



JoAnne and Tana's
tasty July 5 treats

The Messenger

News & Highlights
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Akron, Ohio
StPaulsAkron.org

Aug/Sept 2026

FROM THE RECTOR

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

Homecoming
Sunday!
Adult Forum
Page 2

Healing Service &
Parish Breakfast
Page 3

Missions &
Outreach
Page 4

Attentive Listening: It's Basic to Christian Living

As I write this, our plans for this autumn are not yet fully set. Those plans will certainly include some form of a new discipleship course. This new offering will help us to raise the profile of discipleship among us – recall the second part of our mission statement, “To call all people to new life of discipleship in Christ” – and, ideally, to be better disciples, one and all.

Yet, even as we plan for this, I have to say, that whatever program(s) we have – or don't have for that matter--growth in discipleship, ‘being brought more and more into Christlikeness’ (see Romans 8:29, depends deeply on attentive listening. It's irreplaceable. There is no substitute for it. Obedient listening marks out true discipleship.

Listening on Sundays when we gather to what God is saying, especially through the Scriptures, then the prayers, the sermon, and the hymns, and what is being said in the visible words of communion, is paramount. The God who has spoken still speaks. So, coming to the Lord's Day anticipating what God has to say to me, and to us, means putting aside our own voice, and the voice of others, putting aside what others are wearing, what needs fixing, or

polishing, or painting in the church (these are all distractions!) so that we can listen closely, and listen hard to what God is saying. Every Sunday we are being addressed.

And followers of Christ listen closely every day. Daily prayers and regular Bible study also are vital opportunities to hear more clearly. Even as we plan for more ways to intentionally embrace the call to discipleship, and to become better disciples, there is enough in place already to grow into the identity God has for us.... if we are listening.

Thankfully, the Holy Spirit is at work to help us who are so hard of hearing! As we make plans for our fall programs, I'll keep in mind these words of a prominent theologian. I hope all of us will.

“Listening means obedience, and obedience is not craven submission; it's not born of fear. Obedience to God is the lifelong task of giving my consent to the shape which God has for my life. Obedience is letting God put me in the place where I can be the sort of person I am made by God to be. I come to see what that kind of person this is when I stop trying to be in charge of myself, and instead acknowledge

(Continued on page 2)

FROM THE RECTOR (CONTINUED)

that God is my Lord, that I can only be myself if I walk in his ways. So, listening to Jesus is always a practical matter, a matter of living the life which God gives me, being what I am called by God to be. And in its simplest form that call of God is this: "Listen to him." (John Webster, *The Grace of Truth*, page 117).

Warmly,
In Christ,
Mark⁺

ADULT EDUCATION

Join us for Adult Forum

Sundays at 9:00 am, Parish Hall

Aug 2 – *The Rev. Mark Pruitt*

Aug 9 – Nooks and Crannies I: What seldom used liturgies and documents in *The Book of Common Prayer* can teach us.
The Rev. Paul Gaston

Aug 16 – Nooks and Crannies II: From the Catechism to the Articles of Religion. *The Rev. Paul Gaston*

Aug 23 – *The Rev. Mark Pruitt*

Aug 30 – TBD

Sept 6 – *The Rev. Paul Gaston*

Sept 13 – No Forum (Homecoming Sunday)

Sept 20 – Discipleship & The Seasons of The Church Calendar

Sept 27 – Guest Speaker: *The Very Rev. Cn. Bryan Hollon*, Ph.D., Dean & President of Trinity Anglican Seminary

Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesdays at 12:00 noon, G-4

Study of Genesis to Resume Tuesday, 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 after our study of Genesis resumes on **September 8th**. As in the past, we will meet at noon for an hour in G-4. No preparation is necessary or expected, and anyone who wishes to do so may bring a brown bag lunch. The Rev. Mark Pruitt or The Rev. Paul Gaston will guide the discussions. The Genesis series will conclude on **December 22nd** with Chapter 50—the final chapter in the Book.

