



Mitzvah Day
dresses
for Haiti



2026 Vacation Bible School

The Mini-Messenger

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

July 2026

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

From the Rector

Discipleship: Some Daily Questions

Congregations in the 21st century, across all denominations, are reaffirming once again the importance of discipleship. While some may ask, "Really, is this a new thing?" And, "Hasn't discipleship always been part of church life?" Well, yes, but for some time discipleship had been neglected or displaced by other topics in theological education and, therefore, in the life of churches, until it was renewed through three primary influences in the 20th century: greater attention to the *Gospel of Mark* in which Christology and discipleship are two major themes, through the Anabaptist churches, and through Dietrich Bonhoeffer's great work on discipleship titled simply as "following after"—*Nachfolge* in German—and translated in English as *The Cost of Discipleship*.

As congregations embrace this rediscovery and learn once again to issue the call to discipleship and live it out, a set of simple questions can be helpful for each of us. They are: In what concrete way am I, this day, following Christ in joyful obedience? How am I helping someone else to follow Christ? Am I getting in the way of someone following Christ? And also, for whom am I praying to know, or know more deeply and consistently, the love, joy, and peace of Christ? (Making a list and putting it somewhere you can see every day is an indispensable aid, I have found along with many others, in praying for others.)

For many, the summer months provide a more relaxed pace to be self-reflective in this way. But, in truth, these are questions followers of Christ ought to ask daily in all seasons of the year and in all seasons of life.

Warmly,
In Christ,

Mark⁺

Summer Sundays at St. Paul's

8:00 am—Holy Communion, Chapel
8:45-11:15 am—Childcare, Nursery, 3rd floor
9:00 am—Adult Forum, Parish Hall
(See description on page 2)
10:00 am—Holy Communion, Church

Stephen Ministry

Supporting one Another

Can you think back to a time in your life when a family member, friend, or teacher was there to support you during a difficult time? I certainly have had many experiences in my life where the presence of a friend or family member gave me the strength I needed to get through a difficult situation.

The power of presence is often overlooked and underappreciated. Being present for someone by listening to their concerns, being non-judgmental, and focusing on their well-being is a tremendous gift one can give to another person. If you find yourself in need of support through life's challenges, please reach out to our Stephen Ministry Leaders. A Stephen Minister will listen and walk through these difficulties with you. Contact **Bonnie Severt** at 330-328-2453 to find out how a Stephen Minister can help you on your journey.



Quarterly Prayer Walk

Intercessors Walk and Pray for the City

St. Paul's quarterly prayer walk that offers intercessions for our neighbors and the city went to downtown Akron on **Monday, June 1st** where a group of parishioners prayed at several government offices. The group stopped at the police department, city hall, and the Summit County Courthouse petitioning for God's mercy and protection for those who work for our government, and for citizens who need to navigate the justice system. Our next quarter's prayer walk will be in early September. The targeted neighborhood for these prayers and the meet-up location will be announced later in the summer.



Parishioners gather at the WW1 memorial at the Summit County Courthouse to intercede for Akron & S.C. government

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1361 W. Market St. • Akron, Ohio 44313 • 330-836-9327 • StPaulsAkron.org

Upcoming Events

Fri, July 3	Church offices closed
Mon, July 6	Monday Crafters Group, 1pm, Family Room. Weekly
Tue, July 7	Bible Study, Noon, G-4. Weekly through June 30th Needlework Guild, 6:30pm, Family Room. 1st & 3rd Tuesdays
Wed, July 8	Community Meal, 6pm, Assembly Hall. Weekly Evening Compline, 7:45pm, Zoom. Weekly
Thu, July 9	Needlework Guild, 1pm, Parish Hall. 2nd & 4th Thursdays
Sun, July 12	Blood Pressure Checks, 8:30–11:30am, Family Room. Monthly
Sun, July 19	Wrapped in Prayer Ministry, 11:15am, Family Room. 3rd Sundays
July 20-24	Summer Service Trip for Youth, Buffalo, New York
Thu, Aug 6	Quarterly Healing Service, noon, Chapel
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 with Parish Picnic to follow, 10am, Church & Grounds
Sun, Sept 20	Church School/Youth Forum resumes, Education Wing, 2 nd Floor. Weekly
Sept 25-27	Women’s Weekend Retreat, Loyola Retreat House, Clinton, Ohio

Adult Forum Welcomes Summer with Special Series Through July 28th Adult Forum, at 9am in the Parish Hall, features parishioners sharing their “Desert Island Favorites,” what favorite books of the Bible and music they would want with them if they were marooned on a desert (or tropical island). Support your St. Paul’s brothers and sisters for these lively and hope-filled presentations.

Healing Service Set for August
At times life can feel out of control. We are overwhelmed by burdens at work and family responsibilities. Illness, death, and financial difficulties add to the weight we carry around. Healing prayer is the remedy that brings the peace of Jesus to all situations in our lives. Join us at the healing service on **Thursday, August 6th** at noon in the Chapel where healing prayer will be offered, prayer that comforts our hearts because we know that God hears those prayers. And His answer to our petitions is healing – sometimes physical but always healing through the comfort of His presence with us. Led by The Rev. Susan Tiffany.

Amy Peeler Returns to St. Paul’s
The Rev. Dr. Amy Peeler, professor of New Testament at Wheaton College in Illinois, will make her 4th annual visit to St. Paul’s at a parish breakfast on **Saturday, September 12th** when she will speak about Jesus as portrayed in John 10 – as the shepherd, the gate, and the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep. The breakfast will be held at 8:45am in the Parish Hall.

Help Needed
We are looking for parishioners to serve as Eucharistic Ministers and readers for the 8am Sunday services in the Chapel. Please contact the Front Desk at 330-836-9327 ext. 120 or Polly Glanville for details.

SAVE THE DATE – Women’s Retreat
Faith, fellowship, prayer, worship, and more will support and encourage the women of St. Paul’s at a weekend retreat, **September 25th-27th**, at Loyola Retreat House in Green. Mark your calendars now for this one-of-a-kind spiritual renewal weekend. More details and registration forms will be available in late summer.

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 Monday, Sept. 14th. *Thank you!*



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