



St. Paul's Fall Program Guide

2026

Build A Foundation For A Lifetime of Joyful Learning

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FROM THE RECTOR

"As therefore you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so live in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." Colossians 2:6-7

Every day we have a chance to build a stronger, more deeply secured foundation for a lifetime of learning how to live in the stream of God's grace that flows from Jesus Christ. Participation in the life of God's people is a central and indispensable way to joyfully present ourselves, individually and as a community, before a living God whose love, mercy, and truth shapes and guides us. Sundays are especially important, and there are many other opportunities for growth and service. This guide gives a good overview of the activities here this autumn. And, let me add, it's the people, the relationships, we build and enjoy that are equally transformative.

September Sunday Sermons

- Sept. 6** **It's Difficult! It's Simple!** *The Rev. Dr. Paul Gaston*
- Sept. 13** **The Drama of Salvation: Freed to Be Gracious,** *The Rev. Mark Pruitt*
- Sept. 20** **The Drama of Salvation: Minds Renewed,** *The Rev. Mark Pruitt*
- Sept. 27** **Guest Preacher at 10:00 am,** *The Very Rev. Cn. Bryan Hollon, Ph.D., Dean & President of Trinity Anglican Seminary*

Join Us Sunday Mornings

- 8:00 am** Holy Communion, Chapel
- 9:00 am** Adult Forum, Parish Hall
- 10:00 am** Holy Communion, Church
Church School & Confirmation,
Education Wing & Room 211
(Education resumes Sept. 20)
- 11:15 am** Coffee Hour, Parish Hall

Join Us for Adult Forum

Sundays at 9:00 am, Parish Hall

- Sept. 6** *No Adult Forum*
- Sept. 13** *No Adult Forum, Homecoming Sunday*
- Sept. 20** **Redeeming Time...Or I Get By With A Little Help From My Church,** *The Rev. Mark Pruitt*
- Sept. 27** **Guest Speaker,** *The Very Rev. Cn. Bryan Hollon, Ph.D., Dean & President of Trinity Anglican Seminary*
- Oct. 4** **Barnabas Employment Ministry,** *Larry Dawson, South Street Ministries*
- Oct. 11** **Discipleship & The Church Year: Advent,** *The Rev. Dr. Paul Gaston*
- Oct. 18** **Discipleship & The Church Year: Christmas,** *The Rev. Susan Tiffany*
- Oct. 25** **Discipleship & The Church Year: Epiphany,** *The Rev. Mark Pruitt*
- Nov. 1** **Discipleship & the Church Year: Lent,** *The Rev. Susan Tiffany*
- Nov. 8** **Discipleship & the Church Year: Easter,** *The Rev. Dr. Paul Gaston*
- Nov. 15** **Discipleship & the Church Year: Pentecost,** *The Rev. Susan Tiffany*
- Nov. 22** **On Wisdom Literature & Job I,** *The Rev. Mark Pruitt*
- Nov. 29** **Advent Intergenerational Event**
- Dec. 6** **Job II,** *The Rev. Dr. Paul Gaston*
- Dec. 13** **Job III,** *The Rev. Susan Tiffany*
- Dec. 20** **Job IV,** *The Rev. Mark Pruitt*
- Dec. 27** *No Adult Forum*

SPECIAL EVENTS

Parish Breakfast Spotlights *Christ the Good Shepherd*

Saturday, Sept. 12 at 8:45 am

Every good shepherd knows that his flock must be quiet enough to hear his voice and trusting enough to follow him. This lesson is true for the flock that follows *Christ the Good Shepherd*, the topic that The Rev. Dr. Amy Peeler will address at a parish breakfast on Saturday, Sept. 12th. This will be the fourth year that Rev. Peeler has visited St. Paul's and immersed our Biblical imagination with her engaging presentations.

Rev. Peeler is professor of New Testament at Wheaton College in Illinois, and a board member of The Center for Pastor Theologians. The breakfast will be held at 8:45 am in the Parish Hall. RSVP at the Front Desk by Sept. 7th for this compelling presentation.





SAVE THE DATE!

ST. PAUL'S
Homecoming
Sunday

September 13, 2026
10:00 am Worship Service

Sermon title
"The Drama of Salvation"

w/ picnic immediately following
Note: There will be an 8:00 am Chapel service

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

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



DISCIPLESHIP|EXPLORED

**WHAT'S THE BEST LOVE
YOU'VE EVER KNOWN?**

Be Renewed for The Sake of the Gospel **Sundays at 6:30 pm, starting Oct. 11**

The Rev. Susan Tiffany will keep Sunday nights alive by leading Discipleship Explored for men and women, a deep dive into The Letter to the Philippians, lasting six weeks from October 11th through November 15th beginning at 6:30 pm. Sign-up by Sunday, Oct. 4th at the Front Desk, or email receptionist@stpaulsakron.org or call 330-836-9327.