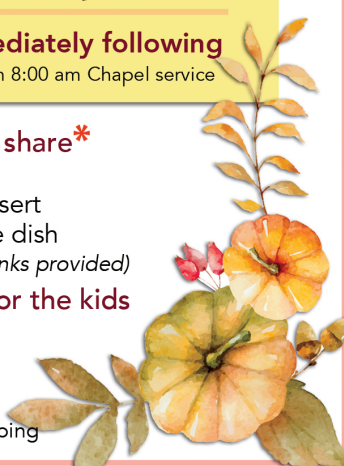
Evening Compline

Wednesdays at 7:45 pm, Zoom

Let's quiet our hearts together for "good night" prayers.

To connect online go to:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82197052745>



SAVE THE DATE!

ST. PAUL'S Homecoming Sunday

September 13, 2026
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 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

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

Now is the time to consider serving on the Vestry or nominating someone who would be a good candidate. Regular attendance, involvement in ministry, financial support of the church, and a cooperative spirit are some of the requirements for selection. Joyce Powell is the Nominating Chair this year. Forms are available at the Front Desk and at the church entrances. Please turn in your nominations before **Sunday, September 13th**. *Thank you!*



Please Donate on our Website

We are now accepting contributions online, at www.stpaulsakron.org/give-online, or by texting **Givestp** to **73256** to make a secure donation.





The Messenger is the official newsletter of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Akron, Ohio, a congregation in the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio.

www.dohio.org

Clergy

- The Rev. Mark Pruitt
Rector
- The Rev. Susan Tiffany
Associate Rector for Pastoral Care
- The Rev. Dr. Paul Gaston
Assisting Priest
- The Rev. Polly Glanville
Deacon

Staff

- Kelsey Berg
Assistant Organist
- Daniel Fortune
Organist/Choirmaster
- Beth Guenther
Director, Family Ministries
- Dale Lower
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- Bonnie Severt
Pastoral Care Coordinator
- David Shahata
Youth Assistant/Men's Ministry Special Projects
- Ruth Webb
Youth Intern

QUARTERLY HEALING SERVICE

Healing Service on August 6

Take time to reflect on God's goodness and love, to pray for others and to receive prayer for spiritual, physical and emotional healing at St. Paul's quarterly healing service, **Thursday, August 6th** at noon in the Chapel.



PARISH BREAKFAST

Parish Breakfast Features Amy Peeler

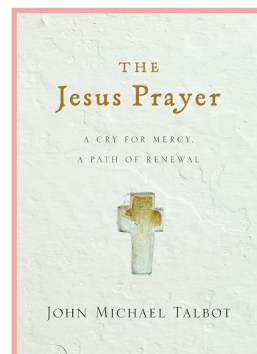
Mark the date, **Saturday, September 12th**, for a return visit to St. Paul's from The Rev. Dr. Amy Peeler, New Testament professor at Wheaton College. Invite friends and family to attend Rev. Peeler's presentation of what promises to be a fascinating look at *Christ the Good Shepherd*. Her talk will be preceded by a parish breakfast at 8:45am in the Parish Hall. Sign up at the Front Desk by **September 7th**.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Monday Book Study Resumes

The women's Monday book group returns from its summer hiatus on **September 14th** for a study of John Michael Talbot's book *"The Jesus Prayer: A Cry for Mercy, A Path of Renewal."* The study will explore the power of this ancient prayer of the Eastern Christian tradition which has offered strength and comfort to Christians over many centuries. In the first session, we will discuss the book's introduction, appendix and chapter 1. The study, which runs through **October 19th**, meets at 10am in the Parlor. Books available from InterVarsity Press or Amazon.



Going Deeper into Worshiping the Lord

When He was tempted to worship and serve satan, Jesus responded, *"It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only'"* (Luke 4:8). How Jesus' words shape our worship and service to the Lord will be the focus of St. Paul's women's retreat, **September 25th-27th** at Loyola Retreat House in Clinton, Ohio. Speakers, through their personal stories and visual arts, will help us explore the meaning of Jesus' words for ourselves. Register for this celebratory week-end of learning, spiritual renewal, and strengthening relationships with the Lord through quiet time, worship, song, prayer and rest. Cost is \$190/pp and includes five meals. Financial assistance is available. Contact The Rev. Susan Tiffany for more information. Registration forms will be available at the Front Desk before Labor Day.



