

February 15, 2021

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

Lent, taken from the Old English word for “lengthen” happens each year as daylight grows and the darkness dissipates. Originally the season of Lent was set aside for new Christians to learn about Jesus before being baptized at dawn on Easter morn. Traditionally, Christians often abstain from something they love during Lent. In more recent years, Christians have been encouraged to add a spiritual discipline during this season.

To assist you in your Lenten disciplines, we are providing households with a packet: Lent in a Bag. We are still compiling the bags and we still need folk to help us deliver them, but we hope to get Lent in a Bag to our local St. Paul folk in the coming weeks.

Despite winter snowstorms, we have returned 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.


Between Covid19-related delays and snow delays, you may not receive your worship packet on time occasionally. Worship bulletins can be accessed via our website: [www.stpaulnb.org](http://www.stpaulnb.org).

Our congregation's Annual Meeting will take place at the end of worship on Sunday, February 28. Unlike our December meeting, this meeting will take place in-person only. Annual Report packets can be picked up in the sanctuary or the church office. If you are unable to get here, let us know and we'll make certain a packet arrives at 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.

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 15, 2021

#### Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00  
Giving Income \$6,705.69(weekly)  
Endowment Transfers \$5,862.00(ytd)  
Income \$45,765.85(ytd)  
Expenses \$46,087.72(ytd)  
Balance **(\$321.87)** (ytd)

#### Building Maint & Property Care

Beg. Balance \$73,644.37  
Income \$2,178.00(ytd)  
Endowment Income **(\$302.84)** (ytd)  
Expenses \$1,548.55 (ytd)  
Balance \$73,970.98 (ytd)

#### Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$6,250.20  
Income \$2,375.00(ytd)  
Expenses \$2,085.84(ytd)  
Balance \$6,539.36  
BP Beg Balance \$7,881.15  
Bless Pantry Inc. \$4,995.00(ytd)  
Bless Pantry Ex. \$770.33(ytd)  
BP Balance \$12,105.82

#### Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00  
Income \$532.00(weekly)  
Income \$4,107.00 (ytd)  
**Project of the Year**  
Income \$24.00(weekly)  
Balance \$923.00(ytd)

FEBRUARY 21, 2021  
FIRST SUNDAY  
IN LENT



*God's mercy conquers evil.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 1:9-15	Temptation of Jesus
Monday	Genesis 9:8-17	God's promise to Noah
Tuesday	1 Peter 3:18-22	Suffering for doing right
Wednesday	2 Samuel 24:10-17	Judgment on David's sin
Thursday	Titus 3:1-11	Maintain good deeds
Friday	Hebrews 4:14-16	Jesus is the great high priest
Saturday	Psalms 25:1-10	Prayer for guidance
Sunday	Mark 8:31-38	Jesus predicts his death

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Psalm 25:6 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Gracious God, thank you for entering our lives and our world to confront all that is opposed to your reign of mercy through Christ, your Beloved Son. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, with this gift of food, let us remember your steadfast love and mercy that gives us life that we may live with hope. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God lead you in truth and teach you the way of Christ our Lord. (Psalm 25:5)



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FEBRUARY 21, 2021

### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*O Lord, Throughout These  
Forty Days*



### 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:

- How would you describe evil?
- Tell or think about a time you felt tested or tempted to do something wrong.
- Jesus was tested by Satan. How is Jesus' confronting Satan in the wilderness a story of hope?

### DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Mark 1:9-15.

This text is a fitting beginning for the season of Lent. At Jesus' baptism God intervenes by opening up the heavens and speaking of Jesus as God's Beloved Son. Jesus is thrown into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to confront Satan, the personification of all that opposes God's reign. Jesus endures, and he is cared for by the angels of God. Jesus then begins his own public ministry following the arrest of John the Baptist. John's experience is a precursor to Jesus' own betrayal and arrest to fulfill all that God intends to do through the Beloved Son. And, then, Jesus goes out to do the work of the kingdom, the reign of God that has not been stopped by Satan and will not be stopped, ever. The preaching is simple: repent and believe in the good news of God's reign. Repentance is not about remorse but about turning around and going in another direction, toward God and what God can and will do. This Lent, we are reminded to trust the work of God that will defeat everything opposed to God's rule of steadfast love and mercy. How will you repent and focus on the reign of God in your life and in the world?

