com](mailto:youth.stpaulsucc@gmail.com) email for media: [spmedia@bright.net](mailto:spmedia@bright.net)

Rev. Rhonda A. Hainer, Pastor	Joan Leffel and Jane Nuss, Children’s Ministry Coordinators
Cynthia Hanover, Choir/Church Pianist	Amy Keller, Confirmation Teacher
Ann Vogel, Organist	Andrea Spencer, Organist
Nick Frankenhauser, Youth Director	Madeline Frankenhauser, Children’s Music Director
Carolyn Garrison, Administrative Assistant	Brad and Nam Gehrlich, Custodian
Rich Spencer, Audio and Video	Tracy Winget, Sunday Nursery Supervisor
Becky Anderson, Church Pianist, and Volunteer Coordinator of Special Music	Jeanette Tangeman, Back Bay Missionary

Liturgist .....Greg Leffel  
Acolytes .....Middle School Youth  
Children’s offering.....Sunday School Youth  
Missionaries.....Members of our Congregation

*Our Giving to God, December 11, 2022*  
*Current - \$3228.25/ Mission - \$125.00*  
*Attendance – 146*

*The altar flowers today are Sharon Gottschalk in loving memory of her late husband, Larry.*

**ATTENTION:** Our home bound/shut-ins love to receive notes and cards. If you would like to send some cards to them, call or email the church office for a list of names and addresses!

**LET'S ROLL...AROUND THE RINK!**

**What:** ALL CHURCH Roller-Skating Party  
**When:** Wednesday, Dec. 28 6-8pm  
**Where:** Grand Lake Skate on Celina Road (703), St. Marys  
**Cost:** Admission is \$1.00. Admission includes skate rental.

Concessions are open and available at your own expense. Christian Education and Nurture Committee is inviting all members to the roller-skating party. If you would just like to come visit or watch the skaters, there is not an admission charge for non-skaters. It could be a great evening to catch up after Christmas with friends, entertain the kids during Christmas break or just remember, or roller skate or watch the young youth and the young at heart enjoy an evening together. If you have questions, please contact Amy Keller, Joni Leffel or Jane Nuss.

**TAKE NOTE:**

- **Reminder there is no Sunday School December 25 and January 1. We will resume on January 8.**

**Agape Ministries is in need of volunteers!** If you are interested, contact Kris Rasneor, Program Manager at Agape Ministries 419-394-8700.

**Joint Township Memorial Hospital is in need of volunteers!** Grand Lake Health System is looking for volunteers. Various days and time available. Contact Denise Limbert at 419-394-3387 ext. 2808.



**REMINDER -- CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2022** should be submitted to the church office **no later than 10:00 am on December 30th** in order to receive credit on your 2022 giving statement. This gives the office time to make all final deposits for the end of the year. Any contributions received **after** 10:00 am on December 30th will be credited to you in 2023. Thank you!!

**Advent/Christmas**

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

yuletide	December	Celebrate	Angel	Manger
Stable	Wreath	Shepherds	Love	Peace
Paitence	Holy	Rose	Purple	Star
Wisemen	Joseph	Mary	Jesus	Christmas
Advent				

**WELCOME!** 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 back side 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: Carol Schmidt, Cheryl Kline, John Hall, Diana Prichard, Shirley Harold, John Long, and Vern Luedeke. Also, pray for all of our military, medical, and emergency services.
- 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](mailto: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.
- **We need Liturgists!** Please take a moment to sign up (on the bulletin board by the soundboard) or call the church office to sign up. Thank you.

**DEADLINE**

**ANNUAL REPORTS FOR COMMITTEES, ETC.**

Carolyn will soon begin preparing the 2022 Annual Report. Please submit your report to her by **Tuesday, January 17th**. If you can type and send it by email, it is most helpful - she can cut and paste!! If you have any questions, please give her a call in the church office.

**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](http://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/4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent
Mon.	1:00 pm	Rebecca Circle
Wed.	7:00 pm	Advent Midweek Worship Service
Christmas Eve	7:00 pm	Candlelight and Communion Service
Christmas Day	10:30 am	Worship with Rev. Rhonda Hainer
Next Mon.		Church Closed for Holiday

**INSTALLATION OF 2023 CONSISTORY**

The 2023 Consistory will be installed during worship on **Sunday, January 8th**. All Elders, Deacons and Trustees are asked to attend the service that morning.

**ADVENT PRAYER OF INTERCESSION** (Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19)

**O holy One of Israel, whose long history with your people is punctuated by ups and down, sins and disappointments, transgressions and wanderings, we come before you in humility as we continue our advent journey.**

**We confess that like the ancients,  
our zeal and ardor in being faithful sometimes wanes.  
We confess that we sometimes stray from the best we know.  
We confess that we sometimes sin and fail.  
We confess that we sometimes become insensitive  
to the needs of our sisters and brothers.  
We confess that we sometimes feel that you are far from us,  
almost to the point of abandonment.  
We confess that we sometimes feel  
that you have hidden your face from us.**

**Help us in these times to continue to make our claim upon you and to know that you have claimed us in Jesus Christ. Help us to know that we are your clay and you are the potter and to know that we are indeed the ‘work of your hand.’ Help us to know that your anger is not the last word in your relationship with your people. Help us to know that we are indeed your people, and that we will always be, because we have been made so in Jesus who comes into your world.**

**While we would trust that you are always and ever present, may we come to experience that more deeply this advent time. Overcome once again the distance and the uncertainty we have felt on our journey and make us to know your advent peace.**

**Hover over all those regions of human pain and suffering in our world and bring hope.  
Hear us now as together we pray, Our Father**

**Matthew 1:18-25** New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

**The Birth of Jesus the Messiah**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah<sup>[a]</sup> took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son,<sup>[b]</sup> and he named him Jesus.

**Matthew 28:20** New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

<sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”<sup>[a]</sup>