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Habitat News

The St. Paul's Habitat team had our first build day on Thursday, July 9. The volunteers constructed and placed floor joists on the one-story foundation. The four-bedroom home is in Akron's Highland Square area at 475 Barwell St. We are partnering with Habitat for Humanity of Summit County and partner family Cassie Dixon, a mother of seven who works as a teacher and care manager.

We invite members of our congregation to volunteer to build, to provide lunches for the volunteers on their build days, and to pray for our volunteers and partner family. Our build days are as follows:

Saturdays: Aug 1, Sept 26, Nov 7

Thursday: Sept 10

To sign up for a build day contact either Marge DeCastro at 330-605-4758 or margedecastro76@gmail.com or Mary Shepherd at 330-715-3771 or mshep@ohio.net

Wrapped in Prayer - Summer Edition

Our prayer shawl members take a much-needed break in summer. While continuing to turn in baby blankets, hats, neck warmers, and chemo caps we make time for knitting for ourselves and families, as well as the outdoor activities we all enjoy. September will find us back up to speed preparing for our Christmas donations. Many thanks to those who have donated yarn for our mission. We appreciate your generosity so much.

In May, we were honored by Wednesday's Child at a volunteer's appreciation dinner. It was humbling to hear just how far-reaching our efforts are in Summit County. While our number of active creators is small, we manage to produce a large quantity of items each year for those who need comfort. It would be such a blessing to have a few more knitters and/or crocheters to lighten our load. Our mission is one of loving and caring for those in need, but we also feel blessed as we individually create meaningful, useful items for people we will never meet.

Please consider helping if you are able to knit or crochet even simple things. We are willing to teach knitting and crocheting if you want to help but do not have the skills--yet. Peace.

For inquiries contact the church office at 330-836-9327 or Marcia at mjgiordano47@gmail.com



Hike & Pray!

Please join us as we gather for a short walk (20-30 minutes) to enjoy God's creation in one of the local parks. We will then say Compline together before we walk back. All are welcome. Come whenever you can!

Tue, Aug 4 Hike & Pray--Oxbow Meadows, 6pm, 5555 Akron-Peninsula Rd, Peninsula

Mon, Aug 10 Hike & Pray--Springfield Bog Metro Park, 6pm, 1400 Portage Line Rd, Springfield Twp

Tue, Aug 18 Hike & Pray--Goodyear Heights Metro Park, 6pm, Pioneer Area, 550 Frazier Ave, Akron

Mon, Aug 24 Hike & Pray--Brandywine Gorge Loop, 6pm, 8176 Brandywine Rd, Northfield

Mon, Aug 31 You pick! Barberton or Allardale revisit? Or somewhere else? 6pm

For more information, contact The Rev. Sally Goodall at 330-608-8085 or revsallyg76@gmail.com

FAMILY MINISTRY AND EDUCATION

1 Peter 4:10

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

First, any student in 5th grade and up can come to an informational/training session with Dave McBee on **Sunday, August 30th** at 11:30 am in the church to learn about being an acolyte. They will see what the acolyte's role in the service is and get some hands on training. We are also looking for ADULT acolytes! There will be lunch provided so please let us know if you will be attending by calling **Beth Guenther at 330-836-9327, ext. 131 or bguenther@stpaulsakron.org**

Second, students might want to get involved in the service of their church with their family. Individuals and families with students 3rd grade and up are invited to meet with Beth Guenther after the 10:00 am service on **Sunday, August 16th** in G-4. This meeting will allow those interested in ushering this year to ask questions and sign up for this rewarding volunteer position. We also welcome ADULT Ushers to come to this meeting. **Please RSVP to Beth Guenther at bguenther@stpaulsakron.org or 330-836-9327, ext. 131.**

FAMILY MINISTRY AND EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

Church School begins Sunday, September 20

Starting **September 20th**, children ages 4–12 (6th Grade) will attend a “one room schoolhouse” type of class. Students will interact with kids of all ages while following a lectionary-based curriculum from Illustrated Ministry. This style of learning allows the older kids to help and nurture their younger classmates and the younger kids love being with the “big kids.”

