

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

201 N. PERRY STREET • ST. MARYS, OHIO, 45885
419-394-3811 opt. 3 * www.stpaulsuccsm.com

JANUARY 2026



THE COMMUNICATOR

*“Food For Thought, Food for the Soul, and
Some Mashed Potatoes on the Side.”*

Joy Renewed for a New Year Together

As we step into a brand-new year, I find myself filled with a deep and unmistakable joy. Serving this congregation over the past year has been one of the great joys of my ministry... and not *just* because you've tolerated my sermons, my bad puns, the moments when I'm not moving too fast, or I've forgotten your name.

Truly, what a gift it has been to walk with you, to pray, learn, worship, laugh, and sometimes cry together. Each Sunday has felt like a glimpse of God's grace: In the smiles shared during special music, in the children's wide-eyed questions, in all the faithful volunteers, and in the many quiet acts of kindness that never make the announcements but absolutely make the church what it is.

As we welcome the new year, we also welcome new possibilities. This is the season when people make resolutions like “I will take more walks,” “I will eat fewer cookies,” or “I will *finally* read Leviticus straight through.”

(If anyone actually accomplishes that last one, I owe you a congratulatory donut.)

But all humor aside, the new year offers us a holy invitation: To renew our commitment to serving God with joy, hope, and open hearts. I look forward to discovering what God has in store for us together. May we enter 2026 with gratitude for what has been and excitement for what will be.

With joy for the journey,
Pastor Ed



SPECIAL TIMES

Adult Forum 8:45 am
Sunday School 9:00 am
Sunday Worship 10:00 am

**Sunday Service Live Streamed
on Facebook and YouTube**

**Televised Service—TSC
Cable, Channel 2, Digital
Channel 1 (1 week delay)
Monday 7:00 pm**





Our kitchen remodel is complete and we are up and running again! Regular Thursday meals resume on January 8, 2026.

JANUARY MEALS:

**Jan. 8th
Jan. 15th**

**Jan. 22nd
Jan. 29th**

Breaking Bread will be serving from **4:30 to 5:15 pm**, unless food is all gone. **Grab and Go from your car only.** We look forward to providing delicious free meals to our community every Thursday except the first Thursday of the month.

BREAKING BREAD COMMUNITY DINNER NEWS

If you would like to make a financial contribution to help with costs for the weekly community dinner, these will be gratefully accepted. Donations can be placed in the Sunday offering plate or mailed to the church office. Please be sure to indicate your name on the envelope if you would like to receive credit on your giving statement. Contributions of #10 canned food are also accepted.

Prayer and Care Ministry

Prayer Team: Prayer requests are welcome for any concern or thanksgiving. Requests are kept confidential and not included on the public worship screen unless specifically requested. Contact Carol Schmidt with a prayer request at: Lschmidt@bright.net. Carol's cell (419) 305-6164, or the church office.



You are invited to the “**Caregiving from the Heart Support Group**” held at St. Paul’s. **The January meeting will be on the 5th at 7:00 pm 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 locate helpful resources. Please call Jeanette at 419-234-7935 if you have any questions.

H.E.A.L.

HEAL is a once-a-month grief support group which provides a safe place where you or perhaps a friend of yours who has experienced a deep loss can feel surrounded by others who are walking the same or a similar path. Too often, well-meaning friends and family try to empathize with us in our grief by saying “I know how you feel”. The truth is, no one really knows how you feel. Everyone must deal with bereavement in their own unique way. Grief does not go away or disappear in a few months, contrary to what others might expect and tell you. It is important to allow yourself time to grieve and time to begin to reshape the world that has changed all around you. Pastor Ed Karges invites you to come and experience comfort and a safe place of belonging, the 3rd Thursday of each month at 1:30 pm in the chapel at St. Paul’s UCC.



LADIES OF ST. PAUL'S: The January Ladies' Luncheon will be at **JT's** in St. Marys on Thursday, January 8th at 11:30 am. All ladies of the church are invited.