*Pray:* **Almighty and merciful God, help us to trust your reign present now and forevermore through Jesus, your Beloved Son and our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### SERVICE



The story of Noah and the flood is a difficult story to grasp. The point of the story is that God's demand for justice (the flood) is finally outdone by God's mercy (a new beginning for creation for those on the ark). Justice does not stand alone. It needs mercy, especially in our world where no human has the wisdom of God to judge. Do you know someone who needs a word of mercy? Write a note to that person and pray for them this week.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



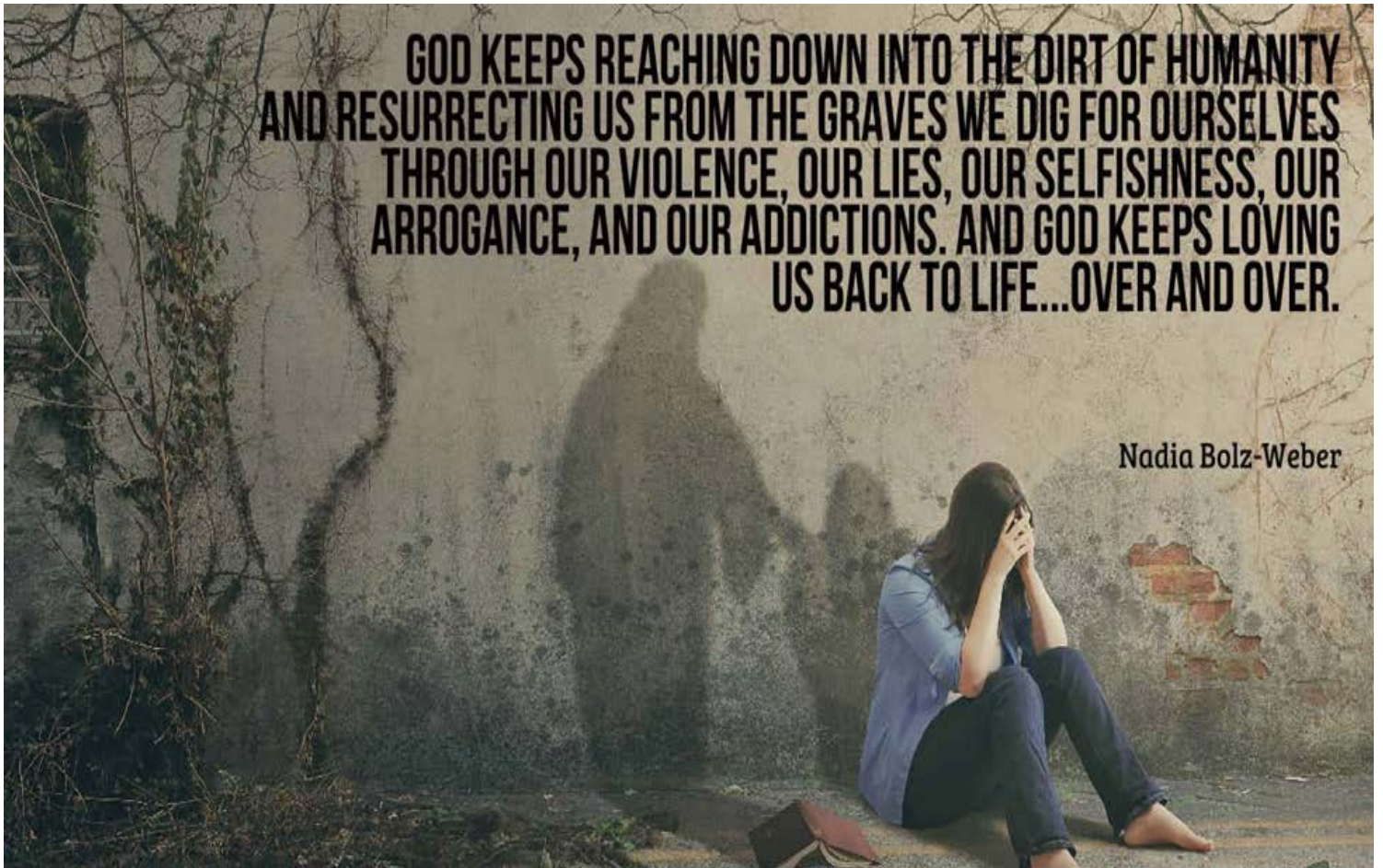
Lent is a season filled with traditions that focus on discipline and discipleship. Choose a devotional space in your home. Consider laying out a purple cloth (the color for repentance and Lent) and place a candle and Bible on it. Read the *Daily Bible Readings*. Use the *Prayer for the Week* and add your own prayers. End the time by saying: **Remember that you are God's, and to God you shall return.**