Men's Tuesday Discipleship Group **Tuesdays at 7:00 pm, starting Oct. 13**

A new initiative, sparked by requests from men who want to grow in faith, and grow in community: Discipleship Explored, starting on Tuesday, Oct. 13th and lasting six weeks. Led by The Rev. Mark Pruitt and The Rev. Dave Scavuzzo. Sign-up by Sunday, Oct. 4th at the Front Desk, or email receptionist@stpaulsakron.org or call 330-836-9327.



HIGHLIGHTS

Study of Genesis Continues

Tuesdays at noon, starting Sept. 8

A close call for Isaac! Jacob wrestles with an unexpected opponent! Joseph forecasts a famine! Those are just a few of the stories we will be covering on Tuesdays this fall as our study of Genesis resumes on Sept. 8th. The Rev. Mark Pruitt or The Rev. Dr. Paul Gaston guide our discussions. We meet in G-4. Open to all!

Wednesday Compline

Wednesdays at 7:45 pm

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. To connect online: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82197052745>

Pray For Our Neighbors

Monday, Sept. 14 at noon

Join other intercessors to pray for St. Paul’s neighbors on Monday, Sept. 14th. This quarterly prayer walk will focus on the needs of students and families, and teachers and staff at neighboring schools, colleges and universities. We will meet at noon in the East Commons to go out together to bless our neighbors. Sign up at the Front Desk by Sept. 11th.

Women's Book Study Returns

Mondays at 10:00 am, starting Sept. 14

Following summer break, St. Paul’s women’s group returns to its studies on Sept. 14th. For this new season, the first book we will study focuses on strengthening our prayer life, while the second one opens our hearts to the plight of persecuted Palestinian Christians in Gaza and the West Bank.

- Sept. 14–Oct. 19: *The Jesus Prayer: A Cry for Mercy, A Path of Renewal* by John Michael Talbot
 - Oct. 26–Dec. 7: *The Other Side of the Wall: A Palestinian Christian Narrative of Lament and Hope* by Munther Isaac
- The group meets on Mondays at 10:00 am in the Parlor. Books are available from IVPress.com and Amazon.

Women’s Retreat

September 25-27, 2026

Register now to attend St. Paul’s women’s retreat Sept. 25th–27th at Loyola Retreat House in Clinton. Parishioners Tana Alexander, Theresa Berg, and Rev. Susan Tiffany will reflect on the weekend theme “Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only” (Luke 4:8), and how this mandate impacts our relationship with the Lord. They will be

joined by guest presenters Lee Palencar, St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Medina, and Rev. Dr. Sandi Kerner, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Jacksonville, FL. Grow in spirit and fellowship through faith-sharing, prayer, worship, visual arts, and play. Cost is \$190 per person for a private room and includes five meals. Scholarship assistance is available. Deadline to register is Sept. 11th.

Holy Spirit Highlighted at Women’s Dinner

Friday, Oct. 23 at 6:00 pm

St. Paul’s annual dinner for women will be held Friday, Oct. 23rd at 6:00 pm where our guest speaker, Kimberley Kroll, Ph.D., will delve into the mysteries of the Holy Spirit. Dr. Kroll is associate professor at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School at Trinity Western University (Langley, BC). Her academic focus is analytic theology with an emphasis in pneumatology – the study of who the Holy Spirit is and what He does. RSVP for the dinner at the Front Desk by Monday, Oct. 19th.

November Healing Service

Thursday, Nov. 12 at 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. Each quarter St. Paul’s offers an opportunity for what ails us at a healing service. Come to the Chapel on Thursday, Nov. 12th at noon for a time of blessing, and communion with the Risen Christ in the Eucharist.

New! Thanksgiving Day Service

Thursday, Nov. 26 at 9:30 am

This year on Thanksgiving Day St. Paul’s will offer a simple service of Holy Communion in the Chapel at 9:30 am. The homily by The Rev. Dr. Paul Gaston, Assisting Priest, will be brief, and there will be a blessing of the harvest. You’re encouraged to bring a favorite bottle of wine or juice, a dessert, or an appetizer—a symbolic part of your dinner that will enable us to bless all that you will serve or be served.

