



Trick or Treat!



# The Mini-Messenger

News and Highlights

St. Paul's Episcopal Church • Akron, Ohio

November 2025

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

## From the Rector

### Every Person Valued by God

I write this on St. Luke's Day. *The Gospel of Luke* provides our readings this autumn for Sunday mornings and is the subject of our Tuesday Bible study. The deep dive into Luke on Tuesdays has been especially meaningful to me. Luke, generally thought to be a physician, accordingly, gives a high profile to Jesus' compassion. Luke reveals his own compassion in showing how Jesus is compassionate: Jesus heals the sick, he feeds the hungry, he seeks the lost, he interacts with those on the fringes of society. All this powerfully displays God's utter love for the world in Christ. It's big picture stuff.

Luke also subtly reinforces this point. For instance, he carefully speaks of "men *with* leprosy" not "lepers," and of "a man *with* a demon," not "a demoniac." (Luke 17:12; Luke 8:27). Many translators overlook this or count it unimportant. But it's Luke's way of *humanizing* people who are otherwise labelled. It reminded me of a popular campus speaker, Tony Campolo, who years ago began a talk with the question "*What did Jesus say when he met a prostitute?*" A student from the crowd shouted, "*Jesus never met one!*"

Campolo was initially stunned. But later he got the point the student was trying to make with his rhetorical parry. Jesus saw the person, whatever their condition, as of infinite worth to God. Without revoking the call to repentance and surrender that he extended to all, Jesus displayed the value of every person to God. It's a lesson from Jesus' life and ministry for all of us to learn and relearn, in relation to others, and to ourselves. Even so when we set out, with good motives, to help those in need of deliverance, or in need of putting their lives together. Whatever problems a person *has*, that person is more than "A Problem." So, too, for each of us. See Luke 12 and be reminded that God's care for the 'birds of the air' is daily before us, and "how much more are we worth to God."

In Christ,  
**Mark<sup>+</sup>**

## Staff Update

### Wishing Dale Lower a Happy Retirement!

On October 31<sup>st</sup> we said goodbye to our long-serving Head Sexton, Dale Lower, as he retires. Dale had served in this role since March of 2006. We are grateful to Dale for his many years of service and dedication to the church and congregation. Thank you Dale and best wishes in your retirement.



Beginning November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mike Dyer, a Sexton who has worked at St. Paul's for seven years, will assume the role of Head Sexton. We welcome Mike and wish him well as he transitions into his new position.

## Join a Pilgrimage

### Seeking Christ's Freedom Pilgrimage

A one-day pilgrimage will be held **Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025**, at the Spring Grove Cemetery in Medina. We'll meet at 10am at the main gate on S. Spring St. at the Civil War memorial to begin a pilgrimage on the gift of freedom through Jesus' resurrection. Speakers will reflect on living in the freedom we're promised through the Resurrection. Cemetery volunteers will share with us some of the history of the cemetery, and we'll experience the Daily Offices of Morning Prayer and Noonday Prayer. The pilgrimage will conclude with lunch. RSVP at the Front Desk by **Monday, Nov. 3.**

### Don't Miss Out! Sign Up Now for 2026 Pilgrimage

Reserve your spot on St. Paul's New Beginnings Pilgrimage to southern OH/northern KY, Nov. 3-6, 2026, when we will experience in-depth teachings on our God of second chances that He demonstrated throughout history when we visit:

- Maria Stein Relic Shrine, Maria Stein, OH
- Wright Brothers National Museum, Dayton, OH
- Noah's Ark, Williamstown, KY
- St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, KY
- Hopeton Earthworks (UNESCO World Heritage Site), Chillicothe, OH

Register at [incrediblejourneystours.com](https://incrediblejourneystours.com)