Confirmation Class

If your child is entering 7th or 8th grade (or older and not yet confirmed) **contact Beth Guenther to get registered for Confirmation Class.**

Family Net

Family Net is a group of parents that plans fun activities for the families in the church. We have hosted Trunk or Treat, a Christmas Carnival, a dinner after the Christmas Pageant rehearsal and game nights. **If you would like to be part of this committee and help in the planning of fun family activities, please contact Beth Guenther.**

Contact Beth Guenther at:

PHONE 330-836-9327, ext. 131

EMAIL bguenther@stpaulsakron.org

STEPHEN MINISTRY

What Is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry is a ministry in our congregation in which trained and supervised lay people, called Stephen Ministers, provide one-to-one Christian care to individuals facing life challenges.

Stephen Leaders are the ones who oversee and direct our Stephen Ministry. They recruit, select, train, organize, and supervise our Stephen Ministers; identify people in need of care and match them with a Stephen Minister. We have three Stephen Leaders: Bonnie Severt, Carrie Searle, and Jan Burns-Nowicki.

Stephen Ministers are lay caregivers. They have completed training in Christian care giving, including topics such as listening, feelings, boundaries, and assertiveness. We currently have eight Stephen Ministers: Sue Hinson, Brian Good, Karen Chadwick, Ginny Gore, Karen Knowles, Tara Alexander, Theresa Berg, and Carol Ficken.

Care receivers are the recipients of Stephen Ministers' care. They are people from our church who are experiencing grief, loss of a job, divorce, loneliness, illness, or other life difficulties. Stephen Ministers meet with their care receivers once a week for about an hour for as long as the care receiver needs it.

How Can Someone Receive Care from a Stephen Minister?

Bonnie Severt is our Stephen Leader who coordinates referrals. You can reach her at bsevert@aol.com or 330-328-2453. If you or someone you know could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, you can talk to her, one of our ministers, or one of our other Stephen Leaders, **Jan Burns-Nowicki at 330-715-8557 or Carrie Searle at 330-836-9327 ext 121.** Any of our Stephen Ministers would also be happy to help you through the process. (If you want to talk about Stephen Ministry for someone else, make sure you get his or her permission first).

WORTH SHARING

Summer Reception for Tower Builders

In mid-June, 35 guests enjoyed a gala reception hosted by St. Paul's Endowment. These “Tower Builders” celebrated in the Parish Hall with food, music, and fellowship. A beautiful buffet was provided by chefs Ari and Roz of Totally Gourmet Catering. Stunning floral centerpieces were arranged by Joyce Healey-Abrams, with assistance from Becky Pruitt. Popular local pianist John Perry entertained on the piano.



This annual event is a “Thank You” to those faithful parishioners, past and present, who included St. Paul's church in their will or estate plan. Those who came before us helped make St. Paul's the wonderful church it is today. By becoming Tower Builders, we can continue their legacy.

You too can become a Tower Builder in one of several convenient ways. A popular option is to name the church as a beneficiary in a retirement plan or insurance policy. Be sure to let us know so that we can thank you! **For more information, please contact Todd Rosenberg at trosenberg@stpaulsakron.org or any member of the clergy.**

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

We Give Thanks for all Gifts, and Gifts to...

the Choir Fund; given by an anonymous donor

the Community Meals Fund; given by Mr. Robert Cruikshank, Yvonne M. Krell, and Ms. Jamie Lormeau

the Easter Fund; given by Mr. Alan Abrams and Mrs. Joyce Healy-Abrams, Mr. & Mrs. Page M. Bullock, Jr., Mrs. Janna T. Burns-Nowicki, Ms. Jessica Coleman, Ms. Patti J. Graham, Mr. & Mrs. Donald R. Martin, Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Severt, Mrs. Sandra Smith, and Mr. & Mrs. Christopher J. Stygar

the Gardeners of St. Paul's Fund; given by Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey S. Moshier

the Haiti Fund for St. Etienne's; given by Mr. Ted Dann and Mrs. Marcheta Scott

the Memorial Garden; given by Jay Couch and Ms. Kimberly Stump

the Quiet Committee; given by Ms. Cynthia Osborn, Dr. Dru Weatherby & Mr. Joseph Weatherby, II, and an anonymous donor

the Rector's Discretionary Fund; given by Ms. Cynthia Osborn, Dr. Dru Weatherby & Mr. Joseph Weatherby II, and Mr. Thomas McNeil

