

February 8, 2021

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

On these bitter cold wintery days, let us lean upon Christ Jesus who is our Light and our Hope.

Despite the cold weather, people are returning to in-person worship on Sunday mornings. Our Sunday School continues to meet at 9:00 a.m. Splash (youth grades 4 and 5) meets Sunday afternoons at 5:00 p.m. Senior and Junior High Youth Groups meet at 6:30 on Wednesday evenings. Confirmation also meets on Wednesdays at 6:30.

This week's worship mailer includes bulletins for Sunday, February 14: Transfiguration Sunday and for the Ash Wednesday Open House on February 17 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Both of these bulletins can be accessed via our website: www.stpaulnb.org.

You will also find in this week's packet a cardboard cutout of sunglasses. These are for Transfiguration Sunday's Children's Moment. Tune into worship this coming Sunday to find out why!

If you are unable to attend worship on Ash Wednesday, but would still like to receive ashes, please contact the church office so we can deliver ash to you. We are also putting together Lent in a Bag for our St. Paul folk. These bags will include weekly devotional materials for you to utilize throughout Lent. Please contact the church office if you would like to have Lent in a Bag delivered to your home.


Our Blessing Pantry is staffed by volunteers on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-7:30. The Pantry is also open Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00-3:00 p.m. We thank you for your generosity toward the Pantry—we have been able to keep it well stocked for our guests.

We are aware that the weekly worship packets may not arrive on time. This is due to Covid19 infections at mail processing facilities. You can access the weekly bulletin on the St. Paul webpage: www.stpaulnb.org.

Our Church Council slate for 2021 is not yet complete. We still need a Treasurer, a Junior Deacon, and a First Year Trustee. If you feel called to any of these positions, please call the church office, Roland Dicke or Myra Hanenkratt.

Thank you for your faithfulness to St. Paul Church! Together we are the Body of Christ in this community.

Grace and Peace,


Roland Dicke Myra Hanenkratt Becky Erb Strang Dee Schroer
Council President Council VP Senior Pastor Associate Pastor

Financial Information as of February 8, 2021

Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00
Giving Income \$4,975.06(weekly)
Endowment Transfers \$3,762.00(ytd)
Income \$36,960.16(ytd)
Expenses \$36,884.82(ytd)
Balance \$75.34(ytd)

Building Maint & Property Care

Beg. Balance \$73,644.37
Income \$1,909.00 (ytd)
Endowment Income \$0.00 (ytd)
Expenses \$990.70 (ytd)
Balance \$74,562.67 (ytd)

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$6,250.20
Income \$2,175.00(ytd)
Expenses \$1,485.84(ytd)
Balance \$6,939.36
BP Beg Balance \$7,881.15
Bless Pantry Inc. \$4,940.00(ytd)
Bless Pantry Ex. \$770.33(ytd)
BP Balance \$12,050.82

Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00
Income \$743.00(weekly)
Income \$3,575.00 (ytd)

Project of the Year

Income \$75.00(weekly)
Balance \$899.00(ytd)

FEBRUARY 14, 2021
TRANSFIGURATION
OF OUR LORD



Listen to Jesus, the Beloved.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 9:2-9	Transfiguration of Jesus
Monday	2 Kings 2:1-12	Elijah is taken into heaven
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	Proclaiming Jesus as Lord
Wednesday	Psalm 51	A prayer for forgiveness
Thursday	Genesis 3:17-19	You are dust
Friday	James 1:19-25	Hearing and doing the word
Saturday	Psalm 50:1-6	God shines brightly
Sunday	Mark 1:9-15	Temptation of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" **Mark 9:7 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of heavenly glory, like Peter, James, and John, may we see glimpses of your radiance and be encouraged for our life of faith in your Beloved Son. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundance, we thank you for this food, a beautiful sign of your loving presence and care for us through Christ Jesus, your Beloved Son. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of glory and the Beloved Son of God shine brightly on you today.