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

**GOD KEEPS REACHING DOWN INTO THE DIRT OF HUMANITY  
AND RESURRECTING US FROM THE GRAVES WE DIG FOR OURSELVES  
THROUGH OUR VIOLENCE, OUR LIES, OUR SELFISHNESS, OUR  
ARROGANCE, AND OUR ADDICTIONS. AND GOD KEEPS LOVING  
US BACK TO LIFE...OVER AND OVER.**

Nadia Bolz-Weber



## **St. Paul United Church of Christ**

119 North Franklin Street

New Bremen, Ohio 45869

Phone (419-629-2502), Fax (419-629-3207)

Email [stpaulnb@nktelco.net](mailto:stpaulnb@nktelco.net) or [stpaulnb@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulnb@gmail.com)

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 21, 2021**

**First Sunday in Lent: Treasure**

### **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**

**THRESHOLD MOMENT**

Leader: Each of us is created as a precious and holy vessel of embodied love. We have been through a harrowing time since last Lent that has shattered our sense of wholeness—body, mind and spirit—like a glass vessel fractured into pieces. Let us enter a Lenten “season of recovery” as we focus on Jesus, the Healer of our every ill.

*Song Leader: Holy Vessels*

Leader: Beach glass begins as something whole and yet discarded. As it is tumbled by the sea, it is broken and polished until it becomes a treasured “mineral gem.” We do not embrace that suffering is necessary or God-given, but that suffering is a part of life. When pain comes and brokenness enters our lives, Jesus reaches out to touch and remind us of the Treasure that we all are: worthy of new life in the midst of hopelessness. In a year when pandemic has wreaked havoc on our world, we begin by affirming our journey to physical health.

**Song Leader/Congregation:**

## Holy Vessels

### Threshold Song

MUSIC: Chuck Bell

WORDS: Marcia McFee

The image shows the musical notation for the song 'Holy Vessels'. It consists of two staves of music in treble clef. The first staff begins with a C major chord and the instruction 'colla voce'. The lyrics under the first staff are: 'Ves - sels, hol - y and whole. Bro - ken, need - ing the One'. The second staff continues the lyrics: 'O - pen, bod - y and soul Heal - er, come.' The music features various chords and melodic lines with slurs and accents.

## OPENING PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Lent developed into a season of intense inward reflection and confessions centuries after the life of Jesus. Yet, as we will see, Jesus encouraged people to open up about their lives—to speak the truth—no matter how broken the truth or our lives. This is the beginning of compassion for ourselves and others. It is the beginning of healing. The Latin origins of the word “confess” is to “study and acknowledge.” Lent will be a season of studying how we can be a healing presence in our community. To do this, we acknowledge our need to restore our own Holy Vessels. Let us pray:

**People: Creator God, we are bodies fashioned by your hand in your own image: shapes and colors of diverse and immense beauty. And yet too often we have ignored the sacred nature of our physical lives. The Holy Vessels you have fashioned are tired and suffering, ravaged by months of disrupted rhythms and ailments. Our fragility has come into full view and we are frightened. We cannot fathom the proportions of loss and so we look away, sometimes even from our own needs. Help us, O Healer God. Show us our strength. Forgive our inertia. Move us to move one step at a time toward greater care.**

## SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

### Song Leader/Congregation:

## Holy Vessels

### Threshold Song

MUSIC: Chuck Bell

WORDS: Marcia McFee

The musical score is written on two staves. The first staff is for the vocal line, starting with a treble clef and a *colla voce* marking. The second staff is for guitar accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: C, Dm7, C/E, F2, Am7, G, Dm7, G sus, C/E, F, D/E#, G, Am7, C/E, G sus, G.

