

February 22, 2021

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

Yesterday we celebrated the first Sunday of Lent with new songs, new style of prayer and new imagery. During Lent we will focus on how God is like a beachcomber—seeking us out and polishing our rough edges.

To assist you in your Lenten disciplines, we are providing households with a packet: Lent in a Bag. We are still compiling the bags, but we hope to get Lent in a Bag to our local St. Paul folk in the coming weeks. If you are able to assemble or deliver bags, please contact the church office. This is an all-hands-on-deck project.

Both in-person and online worship are going well. We are awed by the number of you who participate in worship digitally throughout the week. We are humbled by your ongoing financial support of the many ministries and missions of St. Paul Church. Together, we are loving God and loving our neighbor—making a real difference in the lives of others.


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.

Our congregation's Annual Meeting will take place at the end of worship this coming 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 22, 2021

Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00
Giving Income \$2,815.00(weekly)
Endowment Transfers \$5,862.00(ytd)
Income \$48,580.85(ytd)
Expenses \$47,542.68(ytd)
Balance \$1,038.17 (ytd)

Building Maint & Property Care

Beg. Balance \$73,644.37
Income \$2,428.00(ytd)
Endowment Income **(\$302.84)** (ytd)
Expenses \$1,548.55 (ytd)
Balance \$74,220.98 (ytd)

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$6,250.20
Income \$2,495.00(ytd)
Expenses \$2,458.09(ytd)
Balance \$6,287.11
BP Beg Balance \$7,881.15
Bless Pantry Inc. \$5,041.00(ytd)
Bless Pantry Ex. \$1,032.21(ytd)
BP Balance \$11,889.94

Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00
Income \$480.00(weekly)
Income \$4,587.00 (ytd)

Project of the Year

Income \$25.00(weekly)
Balance \$948.00(ytd)

FEBRUARY 28, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY
IN LENT



The difficulty and joy of discipleship.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sunday | Mark 8:31-38 | Jesus predicts his death |
| Monday | Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 | Sign of the covenant |
| Tuesday | Romans 4:13-25 | God's promise |
| Wednesday | 2 Timothy 2:1-13 | A good soldier of Christ |
| Thursday | 2 Timothy 2:14-26 | A worker approved by God |
| Friday | Proverbs 8:32-36 | Listen to what you are taught |
| Saturday | Psalms 22:23-31 | Suffering and praise |
| Sunday | John 2:13-22 | Jesus cleanses the temple |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it."

Mark 8:35 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, help us to remember that it is in giving that we receive and in caring for others that we experience the joy of following Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, as you satisfy us with this food and for all that blesses us this day, we give you thanks. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God who gives life to the dead and who calls into existence things that do not exist bless you with faith. (Romans 4:17b)



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FEBRUARY 28, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Take My Life, That
I May Be*



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:

- What is something you didn't want to do because it was too difficult?
- Do you think it is difficult to follow Jesus? Why or why not?
- How would you describe a life of faith that lives for others?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 8:31-38.

These are some of the most difficult words to hear as followers of Jesus. To truly live as people of God, we are to live for the needs of others, just as Jesus did. It is hard for Peter—and us—to hear that Christ must suffer and die a criminal's death before rising to glory. It is hard for us to imagine picking up the cross, the tool of torture and death, and courageously walk with it daily for the sake of the good news of Christ and the needs of others. The Gospel of Mark is not a happy text for disciples. The Gospel ends with Jesus' followers running away and Peter denying his Lord in the courtyard of the high priest. Our challenge is not to run away and deny the needs of others. According to Mark, we don't do this well. The good news is that Jesus never gives up on us. To the disciples who ran away from him and denied him, he says in essence, "meet me in Galilee, where your ministry and life will truly begin" (Mark 16:7). By the end of Mark, there are no great stories of bravery and success of the disciples. What exists is a promise that Jesus will go before them and be with them into the future. The disciples will continue to hear Jesus' words, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (v. 34). What have you found to be difficult to do as a follower of Jesus? What have you found to be a joy as a follower?