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FEBRUARY 14, 2021
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Shine, Jesus, Shine



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about an experience that reminded you of God's loving presence.
- When something wonderful happens, do you relate it to your faith? Why or why not?
- How do you think the transfiguration of Jesus made a difference for his disciples?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 9:2-9.

Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration with Moses and Elijah present is a heavenly moment as Jesus and his disciples make their way to Jerusalem, Golgotha, and the empty tomb. And, perhaps, that is what is so valuable and instructive about it. Jesus is headed to rejection, persecution, and a painful and shameful death. In our daily life as sojourners on earth and followers of Jesus, we, too know suffering of various kinds. We need—yes, perhaps even Jesus needed—a reminder that the road of life leads not just to suffering and death but to the fulfillment of God's promise of life and salvation. The heavenly voice that spoke at Jesus' baptism speaks again about Jesus as God's Beloved Son. What is added here is the critical admonition to listen to Jesus. In both Hebrew and Greek, to listen conveys the element of obedience. You listen to the one you are willing to obey, and the one you obey you hear with full attention. As we follow our crucified Lord through life, let us pay attention, listen closely, and seek faithful obedience to Jesus, the one who bestows on us God's heavenly glory. How do you listen closely to Jesus?

Pray: **Almighty and everlasting God, may we see glimpses of your glory that day by day we may listen and obey our Lord Jesus Christ with faith and confidence. Amen.**

SERVICE

In 2 Kings 2:1-12 God passes Elijah's mantle to Elisha. In the Bible God routinely passes on leadership from one person to another, like Abraham to Isaac, Jacob to Joseph, Moses to Joshua, and Elijah to Elisha. Who is someone you can encourage and support as a leader and servant of God this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This is Transfiguration Sunday. Jesus' clothes became dazzling white. This was an amazing experience for the disciples. Think or talk about experiences you have had where you felt close to God. They are sacred moments. Spend time this week reading the Bible and reflecting on God's word. If you have children, use a children's storybook Bible.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org



St. Paul United Church of Christ

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Visit our website at <https://stpaulnb.org>

Like and follow our page St. Paul United Church of Christ – New

Bremen, Ohio on Facebook

Rev. Becky Senior Pastor

Pastor Dee Associate Pastor

Roland Dicke-Council President

Welcome to St. Paul UCC, we are glad you are here!!

Whether you are worshipping online or in person, this is the house of the Lord, and all are welcome to enter and praise our loving Creator. May God's love fill you with kindness, mercy and joy.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the Church-On July 23, 2020 Governor DeWine mandated mask wearing in public, including houses of worship. Masks are essential to help keep those around us safe. Thank you for cooperating.

February 14, 2021 Transfiguration Sunday Worship Leaders

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Pastor Dee Schroer

Cheyenne Olt

Dick Hudson

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Accompanist/Vocalist

Organist

PRELUDE

GREETING AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES: As we light the altar and Christ candles, you are invited to light a candle or candles at home in preparation for worship.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME SONG

No Matter

No Matter

J=120

No mat-ter who, no mat-ter what no mat-ter where you are on the
jour-ney of life; you're wel-come, wel-come in this place. No mat-ter
who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the
jour-ney of life: ac-cept-ed, wel-comed by God's grace. grace.

CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from Eugene Peterson's The Message; John 1:1-5, 9, 14)

Leader: The Word was first, God was in the Word and the Word was in God

People: Everything was created through him and nothing—not one thing—came into being without him.

Leader: What came into existence was Life and the Life was the Light to live by.

People: The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out.

Leader: The Life-Light was the real thing. Every person entering Life he brings into Light.

People: And the Word became flesh and moved into the neighborhood. And we have seen his glory with our own eyes!