the Rogation Fund; given by Mr. & Mrs. Charles M. Billow, Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Chadwick, Ms. Norma D. Daniels, Mr. & Mrs. Roger W. Edwards, Mrs. Dorothy F. Fitzgerald, Mr. Robert Fulton, Mr. & Mrs. Bradley P. Haas, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hunt, Mrs. Frederick Lacher, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Lane, The Rev. & Mrs. David McBee, Mr. Timothy Nowicki, Ms. Joyce Powell, The Rev. & Mrs. Mark J. Pruitt, and Ms. Beth Rice

the Youth Retreat; given by Mr. & Mrs. Todd Cerankowski, Mr. Chuthpatomchai & Mrs. Nonpratan, Mr. & Mrs. John Coleman, C. J. Lesneski, and Ms. Megan Moreland

We Give Thanks for Gifts in Memory or in Honor of...

the Education Fund in memory of Evelyn Yovich; given by Ms. Valarie Cummings

a Father's Day gift in memory of Ben Christman; given by B. Christman

the Memorial Garden in memory of John & Edna Peterson and Stephen Peterson; given by Mrs. Stephen J. Peterson

the Rogation Fund; given by Yvonne Krell in memory of Family & Friends, Mr. Phillip Ridgley in honor of Grace Wojno, Mr. & Mrs. Dan Sarvis in memory of Suzanne Flynn & Rosemary Henson, Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Severt in memory of Mary Lou Hexter

FROM THE TREASURER

Operating Budget Results

Summarized here are the St. Paul's operating budget results for the calendar year to date.

The year-to-date as of 6/30/2026 began with greater than budgeted Pledge Income and Non-Pledge Income, along with slightly lower than budgeted Other Contributions. Endowment distribution and Other Income resulted in greater than budgeted revenue overall. Expenses were a bit higher than expected, resulting in a small deficit.

As of 06/30/2025	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	2025 Annual Budget
Pledge Income	\$ 370,052	\$ 335,000	\$ 670,000
Non-Pledge Income	\$ 91,139	\$ 67,500	\$ 135,000
Other Contributions	\$ 25,803	\$ 26,500	\$ 53,000
Total Contributions	\$ 486,994	\$ 429,000	\$ 858,000
Transfer from Endowment	\$ 239,856	\$ 278,850	\$ 557,700
All Other Income	\$ 319,896	\$ 89,650	\$ 179,300
Total Revenue	\$ 806,890	\$ 797,500	\$ 1,595,000
Total Expense	\$ 813,546	\$ 797,500	\$ 1,595,000
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (6,656)	\$ -0-	\$ -0-

Please contact Treasurer Gail Wild, at 330-836-9327 ext. 124, or by email at gwild@stpaulsakron.org, for any questions regarding finances or to make contributions. For information about online giving options, please visit our website, www.stpaulsakron.org/give-online

FLOWERS TO THE GLORY OF GOD

August and September Altar Flowers

August 2

In loving memory of V. Goodwyn Welsh; given by Mr. and Mrs. William Welsh

In loving memory of Lulu Docherty Coon; given by Margaret Beatty

August 9

In loving memory of Edward Tognetti; given by Michelle and Family

In loving memory of David Feltner; given by Pam Feltner

August 16

In loving memory of Patrick Reymann; given by Nancy Reymann Gotfredson

In loving memory of Fredrick Lacher; given by Linda Lacher

August 23

To the Glory of God in memory of The Rev. Roger Tiffany; given by The Rev. Susan Tiffany

September 6

In loving memory of LeRoy and Ruth Tunnell; given by Elizabeth Parker

In loving memory of Linda Hardy Lewis; given by Mr. and Mrs. William Welsh

September 13

In loving memory of Retta and Charles Billow; given by the Preston, Long, Grebelsky & Billow Families

September 20

In loving memory of Mindy Crabtree; given by Diane and Bill Peabody

September 27

In loving memory of Virgina Wojno; given by Geraldine Kiefer

Altar arrangements are given each week in honor, support, memory, or celebration of someone we love.
To reserve altar arrangements, contact Julie McFarland at period2380@gmail.com

TAKE NOTE

Pop-Up Book Table Returns

Just in time for your fall reading list, the St. Paul's free book table will pop up again on the last two summer **Sundays, August 23rd and 30th**. Many of the books will be appearing on the table for the first time, thanks to parishioners who contributed books last spring. There are just two rules. (1) If you see a book you like, take it, it's yours. Or two. Or three. (2) If you have any books in your library that you no longer need, please consider contributing them. You can drop off books in the Parish Hall on August 20th & 21st.

