



The Mini-Messenger

News and Highlights
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Akron

February 2026

The Mini-Messenger is a brief news update sent out in months between our regular full-sized newsletter.

From the Rector

A Little More Work on Hospitality: Volunteers Needed

We do a fine job at the end of our ten o'clock worship service at coffee hour! And thanks to all those bakers and servers who pitch in.

Now, we need to improve our game at the front end of things. To increase our hospitality, we are recruiting welcomers to serve, first, in the East Commons from 8:45–9:10 am to guide people to the Adult Forum and to Church School and to the Nursery. I wonder if some folks from the 8:00 am service might be part of this team of volunteers.

Second, we need volunteers, stationed in the East Commons and in the Narthex, at the back of the sanctuary, from 9:45–10:05 am to welcome those coming to the ten o'clock service.

These welcomers are not ushers (though we could use more ushers, too), but folks who would say Hello to members, and especially to visitors, at our front doors. Please contact a clergy member or leave your name at the Front Desk if you are interested.

Beginning in February

This month sees the launch of...

(1) "Be Renewed...for the Sake of the Gospel" on Feb. 1st. Informational materials will be provided before then.

(2) Our Lenten Program: "Jesus' Farewell Discourses." The longest uninterrupted teachings of Jesus in the Gospels comes in John 13-17. We will be exploring them in Lent.

As always, Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18th, is a day valuable in its own right, but it also prepares us for Lent by opening our hearts to God through self-examination, and by assuring of God's boundless mercies.

Gratefully,
Mark⁺

Stephen Ministry

Winter Doldrums

"I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth."

– Isaiah 42:16

This winter (as almost all Ohio winters) we seem to be having a lot of dreary, dark days. Those days are so depressing, that sometimes that darkness seeps into our souls and magnifies everything that isn't quite right into a massive situation and overwhelms us. But then the sun comes out and we perk up and see that these challenges are not insurmountable. So too, our spiritual health suffers and burdens become heavy and we need to find a way to let Jesus' light back into our lives. Our Stephen Ministers are here to help you find the light on your path through these rough spots. Winter is a perfect time to include a Stephen Minister to lighten the burdens in your life.

To inquire about Stephen Ministry and how they can help you, call one of our Stephen Leaders:

Bonnie Severt (330-328-2453)

Jan Burns-Nowicki (330-715-8557)

Carrie Searle (330-836-9327 x 121)



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Be Renewed...for the Sake of the Gospel Series

Begins on Sunday, Feb. 1st at 6pm and every first Sunday evening thereafter (except for Easter Sunday) with teaching on evangelism and small group discussion (with light refreshments) for five sessions. We will be gently challenging members to take this opportunity to be filled anew with God's life to the end that we each may more readily share the gospel in word and deed. Let us know if you're coming by calling or signing up at the Front Desk.

Men's Weekend Retreat

March 13–15

Theme: "Discipleship"

Just around the corner is our St. Paul's Men's Retreat, taking place in March at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Parma. Hollis Haff, Mark Pruitt, and Dave Scavuzzo will co-lead. Sign up now at the Front Desk or call the church at 330-836-9327. Deadline w/full payment is due Sunday, Feb. 15th.



Dave Scavuzzo on C.S. Lewis

Tuesday, Feb. 3 at 7:00pm in G-4

The Rev. Dave Scavuzzo will lead explorations in developing a scriptural imagination through C.S. Lewis' writings. First Tuesdays through June. Please sign up at the Front Desk.

Feb. 3: On Living in an Atomic Age

Mar. 3: Meditation in the tool shed

Apr. 7: God in the Dock

May 5: The Laws of Nature

June 2: The Weight of Glory

Break for Summer

Join Us for these Upcoming Events

Sun, Feb 1 Be Renewed...for the Sake of the Gospel, 6pm, Parish Hall. [Monthly](#)

Mon, Feb 2 Women's Book Study begins, 10am, Parlor. [Weekly](#)

Tues, Feb 3 Monday Crafters Group, 1pm, Family Room. [Weekly](#)

Bible Study, noon, G-4. [Weekly](#)

Needlework Guild, 6:30pm, Family Room. [1st & 3rd Tuesdays](#)

C.S. Lewis Group w/The Rev. Dave Scavuzzo, 7pm, G-4. [Monthly thru June](#)

Community Meal, 6pm, Assembly Hall. [Weekly](#)

Evening Compline, 7:45pm, Zoom. [Weekly](#)

Healing Service, noon, Chapel

Serious Fun for Grades 5-12, 6-8pm, Youth Space. [Weekly](#)

Sun, Feb 8 Annual Meeting, 11:30am, Assembly Hall

Blood Pressure Checks, 8:30-11:30am, Family Room. [Monthly](#)

Needlework Guild, 1pm, Parish Hall. [2nd & 4th Thursdays](#)

Wrapped in Prayer Group, 11:15am, Family Room. [3rd Sundays](#)

Evensong, 4pm, Church

Mon, Feb 16 President's Day, Church offices closed

Wed, Feb 18 Ash Wednesday, services at 7am, noon, 5:30pm, and 7pm

Tues, Feb 24 Lenten Luncheons begin, noon, Parish Hall. [Weekly thru March 24](#)

Mon, Mar 2 Neighborhood Prayer Walk, noon, meet at Front Desk

Sat, Mar 7 Lenten Taizé Service, 10am, Chapel

Mar 13-15 Men's Weekend Retreat, Jesuit Retreat Center, Parma

Sun, Mar 29 Palm Sunday



Annual Meeting Sunday, Feb. 8

Join us at 11:30 am
in the Assembly Hall
Light refreshments served

Who is Jesus? Book Study Seeks Answers

Mondays, Feb. 2-March 23 at 10am, Parlor

The women's study group meets to discuss books covering a variety of topics for deepening our Christian faith. We are currently discussing, through March 23rd, NT Wright's "Simply Jesus: A New Vision of Who He Was, What He Did, and Why He Matters."

Healing Service

Thursday, February 5 at noon, Chapel

Healing prayer offered at St. Paul's quarterly Healing Service brings peace to us and others. Join us on Feb. 5 at noon in the Chapel for this quarter's healing service and Eucharist.

St. Paul's Nursery School Now Enrolling

2026/27 Preschool / Pre-K enrollment has started for 3, 4, & 5 year olds. Contact Rebecca Bussey at 330-836-9327, ext. 160.

Prayer Walks to Bless Our City

Monday, Mar. 2 at noon, gather at Front Desk

Please join St. Paul's new prayer ministry in making prayer for our city part of a joy-filled life of faith during quarterly prayer walks. On Monday, Mar. 2nd, we will walk down Kenilworth Dr. asking God to bless the neighborhood. Questions? Contact The Rev. Susan Tiffany at 330-730-6748, or Jean Jones at 330-573-4579.

Flowers to the Glory of God

Feb. 1

In honor of Kathryn H. Welsh and in loving memory of Edward I. Hardy; given by William E. Welsh

Feb. 8

In loving memory of Patricia B. Morgan; given by her daughter

Feb. 15

In honor of the birthdays of Ann Grebelsky and Sarah Cravens; given by Chip Billow

In loving memory of William M. Maloney; given by Bill and the Family

Feb. 22

In loving memory of Marjorie & James Lawrence, and H.D. (Doug) Lawrence; given by Joyce Powell

In loving memory of Eric Shaffer; given by Becky & Mark Pruitt

Save Receipts to Benefit Nursery School

Please bring in your Acme receipts and place them in the container at the Front Desk. *Thank you!*

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