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light 248

Db Gb/Db Ab Db/F Gb Db/F Ebm7 Ab Db Bbm Gb Db/F Fm

1 I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to fol-low
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God; I want to look at
 3 I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ; I want to be with

Ebm/Gb Ab7 Bbm Gb Db Ab7/Eb Fm Fm7 Gb Ab Gb/Bb Ab

Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world; the
 Je - sus. Clear Sun of right-eous-ness, shine on my path, and
 Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

Db Gb/Db Db Ab/C Ab Bbm Eb Ab *Refrain* Db Fm Gb Ab/Gb Db/F Gb

star of my life is Je - sus.
 show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Db Ab Bbm Ab/C Dbsus Db Ab/C Bbm Gb/Bb Ab Ebm Ab/Gb

all; the night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

Db/F Fm Ebm/Gb Bbm/F Eb Ab Db Bbm Gb/Bb Ab Bbm Gb Ab7 Db

light of the cit - y of God: Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

*INVOCATION (unison)

Lord of light and love, let us not be afraid of you. Come among us and enter into each life: shine your light, revealing to us your love and your grace. Forgive us our brokenness and re-awaken the Christ-Light we bear in your name. Amen.

HALLELUJAH!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jahl
Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jahl
Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jahl Hal - le -
lu - jahl Hal - le - lu - jahl

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Today I want to talk about my glasses. For the longest time I only needed glasses to read books and computer screens, but a few years ago, I discovered that I need to wear glasses all the time in order that the world around me will not be fuzzy. I need to wear glasses so I can see clearly.

In today's New Testament lesson, we will hear the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus. Transfiguration means change—Jesus' appearance changed before three disciples, changing the way that they saw him.

One night, Jesus took Peter, James and John up a mountain to pray. I need to be clear: Jesus was praying, but his disciples (Jesus' closest friends) fell asleep. When the three men woke up, they saw that Jesus was changed: he was wearing white and bright light shone around him. What's more, the Old Testament prophets, Elijah and Moses, appeared near Jesus and were talking to Jesus!

Peter, James and John were so entranced by what they saw that Peter offered to build three houses (or dwellings, or tents—depending on your translation) for Jesus, Moses and Elijah. But then something even more astonishing happened: God’s voice from a cloud began to speak to the disciples, saying, “This is my Son, my Chosen: listen to him!” God was making sure that the disciples understood who Jesus was—God’s chosen Son.

Christians call what happened on the mountain that night the Transfiguration. For Jesus’ disciples, that night was like putting on prescription glasses—they were finally able to see who Jesus was: the Son of God.

Beginning this Wednesday, we will enter the season of Lent—40 days to put on our spiritual glasses to get to know Jesus better. I encourage you to take time in the days and weeks to come to dig deeply into the Bible. Plunge deeply into prayer. Offer yourself completely to those in need. Spend Lent getting to know Jesus by reflecting his light and his love in our community, our nation and our world. Amen.

ANTHEM *I Can See Clearly Now* Johnny Nash
(YouTube Search: Johnny Nash *I Can See Clearly Now*)

*I can see clearly now the rain is gone.
I can see all obstacles in my way.
Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind.
It's gonna be a bright (bright)
Bright (bright) sunny day.
It's gonna be a bright (bright)
Bright (bright) sunny day.*

*Oh, yes I can make it now the pain is gone.
All of the bad feelings have disappeared.
Here is that rainbow I've been praying for.
It's gonna be a bright (bright)
Bright (bright) sunny day.*

*Look all around, there's nothing but blue skies.
Look straight ahead, there's nothing but blue skies.*

*I can see clearly now the rain is gone.
I can see all obstacles in my way.
Here is that rainbow I've been praying for.
It's gonna be a bright (bright)
Bright (bright) sunshiny day.
It's gonna be a bright (bright)
Bright (bright) sunshiny day.
It's going to be a bright (bright)
Bright (bright) sunshiny day.
Bright bright bright bright bright (bright) bright (bright)
Sunshiny day*

*It's gonna be a bright (bright) bright (bright)Sunshiny day.
It's gonna be a bright (bright) bright (bright)Sunshiny day.
It's gonna be a bright (bright) bright (bright)Sunshiny day.
Bright bright bright bright bright (bright) bright (bright)Sunshiny day.*

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Jesus' Transfiguration!!!!

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Martha Plattner (JTDMH), Becky Quellhorst (OSU Hospital), Sophia MacKenzie (Sun Behavioral Health), Drew Wray, Deb Lear, Jan Dammeyer, Shannon Shupp and Pastor Dee Schroer.