Welcome to the Team!

As we wish Gail Wild the best on her retirement, we are delighted to welcome Jim Minisall as our new Business Manager/Treasurer. Jim has more than 35 years of experience in accounting, finance, and investment management, including serving the past seven years as Financial Secretary for Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Akron. Jim and his wife, Mary, live in Kent and are pleased to be a part of our St. Paul’s community. Welcome, Jim!





CHORAL MUSIC

Plan on these Musical Events!

Friday, Oct. 9 at 7:30 pm: Special Guest Organist, Alan Morrison will play at both Chapel & Church organs

Sunday, Oct. 18 at 4:00 pm: Evensong, Church

Sunday, Nov. 15 at 4:00 pm: Evensong at St. Andrew's, Barberton

Sunday, Nov. 29 at 4:00 pm: Lessons & Carols on Advent Sunday, Church

Sunday, Dec. 27 at 10:00 am: A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols, Church

Be a Music-maker Here at St. Paul's

Good singing—good music—makes an impact. Not only does singing improve one's mental faculties, the shared experience of singing together has many provable benefits. Listening to good music is something most people enjoy, but here at St. Paul's we offer the ability to be a music-maker in a world seemingly filled with fewer and fewer choirs.

From September to May, our choir rehearses most Thursday evenings from 6:45–8:15 pm and we have a 9:00 am rehearsal before the Sunday 10:00 am service. The time commitment is low, but the benefits are quite high. Would you consider joining us?

We're always looking for adult singers in all the voice parts. Now is the perfect time to join us since we are beginning a new season. Our first rehearsal is on Thursday, Sept. 10th 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, powerful music. Please join us!



MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Community Meal

Wednesdays at 6:00 pm

St. Paul's Community Meal has been serving weekly meals for almost 14 years! A pleasant setting provides spiritual support via hymns, prayers, and a short homily as well as delicious meals and socialization. We have a dedicated team of cooks and a corps of volunteers who welcome our guests, serve the meal, provide desserts, and do so much more. We always welcome new cooks and volunteers!

Also, bringing in treats for our Community Meal is a great way to serve. No need to bake, but bake if you like! Treats can be dropped off either on Tuesdays or Wednesdays before 3:00 pm at the Front Desk. Thank you!



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

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Opportunities to Serve, Opportunities to Receive

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10:24-25

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

“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 50 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 10:00 am 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.

“Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.” Ephesians 3:20

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.

Advent Pilgrimage on Jesus' Nativity Thursday, Dec. 10 at 10:30 am

St. Paul’s continues expanding its pilgrimage offerings with an Advent pilgrimage on Thursday, Dec. 10th at 10:30 am. While visiting the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem is not currently possible, this pilgrimage offers an opportunity to experience Jesus’ nativity locally at the Nativity of the Lord Jesus Catholic Church in Springfield Township. We will visit the church’s replica of the birth cave in Bethlehem, reflect on Gabriel’s visit to Mary, Mary’s journey with Joseph to Bethlehem, and the birth narratives in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. We’ll view more than 400 nativity scenes that the church has collected from around the world. The church is located at 2425 Myersville Rd. Sign up at the Front Desk by Wednesday, Dec. 9th.



CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Plan on these Family Net Events!

Trick or Treat – Sunday, Oct. 11, 4:00–6:00 pm

Christmas Carnival – Sunday, Dec. 6, 4:00–6:00 pm

Rehearsal Dinner – follows the Christmas Pageant Rehearsal on Sunday, Dec. 20, 4:00–6:00 pm

Church School: A Time for Children during the 10:00 am service

Sundays, starting Sept. 20

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 1st Sunday of the month, during the 10:00 am 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 2nd, 3rd, 4th, (and 5th) Sundays of the month, children age 4 – Grade 6 will meet in the glass classroom for classes based on that Sunday's lectionary at 10:00 am. Our team of teachers work with the students and give the kids many ways to experience the lessons. They will join their family at the Peace and the remainder of the service.

Meanwhile, our 7th Grade and older students who have not yet been confirmed will participate in Confirmation Class and explore their own faith, the church, and where they fit in.

To Promote an Active Prayer Life

To promote an active prayer life, we will continue to add to our wall of 10,000 Blessings in the Education Wing, children will be encouraged to write down things for which they are thankful and attach it to the wall. There is also a place where they can make prayer requests. Please come and check out our walls periodically and 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. Hours are 8:45–11:15 am.