Ves - sels, hol - y and whole. Bro - ken, need - ing the One  
O - pen, bod - y and soul Heal - er, come.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: I invite you to feel a warmth begin to arise within the core of your body. It may help to keep your eyes closed. Imagine a warm circle of light deep within you. This warm glow begins to emerge from the recesses of your inner being to fill and flood your whole body until your skin is glowing with it, radiating outward. You are surrounded by God's Light and Love. Feel this warmth wrap you as a blanket of assurance.

Leader: Know this: God's love and grace surround you no matter what. You are a precious and holy vessel right here, right now. Christ's Light is a treasure given freely: for you, for me, for all. Take a deep breath in to let this truth fill you...and breathe out with the relief of assurance.

**People: We offer to God our thanks and praise!**

OPENING HYMN

*There Is a Balm in Gilead*

# 631 There Is a Balm in Gilead

*Refrain (Unison)*

C13 F  $\frac{Bb}{F}$  F C7

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole,

C13 F  $\frac{Bb}{D}$   $\frac{F}{C}$  C13 F

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

N.C. F F<sub>2</sub> F C7 F  $\frac{F}{A}$  C

1 Some-times I feel dis-cour-aged, and think my work's in vain,  
 2 If you can-not preach like Pe-ter, if you can-not pray like Paul,  
 3 Don't ev-er feel dis-cour-aged, for Je-sus is your friend;

$\frac{Bb}{C}$  F  $\frac{E2}{G}$   $\frac{F7}{A}$  Bb  $\frac{F}{C}$  C13 Dm  $\frac{Bb}{C}$  *to Refrain*

but then the Ho-ly Spir-it re-vives my soul a-gain.  
 you can tell the love of Je-sus, and say, "He died for all."  
 and if you lack for knowl-edge he'll ne'er re-fuse to lend.



## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Beach glass begins as something whole and yet discarded. As it is tumbled by the ocean, it is broken and polished until it becomes a smooth thing of beauty. Throughout Lent this year, we will look to beach glass as a metaphor for the healing that is needed in our lives: physical, emotional, spiritual healing. What began as a broken and discarded piece of glass is transformed by the waves of the ocean. What begins as brokenness in our own lives is polished and made smooth by God's love. Poet Bernadette Noll writes this:

*I want to age like sea glass.*

*Smoothed by tides,  
but not broken.*

*I want my hard edges to soften.*

*I want to ride the waves  
and go with the flow.*

*I want to catch a wave  
and let it carry me  
to where I belong.*

*I want to be picked up  
and held gently by  
those who delight in my  
well earned patina and  
appreciate the changes I went  
through to achieve that beauty.*

*I want to enjoy the journey  
and always remember that if  
you give the ocean something  
breakable it will turn it into  
something beautiful.*

*I want to age like sea glass.*

Throughout Lent, we will look to sea glass, to beach glass, as we seek healing in our lives. Each week we will add a bead of beach glass to a bracelet—a bracelet that grows each week with an added bead, an added reminder that God takes our lives, heals us, and transforms us into something beautiful. Today we begin by putting a green glass bead onto our bracelets. Green symbolizes growth, tranquility and health.

This week I encourage you to wear your bracelet with its green bead of healing. Every time you look at your wrist, every time you touch the bead, know this: you are treasured by God. You are beautiful. You belong. Amen.

