

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

201 N. PERRY STREET • ST. MARYS, OHIO,

45885 419-394-3811 opt.3

www.stpaulsuccsm.com

SEPTEMBER 2026

THE COMMUNICATOR

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

September has a way of feeling like a new beginning.

Summer vacations are winding down, school is back in session, schedules are filling up, and suddenly we are wondering how September got here so quickly.

Here at church, September also brings Rally Day and this year we're going Hawaiian! There will be BBQ pork and brisket, pineapple desserts, Hawaiian shirts, plenty of food, and probably at least one shirt bright enough to be seen from the International Space Station.

But Rally Day is about more than food and fun!

It is about gathering again. Reconnecting. Laughing together. Welcoming someone we may not know very well. Sitting at a table with someone we don't normally sit beside. It is about remembering that the church has never simply been a building we enter on Sunday morning. **The church is people and people need one another.**

Jesus told His disciples, “Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” (John 13:34)

Maybe that is the recipe we need as we begin another fall together: a generous helping of Christ's love, plenty of room at the table, a willingness to welcome somebody new, a little patience when things get messy, and enough grace to go around. So come to Rally Day. Wear the Hawaiian shirt. Eat some BBQ. Sample a pineapple dessert or two. Laugh. Talk. Meet somebody. Because sometimes God does some of His best work when His people simply gather around the table.

And, of course, there should always be some mashed potatoes on the side.

- Pastor Ed



SPECIAL TIMES

Sunday School 9:00 am
(beginning Sept 13th)

Sunday Worship 10:00am

Sunday Service Live
Streamed on Facebook
and YouTube

**Televised Service -
TSC Cable, Channel 2,
Digital Channel 1
(1 week delay)**

Monday @ 7:00 pm





- ❖ 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 do not generally inform churches when a member is admitted, due to confidentiality.
- ❖ 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 you can call 419-394-3811 so we can get it corrected.
- ❖ **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 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 fold the Newsletters for mailing, please email us at: smucc@bright.net and we will add you to the list. This only takes less than 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 postage expense.**

The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries.



In 2025 the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy. This year, the date for the Neighbors in Need offering is October 4. Thank you for your support and generosity!

Discover Your Spiritual Gifts - A 7-Week Class | Beginning Sept 10
Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 PM

Have you ever wondered how God has uniquely gifted you?

Join us for a 7-week class as we explore spiritual gifts, take a gifts inventory, and discern how God is calling each of us to serve with joy and purpose.

Space is limited to 12 participants to allow for discussion.

A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board by the Sound & AV station.

LAST CHANCE TO BE AN ORGAN DONOR

Good News!! The contract has been signed and a deposit sent to complete the final phase of our Organ restoration. Signing this contract assures that the final price of approximately \$130,000.00 will not increase. While we still need a little less than \$8,000.00 to completely pay for it, we have a family in the congregation that has pledged to donate any remaining money needed to pay the final invoice. If you would like to make a donation to this project, you still have the next several months to do so. This portion of the restoration involves having the Schantz Organ Company come to pick up our organ sometime next year and take it to their shop. They will spend several months upgrading all the wiring and the console and then returning it to our sanctuary. This should significantly improve the sound of the organ. Thank you all for the many, many donations that have been given over the last few years. This truly was a huge undertaking, and we appreciate all the support this congregation has given. Don't forget –

You can still be one of our organ donors.

However, the end IS in sight.

Gratefully,

Your Consistory Members



Attention bakers, gardeners, crafters, and anyone with a hobby or project they would like to share. The Women's Guild's Fall Harvest Meal and Market on October 7th is looking for baked goods, fall produce (pumpkins, gourds, vegetables, etc.), handmade Fall decor, and any projects like honey, wood crafts, etc. to be donated to the market. Please contact Jane Nuss or Jane Laird with any questions. Also, Please invite your family, friends, neighbors to join us for the Market and Meal to celebrate the fall season!



RALLY DAY IS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH !!

On **Sunday, September 13**, immediately following worship, we'll gather in the Fellowship Hall for a **Rally Day Hawaiian Luau Celebration**, and you won't want to miss it.