Trip cost: \$875 per person, double occupancy

LESSONS & CAROLS  
*on Advent Sunday*

Nov. 30<sup>TH</sup>  
4:00 PM

Reception to follow



Plan ahead for these November Events

Sun, Nov 2	All Saints' Day
Mon, Nov 3	Monday Crafters Group, 1pm, Family Room. <a href="#">Weekly</a>
Tues, Nov 4	Tuesday Bible Study, noon, G-4. <a href="#">Weekly</a> Needlework Guild, 6:30pm, Family Room. <a href="#">1st &amp; 3rd Tuesdays</a> C.S. Lewis Study Group w/Dave Scuvuzzo, 7pm, G-4. <a href="#">Also Dec 2</a>
Wed, Nov 5	Community Meal, 6pm, Assembly Hall. <a href="#">Weekly</a> Evening Compline, 7:45pm, Zoom. <a href="#">Weekly</a>
Thu, Nov 6	Seeking Christ's Freedom Pilgrimage, 10am, Spring Grove Cemetery, Medina
Fri, Nov 7	Serious Fun for students Grades 5-12, 6-8pm, Youth Space. <a href="#">Weekly</a>
Sun, Nov 9	Harvest Sunday, <i>please bring in your pledge card</i> Blood Pressure Checks, 8:30-11:30am, Family Room. <a href="#">Monthly</a>
Mon, Nov 10	Women's Book Study begins, 10am, Parlor. <a href="#">Thru Dec 8</a>
Thur, Nov 13	Healing Service, noon, Chapel Needlework Guild, 1pm, Parish Hall. <a href="#">2nd &amp; 4th Thursdays</a>
Sun, Nov 16	Wrapped in Prayer Group, 11:15am, Family Room. <a href="#">3rd Sundays</a> Evensong at St. Andrew's, 4pm, Barberton
Wed, Nov 26	No Community Meal
Th,F, Nov 27,28	Church office closed for Thanksgiving
Sun, Nov 30	Advent I All Ages Advent Wreath Making, 9am, Parish Hall Lessons & Carols on Advent Sunday, 4pm, Church



Fall back  
one hour  
on Nov. 2

C.S. Lewis Study Group

The Rev. Dave Scavuzzo returns **Tuesday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm in G-4. Remarkable essays, fruits of the scriptural imagination of C.S. Lewis, that bear on everyday life. Meetings are open to all!  
**Tues, Nov. 4:** What Are We to Make of Jesus Christ?  
**Tues, Dec. 2:** Man or Rabbit?

Women's Book Study on Reconciliation

The women's book study will begin discussing a new book on **Monday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>**, *"Reconciling All Things: A Christian Vision for Justice, Peace and Healing"* by Emmanuel Katongole & Chris Rice. The study meets in the Parlor and runs through **Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>**. Books are available from IVPpress.com and Amazon.com.

November Healing Service

Jesus offers our souls, battered by the struggles of life, an opportunity to receive healing through the gift of prayer. Come and be prayed for and pray for others in the presence of Christ as we gather for healing prayer and the Eucharist in the Chapel at noon on **Thursday, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>**.

All Ages Advent Wreath Making

Please join us at 9am on Advent I, **Sunday, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>**, for an intergenerational event in the Parish Hall. Assemble your own Advent wreath to take home and use for this season of preparation. St. Paul's will supply the greens, candles, and prayers to be used for lighting your wreath each week of Advent. This event is for EVERYONE!

Christmas Carnival

Join our festive Christmas Carnival on **Sunday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>** in the Assembly Hall (Gym) 4-6pm. There will be games, a cookie walk, hot chocolate and Santa! Those who would like to bake cookies for the event, contact Beth Guenther.

Needed: Sextons for Weekend Work

St. Paul's is looking for reliable, part-time, weekend workers. Please email resume, three references and phone number to:  
[Dalelowerjr@yahoo.com](mailto:Dalelowerjr@yahoo.com)

Beware of Spam Email

We are all beset with spam on a daily basis. Please beware of unusual email that is seemingly coming from any of the church staff. Often our mail programs show us only the name of the sender, but please take the extra step of checking the email address behind the name, something which will (most often) show more clearly whether or not the message is legitimate. We'll never ask you to supply gift cards, etc., so a request like that should set off alarm bells. Stay safe and be cautious!

Year-End Giving Reminder

PLEASE NOTE: due to audit requirements, donations are tax-deductible for 2025 ONLY if they are received and/or postmarked by Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Donations postmarked after Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> will be applied to 2026, regardless of check date. All year-end donations must be received BEFORE NOON on Weds. Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. Church offices will be closed at 12:00 noon on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. For questions, please call Treasurer Gail Wild, at 330-836-9327, ext. 124.

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