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

O God, we open our eyes and we see Jesus, the months of ministry transfigured to a beam of light, the light of the world, your light. May your light shine upon us.

We open our eyes and we see Moses and Elijah, your word restoring us, showing us the way, telling a story, your story, his story, our story. May your word speak to us.

We open our eyes and we see mist, the cloud of your presence which assures us of all we do not know and that we do not need to fear that. Teach us to trust.

We open our eyes and we see Peter's constructions, his best plans, our best plans, our missing the point, our missing the way. Forgive our foolishness and sin

We open our eyes and we see Jesus, not casting us off, but leading us down, leading us out - to ministry, to people. Your love endures forever.

On Transfiguration Sunday, we are bathed in the light of the season—the light of Christ, the light of God, the light of the Holy Spirit. Open us to your light that we might experience transfiguration and transformation.

Open us to your light that we might offer healing to a hurting world. Bring healing to our communities. Bring healing to our nation. Bring healing to our world. Challenge us to be people of Light and Love rather than people of destruction and hatred.

Open us to your light that we might hear your voice from the heavens and in our hearts—whispering to us words of challenge, words of comfort, words that rock our world and rock us to sleep. Open us to your silent song. SILENCE

Holy God, We open our ears and we hear your voice, 'This is my beloved Son, listen to him!' And we give you thanks.

All of this we pray with the prayer your son taught us to pray...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Psalm 36:5-10 (NRSV)

*Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.*

*⁶ Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
your judgments are like the great deep;
you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.*

*⁷ How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.*

*⁸ They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.*

*⁹ For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.*

*¹⁰ O continue your steadfast love to those who know you,
and your salvation to the upright of heart!*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Matthew 17:1-23 (NRSV)

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸ And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead." ¹⁰ And the disciples asked him, "Why, then, do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" ¹¹ He replied, "Elijah is indeed coming and will restore all things; ¹² but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but they did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man is about to suffer at their hands." ¹³ Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them about John the Baptist.

¹⁴ When they came to the crowd, a man came to him, knelt before him, ¹⁵ and said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; he often falls into the fire and often into the water. ¹⁶ And I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure

him.”¹⁷ Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him here to me.”¹⁸ And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly.¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?”²⁰ He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.”

²² As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands,²³ and they will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised.” And they were greatly distressed.

RESPONSE

Leader: The word of God for the people of God!

People: God is still speaking! Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Today is Transfiguration Sunday—the last Sunday before Lent, which begins on Wednesday with Ash Wednesday’s imposition of ashes. Today is an in-between day in the life of the church. Epiphany is over, but Lent has not begun. Transfiguration Sunday interrupts our worship, calling us to the mountaintop that we might see Jesus in new ways.

When I first read through today’s scripture lesson, I was struck by the words “still speaking” lodged within the text. A phrase used within the United Church of Christ, reminds us that God is still speaking to us—offering us welcome, word and wisdom for us today. The “Still Speaking” movement is important because God’s isn’t offered long ago alone. God has a new word to speak to us right here and right now. That God is “Still Speaking” provides both comfort and challenge in these months of pandemic, political upheaval and stress.

But what is wild about today’s gospel lesson is that the phrase “Still Speaking” is NOT about God’s words, but Peter’s! We hear that while Peter was **still speaking** to Jesus, completely dazzled by Christ’s transfiguration and the appearance of Moses and Elijah, **God interrupts** the conversation! On Transfiguration Sunday, we are like Peter—still

speaking our dazzled and often empty words of praise when we are interrupted by God's holy whispered, shouted, and sung voice from the mountaintop.

Truly, isn't that the way God works? We might be going about our daily business—in worship, work, school, home, when suddenly we are jolted awake by God's voice, God's call. Our lives are interrupted and we are stopped short. Whether through tragedy or joy, our lives are interrupted while we are still speaking by God who loves us and calls us and challenges us to know Christ fully, that we might live as Jesus' disciples, Jesus' followers.