## A CONTEMPORARY WORD

*Some people spend so much time hunting treasure that they fail to see it all around them. It's like sifting through gold to find the silt.*  
—Richard Paul Evans

*It is by going down in the abyss that we recover the treasures of life. Where you stumble, there lies your treasure.* —Joseph Campbell

ANTHEM                      *Sacred the Body*  
(YouTube Search: *sacred the body lyrics*)

*Sacred the body God has created,  
Temple of Spirit that dwells deep inside.  
Cherish each person; nurture creation.  
Treat flesh as holy, that love may abide.*

*Bodies are varied, made in all sizes,  
Pale, full of color, both fragile and strong.  
Holy the difference, gift of the Maker,  
So let us honor each story and song.*

*Love respects persons, bodies and boundaries.  
Love does not batter, neglect or abuse.  
Love touches gently, never coercing.  
Love leaves the other with power to choose.*

*Holy of holies, God ever loving,  
Make us your temples; indwell all we do.  
May we be careful, tender and caring,  
So may our bodies give honor to you.*

AN ANCIENT WORD: Matthew 8:1-4, 16-17

(NRSV)

*When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed him; <sup>2</sup> and there was a leper who came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean." <sup>3</sup> He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. <sup>4</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."*

*That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and cured all who were sick. <sup>17</sup> This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah, "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases."*

## 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

Without a doubt, Jesus was a hands-on kind of guy. Back in Jesus' day, you were guaranteed to find him amongst the outcasts, the lepers, the tax collectors, the woman and the children. Even today, we celebrate Christ's presence among those who need him most. In today's lesson, Jesus heals a leper: with the touch of his hand.

In Jesus' time, there was no group more outcast than the lepers. Leprosy has been known and feared by people for thousands of years. Its power to disfigure, deform, and kill made it notorious in ancient communities. Even today, about 208,000 new cases of bacillus mycobacterium leprae are diagnosed each year: most of these cases found among the poorest of the poor.

Jesus, whose entire ministry was reaching out to those on the margins of life, did not seem in the least bit fazed by the request of the man with leprosy. Jesus did not step back in disgust and fear, but instead stepped forward, reached out his hands to touch the ailing man.

I cannot even begin to imagine what that touch meant to the man with leprosy. Until that moment, he was, quite literally, an untouchable. He was an outcast. He was isolated from his family, friends and his

community. Yet, with that simple gesture of reaching out his hands, Jesus transformed the man's life: healing his disease AND healing his heart: a heart that had been told again and again that he was not worthy, that he was not welcome, that his very presence was dangerous to others.

Until the coronavirus arrived in Auglaize County about a year ago, we were people who valued touch. We shook hands. We hugged. We were unafraid to touch others. This past year has given us a tiny glance into the life of the leper—who, until Jesus touched him, had probably not known human touch for years. By touching the man with leprosy, Jesus not only healed him, but Jesus restored the man's very humanity.

When I think about the importance of touch, of its healing power, I immediately think about the plight of infants who are literally dying from lack of affection. Several years ago, Bruce Perry and Maia Szalavitz published a volume of studies that point to the dire consequences of newborns, infants, and toddlers not receiving on-going affection. Their book, entitled, Born for Love: Why Empathy is Essential—and Endangered, talks specifically with the problems surrounding children in some Chinese and Eastern European orphanages.

In their book, they talked about how about 1/3 of babies placed in the barest orphanages die. Half of the rest -- at least double the rate seen in the general population -- will suffer from mental illness. Each month spent in an orphanage in early life reduces IQ and increases risk of behavioral and psychological problems.

How could simply being in an orphanage cause such harm and/or death? Basically, these young children die from lack of love. When an infant falls below the threshold of physical affection needed to stimulate the production of growth hormone and the immune system, his body starts shutting down. In medical terms, it's called Failure to Thrive.

For many of us, it is almost impossible to imagine a situation in which children are not given affection. Surely, this must be happening in faraway countries and cultures! Not so fast! There are many, many children in our own country (and I dare say our own community) who are not cuddled, loved, and held by their parents. Children are literally dying from lack of love and it is our call to reach out to these children and offer them affection, kindness, and support. It is also our call to reach out to their

parents—because far too often the parents of these children have been badly damaged by life themselves.

And what about other adults? Teens? Are there people to whom we deny touch? Are there people we consider too filthy, too diseased, too broken, to offer our affection? Is there someone in your life who you keep at a distance, someone you have hardened your heart against?

My guess is that there is a person you could name who is in need of affection, gentle words, forgiveness, and grace. This week I encourage you to prayerfully consider reaching out to this person. Make amends. Let go of your bitterness. Set aside your prejudices. And, since hugs are generally frowned upon at the moment, reach out to this person. Send a card. Make that phone call.