This year's highlight will be our **BBQ Pork & Brisket Showdown**, paired with a tropical twist: a **Pineapple-Inspired Dessert Competition**. Whether you love to cook, bake, or just taste-test, there will be something for everyone to enjoy!

Important: Competition sign-ups will be available soon, with **12 entry spots for each category**, so keep an eye out and be ready to claim your place.

We'll also have:

- **Cash prizes and awards**
- **A special Fire Department judging category**
- Additional food provided so everyone can enjoy the day
- A fun **photo area** for families and friends

Plenty of time for fellowship and connection as we begin a new season together

And of course...

Come dressed in your best Hawaiian attire!

This is more than just an event, it's a chance to reconnect, welcome new faces, and celebrate the life we share as a church community.

So go ahead and circle the date, start thinking about your best recipes, and get ready for a day filled with food, fun, and fellowship.

Rally Day is coming... and it's going to be a blast!



RALLY DAY LUAU - PORK BBQ OR BRISKET SHOWDOWN

Sunday, September 13

Following Worship • Fellowship Hall

Rules & Expectations for Contestants

Thank you for entering our Rally Day Showdown! Here are a few guidelines to help everything run smoothly.

- 1. Choose Your Entry** - Contestants may enter either **Pork BBQ or Brisket**. Each contestant may have one entry in the Showdown.
- 2. Bring Enough for Tasting** - Please bring approximately **5–6 pounds of prepared meat** so that we have enough small tasting portions for approximately 100 people.
- 3. Meat Should Arrive Fully Cooked** - All pork and brisket should arrive **fully cooked and ready to serve**. Please bring your entry in a crockpot, roaster, or other appropriate container that will keep the meat hot during the competition.
- 4. Serving Supplies Will Be Provided** - Small tasting cups will be provided. Contestants should bring any special serving utensils needed for their entry.
- 5. Please Provide an Ingredient List** - For allergy and food-safety awareness, please provide a list of ingredients, including sauces, seasonings, marinades, or toppings used in your entry.
- 6. Give Your Creation a Name!** - Be creative! Fun names for your Pork BBQ or Brisket are encouraged.
- 7. Entries Will Be Numbered** - Each entry will receive a number at the registration table. Entries should be set up and ready for tasting immediately following worship.
- 8. Everyone Gets to Taste & Vote!** - Those attending Rally Day will have the opportunity to sample the entries and cast their **People's Choice votes using poker chips**.
- 9. Our Fire Department Judges Are Back!** - Members of the Fire Department will once again serve as special judges and select their own award winner.
- 10. Cash Prizes & Bragging Rights!** - Cash prizes will be awarded to our winners—and, of course, the Rally Day bragging rights are priceless!

Most Important Rule: - **Have fun!** This is a friendly competition celebrating good food, good fellowship, and our Rally Day Luau!

RALLY DAY LUAU - PINEAPPLE-INSPIRED DESSERT COMPETITION

Sunday, September 13

Following Worship • Fellowship Hall

Rules & Expectations for Contestants

Thank you for joining our tropical dessert challenge! Here are a few guidelines to help make the competition fun and easy for everyone.

- 1. Pineapple Must Be an Ingredient** - Your dessert can be almost anything, cake, pie, cookies, bars, cheesecake, pudding, cupcakes, or your own creation, but **pineapple must be an ingredient in the dessert**.
- 2. Bring Enough for Tasting** - Please prepare enough for approximately **100 small tasting portions**. Desserts should be divided or cut into small tasting-size portions whenever possible before arriving.
- 3. Please Provide an Ingredient List** - For allergy awareness, provide a complete ingredient list with your dessert, especially noting common allergens such as nuts, dairy, eggs, wheat, or coconut.
- 4. Keep Cold Desserts Cold** - If your dessert requires refrigeration, please let the Rally Day team know ahead of time so appropriate arrangements can be made.
- 5. Serving Supplies Will Be Provided** - Small tasting cups/plates and disposable utensils will be provided. Please bring any special serving utensil your dessert requires.
- 6. Give Your Dessert a Name!** - Creativity is encouraged! Give your pineapple creation a fun tropical name if you'd like.
- 7. Entries Will Be Numbered** - Each dessert will receive a number at the registration table and should be ready for tasting immediately following worship.
- 8. Everyone Gets to Taste & Vote!** - Those attending Rally Day will sample the desserts and cast their **People's Choice votes using poker chips**.
- 9. Our Fire Department Judges Are Back!** - Members of the Fire Department will also taste the entries and select their own special award winner.
- 10. Cash Prizes & Bragging Rights!** - Cash prizes will be awarded to our winners, along with the honor of becoming one of our 2026 Rally Day champions!