Indeed, Transfiguration Sunday is an interruption in and of itself. It is the jolt to our senses and sensibilities between Epiphany and Lent. On this day, we are reminded that Jesus has moved out of infancy and childhood to become the man who teaches and heals, who loves and forgives—and who ultimately walks the way of suffering, the way of the cross.

God's interrupting words are telling: "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" Apart from the final phrase, "Listen to him," these words are an exact echo of the divine voice at Jesus' baptism. At the Transfiguration, not only is God claiming Jesus as his own, God also commands us to listen—even when Jesus' words are difficult and confusing.

Sometimes listening—really listening—is the best gift we can offer to God. How often do we take time to allow silence, stillness, and serenity into our lives that we might hear the voice of the holy, the word of God? Just as we give our friends and family our listening ears, God also asks that we listen to Jesus & that we listen for that divine Spirit which sparks joy and hope in our lives.

On Transfiguration Sunday, Christ becomes transformed before our very eyes when we set aside our preconceived notions of the Baby Jesus, the Epiphany Magi, the Healer, Miracle Worker, Friend and FULLY LISTEN to Jesus' word for each of us.

So, what does this mean for us today? How do we take the message of Transfiguration Sunday forward into Lent, Easter, and beyond? How do we live as disciples of Christ, joining Peter, James, and John on the high mountain?

Perhaps, we begin by noticing the interruptions that catch us short and slow us down. Author, poet, and mystic Annie Dillard speaks of church as a place in which interruptions and surprises should be so prevalent that we should “all be wearing crash helmets...and the ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares...for God may draw us out to where we can never return.”

Maybe it is the imagery of crash helmets and life preservers that have us uneasy—even fearful—about change in our lives. When we are called to change, we are often filled with anxiety and fear. This past year has been a perfect example of this: the pandemic has disrupted our way of life and many of us have responded with fear and anxiety.

As St. Paul Church, as this particular gathered Body of Christ, we are called to listen carefully for God’s interruptions and not to be afraid of the changes that threaten to seemingly rock our world. Because this we know: Jesus is in charge and Jesus calls us to choose love again and again and again.

Our New Testament Lesson does not end with Jesus and his disciples on the mountaintop. They came down from their vision of glory and right into the work of ministry. In this case, it is the healing of a child with epilepsy.

This is a reminder that no matter our mountain top experiences, no matter how God interrupts our daily lives, we are still called to minister to others down in the valley, in the streets of New Bremen, on the corners of downtown Cincinnati and in the courtyards of El Salvador. We might want to stay on the mountaintop, capturing the moment by building dwellings, but we cannot, we must not. Jesus sends us down the mountain and into the messiness of daily living—especially in these uncertain times.

Friends: Be not afraid! On this Sunday in which we pivot between Epiphany and Lent, in this season of upheaval and Transfiguration, know this: Jesus loves you beyond measure. He shows you exactly who he is: God’s Chosen Son. And then he sends you out to share God’s love today and in all our days to come. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: When Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James and John, their lives changed forever. When we experience the Light of Christ in our own lives, we are never the same. Today we offer to God our very best: our lives, our talents, our time and our treasure for the building up of God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Let us give generously and joyfully. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

O God, most merciful and gracious, of whose bounty we have all received, accept, we pray, this offering of your people. Remember in your love those who have brought it and those for whom it is given; and so follow it with your blessing that it may promote peace and goodwill among all people and advance the realm of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN OF SENDING

I Am the Light of the World

I Am the Light of the World

John 8:12

Jim Strathdee, 1969; rev. 1981
 In response to a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman

Unison Introduction

Refrain

F B \flat C F

"I am the light of the world!"

B \flat C F Gm Dm C

You peo-ple come and fol-low me!" If you fol-low and love you'll

F Gm7 C B \flat F B \flat F

Last time, end

learn the mys-ter-y of what you were meant to do and be.