I ask you this: when have you known healing in your life? Has it been physical? Or mental? Or spiritual? When have you been restored to your right mind, your whole heart, your healed body? And, once you experienced healing, how did you respond? Did you keep your joy to yourself OR did you go out and tell others how wonderful it was to be whole again?

John Wesley, one of the founding fathers of Methodism, had this to say to those who joined his Methodist Society as helpers: “Go not to those who need you, but to those who need you most.”

Let me repeat Wesley’s instruction: Go not to those who need you, but to those who need you **most**.

So what is the take-away from today’s sermon? This I believe: that no gift given in love is too little. That no gift given in love is too extravagant. That through the love that Jesus shows to us each and every day, we are called to share that love with others that all might know healing of body, mind and spirit.

When the man with leprosy asked Jesus if he would heal his disease, Jesus answered, “I do choose! Be made clean!”

Let us choose this day to serve the Lord by serving those who need us most so that the love we share will be a healing balm, a gift of restoration, a song of love. Amen.

# PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

**Joys:** The Joy of following Jesus!!!!

**Concerns:** We are continuing to pray for Sophia MacKenzie (Sun Behavioral Health), Peg Henschen, Drew Wray, Jan Dammeyer, Shannon Shupp and Pastor Dee Schroer.

## A TIME SET ASIDE FOR PRAYER

### Song of Preparation (Music Leader/Congregation):

sung through twice

HEALING & WHOLENESS

## 631 There Is a Balm in Gilead

*Refrain (Unison)*  
C13 F Bb F C7

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole,

C13 F Bb D F C C13 F

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for the song 'There Is a Balm in Gilead'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The first system is labeled 'Refrain (Unison)' and includes the lyrics 'There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole,'. The second system includes the lyrics 'there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.' Above the treble clef staff, various chords are indicated: C13, F, Bb/F, C7, C13, F, Bb/D, F/C, C13, and F. The music is written in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (Bb).

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Healer of our every ill, especially our malady of separation and fear, we come before you to make our petitions known. Hear our cries for the healing of body, mind, and spirit. We know that already you are at work among us, showing us the way to recovery from the toxicities and grief of our time.

As demolished pieces that are treasured when found, we trust that beauty from brokenness is possible when we seek to bind together that which is wounded. We pray especially for those who have experienced the physical loss of family and friends in the pandemic and those who are still suffering the consequences of the illness.

We pray for each person who suffers in body in other ways: weariness from inactivity or weariness from over activity in this time. We pray for those whose treatment of maladies have been put on hold and those who suffered isolation in their illness, whatever the cause.

We offer grateful thanks for medical staff everywhere around the world who have shown unbelievable strength and stamina and we mourn the death of too many caregivers who risked their lives for our sake.

We pray today for our world, greatly in need of your healing love.

We pray today for our nation; may your healing power be upon us.

We pray today for our communities. May we offer your healing balm to neighbors and strangers alike.

We pray today for our congregation that your healing song might call us to new ministries and new ways of being the church.

We offer to you this silence, knowing that you fill our silences with your still, small voice. SILENCE

All of this we pray in the name of Jesus who 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.**

### Song of Response (Music Leader/Congregation):

sung through twice

HEALING & WHOLENESS

## 631 There Is a Balm in Gilead

*Refrain (Unison)*

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole,

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS, OUR TITHES, OUR LIVES

OFFERTORY SENTENCES: We live in an “already-but-not-yet” time. We look around and see the healthy green crops of justice and peace struggling to grow, mixed in with the weeds of violence and suffering and war. In Lent, we wait like the farmer for the bountiful harvest of God’s reign, and in the meantime, we’re working hard to nurture every little green shoot of hope. These gifts today are one way we tend the garden, this beautiful green garden of God, placing our hope on the future yield promised by God. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

### 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)

**Almighty and forgiving God, we give you most humble thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness, to us and to all of creation. We bless you for your creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life. But above all, for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ for the means of grace and for the hope of glory. Give us such an awareness of your mercies, that our hearts may be thankful, and that we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving ourselves to your service and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all of our days. We pray all of this in the name of your son, Jesus the Messiah. Amen.**

