

GUIDEPOST

OCTOBER

2026

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

Email StPaulsChurchOC@gmail.com Phone 567-259-5006

Pastor Steve: swdrake54@gmail.com Facebook: St. Paul's Church-Ohio City, OH

Church Website: Stpaulsvw.org Video: Videoroost.com/spvw



Sunday, October 4th**,** we will gather with believers around the world as we celebrate Worldwide Communion Sunday. It is a time when we, as the body of Christ, gather to remember the great sacrifice Christ offered on our behalf. Here at St. Paul's, we practice what is called "open communion", which means we invite everyone who is a true believer in Jesus Christ to join us in the taking of the bread and cup. Communion is a symbolic joining of us with Christ through His death, burial and resurrection.

This is a perfect time for us to make the invitation to anyone who may be interested in Believer's Baptism or church membership. Both are very important ways to show your love for Christ by identifying with Him through water baptism, and by aligning yourself with a group of like-minded believers here at St. Paul's.

We have talked about both of these topics before but if you have any questions or are interested in either or both, please contact me and I will be happy to sit down and answer your questions.

We are thinking of taking in new members November 8th. So think about this and pray about what God would like for you to do.

See you in church!
Pastor Steve and Cathy

ODDS AND ENDS FROM THE PASTOR/COUNCIL

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1. If you have a **need for prayer** or would like **a visit from Pastor Steve**, please let him know. His phone number is 567-259-5006. Call or text! Or use the prayer cards found in the hymnal racks on the back of the pews!
2. If you have something to be put on the **sanctuary TV** as an announcement please share your information with Pastor Steve at 567-259-5006 or StPaulsChurchOC@gmail.com OR with Joe Drake at 740-457-8648 or josephdrake@me.com
3. If you have a prayer request, please use one of the prayer cards in the pews. Writing this down really helps the pastor and Marcella with names and spellings. Always feel free to mention requests during prayer time but following it up with the card will be a blessing.
4. **FALL BIBLE STUDY COMING SOON**! See related article later in this newsletter



WOMEN'S FELL0WSHIP

By Renee Saam

The ladies will meet next **Wednesday, October 14 at 10:30am**. Renee says: "If any of you have any thoughts or suggestions concerning this group, please join us and share.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH

Romans 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."





October Birthdays and Anniversaries

2nd – Gordy Custer; 11th – Steve & Denise Frey;
12th – Michael L. Biro; 13th – Phil and Chris Campbell;
14th – Bill Hunter; 17th – Josh & Cassandra Harmon * Bill & Janet Hunter;
22nd – Cooper Harmon; 24th Libby Baxter; 25th – Joy Schaadt;
31st – Zach Morris

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Treasure Hunt was a big hit with the kids and now we just need to see that enthusiasm each week for Bibe training!

We also have a class starting for those young folks in **grades 8 through 12**. Reets has volunteered to get involved with teaching again and she is seeking material that will interest them while learning about God, exploring their personal faith, learning a few things about Christian Union belief, the importance of attending and getting involved and how to be an active member participant in their church family!



Bread and Bowl
By Rick and Suzanne Kreischer

It was our turn to prepare and serve the meal on Friday, **September 18, 2026**! It was the first meal under the direction of **new leaders, Rick & Suzanne Kreischer**, so in the future any questions need to be directed to them.

For the September 18th meal we served baked chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, fruit cocktail, chocolate cream cake and assorted pies. Drinks of coffee, ice water, lemonade and chocolate milk were served as beverage choices. Jon Hall gave the blessing.

34 meals were served, 10 packed for Haven of Hope to pick up for their men and 13 meals were packed to go as take out.

Volunteers were Renee Saam; Bruce & Marcella Shinabery; John Hall and the Kreischers.

We are scheduled to prepare our next meal on **December 4th** so watch for details in the November Guidepost or check with Suzanne if you would like to help in some way!

We offer a **huge thank you to Renee Saam** for her years of preparing meals and coordinating our St. Paul's group when it was our turn to provide the meal!

