



GUIDEPOST
AUGUST
2026
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

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Those of you who garden have already enjoyed some produce from your toils. It is always great to reap a harvest. The same goes with our church.... Although the harvest we think of has to do with souls.

Recently we had 5 people who participated in the Christian rite of Baptism. These folks made a public affirmation of their faith and trust in Jesus. We are all called to do this especially by how we live our lives.

Do people know you are a believer in Christ... Or are you more of a secret agent? A lot of people don't like to share anything about their faith, but is that right?

In Matthew 10:33, Jesus tells us: BUT WHO EVER DISOWNS ME BEFORE OTHERS, I WILL DISOWN BEFORE MY FATHER. We need to stand up for our LORD. We need to share Him with others.

Be willing to talk about what He has done for you and for others in your church family. Invite them to come and join us.

We are called to work in God's field to produce a harvest. Are you doing your job?

Another important area has to do with volunteering! We are always looking for participation during our services each week. You can either sign up to be an Acolyte (and this is not just for the youth, we would love to have adults lighting our candles and then carrying that light into the world, too).

You can volunteer to be a scripture reader and copies of your reading are available near the sign-up sheet.

Rick Kreischer is always willing to teach others how to video the service.

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.

4. Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 16th. On that day we will be doing our Back to School Blessing. We invite all children and adults who will be attending pre-school, elementary, middle-school, high school or college to be here as we ask for God's blessings on the school year. We want to remember anyone who is involved in any way with the education process: teachers, school employees, volunteers, K.H. mentors, whatever. We want to pray for you as well!
5. Sunday the 23rd will be our Gideon speaker Sunday. He will give us an update on the ministry of this worldwide organization. We will give you the opportunity to participate with your gifts by placing an offering plate in the Narthex specifically for the Gideon ministry! Every dollar goes to purchase Bibles!



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

By Renee Saam

The ladies will meet next **Wednesday, August 12th 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

Jude 1: 3-4 3 "Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. 4 For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and LORD.



AUGUST Birthdays and Anniversaries

6th – Laura Lyons * Ron & Carol Kill; 9th – Cathy Drake;
11th – Rick Kreischer; 14th – Autumn Minnig; 19th – Leroy Lyons;
20th – Dale Saam * Jeff & Lori Wermer; 21st – Kathy Gamble;
25th – Roberta Welker; 30th – Josh Harmon * Todd Semer;
31st – Pastor Steve Drake



Adult Sunday school classes resume this Sunday, August 2nd at 9:00am. The class meets in the Northwest classroom beside the church office. This Bible Study is open to all ages of the church and Cathy Drake leads the lessons and brings out some very interesting spiritual truths.

Tona King would love to have interested people help out with the Sunday school program.



Bread and Bowl
By Renee Saam

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

PREGNANCY LIFE CENTER

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

At the top of the list for this mission is the **Annual Walk for Life**, the #1 fund raising event for them!

Pastor Steve will receive his walk t-shirt Sunday during worship as Reets makes some announcements concerning the Walk. The date is **Sunday, September 13 at 2:00pm at Franklin Park** in Van Wert. Pledge sheets will also be available for all who wish to volunteer to be a walker and help the PLC reach their **goal of \$60,000.00**.

To get your T-shirt you must have \$300.00 in pledges to turn in when you register to walk. The theme for this year is "little is MUCH when *love shows up*"!

Pledge forms will be available starting Sunday after worship so get yours and get an early start on getting pledges. The **sooner you reach your \$300.00 goal and turn in your registration the sooner you can get your shirt** so you can wear it while you walk on the 13th of September.



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.



Mission Aviation Fellowship – Chad and Andi Irwin

Another outbreak of ebola is causing a major crisis here in the Congo! Although MAF families have temporarily moved to Uganda for greater protection we still have pilots that are flying medical personnel in and out of the heaviest hit area!

On a happier note, our daughter Olivia got married on June 12th. Luke has been a part of our family for the last 3 years and we are very excited and happy to officially welcome him to our fold. They are living in Boise, Idaho where Olivia will be teaching history at Eagle High School and Luke will be a financial planner with Merrill Lynch!

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	August 2	The Reynolds Family	Susan Jackson
Open	August 9	Sharyn S. & Teri S.	Sue Semer
Open	August 16	Carter & Eme Renner	Open
Open	August 23	Steve & Denise Frye	Open
Open	August 30	Josh & Cassandra Harmon	Open



From LOVE INC – Your generosity, compassion, and unwavering support continue to bless our community in powerful ways. Thank you for the love you pour into the Care Closet and into the lives of neighbors who need a hand of hope. Your partnership truly reflects the heart of Christ.