QUILTERS: Our quilting ladies meet on Wednesdays from 9:00 am to ?? in the sewing room. Questions? Call Margaret Hunter at 419-733-4332.

BINGO will be held on the following Tuesdays:

The next Bingo event will be on Tuesday, January 6th, 2026 at 6:30pm at Vancrest.

We are in need of BINGO helpers and cookies

Please call Janice Katterheinrich at (419) 394-3264 to let her know if you can help in any way.



REBECCA CIRCLE meets on Monday, January 19th, 1:00pm in the Hospitality Room.



THANK YOU!

A HUGE THANK YOU for the Angel Tree gifts you provided for the children of the Marshallese Congregation! Your generosity reflects the Love you show for our wider church family. Pastor Randon expressed deep gratitude for the kindness you extended to his congregation. Thank you again for being a blessing! - Pastor Ed

Thank you also for the Christmas gift given to Claudia and me. Your kindness is deeply appreciated. We look forward to using this gift in ways that will bless others during this sacred season. Your love and support are a continual blessing to us. Thank you again for your generosity and care.—Pastor Ed

Thank You for remembering me with birthday cards. I enjoyed every one of them. It brought back good memories of St. Paul's.

Sincerely—Marilyn Schroer

Thank You for the Christmas gift! I appreciate it very much! - Steve Slawson

Thank you, Consistory for the Christmas gift! I truly Love playing and am glad that I can! Merry Christmas!

- Becky Anderson

Thank you to the Consistory for the Christmas gift. Merry Christmas to all! - Jane Nuss

I would like to thank all those who sent cards and greetings this past year. Thanks also to those who took time to call or visit me since my move to Elmwood. And thank you to the Women's Guild for my Christmas gift card. It is much appreciated.

- Grace Young



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

2nd—Lilliana Burden
 3rd—Wyatt Marsee
 5th—Tripp Burke
 7th—Zoey Marsee
 11th—Carter Opperman
 18th—Ollie Chisholm
 22nd—Adelyn Clark
 26th—Dawson Hammitt

We finished out the 2025 year with our Christmas program, “Jingle Bell Beach”, on Dec. 14. The program went Very Well! Thank you to the Kiddos for all their hard work, and a special ‘THANK YOU’ to Jane Nuss, Maddie Frankenhauser, Sarah Walter, Joyce Roth, Linda McDonald, Marsha Landers, Pam Sheer, Stacy Seipel, Allison Craft, Kim Opperman, Amy Keller and Nick Frankenhauser for all of their effort!



YOUTH GROUP

★ News ★

Happy New Year from the high school youth group at St. Paul's UCC. We hope your holidays were joyful and nourishing to your spirit.

The High School Youth spent much of December playing games and enjoying fellowship together, but we did review the history and meaning of the Advent season. Youth group members Nolan Frankenhauser and Madi Mauter displayed their talent for the congregation in the form of special music for the children's Christmas program service on December 14th. If you weren't there and able to see it, you can visit the church's Facebook or YouTube pages to watch the service.

Although it is still December as I write this, the high school youth will start off the year with exploring resolutions and hopefully generating some service project ideas for the Spring. If you need assistance with anything or have a service project suggestions, please let me know by calling or texting me (Nick Frankenhauser) at (252) 903-8914, or by emailing me at youth.stpaulsucc@gmail.com.

Have a Blessed New Year!

In Christ,

Nick Frankenhauser
Youth Director



Aluminum Can Recycling for the Youth Group

Thank you to everyone who is saving aluminum cans for the **YOUTH GROUP!** We continue to save, collect, and recycle cans. Cans need to be **rinsed out** and brought to St. Paul's. **Just leave them behind the curtain under the stairs of the Creation Station door.** If you have a lot of cans and would like to take them to the recycling center and donate the money, it may be just as easy once they are in your vehicle. Thank you for your support.