PREGNANCY LIFE CENTER

*Our next **collection Sunday** will be will be **November29, 2026**!*

Thank you to Brie Drake and Maliya Hefner for representing our church as walkers, and a thank you also to those of you who sponsored them financially. As of this typing I do not have a total income for the fund raiser.



Don't forget the food tub for food pantries in Van Wert and Convoy. It is a black tub and again located in the narthex! It is marked as Pantries!

Currently I know the Salvation Army pantry is very low on Ramen Noodles; boxed meals; macaroni and cheese and spaghetti! If you don't want to drop your products off in person, tell Reets and she will do it for you!

Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ
of Van Wert County

Love, INC is in need of personal care closet donations of **paper towels and Kleenex.** The container is in the narthex where you can put your donations! It is blue and marked as Love, INC. From other Love, INC news:

Fall **Reach Groups** will be coming soon with the **Affirming Potential**, a **12-week study** to help **discover your value, purpose, and the Hope God has for your future** which began on **September 24** and runs through **December 17th**. Meetings will be held at the **Love, INC office** at 216 E. Central Ave. Call **419-203-5730** to sign up or you can scan the QR code if it appears in our bulletins coming soon!

Home Bound/Hospitalized or Nursing Home Resident

Please remember these folks with your prayers, cards, and visits

Jill Bowen– Hearth & Home – 1118 Westwood Dr. -Van Wert – OH – 45891
Carolyn Gehres; Helen Kreischer – Van Wert Manor – 160 Fox Rd., Van Wert, OH
Nancy Saam –**Now in Hospice at Van Wert Manor on Fox Rd.**
Donna Githens – Van Crest – 10357 Van Wert Decatur Rd. – Van Wert – OH – 45891
Vivian Oechsle –At home and more often than not is in the back pew on the east side of the sanctuary each and every Sunday that she is able.

Acolyte – Greeter – Reader List

We invite people of all ages *(at least tall enough to safely reach the candles on the altar)* to participate.

Acolyte	Date	Greeters	Scripture Reader
Laura & Mila	Oct. 4	Ron & Carol Kill	Ted Kiehl
Maliya H.	Oct. 11	John & Colleen Wiley	Rita Hurless
Maliya H.	Oct. 18	Alan & Kendra Beard	Jon Hall
Maliya H.	Oct. 25	Clark & Angie Merkle	Susie Semer
Open	Nov. 1	Phil & Chris Campbell	Open

Start signing up for November



TO SUSIE SEMER AND TERRI STRAW FOR DECORATING THE SANCTUARY AND TO WHOMEVER HAS THE MANGER LOOKING GREAT FOR THE FALL SEASON.



CONSISTORY FINANCIAL REPORT

Giving Income Report (as of September 27, 2026)

Last Year $114,491.00 **Income** Current Year $ 117,476.00

Attendance and Offering Report

Date	Attendance	Offering
9/6/26	74	$2,035.00
913/26	86	$1,400.00
9/20/26	72	$4,009.00
9/27/26	87	$1,965.00

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL INFO

In an effort to continue St. Paul's history of financial transparency, the Elders and Deacons are sharing some financial fun facts over the coming weeks on the sanctuary screen and the monthly Guidepost. Their objective is to remind us of some important places where our tithes, offerings and gifts make a difference for our congregation and the communities we serve. The information is all drawn from the Annual Report which is available to everyone!

Q: Do you know how many different mission fields our congregation participated in for 2025?

A. 10 B. 15 C. 22 D. 25

Q: Do you know how much St. Paul's spent for lawncare maintenance in 2025?

A.. $.575.25 B. $ 1,576.85 C. $2, 121.44 D. Nothing – Someone just does it for us!



This is a reminder that we will be celebrating **Worldwide Communion Day** on Sunday, **October 4th**.



We are off and running for another year and as far as I know, so far, so good. Susie, Stacia and I have all three received new "littles" for this year, so we have been about the task of getting to know one another.