Most Important Rule: **Have fun and get creative with that pineapple!**



CARE MINISTRY

You are invited to the Caregiving from the Heart Support Group held at St. Paul's on **the first Monday of each month, at 7pm in the Chapel**. This is a gathering for any caregivers (and others who are involved), whether you are providing care within your home, within your loved one's home, or if your loved one resides in a care facility. Sessions will be led by Rev. Jeanette Tangeman (or Ruth Knous in Jeanette's absence). This gathering is to support each other, learn from each other, and find helpful resources. Questions? Please contact: Jeanette at 419-234-7935, or Ruth Knous at 419-953-6274.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Prayer Team: Prayer requests are welcome for any concern or thanksgiving. Requests are kept confidential and not included in the public worship screen unless specifically requested. Contact Carol Schmidt with a prayer request at: cschmidt@stpaulsuccsm.com, the church office, or text 419-305-6164.

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 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 Third Thursday of each month at 1:30 p.m. The HEAL group meets in the chapel at St. Paul's UCC.

BREAKING BREAD COMMUNITY DINNER NEWS

Breaking Bread will be serving from **4:30 to 5:15pm** (unless food is all gone before then). **Grab and Go from your car only.** We are honored to provide delicious, free meals to our community. Meals are served every Thursday except the first one of each month.

Want to contribute to help with costs for the weekly community dinner? Donations will be gratefully accepted. Donations can be placed in the Sunday offering plate or mailed to the church office. Contributions of #10 canned food are also accepted.



Upcoming Meals:

September	10
September	17
September	24



QUILTERS:

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



Bingo will be held on the following Tuesdays:

Sept. 8th — Otterbein 5:30 pm — 6:30 pm

Oct. 6th — Vancrest 6:30 — 7:30 pm

Nov. 3rd — Otterbein 5:30 pm — 6:30 pm

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.*



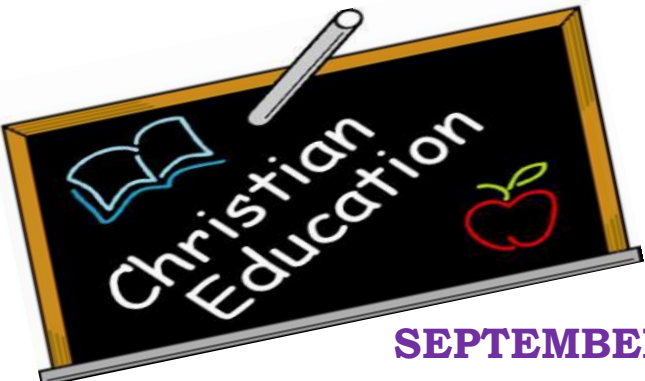
Have you ever wanted to put your faith into action and make a real difference in someone's life? Our annual trip to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS is now taking reservations for March 14-20, 2027. Each year many from St. Paul's and some others as well discover they have made a life changing difference in the lives of God's children in Biloxi through our 100+ year old UCC Mission there... and in their own lives as well. No matter your skills or perceived lack of them, there is always something you can do. If you are interested, please talk with Jeanette Tangeman, 419-234-7935, or one of the many folks who have gone before and already are signing up again.

ATTENTION

LADIES OF ST. PAUL'S

**There will be a Ladies' Luncheon at
The Mason Jar in Wapak, on
Thursday, September 3rd at 11:30 am.
All the ladies of the church are
welcome to attend.**

A BIG THANK YOU
to everyone who has
donated toilet paper
for AGAPE! We are
a bit behind from
last year's count. As
of 07/20 we have
donated 700 rolls.
Thank you to all
who have donated.
If you would like to
donate the \$\$ rather
than purchase the
rolls, you can place
in the Offering Plate
and we can make
the purchase and
deliver.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

4 – PIPER ARNOLD

10 – LARRY BOWER

15 – KYLER SOLOMAN

Summer has FLOWN by! School has already started, and it is time for RALLY DAY and Sunday School!! We will meet at 9:00am on Sunday, September 13th in the Gathering Room for a time of Worship and Games. Then, after the morning Worship Service will be a Luau-Themed RALLY DAY Celebration! Going forward, Sunday School will meet weekly at 9:00 am, with the Worship Service at 10:00 am.