If you or someone you know needs practical help –clothing, household items, or support through a difficult season –please reach out. I’m always here to help. **Call Colleen anytime: 419-203-9351!**

Together, we are transforming lives in the name of Christ.

With gratitude, LOVE INC

Please see the attached flyer about the McDonalds dine to donate on August 12 at the Shannon St. McDonalds



CONSISTORY FINANCIAL REPORT

Giving Income Report (as of July 26, 2026)

Last Year \$89,988.00 **Income** Current Year \$ 96,558.00

Attendance and Offering Report

Date	Attendance	Offering
6/28/26	67	\$1,475.00
7/5/26	60	\$2,445.00
7/12/26	86	\$12,019.00
7/19/26	85	\$2,827.50
7/26/26	84	\$4,017.00

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 donated for local missions in 2025?

- A. \$10,585.65 B. \$18,856.45 C. \$24,473.03 **D. \$30,239.66**

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



by Stephen King

Mark your calendars for August 16 after church services to watch and support some fellow parishioners "chill out!"

The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge is a highly successful viral fundraising campaign that originally exploded on social media in the summer of 2014, raising over \$220 million worldwide to fund medical research and improve care services for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), a progressive, fatal neurodegenerative condition also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Marking the reemergence of the Ice Bucket Challenge due to Tennessee Titans former running back Chris Johnson-CJ2K, Eric Dane and to remember her dad, featured in the book, More Than a Mushroom Hunt, Tona and I will be taking the challenge with the help of some of the church youth as part of Youth Sunday. Please support the cause at als.org! The challenge will be extended to our friends at Calvary; Redeemer and Lifehouse churches!



Renee asked that this letter to the Women's Fellowship be shared with everyone. It is from Joel Ross, the young man who was injured and paralyzed in the ATV accident a year or so ago. The ladies have been sending him cards of prayer and encouragement!

I want to start this message with an apology in relation to my delayed response to your letters. Your letters have meant a lot to me and now that I am finally putting forth the effort to write, I hope I can summarize how much the letters mean to me. I want to thank you so very much for your encouragement, support and prayers as I push through the paralysis journey and strive to be as much like Christ that I can be. Acts of support might not seem beneficial at first glance, but the support you have given me to keep going despite the struggles I encounter, making it worth every signature, word and verse. The LORD has blessed me with increased and increasing movement throughout my two and a half years of injury. I am now walking independently in a walker for my workouts, with straps on my legs to keep them from pulling together. I can now do partial sit-ups and grip with strength and dexterity I didn't have for three months and counting after my injury. I am also having continued feeling gains in my lower extremities. Going outdoors I am beyond blessed to feel the wind on my legs, water from rain and even grass when I put my feet down. While I am not able to push my feet deeper into the grass and feel the full temperature or the satisfaction water brings while swimming, I can still enjoy so many things that others aren't able to have. For one, I'm fully independent, which has been a huge blessing in going to hang out with friends and family and knowing I can take care of myself should something happen! Beyond my injury and improvements, I see benefit in the perspective I have on life. We take so many things for granted, but by going through this trial, I believe God has helped me to be more grateful for the things I do have instead of the things I don't. I still take way too many things for granted, but I'm beginning to appreciate what I have instead of wanting more. God has additionally allowed my injury to help and affect others in a positive way more than I can think. He works in mysterious ways, and if my injury can help someone with their situation, then I am blessed to be where I am. To the people praying, I appreciate your thought and words more than you could ever know. Prayers are more powerful and helpful than any physical help, and by receiving your letters I am encouraged knowing I have your support. Thank you very much. If you accept requests, I would love prayers for the obvious continued healing as well as that my focus would be on God with a positive outlook. Pray that I would trust His plan, be patient with His timing and live the plan out with gratefulness, selflessness and love. I want to near the closing of my appreciation by encouraging you to continue encouraging others. The letters you send, the words you say and the action you take to help others behind the scenes might seem irrelevant or unimportant, but they make a huge difference. The LORD uses seemingly small things like letters to make a big difference. Once again thank you! Your support through letters and prayers has been very encouraging. God bless!

Joel Ross

1 Thessalonians 5:18 "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox?projector=1>