



As we approach our annual meeting, I find myself filled with gratitude for this congregation and hope for the path that lies before us. The annual meeting is more than a report of numbers and budgets — it is an opportunity to pause, reflect, and prayerfully consider where God may be leading us next.

Scripture reminds us of the importance of vision. In Proverbs we read: “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” (Proverbs 29:18)

Vision is not simply planning or goal-setting. It is the faithful practice of asking, “*God, what are you calling us to be?*” and “*How are we being invited to serve?*” Vision calls us beyond maintenance and comfort into trust and possibility.

Over the past year, we have shared joys and challenges, celebrations and sorrows. Through it all, we have witnessed God’s steady presence — in worship, in fellowship, in acts of care, and in quiet moments of grace. These experiences are part of our story, and they help shape the future we are discerning.

At the annual meeting, we will review the life of our church, celebrate what has been accomplished, and look ahead together. Your presence matters. Your voice matters. Each of us carries a piece of the vision God is unfolding among us.

In the days ahead, I invite you to pray:

- Pray with thanksgiving for the ministry we share
- Pray for wisdom and discernment
- Pray for openness to the Spirit’s leading

May we gather not merely as members attending a meeting, but as a community seeking God’s guidance for the journey ahead.

With gratitude and hope,

Pastor Joel



## Prayer Vigils During Lent



On Tuesdays, March 3, 10, and 24, there will be a prayer meeting/vigil at 7:00PM, in the parlor of St. Paul's. Our prayer time will last somewhere between 15-30 minutes. There will be time of silence, meditation, candle lighting, scripture reading, and simple songs. Join us to help prepare yourself for the arriving light of Christ on Easter morning.



## Dying Well Workshop

On Saturday, March 14, at 10:00 AM, in the Annex at St. Paul's, Pastor Joel will offer a class on preparing for your final arrangements. In our time together, we will discuss the pros and cons of full burial verse cremation, as well as looking at what kind of memorial service you would like.



## Ongoing Bible Study

Thursday nights at 7:00PM, at St. Peter's UCC, Pastor Joel is leading an ongoing Bible study. During Lent, the class will look at the Passion narratives and resurrection stories from each of the 4 gospels. Even if you have not attended any classes so far, you are still welcome. Come explore the resurrection with us as we head for Easter morning.



## Palm Sunday, March 29



Join us on Sunday, March 29, as we celebrate Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week. This special service commemorates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, when the crowds waved palm branches and proclaimed Him King.

We warmly welcome everyone to come together in worship, reflection and praise as we remember Christ's humble yet powerful journey toward the cross and the hope of the resurrection. Palm fronds will be distributed.



## Easter Sunday Service

Celebrate the joy and hope of resurrection at St. Paul's on Sunday, April 5 at 10:30 a.m. Easter Sunday marks the triumph of Christ over death, bringing new life and renewed faith. Bring your family and friends to share in this special day of celebration. All are welcome!



## Easter Flowers

Honor a loved one this Easter by dedicating a beautiful flower to their memory or in honor of someone special. Your contribution will help adorn our sanctuary and create a joyful, festive atmosphere as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Order forms are available in your bulletin or the narthex. Payment is due when ordering. The deadline for orders is Sunday, March 8. Flowers can be picked up after the Easter Worship Service.

## One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It connects you to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. When disasters strike, or when individuals are displaced due to violence or poverty, OGHS ensures immediate response and ongoing recovery.

Through your support, OGHS funds comprehensive development programs in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, microfinancing, and women's empowerment. By partnering with Global Ministries and international response networks, OGHS maximizes its impact. Your contributions help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities. **The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received on Sunday, March 15.**

**Let's give generously!**



During this Lenten season, we are invited to focus on compassion and generosity. The annual Lenten Offering helps support St. Paul's and its mission of sharing God's love in our community and beyond.

We invite you to join this meaningful opportunity to give as we journey together through this season of reflection, sacrifice and hope.



With the severity of this winter season, we have accumulated higher than normal snow removal expenses. We are truly grateful to everyone who contributed to help offset the cost. A special thank you to the Bakers and the Women of St. Paul's for their generous gifts of \$1,500 each. Your support is greatly appreciated!



**Sunday, March 8**

The Mission Team is again sponsoring a fun but serious project we can really get behind.

We are collecting men's, women's and children's socks, underwear, pajamas and long johns. All donations must be new and in original packaging or with tags attached. Donated items will be tallied on Undie Sunday, March 8.