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for never giving up on us as we seek to lovingly give of ourselves for the needs of others and the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

Making pretzels is a Lenten tradition. Pretzels are shaped like arms folded in prayer and can remind us to pray to God for our needs and the needs of others. Choose some people beyond your household to pray for by name this week. Make or buy pretzels to give to them as a sign that you are praying for them.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus tells us that following him means taking up our cross, that is, saying no to ourselves and sometimes suffering for him. This week make a cross from wood, card stock, or other materials. Hold the cross during your devotional time this week while reading the *Daily Bible Readings*. Say 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

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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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 28, 2021

Second Sunday in Lent: Safe Keeping

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Pastor Dee Schroer

Cheyenne Olt

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Accompanist/Vocalist

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: We continue our Lenten “season of recovery” as we focus the essential health of our spiritual lives.

Song Leader: Holy Vessels

Leader: God gathers us as a Beachcomber gathers and marvels at every precious, surviving piece of beach glass he finds. We are never alone. We are never lost to the One who seeks humanity’s wholeness. We affirm our commitment to be the Body of Christ that knows we cannot be personally healed until we see the interconnected community as part of the process of healing. Jesus has the power to re-vision the family of God in which false boundaries are overcome. In a year of devastating loss of livelihoods, we consider the economic health that reimagines the status quo.

Song Leader/Congregation:

Holy Vessels

Threshold Song

MUSIC: Chuck Bell
WORDS: Marcia McFee

The musical score for "Holy Vessels" is presented in two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a "colla voce" instruction. The lyrics 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 chords are indicated 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.

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OPENING PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us acknowledge our need to restore, repair, renew our Holy Vessels, which include the communities of which we are a part. Let us pray:

People: God of All, you created us for each other. You set in us a yearning for companionship and an empathy that binds us together, protecting each other and delighting in one another. Yet too often we have broken down our relationships instead of building them up. We have been set against one another with the lie of scarcity. We have built systems and economies that widen the gap of resources rather than safeguarding equitable practices. Too many are suffering hardship, food insecurity, joblessness. We cannot fathom the proportions of loss and so we look away, sometimes even from the need in our own community.

Help us, Healer. Show us our empathy. Forgive our complacency. Move us to move one step at a time toward greater care for one another. In this silence we sense and acknowledge our yearning for wholeness. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

Song Leader/Congregation:

Holy Vessels Threshold Song

MUSIC: Chuck Bell
WORDS: Marcia McFee

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 'C' chord above the first note, with the instruction 'colla voce' below it. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter). The second staff continues with: C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F3 (quarter), E3 (quarter), D3 (quarter), C3 (quarter). The lyrics are: '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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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Again this week, I invite you to imagine a warmth begin to arise within the core of your body. It may help to keep your eyes closed. This warm orb of light is deep within you, a flame always there and ready when you need it. 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. This warmth that wraps you as a blanket of assurance is one we want to share. We want all people to feel this presence, to kindle this hope.

Leader: Know this: This love and security is meant for all people. No. Matter. What. We are capable of sharing our light and not running out of “enough.” Christ’s hospitality that broke through false boundaries points the way. 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

Community of Christ

verses 1 & 4

JUSTICE & PEACE

615

Community of Christ

The musical score is written in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. Chords are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, who make the cross your own,
 2 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, look past the church - 's door
 3 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, through whom the word must sound—
 4 When men - ace melts a - way, so shall God's will be done,
 live out your creed and risk your life for God a - lone:
 and see the ref - u - gee, the hun - gry, and the poor.
 cry out for jus - tice and for peace the whole world round:
 the cli - mate of the world be peace and Christ its sun;
 the God who wears your face, to whom all worlds be - long,
 Take hands with the op - pressed, the job - less in your street,
 dis - arm the powers that war and all that can de - stroy,
 our cur - ren - cy be love and kind - li - ness our law,
 whose chil - dren are of ev - ery race and ev - ery song.
 take towel and wa - ter, that you wash your neigh - bor's feet.
 turn bombs to bread, and tears of an - guish in - to joy.
 our food and faith be shared as one for ev - er - more.