ATTENTION, ALL PARENTS AND YOUTH MEMBERS,

The Christian Education ministry is sponsoring a trip to Cedar Point on Saturday, October 17th for all youth in 6-12th grade and volunteer chaperones. Tickets must be registered for in advance and will cost \$25 each. Transportation will be provided by the church, and ONE guest per student is allowed. Details about Registration and permission slips will be available soon.

Thanks,
Nick

CONFIRMATION NEWS

The Confirmation program will begin Sunday, September 13th with an orientation meeting at 9:00am in Heritage Hall, located beside the Fellowship Hall. All parents and students (8th and 9th grade) who are interested in Confirmation classes are invited to attend. Our first class will begin on September 20th at 9:00am to 9:50am in the classroom above the Hospitality room on the 2nd story of the church. September 13th is also Rally Day and all classes for children ages Pre-K through High School will be starting again after the summer break. We look forward to seeing everyone. Please contact Amy Keller at 419-953-6997 if you have any questions. Thank you.



We had 6 students attend Sports Camp, June 28th – July 3rd. Pastor Ed and Amy Keller visited the camp one day to see the kids. It was HOT, but everyone had a Great Time! Campers were: Graham James, Aubrey Birt, Piper Marsee, Zoey Marsee, Wyatt Marsee, and Avery Dieringer.

The Christian Ed Department will be handing out candy again this year for trick or treat. If you would like to donate candy to this event it would be greatly appreciated !!

Aluminum Can Recycling for the Youth Group

Thank you to everyone who is saving aluminum cans for the **YOUTH GROUP**. We will continue to save, collect, and recycle cans. The cans should 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, that may be just as easy once they are in your vehicle. Thank you for your support!!

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
201 N. PERRY ST. ST. MARYS, OH 45885**

FALL HARVEST MEAL & MARKET 2026

Wednesday, October 7th, 2026, 4:30pm – 6:30pm
Chicken or Swiss Steak Adults \$12, Children (11 and under) \$6
Bake Sale – Locally Grown Produce – Fall Decor
1:00pm – 6:30pm in Heritage Hall



Join us and dine in the Fellowship

**Hall, or you can drive-through
carryout by entering the main
parking lot from High Street.**

***Tickets can be purchased at the
church office or at the door, or
from Jane Laird or Jane Nuss.***

FINANCIAL REPORT

July 2026

Current Fund:

Budgeted through July 31, 2026 = \$ 157,796.73
Received through July 31, 2026 = \$ 124,973.00
Expenses through July 31, 2026 = \$ 133,188.23
Received through July 31, 2025 = \$ 132,544.00

Mission Fund:

Budgeted through July 31, 2026 = \$ 8,750.00
Received through July 31, 2026 = \$ 9,611.00
Received through July 31, 2025 = \$ 7,623.00

Status of 2026 Budget:

Current Fund:

Budgeted through Aug. 31, 2026 = \$ 180,339.12
Budgeted through Aug. 16, 2026 = \$ 171,322.17
Received through Aug. 16, 2026 = \$ 134,515.00

Mission Fund:

Budgeted through Aug. 31, 2026 = \$ 10,000.00
Budgeted through Aug. 16, 2026 = \$ 9,500.00
Received through Aug. 16, 2026 = \$ 10,178.00

Rev. Ed Karges, 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 / Special Music

Andrea Spencer - Organist

Ann Vogel - Organist

Darryl Smith - Organist

Jeanette Tangeman - Back Bay Missionary

Rich Spencer - Audio and Video

Jim Huckemeyer - Multi-Media

Derick Johnson - Multi-Media

Brad and Nam Gehrlach - 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: jnj12021@gmail.com