Since its inception, St. Paul's Undie Sunday drives have collected 1,384 pairs of underwear and 3,358 pairs of socks! That's just counting what was collected during the two months each year for Undie Sunday. As socks and underwear donations continue to come in year-round, St Paul's has kept a lot of feet warm and dry!

# MISSION TRIP

**North Street Mission  
Wooster, Ohio**

**Volunteer Projects:** We will begin each morning by serving breakfast to the homeless at our host location. Each day following breakfast, we will work with one of several community organizations such as People to People Ministries (local food pantry), Salvation Army, Boys and Girls Club, Habitat for Humanity, Community Gardens, Every Women's House (domestic violence shelter), Friendship Meals, and the Wilderness Center among other possibilities.

**Educational Activities:** We will become more aware of the challenges to the community faces through a variety of educational programs. Wooster is located in the heart of Ohio's Amish and Mennonite communities which we will explore while we are here.

**Date:** Sunday, June 21 – Saturday, June 27

If you are interested in attending, or for more information, please sign up at the Mission Table or contact Mindy Does at [mindy.does@yahoo.com](mailto:mindy.does@yahoo.com).



**PRAY MORE**  
*worry less*

St. Paul's Prayer Partners help to provide hope, spiritual support and help to bring a deep sense of comfort to someone going through a difficult time. If you would like to become a prayer partner, or have prayer requests/updates, please contact Sally Jane by email @ [sallyjane1717@yahoo.com](mailto:sallyjane1717@yahoo.com)

**LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Karen Sands & family, John Kromer & family, Ethel Strohl, Joyce Zemlansky, Jane Hoh, Peggy Moser, Edith Knauss, Betty Stolz, John Stolz, Ronald Lobach, Keith Beil, Lynnel Groller, Peggy Kohler, Consistory, churches, nation and leaders, U.S. Military, many refugees, and persecuted Christians.



**Don't forget to spring forward!**



Daylight Savings Time begins **Sunday, March 10**. Set your clocks before bed on Saturday night and enjoy the extra evening sunshine!



**St. Paul's  
Financial Report  
January 2026**

Current Income:	\$15,995.46
Benevolence:	520.00
Building & Maintenance:	2,100.00
Mission Fund:	<u>25.00</u>
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>18,640.46</b>

Current Expenses:	\$(886.69)
Utilities:	(1,257.21)
Pastor's Expense:	(9,668.78)
Lay Staff Expense:	(3,870.44)
Benevolence:	(771.70)
Building & Maintenance:	(4,457.99)
Christian Education:	(247.00)
Mission Fund:	(158.80)
Vanco Fees (E-Give):	<u>(11.39)</u>

**Total Expenses: (21,330.00)**

**Net Income (Loss): (2,689.54)**

E-Give Offerings: \$1,391.35



### Shoofly Pie Sale



The Bakers are hosting a delicious homemade Shoofly Pie Sale! Sweet, scrumptious, and made with love, these pies are the perfect winter pick-me-up or a thoughtful treat to share.

The deadline for ordering is Sunday, March 8. Pick-up will be Saturday, March 14 between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the church. Cost is \$7.00 each. Sign up in the narthex or call 484-629-4233 to order.



### Ham & Cheese Sandwich Sale

The Women of St. Paul's are hosting a Ham & Cheese Sandwich Sale on **Wednesday, March 18!** Each delicious sandwich features thin-sliced ham and cheese on a fresh bakery Kaiser roll, with a mustard packet included for just \$4.00.

Pick up times are 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 pm and 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Orders can be placed by signing up in the narthex or by calling 484-629-4233.



### Scout Pancake Breakfast



Scout Troop 93 will host an All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, March 22 from 8-12 (noon) in the church fellowship hall. The menu includes pancakes (plain, blueberry, chocolate chip, fruit toppings) and sausage. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids (3-10) and kids 2 and under are free. Come hungry and support our Scouts!



### Give Hope!

Our local families in need benefit greatly from your donations to the Northampton Food Bank. **Items needed:** peanut butter & jelly, boxed potatoes, canned potatoes, canned vegetables, canned soup, canned pasta, pancake mix & syrup, cereal, tuna fish. Non-perishable items and monetary donations can be dropped off at church or the church office. Thank you for caring and sharing!



### Redner's Save-A-Tape Program

Shop at Redner's? St. Paul's receives 1% of the total receipts submitted. **Our last check received totaled \$309.01!** Whole receipts (cut off receipts are not accepted) can be dropped off in the Redner's receipt bag in the narthex or dropped off at the church office. Thank you for your participation!