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 blue glass bead onto our bracelets. Blue symbolizes serenity, stability and wisdom.

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

A CONTEMPORARY WORD

The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members. –Coretta Scott King

Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much. –Helen Keller

I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be so thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live.

–George Bernard Shaw

I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples. –Mother Teresa

AN ANCIENT WORD: Matthew 8:5-13

(NRSV)

When Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him⁶ and saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible distress.”⁷ And he said to him, “I will come and cure him.”⁸ The centurion answered, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed.⁹ For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and the slave does it.”¹⁰ When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, “Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith.¹¹ I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven,¹² while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”¹³ And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you according to your faith.” And the servant was healed in that hour.

RESPONSE

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

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

HYMN

O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come

Verses 1 & 4

HEALING & WHOLENESS

O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come 638

N.C. G $\frac{B7}{F\#}$ Em Am D G $\frac{G}{B}$

1 O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to
2 From ev - ery ail - ment flesh en - dures our
3 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we
4 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in

C $\frac{D7}{A}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{A}{C\#}$ D A7 D N.C. G B E Am

pray for health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to
bod - ies clam - or to be freed; yet in our hearts we
rec - og - nize the world's dis - ease; our com - mon life de -
your com - mu - ni - ty may find the whole - ness that, en -

D7 G $\frac{G}{B}$ C $\frac{D7}{A}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ C+ $\frac{Am}{C}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

be re - stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?
would con - fess that whole - ness is our deep - est need.
clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

MUSIC: Robert A. Schumann (1810-1856)

Words © 1969 Hope Publishing Company

Have you ever walked along a beach—at either daybreak or sunset searching for seashells? As a child growing up in Texas, our family regularly went camping at Padre Island. Now I'm guessing that in the 40 or so years since I was there last, things have changed. But back in the day, tents and campers could pull directly onto the island's beaches—just yards away from high tide. It was during those family camping adventures that I learned to slow down and pay attention to my surroundings—paying particular attention to the seashells that washed ashore overnight. So many of the shells had been broken into bits by the waves, but—if you were patient—you could find a whole shell. Better yet, if you were REALLY patient, you could find an intact sand dollar.

During the summer of 1974, my father had an academic grant with NASA so our family lived for several months in a furnished apartment in Hampton, Virginia. It was cramped living and an incredibly lonely summer, so my mom often herded all five of us (sixth child was yet to be born) into the station wagon where we went to nearby Buckroe Beach to play in the sand and waves. Like our trips to Padre Island, I spent afternoons seeking whole shells amidst the broken ones.

When Jim and I married nearly 31 years ago, we honeymooned at Glen Lake in Michigan. There we combed the beaches not for seashells, but petoskey stones: ancient coral fossils that hardened into rocks over the course of thousands of years. Unless they are wet, petoskeys are hard to spot—you have to look for the ancient ridges of the coral which are much the same color as the rock itself. But once you find a petoskey stone, you can take it home and polish it with water and sandpaper—until it shines as if it is permanently underwater.

Years later, when in Israel along the Mediterranean Sea, I searched for driftwood, sea glass, seashells and bits of ancient tile.

But perhaps my favorite beach expedition happened during the summer of 2005 while on sabbatical from my last parish. I spent two weeks on the Island of Iona—a tiny island off the west coast of Scotland. Legends say that Christianity came to Scotland by way of Iona. Irish priest, St. Columba, arrived by boat on Iona in 563, establishing an abbey that stands to this day.

While on Iona, I spent a lot of time walking: there are very few vehicles on the island, so if you want to get from here to there, you walk. A lot. It seemed to me that every beach on Iona had new treasures—a beach on the west side had a combination golf course and cow pasture (really). The beach on the east side of the island held shells and a view of the nearest sister island. But the south beach held treasures that captured my imagination: green Iona marble.

