



GUIDEPOST
SEPTEMBER
2026
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

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I know for me, there are things in this world that I think I know about but in reality, I don't. The same goes for things in the church. There may be some misunderstanding about church membership and baptism. Let me try to explain them both.

Church membership is a **believer in Christ** saying that they wish to be part of a certain church. They want to be an **active participant in the life of that church**. They **believe in the doctrines and beliefs of that church**. They are willing to do their part in supporting the work of that church with their attendance, talents and gifts.

What church membership does not mean is that you automatically get a pass into heaven. That comes by our faith and trust in Jesus Christ as our LORD and accepting the forgiveness of our sins given to us by His death and resurrection.

Church membership allows you to vote on any issue that comes up on a ballot and makes you eligible for serving on the church board.

Baptism is a **statement of your faith and trust in Christ**. It shows the world that you have accepted the forgiveness of your sins and that you are a believer in Christ.

Our church practices **believer baptism**, which is **total immersion**. The **act of baptism** shows our joining with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. When we **step into the water**, we are symbolically showing our **death to our old sinful self**. When we **go under** the water it is like **burying our past ways** and when we **come up out of the water** it is our **resurrection to a new life, and eternal life**.

Baptism and church membership are for those who have placed their faith in God! If you are not a member of St. Paul's Church and would like to become one, we will be offering this in October. If you are interested in believer baptism, please contact Pastor Steve. As always, if you have any questions about either of these topics, just ask the pastor.

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. employees, volunteers, K.H. mentors, whatever. We want to pray for you as well!

5. As you probably have figured out during the last year or so of reading this newsletter and listening to Pastor Steve's pre-worship service announcements, he is **big on having folks serve the church by volunteering**. And here is a list of things/areas where you can get involved in the church by helping out!



You can sign up to **read scripture during worship**. It is already printed out for you, and you can have it in advance so you can read through it before presenting. The sign-up sheet is outside the cry room in the Narthex. On that same sign-up sheet, you can also sign up to **be an acolyte**. You can work alone or you can have a partner to bring the light into the worship service by lighting the candles on the altar and turning on the lighted picture in the altar and at the conclusion of the service you reverse that procedure as you carry the light into the world.



Sunday school teachers are always being sought after. Just contact Tona King, Junior Sunday school Superintendent. We have enough youngsters that we could divide them into even more classes by age if we have the teachers! There is always the adult class taught by Cathy Drake if you just want to learn more about the Bible.



I am sure Reets would like some volunteers to **serve as greeters** and welcome folks to worship and hand out bulletins. As it is now, folks are randomly chosen by her and assigned a Sunday to serve. If you are interested in serving more often, please let Reets know your wishes, Remember, greeters are very important because they are the first glimpse of what kind of church we are.



Yardwork and **church maintenance** are always necessary. If you have a love of the outdoors or are talented with minor repairs, the deacon board would love to hear from you.



The **card ministry** is a great way to lift the spirits of someone who may be going through some rocky roads and emotionally rough times. If you would like to help out, please talk to Mona Allenbaugh! Very similar to the cards is the **2 by 2 ministry** where visitation takes place with those who are in nursing facilities or shut in at their own homes! You can stop in for a quick visit which is always appreciated. It is nothing you must do on a regular basis, but you may find that this ministry lifts your spirits as much as those who you visit. Please talk with Pastor Steve if you are interested.

For those of you who already volunteer thank you for all you do to make St. Paul's Church a welcoming place and certainly, God's House!



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

By Renee Saam

The ladies will meet next **Wednesday, September 9th 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

Matthew 10: 24 & 25a "A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master."



September Birthdays and Anniversaries

1st – Steve & Tona King * Jake Harmon; 4th – Bonnie Wermer; 5th – Vivian Oechsle;
6th – John & Joy Schaadt * Laura Biro * Lori Wermer;
8th – Pastor Steve & Cathy Drake * Mark Haggerty;
12th – Jennifer Bowen * Mark & Rhonda Van Metre * Susie Brenneman; 13th – Jon Hall;
14th – Malynda Custer; 15th – Brett & Sarah Sheets;
16th – Susie Semer * Marilyn Baxter * Verna Winkler;
17th – Eastin Brincefield * Brad & Stacia Grose; 18th – Cassandra Harmon;
19th – Mona Allenbaugh; 20th – Jim and Sue Henrey; 22nd – Jeff Wermer * Ray Kiehl;
23rd – Goldie Kill; 24th – Cody Kill * Christian Welker; 27th – Adrian & Mona Allenbaugh;
28th – Phil Gehres * Denise Frey; 29th – Donna Githens * John Schaadt



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

Jr. Sunday school will start September 20 at 9:00am with the much-requested Scavenger Hunt. Tona says: "Dress for the weather"!