F B \flat /D C F

1 When the song of the an-gels is stilled, when the
 2 7 To find the lost and lone-ly one, 7 to
 3 7 To free the pris-oner from all chains, 7 to
 4 To bring hope to ev-ery task you do, 7 to

This text is based on a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman, a prolific twentieth-century writer, theologian, and teacher. The song grew out of Jim Strathdee's music ministry at an intercultural, bilingual congregation in Los Angeles.

Tune: LIGHT OF THE WORLD Irr.
 Jim Strathdee, 1969

Gm Dm C
 star in the sky is gone, When the
 heal the bro - ken soul with love, 7 To
 make the pow - er - ful care, To re -
 dance at a ba - by's new birth, 7 To

F Bb C F
 sag - es and the shep - herds have found their way home, the
 feed the hun - gry chil - dren with warmth and good food, To
 build the na - tions with strength of good will, to
 make mu - sic in . . . an old per - son's heart, and

Dm Bb Gm7 C *Return to* $\$$
 work of Christ-mas is be - gun:
 feel the earth be - low, the sky a - bove!
 see all God's chil - dren ev - ery - where!
 sing to the col - ors of the earth!

BENEDICTION (written by the Rev. Dr. David Bahr, UCC Clergy person):
 May God now send us back down the mountain of our worship. We have been changed. We cannot be silent anymore. We have seen the Light of the world. Go and share the radiance of Love! Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Pass the Love

Pass the Love

Musical score for "Pass the Love" in 4/4 time, tempo 95. The score consists of four staves of music with lyrics and chords. The chords are: F, Gm7, F, Gm7, F/A, F/Bb, Gm9, C7 for the first line; F, Gm7, F, Gm7, F/A, F/Bb, Gm9, G7, C for the second line; Fmaj7, Dm, F/G, F/C for the third line; Am7, Dm7, Gm7, F/C, C7, F for the fourth line.

Love our God, ev - 'ry day, praise with joy go-ing on your way.

Pass it on, t'all you meet, ev - 'ry day in— ev - 'ry way.

Love our Ho - ly God. Pray with hope each day.

Bless the Ho - ly Name. Praise our— God.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: In Christ, we are a new creation. Let us pass the peace of Christ with each other.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of Jane Voress Koenig by Judy, George & Karen, John & Gin Voress.

Attendance-Online-Daily Devotions Avg.-98, January 31-Sunday Worship Online-335, In Person-26, Sunday School Online-159, In Person 7, Teachers-6, Splash-4, Leaders-2, February 3-Confirmation-13, Leaders-5, Youth Group-8, Leaders-2

Daily Devotions-Please join Rev Becky or Pastor Dee Monday-Friday at 11:30am, online via Facebook Live. These will air on our Facebook page St. Paul United Church of Christ-New Bremen, OH.

Zoom Bible Study-join us Thursday's at 6:30pm. Join Zoom Meeting by clicking on or logging onto:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88640093949?pwd=ZllqSDBpZzdZi9LT0d6SThwbltZz09> **Meeting ID: 886 4009 3949** **Passcode: 344973**

*If you would like an email version of this to make logging on easier, simply email Pastor Becky: berbstrang@stpaulnb.org

Sundays in February-Sunday School will be in person and via Facebook Live at 9:00am. **Worship** will be in person and via Facebook Live at 10:15am.

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021 We will be hosting an Open House from 6:00pm-7:30pm as our Ash Wednesday Service this year. The Open House will consist of Prayer, Hymns, Scriptures, Imposition of Ashes and Communion. Please join us. All are Welcome!

Congregational Meeting-February 28, 2021 during the 10:15am worship service. Annual Reports are available in Sanctuary and Church Office.

February Book Club-will discuss Marilynne Robinson's Gilead. We were slated to discuss Gilead in March of 2020 but the pandemic hit, we cancelled and we have had requests to revisit. Discussion will be February 28 at 4:00pm via Zoom. Copies of the book can be picked up at the church office or you can contact the church office if you need a copy sent or delivered to you. All are welcome. Zoom information: Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85110467493?pwd=cXBSNEdxOW5oOEIxdnhnVjVVZnNqZz09>

Meeting ID: 851 1046 7493

Passcode: 395678

*If you would like an email version of this to make logging on easier, simply email Pastor Becky: berbstrang@stpaulnb.org

Bulletin Availability-weekly bulletins are available for download on our website stpaulnb.org. Just click the yellow **BULLETINS** box in the upper right hand corner.

