

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

February 22, 2023      Ash Wednesday      7:00 p.m.  
Order of Service

*Your Ash Wednesday offerings may be placed in the offering plates at the back of the sanctuary.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE      "What Wondrous Love Is This"      Anna Laura Page

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 51: 1-17)

Leader: God of salvation's joy, we gather to celebrate and revere you.  
**People: We come, realizing that we are broken. Forgive and re-create us.**  
Leader: God of unfailing love, we gather to worship and honor you.  
**People: We come, and because of your compassion, forgive and renew us.**  
Leader: God of new beginnings, we gather to praise and thank you.  
**All: We come, and through your grace and mercy, forgive and restore us, so that with clean hearts we may truly worship you. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN      "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"      No. 461

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & PREPARATION

Leader: Holy and most beautiful Lord,  
We are humbled by your compassion and mercy.  
We recognize that within us is much that has hurt and offended You.  
We acknowledge our faithlessness  
and admit that we are undeserving of your commitment to us.

(Silence)

Leader: But now, empowered by your grace,  
given to us through Jesus' life, death and resurrection.  
We seek to renew our commitment,  
and consciously deepen our relationship with you.

**All: We recognize, O Lord, that we are simply dust.  
Remind us through these ashes of our dependence on you,  
and your devotion to us.  
May we know the strength of your Spirit as we seek to follow you;  
May we know the discipline of your love as we seek to draw nearer to you;**

May we know the insight of your wisdom as we seek to learn of you.  
As we receive the ashes upon our foreheads, may we know the joy of sharing  
with you in ministry, in suffering, in death and in life. For your glory and your  
kingdom's sake. Amen.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES      Rev. Rhonda Hainer  
*(Each one who wishes the mark of repentance be placed on his or her forehead is welcome, now, to come forward.)*

THE SCRIPTURE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY      Psalm 51:1-17

SERMON FOR ASH WEDNESDAY      "I Will Stay With You"      Rev. Rhonda Hainer

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

POSTLUDE      "Forty Days and Forty Nights"      George Smyttan

*Please notify a deacon if you are unable to come forward for  
imposition of ashes and Rev. Hainer will come to you.*

PASTOR      Rev. Rhonda A. Hainer  
ORGANIST/PIANIST      Ann Vogel  
MINISTERS      Members of our congregation

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR LENT

✝ Wednesday Evening Lenten Worship Services in the sanctuary, will be as follows -  
📖 February 22      7p      Ash Wednesday - Communion  
📖 March 1      7p      Lenten Service  
📖 March 8      7p      Lenten Service  
📖 March 15      7p      Lenten Service  
📖 March 22      7p      Lenten Service  
📖 March 29      7p      Lenten Service

*Lenten Coin Boxes are available to pick up at the  
North and South entrances as you leave worship  
this evening.*



## **ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

February 22, 2023

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



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST