

A photograph of two children jumping joyfully in a field covered with fallen autumn leaves. The child on the left is wearing a bright green jacket and blue jeans, with arms outstretched. The child on the right is wearing a dark blue and white jacket and blue jeans, also with arms outstretched. A large number of yellow and orange leaves are captured in mid-air around them, creating a dynamic and festive scene. The background shows more trees and a soft-focus autumn landscape.

JUMP IN THIS FALL!

ST. PAUL'S FALL 2025 PROGRAM GUIDE

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FROM THE RECTOR

**"They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles,
to the breaking of bread, and prayer." Acts 4:42**

Astonishment is underplayed in our conversations, at least as far as I can tell. The passage cited above continues in describing what the first Christians experienced to say: "a sense of awe came over them." Our hymns convey a sense of astonishment. Whoever wrote What wondrous love is this? was bowled over by the mercy of Jesus Christ. The author of Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord" had a universe-expanding experience. So, how about us? Are we both gently illumined by the gospel and...thunderstruck?! Many have been. May we be among their number by putting ourselves in the places where it most often happens, in the assembly of the worshipping faithful, and in reading Scripture.

Sunday Sermon Series: **Loving God**

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|----------|--|
| Sept. 7 | Loving God with Our Whole Heart: Our Primary Allegiance, <i>The Rev. Mark Pruitt</i> |
| Sept. 14 | Loving God with Our Whole Heart: By Loving the Lost, <i>The Rev. Mark Pruitt</i> |
| Sept. 21 | Loving God with Our Whole Heart: By Praying for the World, <i>The Rev. Susan Tiffany</i> |
| Sept. 28 | Loving God with Our Whole Heart: By Loving God More than Riches, <i>The Rev. Paul Gaston</i> |

Join Us Sunday Mornings

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|----------------|--|
| 8am | Holy Communion, Chapel |
| 9am | Adult Forum, Parish Hall |
| 10am | Holy Communion, Church
Church School & Confirmation,
Education Wing & Room 211
(Resumes Sept. 14) |
| 11:15am | Coffee Hour, Parish Hall |



Homecoming Sunday & All-Parish Picnic

Sunday, Sept. 7

Worship at 8am & 10am

Please join us directly after the 10am service for our annual kick-off picnic! Details on p. 3.

Adult Forum: **Bearing Good Fruit**

Sundays at 9am, Parish Hall

Bearing good fruit is the work of God in us and through us. It's what Jesus said was his desire for his disciples (John 15), that they would be fruitful. Our series will focus on good fruits that we currently see in our life and ministries here, while inviting and making suggestions about further ways to be fruitful for the sake of God's kingdom.

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Aug. 31 | <i>No Adult Forum</i> |
| Sept. 7 | Homecoming Sunday , <i>no Adult Forum</i> |
| Sept. 14 | Fruitfulness: What I am Seeing of the Holy Spirit , <i>The Rev. Susan Tiffany</i> |
| Sept. 21 | Fruitfulness: What I am Seeing in Bible Studies , <i>The Rev. Paul Gaston</i> |
| Sept. 28 | Fruitfulness: What I am Seeing in Evangelism , <i>The Rev. Mark Pruitt</i> |
| Oct. 5 | Fruitfulness: What I am Seeing in Promoting C.S. Lewis and A Scriptural Imagination , <i>The Rev. Dave Scavuzzo</i> |
| Oct. 12 | Fruitfulness: What we are Seeing in Missions & Outreach |

SPECIAL EVENTS

Men's Quarterly Dinner

Friday, Sept. 19

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Donald Shepson
of Grove City College
speaks on Discipleship



Who doesn't need encouragement? All day long, the demands of multiple responsibilities, and anxieties – economic, social, political, relational – press in upon us. It takes a lot of effort to hold it all together. So we tire, and become discouraged. Our Men's Ministries, quarterly dinners and retreats, deliver encouragement. Join us on September 19th. To RSVP, call today (330-836-9327, ext 120) or sign up at the Front Desk.

New Testament Scholar returns to St. Paul's

Guest Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Amy Peeler

Women's Dinner—Friday, Oct. 24, 6pm

All-Parish Breakfast—Sat., Oct. 25, 8:45am

The Rev. Dr. Amy Peeler will speak at two events this fall—on Friday, Oct. 24 at 6pm at the Women's Dinner, then the following morning, Saturday, Oct. 25 at 8:45am at the All-Parish Breakfast. Rev. Peeler joined us for these two events in 2024 and returns this fall to speak at the women's dinner on St. Paul's marriage metaphor and what it might mean for married and single women. The following morning at the all-parish breakfast, she will explore the themes of the liturgical season of Ordinary Time.

Rev. Peeler holds the Kenneth T. Wessner Chair in New Testament at Wheaton College (Illinois) where her academic research focuses on the letter to the Hebrews,

the influence of the Old Testament on the New Testament, Israel's sacrificial system, and family and inheritance in the ancient world. She is the author of Ordinary Time: The Season of Growth in InterVarsity Press' Fullness of Time series, which will be released on Jan. 27, 2026. Rev. Peeler was an editor of the New Testament in Color: A Multiethnic Bible Commentary, and authored Hebrews: Commentaries for Christian Formation, and Women and the Gender of God.

Rev. Peeler is also a regular contributor to Christianity Today magazine. In addition to her academic role, she preaches and teaches at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Geneva, Illinois, where she is associate rector.



Please RSVP for these catered events at the Front Desk no later than Monday, Oct. 20.

SAVE THE DATE!

ST. PAUL'S Homecoming Sunday

September 7, 2025

10:00 am Worship Service

w/ picnic immediately following

Note: There will be an 8:00 am Chapel service

- **Bring a dish to share***
Last name:
A-L: bring side dish
M-Z: bring dessert
(Main dishes & drinks provided)
- **Fun activities for the kids**
- **Bring friends!**

* Dishes can be dropped off at
the east entrance for safe keeping





Tuesday Bible Study: *Keeping the Word Alive*

Tuesdays at 12 noon, starting Sept. 2

Our Tuesday lunchtime Bible Study continues. It's open to all. You may bring a lunch. And no experience is needed. The Gospel of Luke will be our focus – one chapter at a time. Please join us! We meet in G-4.

Wednesday Compline, 7:45pm

Join us on Zoom for “good night” prayers. Compline is a time of quieting our hearts together in prayer as the day comes to an end. Online go to: zoom.us/join

Meeting ID: 844 1828 4802 Passcode: 942011

Fall Reboot of Women's Book Study

Mondays at 10am, starting Sept. 8

Easter, with its many celebrations of the resurrection of Jesus, fulfills the promise of a Savior's victory over death. The women's book group will resume its fall studies on Sept. 8th with a discussion of the joyous and radical way of living that Easter promises using Wesley Hill's book *Easter: The Season of the Resurrection of Jesus* as our guide. The book is available from ivpress.com or Amazon.com.

Later in the fall, beginning Nov. 10th, the women's group will discuss a second book titled *Reconciling All Things: A Christian Vision for Justice, Peace and Healing* by Emmanuel Katongole and Chris Rice. The authors, who cofounded the Center for Reconciliation at Duke Divinity School, focus on God's transformative and holistic reconciliation for all creation. The book is available from ivpress.com or Amazon.com. The group meets on Mondays at 10am in the Parlor. *Led by The Rev. Susan Tiffany.*

Explore St. Paul's Class I & II

Sundays, Oct. 26 and Nov. 2

Explore St. Paul's is the class for those considering membership or eager to learn more about our mission and vision. We'll meet Sundays, October 26th and November 5th in G-4 directly following the 10am service. Lunch is provided. Please register at the Front Desk.

November Healing Service

Thursday, Nov. 13 at 12:00 noon

No one goes through life without experiencing bumps and bruises along the way. These can be physical, spiritual or emotional hurts that pile onto our souls and weigh us down, leaving us dispirited and joyless. One remedy for the things that plague us is healing prayer. Each quarter St. Paul's offers an opportunity for healing prayer at our healing service. The next one is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 13th at noon in the Chapel. Mark the date now for a time of blessing, and communion through the Risen Christ in the sacrament of the Eucharist.



Sunday, Sept. 28 at 4pm: A Musical Celebration, featuring our Choral Scholars

Sunday, Oct. 5 at 4pm: Evensong

Sunday, Nov. 16 at 4pm: Evensong at St. Andrew's, Barberton

Sunday, Nov. 30 at 4pm: Advent Lessons & Carols

Sunday, Dec. 28 at 11am: A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

Singing in the Choir

Our choir is an inspiration to us all each Sunday. A good choir doesn't “just happen” though—we get together every Thursday evening from 6:45–8:15pm to practice and also on Sundays at 9am before our 10am service. It really is a low time commitment. It's the regularity of singing each week—building vocal muscles and training our ears, eyes, and mind to translate the written music into beautiful tone and musical phrasing—that makes it possible for us to be so successful.

We are always looking for adult singers in all the voice parts (even if you're not sure of your own vocal range), and while we happily welcome new members anytime, now is the perfect time to join as we begin a new season. Our first rehearsal is on Thursday, Sept. 4th at 6:15pm in the Choir Room.

If you're interested in giving choir a try, please speak with Dan Fortune, Kelsey Berg, or any choir member. We encourage interested persons to come to a few rehearsals and get a feel for what the experience is like—but plan on finding a room full of joyful, welcoming folk who love nothing better than to learn and polish some uplifting, meaningful music. Please join us!

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Community Meal

Wednesdays at 6pm

St. Paul's Community Meal, now coming into its 13th year has been a steady source of good food and community on Wednesdays for many. Our amazing cooks and support staff are always dependable as they welcome our guests with open arms. Our Community Meal is truly a Church within a Church. Before the meal is served, we have a hymn, a short homily, and prayers. Guests with needs can receive personal prayer, and some have become active members of St. Paul's. We feel blessed to provide this fruitful ministry and hope more parishioners will come to share a meal!

Volunteer bakers are needed to bake in their homes and drop off goodies by 3pm, at the Front Desk on Wednesdays. For details, call the Front Desk at 330-836-9327, ext 120.

ENDOWMENT

Who Are St. Paul's Tower Builders?

They are those faithful people who have included St. Paul's as a beneficiary in their will, retirement account, or other estate plan.

For many years, faithful people have provided for the future of St. Paul's in this way, enabling many of the benefits and ministries we enjoy today.

You're invited to follow their good example. If you've included St. Paul's in your will, retirement account, or estate plan, please let us know. We'd like to thank you for your faithfulness by welcoming you as a Tower Builder. (Of course, you're welcome to remain anonymous.) In any event, you will receive a special lapel pin and an invitation to our periodic gala receptions. Most importantly, you'll have the deep satisfaction of knowing you've made a lasting contribution to the mission and ministry of St. Paul's.

To learn more, contact Todd Rosenberg, Director of Development and Planned Giving, at 330-836-9327, x 133 or trosenberg@stpaulsakron.org

Informational Dinner for New Beginnings Pilgrimage

A special dinner will be held Friday, Sept. 12, 2025, at 5:30pm in the Parish Hall, to offer more information about St. Paul's New Beginnings Pilgrimage, Nov. 3-6, 2026, to southern Ohio and northern Kentucky. This is a catered dinner so please RSVP at the Front Desk by Monday, Sept. 8, 2025.

The pilgrimage will explore the revelation of God's love seen through His covenant with Noah; in Mary who carried within her, Jesus, who is the New Covenant; and in what God's new beginnings mean for all tribes and for the saints of old and today as mediated through Jesus' death and resurrection. A non-refundable deposit of \$300 per person is due by Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025. Registration is now open at incrediblejourneystours.com.



Seeking Christ's Freedom Pilgrimage

What: A one-day exploration of the freedom we have in Christ

When: Thurs, Nov. 6, 2025, 10am

Where: Spring Grove Cemetery, Medina, Ohio (enter through the main gate on South Spring St.)

This one-day pilgrimage begins with morning prayer and concludes with noonday prayer. Sandwiched between these periods of communal worship will be visits to historic landmarks in the cemetery, readings from Scripture, and reflections from our leaders on why we no longer fear death, our relationship with the Risen Christ, becoming a slave to Christ, and our hope for eternal freedom with Christ.

Spring Grove Cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program and has a Level II accreditation by the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program.



The pilgrimage will conclude with lunch together at a local Medina restaurant. If you are joining us for lunch, please call the Front Desk to RSVP no later than Monday, Nov. 3.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Opportunities to Serve and to Receive

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1Peter 4:10

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor; if either of them falls down, one can help the other up." Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

In our faith journey we are reminded that by serving others, we are God's hands and feet in His command to love our neighbors as ourselves. Every person deserves our care and attention; serving others is a wonderful way to express our love for God. We are compelled by faith to serve even when we may feel inadequate or unsure. We are empowered by our trust in God to go beyond our comfort zone and serve others.

Asking for help is also an important part of our spiritual journey. It allows us to show humility and openness, inviting God and others into our lives. We are never alone; God created us to live in community, and that includes reaching out for support when we need it.

The Bible is filled with narratives of individuals who leaned on one another, showcasing that sharing our burdens yields growth and understanding. In the Bible, we see numerous examples of believers coming together to support one another. This spirit of community allows us to share our burdens, making them lighter.

So, whether you are ready to serve or to be served, these groups are here to assist our congregation. If you have an interest or need, reach out to the leader of the group, or call the church if you need guidance as to where you feel God is calling you.

Eucharistic Visitors offer care to those who can't attend services by taking the Eucharist to their home or care facility. They are trained at St. Paul's, licensed by the diocese, and are under the direction of the clergy. Contact the church office.

Parish Nurses schedule monthly blood pressure and blood sugar checks and provide health counseling when requested. In the fall, with Sand Run Pharmacy, they organize flu shots at the church. Contact Joyce Powell, jelp52@att.net.

The **Quiet Committee** offers grieving families a reception of finger sandwiches, baked goods, fruit and beverages after a funeral or memorial service. Three groups, on a rotating schedule throughout the year, provide and serve the food at a reception in the parlor or parish hall. Contact Pam Feltner, pamfeltner9@aol.com, 330-608-7783 or call the church office.

Stephen Ministers are available to meet weekly with parishioners who are experiencing a life crisis or going through a difficult time. Stephen Ministers have fifty hours of training to provide a Christian, non-judgmental, listening environment for care receivers who are feeling burdened, overwhelmed or grief-stricken. Stephen Leaders have additional training and provide twice-monthly supervision to the Stephen Ministers. Contact Bonnie Severt, bsevert@aol.com, 330-328-2453.

Our **Wrapped in Prayer** group gathers the third Sunday of each month after the 10am service. They knit and crochet baptismal gifts and prayer shawls for the parish as well as hats and scarves for Wednesday's Child and chemo caps for Stewart's Caring Place. Contact Marcia Giordano, mjgiordano47@gmail.com, 330-622-0176.

"I can do all this through him who gives me strength." Philipians 4:13

Let our hearts be open, our hands ready to work or receive care, and our spirits guided by the love of Christ as we serve others.





CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Church School: A time for Children during the 10am service

Sundays at 10am, starting Sept. 14

Children benefit from coming to church with their parents, worshiping together, seeing parents pray, and being part of the larger church family. Accordingly, we welcome all children to all our services. On the first Sunday of the month, during the 10am service, we offer an age-appropriate sermon. Children 4 years old through 5th grade process to the Chapel during the gospel hymn for singing, prayers, readings, and an accessible sermon. The children return at the Peace to receive communion with their families. On the second, third, fourth, (and fifth) Sundays of the month children age 4 – Grade 6 will meet in the glass classroom for classes based on that Sunday's lectionary at 10am. There will be opportunities to learn from each other with guidance from loving adults. There will be a team of teachers working with the students which will give the kids many ways to experience the lessons. They will join their family at the Peace and the remainder of the service.

To Promote an Active Prayer Life

We continue to add to our wall of 10,000 Blessings in the Hallway of the Education Wing. Children are encouraged to write down things for which they are thankful and place in on the wall. There is also a place where they can make prayer requests. Feel free to add blessings and requests of your own!

Childcare

Childcare is for children infant to age 3 in the Nursery upstairs in the Education Wing. Childcare hours are 8:45–11:15am.

For any questions about Children's Education contact Beth Guenther, Director of Family Ministries, at 330-836-9327, x 131 or bguenther@stpaulsakron.org

Plan on these Family Net Events!

Trick or Treat – Sunday, Oct. 12, 4–6pm

Christmas Carnival – Sunday, Dec. 7, 4–6pm

Rehearsal Dinner – follows the Christmas Pageant Rehearsal on Sunday, Dec. 21, 4–6pm



YOUTH MINISTRIES

Serious Fun (Grades 5-12)

Fridays at 6–8pm, starting Sept. 12

Our Youth Ministry (*aka Serious Fun*) starts Friday evening, Sept. 12th. Here's what a typical night of Serious Fun looks like! We kick things off by sharing a meal together, followed by games, creative programming, and sharing. Meet in the Youth Space/Gym. *Led by David Shahata and Ruth Webb.*

Confirmation Class (Grades 7-12)

Sundays at 10am, starting Sept. 14

Confirmation class for Grades 7-12 will be led by our Youth Assistant, David Shahata. Our youth will explore their faith, the church and where they fit in. This class will be a mixture of students who are looking to be confirmed and classmates who have been confirmed that will act as mentors. Meet in Room 211, in the Education Wing.

For any questions about Youth Ministry contact David Shahata, Youth Assistant, at dshahata@stpaulsakron.org

St. Paul's Nursery School Celebrates 71 Years!

We are delighted to be celebrating St. Paul's Nursery School's 71st Anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 7th (Homecoming Sunday) with a picnic and fun activities for children!

Also, we were thrilled to be awarded 2nd Best Preschool in Northeast Ohio and 3rd Best Childcare Center by Northeast Ohio Parent Magazine!

Since 1954, St. Paul's Nursery School has been committed to providing a quality, fun and safe educational experience for children ages 3–5 during the week. A warm Christian environment carefully taps each child's individual potential with creative and stimulating activities.

Also, we offer **Time for Two**, a positive social and learning environment for children 18–36 months, meeting on Friday mornings. *To learn more about the Nursery School or Time for Two, contact Rebecca Bussey, Director, at 330-836-9327, x 160.*



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Events Through Year's End

- Mon, Sept 1 Labor Day, Church office closed
- Tues, Sept 2 Tuesday Bible Study resumes, 12 noon, G-4, Weekly
- Wed, Sept 3 Community Meal, Assembly Hall, 6:00pm, Weekly
Evening Compline, 7:45pm, Zoom, Weekly
- Thur, Sept 4 Choir rehearsals resume, 6:45–8:15pm, Choir Room, Weekly
- Sun, Sept 7 Homecoming Sunday & All-Parish Picnic, 10am service with picnic to follow
- Mon, Sept 8 Women's Book Study, 10am, G-4, Weekly
- Fri, Sept 12 Serious Fun for students grades 5–12, 6–8pm, Youth Space, Weekly
Informational Dinner for New Beginnings Pilgrimage, 5:30pm, Parish Hall
- Sun, Sept 14 Blood Pressure Checks, 8:30–11:30am, Family Room, 2nd Sundays
Adult Forum resumes, 9am, Weekly
Church School & Confirmation begin, 10am, Education Wing & Room 211
- Fri, Sept 19 Men's Quarterly Dinner with speaker Dr. Donald Shepson, 6:30pm, Parish Hall
- Sun, Sept 21 Wrapped in Prayer, 11:15am, Family Room, 3rd Sundays
- Sun, Sept 28 A Musical Celebration, featuring our Choral Scholars, 4pm, Church
- Sun, Oct 5 Flu Shot Clinic, 8:30–11:30am, Family Room
Evensong, 4pm, Church
- Sun, Oct 12 Artist Reception, 11:15am, Parish Hall
Trick or Treat, 4–6pm, Assembly Hall
- Mon, Oct 13 Columbus Day, Church office closed
- Fri, Oct 24 Women's Dinner featuring Dr. Amy Peeler, 6pm, Parish Hall
- Sat, Oct 25 All-Parish Breakfast featuring Dr. Amy Peeler, 8:45am, Parish Hall
- Sun, Oct 26 Explore St. Paul's Class I, 11:30am, G-4
- Sun, Nov 2 All Saints' Day
Explore St. Paul's Class II, 11:30am, G-4
- Thur, Nov 6 Seeking Christ's Freedom—One Day Pilgrimage, Spring Grove Cemetery, Medina
- Sun, Nov 9 Harvest Sunday, 10am, Church, please bring your pledge card
- Thur, Nov 13 Healing Service, 12 noon, Chapel
- Sun, Nov 16 Evensong at St. Andrew's, Barberton, 4pm
- Nov 27 & 28 Thanksgiving Holiday, Church office closed
- Sun, Nov 30 Advent Lessons & Carols, 4pm, Church
- Sun, Dec 7 Christmas Carnival, 4–6pm, Assembly Hall/Youth Space
- Sun, Dec 21 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal & Family Net Dinner, 4–6pm, Church
- Wed, Dec 24 Christmas Eve services: 5pm(Children's Pageant), & 8pm (*choral prelude at 7:30pm*)
- Thur, Dec 25 Christmas Day Communion service, 10am, Church
- Fri, Dec 26 Church office closed
- Sun, Dec 28 A Festival of Lessons & Carols, 10am, Church