Bread and Bowl
By Renee Saam

It is our turn to prepare and serve the meal on Friday, **September 18, 2026!** If anyone is interested in helping with preparation/serving or donating a pie or cake let Renee Saam know.

Renee also says if you are interested in being an active member of the Cooperative Ministries let her know that as well. You can reach Renee at 419-203-9639!

PREGNANCY LIFE CENTER

Our next collection Sunday will be will be this Sunday, 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!

The date is **Sunday, September 13 at 2:00pm at Franklin Park** in Van Wert.

Pledge sheets are available for all who wish to volunteer to be a walker and help the PLC reach their **goal of \$60,000.**

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"!**

. 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!

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 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:



On **Friday, Oct. 2nd**, this organization will be holding a **Purse Bingo fundraiser!** Doors will open at 5:30pm and the Bingo will start at 7:00pm. There will be food and drinks, a 50/50 raffle and raffle baskets. Tickets are \$35.00 for 20 games of bingo, and you can reserve a table for up to 8 for \$10.00

Tickets are available at the **Love, INC office** at 216 E. Central Ave. in Van Wert and can be reached by phone at 419-203-5730. The **United Way Office** also has tickets available.

The event will be held **at K of C Hall** at 425 Woodland Ave. For more info watch upcoming bulletins or ask Colleen Wiley.

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** beginning on **September 24** and running 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!



Mission Aviation Fellowship – Chad and Andi Irwin

At the time of this printing, I have not received any updates from the Irwin's. Just keep them in your prayers as this couple from the Wren/Convoy area continues to participate in this mission to take God's word to the people of Ecuador.

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.

<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Scripture Reader</u>
Maliya H,	Aug 30	Josh & Cassandra Harmon	Ted Kiehl
Laura & Mila	Sept. 6	Mark & Vicky Haggerty	Jon Hall
Maliya H.	Sept. 13	Mark & Rhonda Van Metre	Sharyn Smith
Open	Sept. 20	John & Colleen Wiley	Rita Hurless
Open	Sept. 27	Jim & Pam Morris	Open
Open	Oct. 4	Ron & Carol Kill	Open



From Mona and Adrian Allenbaugh – Thank you for all the prayers, cards, calls and thoughts before, during and since my knee surgery. You are all a very Special and Caring group of concerned people.

I want to add a special thank you for your prayers for Adrian. They've really helped him



CONSISTORY FINANCIAL REPORT

Giving Income Report (as of August 23, 2026)

Last Year \$106,332.00 **Income** Current Year \$ 105,961.00

Attendance and Offering Report

Date	Attendance	Offering
8/2/26	79	\$4,446.00
8/9/26	81	\$1,585.00
8/16/26	95	\$1,563.00
8/23/26	77	\$1,809.00

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 propane in 2025?

A. \$2,545.35 B. \$3,856.21 C. \$4,299.24 D. Nothing, we are exempt because we are a church



Sunday, October 4th.

This is a reminder that we will be celebrating Worldwide Communion Day on



An area that was not mentioned as an area for volunteering is our mentoring program at Crestview Elementary. Kids Hope USA is a program whereby one church and one school work together to schedule a mentoring program for one child, with the same adult, one time each week during the school year! We are currently serving grades one through five and have four of our members serving as mentors: Todd and Susie Semer, Stacia Grose and yours truly! In the 16 years that we have had this program; 21 folks have served as mentors from St. Paul's, including the current four with Reets claiming all 16 years.

But there are more than 4 little folks at Crestview who need a mentor, somebody that they know will be there for them, somebody that will meet with them for about 45 minutes each week, just to be their friend, play games, visit or if the teacher asks for subject help the mentor can help with that as well.

We are currently scheduled to start the current year the week of Sept. 14th, but I have a feeling there are several folks who are reading this or sitting in the pews on Sunday that would like to make this their volunteer activity. If so, please let Reets know asap so that we can get you fingerprinted and trained before too much time passes by. Give it a try – it really does not take that much of your time and I think you will get as much, or more reward out of it then your student will.

Rita Hurless, director