



GUIDEPOST
JULY
2026
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

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Are you surprised that it is July already? I know that I am. Very soon our country will be celebrating our 250th anniversary as a nation. I'm sure there will be very large celebrations across the country. There should be! This experiment in democracy worked.

We declared our independence to secure freedom for all people. One of those freedoms is the freedom of religion. The freedom to gather with like-minded believers and worship is something that we often take for granted.

All around the world, Christians meet in secret for fear of being arrested, beaten, jailed or even killed. They can only dream about the chance to assemble in a house of God with fellow believers without worry.

We will be remembering our freedoms granted to us from Christ on July 5th. We will be celebrating by taking Holy Communion. Please join us as we give thanks to God for sending His Son and gratitude for the freedoms we enjoy in America.

See you in church!

Pastor Steve and Cathy



ODDS AND ENDS FROM THE PASTOR/COUNCIL

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!
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 out 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.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

By Renee Saam

The ladies will meet next **Wednesday, July 8 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

2 Corinthians 9: 6-7 6"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."



JULY Birthdays and Anniversaries

1st – Graylie Grose; 3rd – Wyatt Hefner * Jordan Straw; 5th – Patti Taylor; 6th – Bowen Kill;
7th – Bill & Kim Clifton; 8th – Brett Sheets; 9th – Luke & Kylie Feasel;
10th – Kim Clifton * Patty Kiehl; 13th – Barrett Harmon; 14th – Kendra Beard;
15th – Mike Bowen * Ted Kiehl; 17th – Mike & Jennifer Bowen; 18th – Alisha Brincefield;
22nd – Brian & Stephanie Renner; 23rd – Emerson Renner * Mark Van Metre;
30th – Adam Brincefield



All Sunday school classes are on summer break throughout the month of July. Sleep in an extra hour before heading to church for worship at 10AM.



Bread and Bowl **By Renee Saam**

Our next Friday to prepare and serve the meal will be **September 18, 2026!** Future Guideposts will have more information.

PREGNANCY LIFE CENTER

Our next **collection Sunday** will be **August 30, 2026!**



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!



Love, INC is still in need of personal care donations of male and female body wash; toothpaste; shampoo, conditioner, and tissues for their care closet. The container is back in the narthex where you can put your donations! It is blue and marked as Love, INC.

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 45891

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.

<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Scripture Reader</u>
Open	May 31	Orville & Becky Whittenbarger	Jon Hall
Open	June 7	Adrian & Mona Allenbaugh	Sharyn Smith
Zane & Patti	June 14	Joe & Brie Drake Family	Verna Winkler
Open	June 21	Rick & Suzanne Kreischer	Reets
Open	June 28	Jim & Sue Henrey	Open
Open	July 5	Bill & Janet Hunter	Open



From Bob McOmber– Bob had hip replacement surgery on Wednesday, June 17th and stood up in worship on Sunday, June 21 and verbally thanked everyone for their prayers, cards and calls! No walker or cane 4 days post op!! WOW!



CONSISTORY FINANCIAL REPORT

Giving Income Report (as of June 21, 2026)

Last Year \$83,374.00 **Income** Current Year \$ 73,775.00

Attendance and Offering Report

Date	Attendance	Offering
5/31/26	70	\$1940.00
6/7/26	72	\$2,630.00
6/14/26	63	\$3,070.00
6/21/26	64	\$2,655.00

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 much our congregation spent on liability and property insurance in 2025?

A. \$5,255.65 B. \$3,7856.6245 **C. \$10,0050.01** D. Nothing, we are exempt because we are a church!

Q: Do you know how much St. Paul's spent for taxes and fees in 2025?

A. \$3,555.05 B. \$4,450.52 **C. \$6,099.50** D. Nothing, we are exempt because we are a church



Baptism Opportunity

We will be celebrating a believer's baptism service on Sunday, July 19 at 11:30AM. It will take place at Ron & Carol Kill's pool at 5685 Kreischer Rd. Please join us if you would like to be a part of this special service or if you have an interest or question about baptism, please contact Pastor Steve,



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Thank you to EVERYONE that made 2026 VBS a success.

We reached 38 children from ages 3 to 13 and we collected over 200 canned good items for the Salvation Army's Food Pantry.

Thank you to ALL the wonderful helpers in every capacity. Thank you for those who gave financial and spiritual gifts.



Daniece from the Salvation Army is shown accepting the VBS donations to the Food Pantry. Every item was greatly appreciated and will be used to assist community members!



CONFIRMATION GETS A NEW NAME

Faith Foundations, formerly known by most of us as Confirmation, will begin on Sunday August 16 at 4:00pm in the Pastor's office. In these classes the participants will learn the important parts of our faith. They will learn about the Bible and what it says and how it speaks to us. They will learn about who God; Jesus and the Holy Spirit are and what it takes to truly become a follower of Christ.

These students will be doing a lot of Bible study and taking an active part in church life.

If you have a child that wishes to take these classes, just contact Pastor Steve.

As a congregation, please be praying for these young people who will be leading the church of tomorrow!

Convoy Days is soon and to wrap up the celebration there will be a **community worship** service held at the Community Building at Edgewood Park in Convoy. The service will be held on Sunday, July 12th at 6:00PM. There will be worship in music and scripture and Pastor Steve will give the message! Mark your calendars and join us. We'd love to see a good crowd from St. Paul's!



*Hey folks! Remember me? The CHURCH MOUSE! I've been laying pretty low for a while, but I have been asked to share some important information about a subject near to my heart – TRASH! I have been asked to inform or remind you that our trash pickup company will NOT pick up our trash UNLESS it is **tied tightly in a bag** and put in the cans out by the side of our shed. This includes trash from meals in the basement as well as altar flowers and those from the graves in the cemetery! Help me out here and tie up your throw aways in a trash bag! Even I don't like a bunch of trash lying around!*



We call them FRY PIES, and they are being sold as a fundraiser for Shelly Holden, who continues to be in the hospital doing her therapy following brain injury! All proceeds from the sales will go to the Holden Family!

If you are interested in helping just follow these instructions!

*All orders must be placed in advance.

*Cost per pie = \$3.00 – payment on day of pickup.

*Orders must be received by July 8th at noon.

Email to a.hir6583@gmail.com

Phone orders to Annette Hirschy at 419-203-9052

*Pie flavors available:

^Apple

^Cherry

^Blueberry

^Peach

^Lemon

^Cheesecake

*Orders can be picked up at the Eagle's Nest, 110 W. Jackson St., Wren, OH. (The site of the old Wren School)

*Saturday, July 25th

*4:00pm – 7:00pm

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE HOLDEN FAMILY.