If you were very patient, you could spend several hours on that south beach combing through pebbles in search of ones with a green, almost glassy hue. Nowhere else in the world can you find green Iona marble. The marble is prized by sculptors and jewelers. Even the large altar in the abbey has been made of Iona marble.

No matter what beach I am on: Padre Island, Buckroe Beach, Israel along the Mediterranean, Glen Lake, or the Isle of Iona—one principle unites: the meditative nature of the search—the looking outside of oneself for beauty and joy.

Perhaps that's how Jesus sees each of us—beautiful treasures well worth the search.

Today's scripture lesson is one that we also had a few weeks ago. But in Lent, the story takes on new layers of meaning. Knowing that Jesus came to seek the lost, the hurting, the outcast, the sick, we are not surprised that Jesus healed the servant (or slave, depending on your translation) of Israel's Roman occupier.

Let me rephrase that: Romans had invaded the Holy Land—placing rulers of their own and oppressing the people who had, for centuries, called it home. I will even go as far to say that the Roman occupiers were the enemies of the Jewish people—oppressing the people, demanding that new laws be followed. Now it is true that in today's scripture lesson we hear that this particular Roman centurion was friendly toward the Jewish people. And yet, he was still part of the oppressive government who'd marched in from what is now Italy, colonizing the area as if it was their own.

This is important. When told about the Roman servant's illness, Jesus might have balked. But then again, the request itself put Jesus in a bind. A request for healing had come from a Roman occupier: would Jesus REALLY want to see this man's servant get better? And yet,

because the request did come from a Roman, Jesus was hardly in a position to refuse.

But here's the deal: in reading today's story, we get no sense that Jesus' decision to heal the servant was based on political pressure. Instead, he healed the ailing man because of his master's faith in Jesus. I would even go as far to guess that Jesus would have healed the servant no matter what. Jesus' entire ministry was based on offering healing, hope, and forgiveness to ALL. Jesus didn't turn away lepers, tax collectors, prostitutes, and those who were sick. Jesus didn't even turn away Roman occupiers.

The reference to the people gathering from east and west in verse 11 is looking forward to future joy, fellowship and bounty. Indeed, this story is a vision of the Kingdom in which ALL people come together to enjoy one another and feast at the table of God. Like gathering shells and rocks and bits of tile along the beach, Jesus gathers us all. Jesus longs for us to be together and for us to be safe and whole. Jesus offers us healing and peace.

So I ask you this morning: in what ways is St. Paul United Church of Christ living into this vision of Jesus seeking everyone? In what ways are we gathering the lost, the hungry, the hurting, the outcasts? Friends, it is our lifelong calling as followers of Jesus to do as Jesus did—setting aside prejudice and judgment that we might be a place of welcome and hospitality, healing and wholeness.

In many ways, we enter the Lenten season like broken pieces of glass. We have rough edges. We hurt one another with our barbs. We see ourselves as broken and without value. The good news is that through the waters of baptism, through the steady waves of the ocean, Jesus smooths out our rough edges, transforming our broken lives into things of beauty.

Lent gives us the gift of these six weeks to offer our brokenness, our sorrow, our illnesses, our prejudices to Jesus that we might be healed and made whole. It is our task this holy season to offer our lives to Jesus over and over and over again.

Poet Edwin Markham once wrote:

*He drew a circle that shut me out—
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.*

*But love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle and took him in!*

My dear ones—Jesus' love will always and forever be stronger than partisan politics, racial prejudice, our judgments against one another. Love will always and forever transform the broken glass of our lives (all our lives!) into a beautiful new creation. Jesus seeks you along the beaches, the farm yards, the factories, the schools, the hospitals, and our homes. He seeks you. He finds you. He loves you.

It is our turn to do the same. Amen.

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: The Joy of following Jesus!!!!

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for 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)

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

Chords: C13, F, Bb/F, F, C7

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

Chords: C13, F, Bb/D, F/C, C13, F

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 broken pieces scattered and separated, we trust that you are seeking us, gathering us into wholeness, and calling us to join you in the quest. We pray especially for those who have experienced the loss of livelihoods and economic security and are feeling helpless to care for their families. We pray for those whose business have gone under or are on the precipice between survival and closure.