ST. PAUL'S HISTORY

NOTES, STORIES,

FACTS

FROM THE PAST

ISSUE 7



Galen Cisco Makes Presentation

Oct. 1975

Poetter Receives MVP Trophy



MVP AWARD — Tom Poetter, selected as Little League Most Valuable Player, received a trophy from the Rotary Club. The

presentation was made by Galen Cisco, pitching coach for the Kansas City Royals.

ST. PAUL'S HISTORY

THE KITCHEN REMODEL PART TWO



New cabinets delivered November 10th



Metzger Construction did the install



Paint has been applied to the walls and the floor replaced... Cabinets are hung and countertops installed... The kitchen is being restocked and ready to be used. Thank you to all who donated, and all who helped! We will be ready to go for Breaking to resume on January 8th, and for regular kitchen use!

FINANCIAL REPORT

November 2025

Current Fund:

Budgeted through Nov. 30 2025	= \$ 244,664.75
Received through Nov. 30, 2025	= \$ 192,850.00
Expenses through Nov. 30, 2025	= \$ 201,728.00
Received through Nov. 30, 2024	= \$ 202,461.00

Mission Fund:

Budgeted through Nov. 30, 2025	= \$ 13,750.00
Received through Nov. 30, 2025	= \$ 13,909.74
Received through Nov. 30, 2024	= \$ 13,428.00

STATUS OF 2025 BUDGET:

Current Fund:

Budgeted through Dec. 31, 2025	= \$ 266,907.00
Budgeted through Dec. 15, 2025	= \$ 255,785.87
Received through Dec. 15, 2025	= \$ 208,160.00

Mission Fund:

Budgeted through Dec. 31, 2025	= \$ 15,000.00
Budgeted through Dec. 15, 2025	= \$ 14,375.00
Received through Dec. 15, 2025	= \$ 14,371.00

JANUARY LOOSE OFFERINGS

- ♦ January 4 —Organ Refurbishing Fund
- ♦ January 11—Crossroads



Deadline for articles,
announcements, etc. for the

February 2026

*Communicator will be
January 20th*



Highlights from the December 9, 2025 Consistory Meeting

- The Consistory voted to extend Pastor Ed's contract.
- Other than a few odds and ends, the Kitchen is ready for use again.
- The Trustees will be replacing the door to the ladies room by the kitchen.
- The search for a settled pastor continues.

Full Consistory Minutes are available upon request in the church office.



The Bulletin Board

- ♦ If you will be going to the hospital or if someone you know is hospitalized, please call the church office and let us know. The hospitals are not permitted to inform churches when a member is admitted.
- ♦ Please email the church office at smucc@bright.net with address corrections or if you do not see your Birthday or Anniversary listed during the correct month.
Or, call 419-394-3811.
- ♦ CALL-EM-ALL: Please let the church office know if you are experiencing any issues with the Call-Em-All phone messages. Also, if you would like to be removed from the call list, listen to the broadcast and at the end follow their directions to “opt out” of any future broadcasts. This will remove your number from the calling list.
- ♦ ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE: *Don't forget that we 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!*
- ♦ OFFERING ENVELOPES - are distributed by quarterly mailing. Please notify the church office if you are not receiving envelopes and would like to be added to this mailing list. Also, if you are giving through VANCO and no longer wish to receive giving envelopes, please let the office know so we can stop the envelopes.
- ♦ COPIES: If you need copies made of any personal items, you may stop by the church office and we will be glad to make them for you. The Cost for making copies for church members is 15 cents per copy if you use the office paper, or 10 cents per copy if you bring your own.
- ♦ If you would be willing to Volunteer to help stuff the Newsletters for mailing, please email us at smucc@bright.net and we will add you to the list. This only takes about two hours, once per month.
- ♦ If you would be interested in receiving the Newsletter via email, rather than through the mail, please notify the church office and we will add you to the email list. This lowers the Church's printing costs, paper usage, and also postage expense.
- ♦ We are ALWAYS in need of Liturgists and volunteers to bring flowers for the altar. The **2026** Altar Flower Chart and Liturgist Sign-Up Sheets are posted on the bulletin board by the sound system equipment in the Sanctuary.