2021 Altar Flower Chart has been posted in the Narthex. Please sign up for the date(s) you would like or call the church office Monday-Friday to sign up. Thank you. Open dates the rest of the year **February 21st & 28th, March 7th & 28th, May 2nd & 23rd, June 27th, July 4th, August 15th, 22nd & 29th, September 12th, 19th & 26th, October 3rd & 10th, November 7th, December 12th.**

Women's Service Group-The Women's Service Group is planning to send fifty school kit bags to Church World Service this coming summer. The supplies for the bags are all purchased but what is needed is persons willing to help sew the school bags. Material and directions on how to sew them is available. If interested, please contact Joyce Gilberg for more information.

Blessing Pantry-is located in the North Hallway and accessible by the North door during these hours - **Tuesdays 5:30pm-7:30pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays 1:00pm-3:00pm.** The Pantry will be closed Mondays and Fridays. **All Donations Welcome – Blessing Pantry Needs-Paper Plates, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Kleenex, Napkins, Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap, Razors, Shaving Cream, Deodorant, Diapers (size 5&6), Baby Wipes, Diaper Cream, Vaseline, Bandages, Shampoo, Bar Soap, Hand/Body Soap, Hand/Body Lotion, Tampons & Panty Liners, Cleaning Supplies, Storage Bags, Garbage Bags and Pet Food. Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

March/April Upper Rooms-have arrived! They are available at the East entrance to the education building and on the round tables in the sanctuary. Or please call the church office if you would like one and we will gladly mail one to you.

Mailbox-There is a mailbox outside of the East Educational Building door for any correspondence you may have for the church and would like to drop off. Please lift the flap and drop through the slot on the top. The box is locked and will be checked often. Thank you!

February Monthly Mission-One Great Hour of Sharing

For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided a way to show God's love with neighbors in need around the world. Nine denominations and Church World Service join together in this offering. Through this offering, we are planting seeds of new life. Together, we are investing in communities world-wide providing education to girls and boys, empowering communities through vocational training, supporting microcredit lending and seeing people through to self-sufficiency, empowering families with skills to support themselves and their neighbors, and participating in sustainable solutions that offer dignity to all. These are just a few ways the OGHS offering touches God's children, in addition to disaster relief and refugee initiatives.

This offering is an opportunity for us to participate by giving gifts and supporting the good work that the offering does. It is one way that we show dignity and love to those in need.

Please give generously. Thank you, the Mission Team

Calendar-Week of February 14, 2021

Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School-in person & via Facebook Live
	10:15am	Worship-in person & via Facebook Live
	5:00pm	Splash-in person
Monday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop w/Rev Becky New Bremen Coffee Inc.
Tuesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Wednesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	6:00pm-7:30pm	Ash Wednesday Open House
Thursday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	6:30pm	Bible Study via Zoom
Friday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	Afternoon	Office Closed

E-Giving @ St. Paul
3 Different Ways to Give

Online – Make a donation on our website: stpaulnb.org

Give+ App – Search “Give Plus Church” in your App store and find St. Paul to Get Started!

Text – Make a donation to our Number: 833-308-0048

St. Paul New “Text to Give” #(# changed as of 10/9/19)

**How To Give by Text (Example - my amount for the example is \$25
(minimum amount is \$5.00))**

- For general fund giving: Send 25 space gl (hit send)
- For building & property fund giving: Send 25 space bp (hit send)
 - For Blessing Pantry: Send 25 space pantry (hit send)
- For project of the year giving: Send 25 space poy (hit send)

Once a text amount is sent:

Registration Link- Sent via text the first time a donation is made.

Thank you! Please visit (link) to register.

Donation Confirm- Sent via text each time a donation is made.

Thank you for donating \$ (amount)! Text repeat to make this recurring or refund to cancel this donation.