Todd still has the same little guy that he has had for the past several years, so they are spending their time catching up on what happened over the summer.

Topping off the year is the addition of Mike and Jennifer Bowen to our mentor list. Mike has a little fella in the 2nd grade named Ryker and Jennifer has a 1st grader named Adilyn! For the most part these two mentors are finishing up their online training, learning the ropes of mentoring and getting to know their new young friends.

It is never too late to join the group as a mentor – just let me know!

Rita Hurless, director



DEACONS DECIDE TO HELP SALVATION ARMY

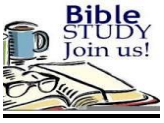
As per a note from Deacon Joe, they have decided to do a matching donation drive again for the Salvation Army. The collection will **begin this coming Sunday, October 4th and run through the last Sunday of October, the 25th.!** The Deacons have set their match up to a total of $2,500.00 from the membership with the goal of giving $5,000.00 total to the Salvation Army November 1st.

There is the familiar Red Kettle on the table next to the collection plate in the narthex for you to use to drop in your coins, bills or checks (made out to Van Wert Salvation Army) The deacons can count the money and let you know the following week what the total donation is to date in case you would want to add a little more to keep the count going up.

Speaking of Salvation Army, I am assuming we will once again be collecting canned corn for the Christmas food baskets so start looking for bargains!



Oh Boy, Oh Boy, Oh Boy!!! I am so excited and looking forward to ***Sunday, November 8th***!! Wanna know why? Cause St. Paul's is having another **carry in lunch** and that makes me so happy cause there is bound to be a few crumbs left over and that means I get to have goodies!! I understand that the Deacons decided to have this fall meal and the ladies picked the date and now we just need you folks to start thinking about what dish(es) you can bring in to share with your church family on that day. I am going to keep my ears open for more information and you folks can read the Guidepost in November as well as bulletins between now and then for details! I can't wait!!!



Coming Soon – Fall Bible Study

UNSHAKABLE HOPE is the title of our Fall Bible Study. It has to do with building our lives on the promises of God. This study will include a short video by author and pastor Max Lucado. We will follow up with discussion of the topic.

We all need something to anchor our lives to, something to hold on to when things get tough. Through our study in God's Word, we will see where we can anchor our faith. This will be a four-week series beginning **Wednesday, October 14th at 6:30pm**. Mark your calendars for this time of digging into God's promises. Invite a friend!



Pastor Steve has asked that we keep our church bulletin each week and go over the names on the list as we have our personal prayer times.

James 5: 16 - ***CONFESS YOUR SINS TO EACH OTHER AND PRAY FOR EACH OTHER SO THAT YOU MAY BE HEALED. THE EARNEST PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS PERSON HAS GREAT POWER AND PRODUCES WONDERFUL RESULTS.***

He also asks that we go over the prayer list in the bulletin and if we see anyone listed who no longer has a need to be on the list, that we please contact Marcella so she can take care of it. Also, if we know of someone who we should be including on our prayer list, please let her know that as well.

To close this edition of the Guidepost, I am enclosing the following that we received from Phil Mikesell, who was our Gideon Day speaker a couple of weeks ago:

DEAR PASTOR STEVE AND ST. PAUL'S,

IT WAS AN HONOR AND A PRIVILEGE TO WORSHIP AND LEARN WITH YOU SUNDAY. IT'S A GREAT JOY TO PARTNER WITH YOU FOR THE SAKE OF THE KINGDOM OF THE MOST HIGH GOD. I'M PRAYING THE LORD WILL BLESS YOU AND SUPPLY ALL YOUR NEEDS AS YOU STRIVE TO LOVE THE LORD AND OBEY HIS WORD AND GROW IN GRACE, LOVE, MERCY AND HOPE.

SOME PEOPLE THINK THE GREAT COMMISSION IS WHAT THE REAL ESTATE AGENT GETS WHEN A HOUSE IS SOLD!

CHURCH  HUMOR