### HYMN OF SENDING

*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

Verses 1, 3, 5



# Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days 252

N.C. F  $\frac{C}{F}$  F  $\frac{Bb}{F}$  F  $\frac{C}{E}$  Dm C  $\frac{C}{Bb}$   $\frac{F}{A}$  Am

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and pray,  
 2 As you with Sa - tan did con - tend, and did the vic - tory win,  
 3 As you did hun - ger and did thirst, so teach us, gra - cious Lord,  
 4 And thro' these days of pen - i - tence, and thro' your Pas - sion - tide,  
 5 A - bide with us, that through this life of doubts and hope and pain,

Am Dm  $\frac{C}{E}$   $\frac{Dm}{F}$  Am Bb  $\frac{Bb}{D}$  F F $\frac{1}{2}$  F  $\frac{Bb}{C}$   $\frac{F}{C}$  C7 Fsus F

teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.  
 O give us strength in you to fight, in you to con - quer sin.  
 to die to self, and so to live by your most ho - ly Word.  
 for - ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.  
 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at last at - tain!

WORDS: Claudia F. Hernaman (1838-1898), alt.  
 MUSIC: American melody, adapt.; harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983)

LAND OF REST  
 C.M.

**BENEDICTION:** Now go with confidence as Treasures of God, recovering your depth of love for all and our joy of living in this world. May the words of Jesus ring in your ears, "I do choose you." And may the Holy Spirit hover, move, and deliver salve to your soul and a spring in your step. Amen.

# Holy Vessels

## Threshold Song

MUSIC: Chuck Bell

WORDS: Marcia McFee

Chords: C, Dm7, C/E, F2, Am7, G, Dm7, G sus, C/E, F, D/E#, G, Am7, C/E, G sus, G

*colla voce*

Ves - sels, hol - y and whole. Bro - ken, need - ing the One  
 O - pen, bod - y and soul Heal - er, come.

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## 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

**Attendance**-Online-Daily Devotions Avg.-96, February 7-Sunday Worship Online-351, In Person-46, Sunday School Online-87, In Person 18, Teachers-7, Splash-1, Leaders-2, February 10-Confirmation & Youth Group-cancelled due to weather.

**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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto:berbstrang@stpaulnb.org)

**Bulletin Availability-weekly bulletins** are available for download on our website [stpaulnb.org](http://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 28<sup>th</sup>**, **March 7<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>**, **May 2<sup>nd</sup>**, **July 4<sup>th</sup>**, **August 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>**, **September 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>** **October 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>**.

**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-Let love flow.**

Joshua Mumbi used to spend much of his time collecting water. When it rained, he would collect water running in the streets. Often he would spend much of the day walking to a local water source and carrying back buckets. Sometimes he would even travel to the water source with his family the night before, spending the night there so that they could bring back water in the morning. His mother, Josephine, did not like to make the journey alone – it was not safe.

There was not much time to go to school. And when he did go to school, Joshua Mumbi was very tired during the day. It was hard to focus; it was hard to learn

But thanks to your gifts through One Great Hour of Sharing, Joshua Mumbi and his family – and all of the other families in his village – have a safe, clean water source close to home. With a new solar-powered

borehole well, they have water for cooking, water for drinking, water for bathing and keeping things clean and sanitary. Because you **let love flow**, water brought new life to a whole community. Now children like Joshua and his siblings can go to school every day, and a whole world of opportunity is open to them. Now the whole community is empowered to provide for their needs, plan for their future, and pursue new opportunities for growth.

Access to clean fresh water is vital for all of humanity, but for women in particular, water access means the difference between life and death for them and their families. For women and girls around the world, it can be a 12 hour walk to the nearest water source to collect water to maintain basic needs and crucial hygiene practices during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With your support, more communities can experience this new life, please give generously, and **let love flow**. Thank you, the Mission Team

### Calendar-Week of February 21, 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
	6:30pm	Confirmation w/mentors-in person
	6:30pm	Jr/Sr High Youth Group-in person
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.