Email for Youth Director: franken.nick@gmail.com

Email for media: spmedia@bright.net



**We had some
County Fair
Contestants this
Summer !!**



SEPTEMBER

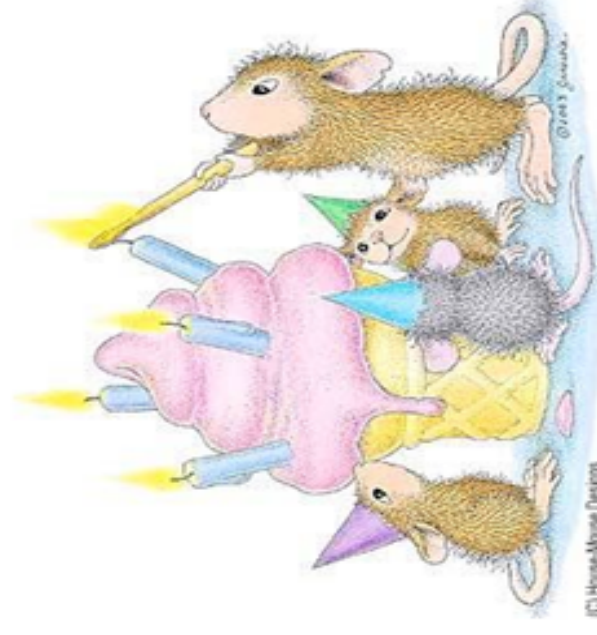
Happy Birthday!!

- 3 - Darlene Hollman
Kyle Denney
4 - Daryl Mabry
6 - Glenn Hadley
9 - Janet Gibson
Joyce Roth
Stacy Regedanz
Ruth Anne Foote
10 - Danielle Fargo
Derrick Gray
12 - Jennifer Gaston
Anne Schaefer
13 - Missy Wourms
14 - Jeff Dieringer
Charley Walter
15 - Kay May
Brandon Nedderman
16 - Diane Steinbrunner
Greg Winget
17 - Marilyn Dickman
Diana Prichard
Mary Schumm

Happy Anniversary!!

- 4 - Tom & Alison Craft
6 - Andy & Alicia Slone
14 - Michael & Ashley Hirschfeld
17 - Shawn & Kathy McGee
22 - Bill & Amy Lauth
24 - Larry & Stacy Regedanz
Darren & Heidi Meade
27 - Tim & Sandi Hirschfeld
29 - Rich & Susan Spencer
30 - Eric & Lori Now
Gary & Leslie James

- 18 - Kathy McGee
20 - Amy Frilling
Mike Hirschfeld
Sharon Gottschalk
Dale Schmidt
Shawn McGee
22 - Thomas Luedeke
Mike McDonald
Jordan Hollman
24 - Brenda Ridings
Steve Hays
Daniel Lemmerman
Karen Schaaf Bower
Kyle Schaaf
25 - Robert Roth
29 - Anna Laird Coffey
Charley Spencer
30 - Derick Johnson



(C) House-Mouse Designs

September

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Quilting 9:00am	3 11:30 am Ladies Luncheon @Mason Jar <i>Hot Dog</i> <i>Thursday</i> 4:30pm – 6:00pm 6:00pm Personnel <u>Committee</u>	4	5
6	7 <u>Labor Day – Church</u> <u>Office Closed</u>	8 <u>Bingo @ Otterbein</u> <u>5:30pm – 6:30pm</u>	9 Quilting 9:00am Consistory 6:00 pm	10 Breaking Bread 4:30pm–5:15pm Spiritual Gifts Class 6:30pm – 7:30pm	11	12
13 <u>RALLY DAY !!</u> START OF SUNDAY SCHOOL	14 <u>Caregiving Support</u> <u>Group 7:00 pm</u>	15	16 Quilting 9:00am	17 <u>H.E.A.L. 1:30pm</u> Breaking Bread 4:30pm–5:15pm Spiritual Gifts Class 6:30pm – 7:30pm	18	19
20	21 Rebecca Circle 1:00 pm	22	23 Quilting 9:00am	24 Breaking Bread 4:30pm–5:15pm Spiritual Gifts Class 6:30pm – 7:30pm	25	26
27	28	29	30 Quilting 9:00am			

SEPTEMBER:

2026



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

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