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



YOUTH MINISTRIES

Serious Fun (Grades 5-12)

Fridays at 6:00–8:00 pm, starting Sept. 11

Our Youth Ministry (*aka Serious Fun*) starts Friday evening, Sept. 11th. 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/Youth Forum (Grades 7-12)

Sundays at 10:00 am, starting Sept. 20

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 upstairs 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 72 Years!

We are delighted to be celebrating St. Paul's Nursery School's 72nd Anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 13th (Homecoming Sunday) with a picnic and fun activities for children!

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. School begins Sept. 8th.

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 rbussey@stpaulsakron.org or 330-836-9327, x 160.*



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StPaulsAkron.org

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Events Through Year's End

Mon, Aug 31 Monday Crafters Group, 1:00 pm, Family Room. Weekly
Tue, Sept 1 Needlework Guild, 6:30 pm, Family Room. 1st & 3rd Tuesdays
Wed, Sept 2 Community Meal, 6:00 pm, Assembly Hall. Weekly
Evening Compline, 7:45 pm, Zoom. Weekly
Sun, Sept 6 Blood Pressure Checks, 8:30–11:30 am, Family Room. Monthly
Mon, Sept 7 Labor Day, Church offices closed
Tue, Sept 8 Bible Study resumes, Noon, G-4. Weekly
Thu, Sept 10 Needlework Guild, 1:00 pm, Parish Hall. 2nd & 4th Thursdays
Choir rehearsal resumes, 6:45–8:15 pm, Choir Room. Weekly
Fri, Sept 11 Serious Fun resumes, 6:00–8:00, Youth Space/Gym. Weekly
Sat, Sept 12 Parish Breakfast with The Rev. Dr. Amy Peeler, 8:45 am, Parish Hall
Sun, Sept 13 Homecoming Sunday with Parish Picnic to follow, 10:00 am, Church & Grounds
Mon, Sept 14 Women's Book Study, 10:00 am, Parlor, Weekly
Neighborhood Prayer Walk, Noon, East Commons
Sun, Sept 20 Church School/Youth Forum begins, 9:00 am, Education Wing, 2nd Floor. Weekly
Women's Art League Artist's Reception, Parish Hall, 11:15 am
Wrapped in Prayer Ministry, 11:15 am, Family Room. 3rd Sundays
Sept 25-27 Women's Weekend Retreat, Loyola Retreat House, Clinton, OH
Fri, Oct 9 Special Guest Organist: Alan Morrison, 7:30 pm, Chapel & Church
Sun, Oct 11 Flu Shot Clinic, 8:30–11:30 am, Family Room
Trick or Treat, 4:00–6:00 pm, Assembly Hall
Be Renewed for the Sake of the Gospel, 6:30 pm, Parish Hall
Mon, Oct 12 Columbus Day, Church offices closed
Tue, Oct 13 Men's Tuesday Discipleship Group, 7:00 pm, Parish Hall
Sun, Oct 18 Evensong, 4:00 pm, Church
Fri, Oct 23 Women's Dinner, 6:00 pm, Parish Hall
Sun, Nov 1 All Saints' Day
Thu, Nov 12 Healing Service, Noon, Chapel
Sun, Nov 15 Harvest Sunday, please bring your pledge card
Evensong, 4:00 pm, St. Andrew's Barberton
Thu, Nov 26 Thanksgiving Eucharist, 9:30 am, Chapel
Nov 26 & 27 Thanksgiving holiday, Church offices closed
Sun, Nov 29 Advent Intergenerational Event, 9:00 am, Parish Hall
Lessons & Carols on Advent Sunday, 4:00 pm, Church
Fri, Dec 4 Apollo's Fire Concert, 7:00 pm, Church
Sat, Dec 5 Parish Breakfast, 8:45 am, Parish Hall
Sun, Dec 6 Christmas Carnival, 4:00–6:00 pm, Assembly Hall
Thu, Dec 10 Advent Pilgrimage, 10:30 am, Springfield Township (see page 6)
Sun, Dec 20 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal & Family Net Dinner, 4:00 pm, Church
Thu, Dec 24 Christmas Eve services
5:00 pm: Family Service with Pageant, Church
8:00 pm: Holy Eucharist (with Choral Prelude at 7:30 pm), Church
Fri, Dec 25 Christmas Day Communion service, 10:00 am, Church
Sun, Dec 27 A Festival of Lessons & Carols, 10:00 am, Church
Thu, Dec 31 Church offices close at Noon
Fri, Jan 1 Church offices closed