DEADLINE

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR COMMITTEES, ETC.

We will soon begin preparing the 2025 Annual Report. Please submit your report to the office by **NOON** on **Thursday, January 15th**.
If you can type and send it by email, it is most helpful. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

JANUARY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 1 - Glenda Kellermeyer
- 2 - Kristine Holt
- 6 - Ruth Dustman
- 7 - Fred Waesch
- 8 - Melissa Schmackers
Karen Raymond
Brian Steinbrunner
- 11 - Logan Yelton
Kenton Strickland
- 13 - Robert Donovan
Joyce Keller
David Hainer
James Wieman
- 16 - Vicki Dietz
Brooke Lauth
- 17 - Margaret Hunter
- 18 - Ken Braun
Natalie Ginter
Brad Speckman
- 21 - Ava Gottschalk
Thomas Schaefer
- 23 - Betty Vogan
- 24 - Wendy Scott
- 25 - Samantha Solomon
- 26 - Heather Arnold
- 28 - Abby Heckler
Teresa Roode
Luke Lemmerman
- 29 - Daniel Haley
Richard Hirschfeld
Leslie Hullinger
- 30 - Gary Seewer
- 31 - Barbara Phipps
Dorothy Turpin



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 1 - Robert and Barbara Longfellow
Trey and Tori Yelton
- 14 - Rodney & Dawn Brodbeck



January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed	2 Church Office Closed	3
4 Sunday School Resumes	5 Caregiving Support Group 7:00pm	6 Christian Ed Committee 6:00 pm BINGO at Vancrest 6:30pm	7 Quilting 9:00 am	8 Ladies Luncheon JT's 11:30 am Breaking Bread 4:30pm-5:15pm Personnel Committee 6:00pm	9	10
11	12	13	14 Quilting 9:00 am Consistory 6:00pm	15 H.E.A.L. 1:30pm Breaking Bread 4:30pm-5:15pm	16	17
18	19	20	21 Quilting 9:00 am	22 Breaking Bread 4:30pm-5:15pm	23	24
25	26	27	28 Quilting 9:00 am	29 Breaking Bread 4:30pm-5:15pm	30	31

Rev. Ed Karges, Interim Pastor
 (260) 409-0974 edwardkarges74@gmail.com
 Steve Slawson, Administrative Assistant
 Jane Nuss, Children's Ministry Coordinator
 Maddy Frankenhauser, Children's Music Director
 Amy Keller, Confirmation Teacher
 Nick Frankenhauser, Youth Director
 Becky Anderson, Church Pianist, and
 Volunteer Coordinator of Special Music
 Andrea Spencer, Organist
 Ann Vogel, Organist
 Darryl Smith, Organist
 Kathlene Larson, Pianist/Organist
 Jeanette Tangeman, Back Bay Missionary
 Rich Spencer, Audio and Video
 Jim Huckemeyer, Multi-Media
 Derick Johnson, Multi-Media
 Brad and Nam Gehrlich, Custodians
 Fred Scheer, Church Historian

 Church email: smucc@bright.net
 Website: www.stpaulsuccsm.com
 Email for Prayer Team: cschmidt@stpaulsuccsm.com
 or text Carol at (419) 305-6164.
 Email for Christian Education: jnjl2021@gmail.com
 Email for Youth Director: franken.nick@gmail.com
 Email for media: spmedia@bright.net



THE COMMUNICATOR
 St. Paul's United Church of Christ
 201 N. Perry Street
 St. Marys, OH 45885
 (419) 394-3811, opt. 3

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non Profit Org
 US Postage Paid
 Permit 14
 St. Marys, OH