### Giant Gift Cards

If you shop at Giant, please consider participating in a great fundraising opportunity for St. Paul's through Giant's "Cash for Causes" program. **St. Paul's earns 5% of the face value of all the gift cards sold.** Gift cards are available in denominations of \$25, \$50 and \$100 and can be used like cash at any Giant location. If interested in purchasing gift cards, please contact Cindy Swankoski at 484-560-6542. Thank you for your participation!



3/10 – Sandra & Harlan Kunkel  
3/29 – Charlene & Ken Knappenberger



3/05 – Chrissy Wisniewski  
3/07 – Edith Knauss  
3/09 – Faye Kern  
3/16 – Robert Bartholomew  
3/18 – Evangeline Bing  
Magdalen Bing  
3/19 – Conrad Beck  
3/21 – Caleb Young  
3/26 – Kenneth Paukovits  
Michael Hoh  
3/27 – Marianne Michael  
3/28 – James Gable  
3/30 – Jessica Bing  
Jennifer Dries  
3/31 – Ann Snyder

Did we miss your special day?  
Please call the church office and  
let Christine know. Thank you.





## Altar Flowers

### **March:**

03/01 – Karen Sands  
 03/08 – Open  
 03/15 – Open  
 03/22 – Cindy Swankoski  
 03/29 – Open



## Bulletins

### **March:**

02/01 – Open  
 02/08 – Open  
 02/15 – Phyllis Barholomew  
 02/22 – Mike McGuinness  
 03-29 – Open

The cost to sponsor the Altar flowers is \$30.00 and the Bulletins is \$10.00. Please sign up in the narthex or call the church office @ 610-261-2910 if you would like to sponsor.

Note: There are **two** spaces available to sign up on the altar flower chart in the narthex. You are encouraged to sign up for any date even if someone else already has.



### **March:**

03/01 – Brian Saylor  
 03/08 – Larry Oberly  
 03/15 – Dave Farkas  
 03/22 – Don Biggs  
 03/29 – John Demczynszyn





- March 1** – 10:30 – Worship w/Communion (Second Sunday in Lent)
- March 2** – 7:00 – AA (parlor)
- March 3** – 7:00 – Prayer Vigil Service (Parlor)
- March 4** – 7:00 – Scouts (FH)
- March 7** – **Daylight Savings Time/Turn Your Clocks Forward Tonight!**
- March 8** – 10:30 – Worship//Undie Sunday/Deadline for Shoofly Pie & Ham & Cheese Sandwich Orders & Easter Flower Orders
- March 9** – 7:00 – AA (Parlor)
- March 10** – 7:00 – Prayer Vigil Service (Parlor)
- March 11** – 7:00 – Scouts (FH)
- March 14** – 10:00 Dying Well Workshop @ St. Paul's Annex  
11-5 PM – Pick Up Shoofly Pies (FH)
- March 15** – 10:30 – Worship w/OGHS Offering/April Newsletter Articles Due
- March 16** – AA (Parlor)
- March 17** – 6:30 – Consistory (Annex) St. Patrick's Day
- March 18** – 7:00 – Scouts (FH)
- March 20** – First Day of Spring! :)
- March 22** – 8-12 (noon) – Scout Pancake Breakfast (FH)  
– 10:30 – Worship/Fifth Sunday in Lent
- March 23** – 7:00 – AA (Parlor)
- March 24** – 7:00 – Prayer Vigil Service (Parlor)
- March 25** – 7:00 – Scouts (FH)
- March 29** – 10:30 – Worship/Palm Sunday
- March 30** – 7:00 – AA (Parlor)





*The Deadline for*  
***April***  
*Newsletter Articles*  
*Is March 15*

**Pastor** – Rev. Joel Biggers

**Director of Christian Ed.** – Melinda Does

**Office Administrator** – Christine Hostetter

**Custodian** – Shea Killeen

**Church Office Phone** – 610-261-2910

**E-mail** – [stpaulsnorth@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsnorth@gmail.com)

**Website** – [www.stpaulsnorthamptonpa.org](http://www.stpaulsnorthamptonpa.org)

**Pastor's Office Hours:** Thursday & Friday from 9:00-5:00 PM. Pastor Joel can be reached by email [joelwbiggers@gmail.com](mailto:joelwbiggers@gmail.com) or by calling 732-853-4809.

**Church Office Hours:** Mon., (8-12 PM) Tues., Wed., Thurs. (8-3 PM)