We pray for those whose disparity of resources has been made even more pronounced during this pandemic. We offer grateful thanks for the efforts of all who have been searching for solutions and have given generously of their time and resources to alleviate the suffering of those they know and those they do not know.

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)
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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the song 'There Is a Balm in Gilead'. The first staff is the melody line with lyrics 'There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole.' and the second staff is the bass line. Chord symbols are provided above the notes: C13, F, Bb, F, C7. The second system of the score has lyrics 'there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.' with chord symbols C13, F, Bb, D, F, C, C13, F.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS, OUR TITHES, OUR LIVES

OFFERTORY SENTENCES: There is hardly a more beautiful way to speak about the hidden promise of even the smallest gift than the image of the mustard seed, so tiny yet holding so much possibility. We are gifts of God: perhaps we feel small, but we hold the promise of God's awesome power at work within us. We share our gifts so we can create safe space for those who come here seeking refuge, acceptance and love. 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)

O God, giver of all good, who continually pours your benefits upon us. Age after age the living wait upon you and find that of your faithfulness there is no end and that your care is unfailing. We praise you that the mystery of our life is a mystery of infinite goodness. We praise you for the order and constancy of nature; for the beauty and bounty of the earth; for day and night, summer and winter, seedtime and harvest; for the varied gifts of loveliness and use which every season brings. We give you thanks for all the comfort and joy of life, for our homes, for our friends, and for the love you give to us through your son, Jesus the Messiah. Amen.

HYMN OF SENDING

Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands

Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands 634

Unison

1 Je - sus' hands were kind hands, do - ing good to all, heal - ing pain and
 2 Take my hands, Lord Je - sus, let them work for you; make them strong and

sick - ness, bless - ing chil - dren small, wash - ing tired feet and
 gen - tle, kind in all I do; let me watch you, Je - sus,

sav - ing those who fall; Je - sus' hands were kind hands, do - ing good to all.
 till I'm gen - tle too, till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.

WORDS: Margaret Cropper (1886-1980)
 MUSIC: French melody
 Words © 1979 Stainer & Bell Ltd. (Admin. Hope Publishing Company)

AU CLAIR DE LA LUNE
 11.11.11.11.

BENEDICTION: Now go with confidence that the Holy Beachcomber is gathering us all for “Safe Keeping,” recovering our depth of love for all and our joy of living in this world. May the words of Jesus ring in your ears, “I will come.” And may the Spirit hover, move, and deliver salve to your soul and a spring to your step. Amen.

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 and March-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

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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 **March 28th**, **April 4th**, **July 4th**, **August 22nd & 29th**, **September 12th & 19th** **October 3rd**.

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.

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, Napkins, Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap, Razors, Shaving Cream, Deodorant, Baby Wipes, Bar Soap, Hand Soap, 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.

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 28, 2021

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|-----------|---------------|--|
| Sunday | 9:00am | Sunday School-in person & via Facebook Live |
| | 10:15am | Worship-in person |
| | 5:00pm | w/Congregational Meeting & via Facebook Live |
| Monday | 11:30am | Splash-in person |
| | 2:00pm-4:00pm | Devotions via Facebook Live 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 -in person |
| Thursday | 6:30pm | Jr/Sr High Youth Group-in person |
| | 11:30am | Devotions via Facebook Live |
| | 1:00pm-3:00pm | Blessing Pantry Open |
| Friday | 6:30pm | Bible Study via Zoom |
| | 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.



Easter Flower Order Form

We will be decorating our Sanctuary with assorted Easter Lilies, Dahlias & Daisy Mums. Flowers may be picked up after the Last Easter Service, April 4, 2021.

Please return your order form and payment no later than Tuesday, March 20, 2021.

Checks should be payable to St. Paul

____(quantity) Flowers, foiled, drip pan-\$10.00 each

In Memory of _____

A gift for _____

By _____ Total \$ _____