Crafty Summer

Members of the Monday Craft Group are churning out a variety of beautiful things this summer. Recent projects include hand-knitted socks, fabric-covered buttons, cross stitch, wool combing, to name a few. Summery treats and iced coffee are enjoyed during the crafting. We invite one and all to visit, **Mondays 1-3 pm**, in the Family Room. For inquiries, please contact Marcia at mjgiordano47@gmail.com, or call the church at 330-836-9327.



A Prayer for Akron

St. Paul's continues its quarterly prayer walks, praying for our neighbors throughout the city, on **Monday, Sept. 14th**. This quarter our focus will be on the educational institutions in our city including St. Paul's very own preschool, and the Christian education we offer children and youth. Sign up by Sept. 13th at the Front Desk where we will meet on Monday at noon.



Extra Yarn?

Do you have yarn you are not using? Consider donating your left over or unused yarn to our Wrapped in Prayer Ministry at St. Paul's. Our knitters and crocheters create prayer blankets, shawls, and baptismal blankets and are always in need of yarn. Call the Front Desk at 330-836-9327 ext. 120 if you would like to donate.

Service Leaflet available to Livestream Watchers

In each Thursday's email blast, we are now including a link to a PDF of the upcoming Sunday's 10:00am service leaflet for those who want to follow it while watching our livestream. If you are not receiving our Thursday email blasts, contact Carrie at (csearle@stpaulsakron.org or 330-836-9327, ext. 121) with your email address so she can add you to the list.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mon, Aug 3** Monday Crafters Group, 1pm, Family Room. [Weekly](#)
- Tue, Aug 4** Hike & Pray—Oxbow Meadows, 6pm, Akron Peninsula Rd, Peninsula Needlework Guild, 6:30pm, Family Room. [1st & 3rd Tuesdays](#)
- Wed, Aug 5** Community Meal, 6pm, Assembly Hall. [Weekly](#)
Evening Compline, 7:45pm, Zoom. [Weekly](#)
- Thu, Aug 6** Healing Service, noon, Chapel. [Quarterly](#)
- Sun, Aug 9** Blood Pressure Checks, 8:30–11:30am, Family Room. [Monthly](#)
- Mon, Aug 10** Hike & Pray—Springfield Bog Metro Park, 6pm, 1400 Portage Line Rd, Springfield Twp
- Thu, Aug 13** Needlework Guild, 1pm, Parish Hall. [2nd & 4th Thursdays](#)
- Sun, Aug 16** Wrapped in Prayer Ministry, 11:15am, Family Room. [3rd Sundays](#)
- Tue, Aug 18** Hike & Pray—Goodyear Heights Metro Park, 6pm, Pioneer Area, 550 Frazier Ave, Akron
- Sun, Aug 23** Pop-Up Free Book Table, Parish Hall
- Mon, Aug 24** Hike & Pray—Brandywine Gorge Loop, 6pm, 8176 Brandywine Rd, Northfield
- Sun, Aug 30** Pop-Up Free Book Table, Parish Hall
- Mon, Sept 7** Labor Day—Church office closed
- Tue, Sept 8** Bible Study resumes, Noon, G-4. [Weekly](#)
- Sat, Sept 12** Parish Breakfast with The Rev. Dr. Amy Peeler, 8:45am, Parish Hall
- Sun, Sept 13** Homecoming Sunday with Parish Picnic to follow, 10am, Church & Grounds
- Sun, Sept 20** Church School/Youth Forum begins, 9am, Education Wing, 2nd Floor. [Weekly](#)
Artist's Reception, Parish Hall, 11:15am
- Sept 25-27** Women's Weekend Retreat, Loyola Retreat House, Clinton, OH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

- 8 am** Holy Communion, Chapel
- 9 am** Adult Forum, Parish Hall
- 10 am** Holy Communion, Church
Coffee Hour, Parish Hall

Note: Church School & Youth Forum resume on Sunday, Sept. 20, 10 am, Education Wing & Room 211

