

March 8, 2021

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Friend.

Throughout Lent at St. Paul, we are focusing on Jesus as our Healer. Almost a year into the global pandemic, our worship centers upon seeking healing of physical, mental and spiritual ailments.

The Worship Team met yesterday to make decisions about Holy Week worship services. This is what we decided:

**March 28. Palm Sunday/Rite of Confirmation** at 10:15 in the sanctuary and via Facebook Live. Sunday School children will process with palms at the start of the service.

**April 1. Maundy Thursday Healing Service** at 6:30 in the sanctuary and via Facebook Live. Service will include prayers, scripture, sermon, Prayers of Healing, Sacrament of Holy Communion and lighting of candles for healing.

**April 2. Good Friday Tenebrae Service** at 6:30 in the sanctuary and via Facebook Live. Service will include music, scriptures and candlelight slowly diminishing until only the Christ Candle is lit.

**April 4. Easter Sunday!** Worship will be held in the sanctuary and via Facebook Live at 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Service will include music, prayers, scriptures, preaching and the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Worship Team also made the decision to wait until at least September before restarting the Saturday evening service.


Daily Devotions have been scaled back slightly. Pastor Becky now leads them Monday-Thursday only at 11:30 via Facebook Live. Pastor Becky takes Fridays as her Sabbath day.

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 are currently in need of plastic grocery bags.** Donated bags can be dropped off at the church office

or left in barrels located on the north and east entry doors to the education building.

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 March 8, 2021

#### Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00  
Giving Income \$5,867.00(weekly)  
Endowment Transfers \$6,693.00(ytd)  
Income \$62,062.78(ytd)  
Expenses \$64,262.81(ytd)  
Balance **(\$2,200.03)** (ytd)  
**Building Maint & Property Care**  
Beg. Balance \$73,644.37  
Income \$3,100.00(ytd)  
Endowment Income **(\$302.84)** (ytd)  
Expenses \$2,173.30 (ytd)  
Balance \$74,268.23 (ytd)

#### Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$6,250.20  
Income \$3,592.00(ytd)  
Expenses \$2,346.25(ytd)  
Balance \$7,495.95  
BP Beg Balance \$7,881.15  
Bless Pantry Inc. \$7,621.00(ytd)  
Bless Pantry Ex. \$1,090.98ytd  
BP Balance \$14,411.17

#### Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00  
Income \$558.00(weekly)  
Income \$5,635.00 (ytd)

#### Project of the Year

Income \$75.00(weekly)  
Balance \$1,123.00(ytd)

MARCH 14, 2021  
FOURTH SUNDAY  
IN LENT



*God loves the whole world.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 3:14-21	God so loved the world
Monday	Numbers 21:4-9	The serpent of bronze
Tuesday	Ephesians 2:1-10	Faith is a gift from God
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 10:12-22	The essence of the law
Thursday	1 John 5:1-5	Faith conquers the world
Friday	Zephaniah 3:14-20	The song of joy
Saturday	Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22	Thanksgiving for deliverance
Sunday	John 12:20-33	The hour has come

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”*

John 3:16 (NRSV)

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

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

God of steadfast love, help us to remember that you hate nothing that you have created and that you love the world through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, you who fed the Israelites in the wilderness, we thank you for feeding us today with this food and nourishing us with your love. Amen.

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

May God who loves the world shine brightly on you with the light of Christ.



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MARCH 14, 2021  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Christ Be Our Light*



### 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:

- Talk or think about something you really love to do.
- How do you show love for others?
- God created the whole world and loves it. What does that say about the kind of God we have?

### DEVOTIONS

Read: John 3:14-21.

These words from Jesus are part of a conversation he is having with Nicodemus who had come to see Jesus by night. There is a contrast here between those who love the darkness (initially Nicodemus) and those who “come to the light” (v. 21). Nicodemus would eventually be drawn to the light by defending Jesus in front of the Pharisees (John 7:51-52) and preparing Jesus’ body after his crucifixion (John 19:39). In the Gospel of John, following and believing in Jesus can be a journey of coming to the light and gaining eternal life, as Nicodemus does. Darkness cannot choose light; it must be overcome by the light. The judgement of which Jesus speaks is remaining in the dark. Eternal life is having the light of Christ overcome the darkness that prevents us from seeing and loving Jesus. How has the light of Christ helped you in challenging times or times of darkness?

*Pray:* **Merciful God, we thank you for your love for us that calls us out of darkness and to the light of Christ that we may not perish but have eternal life. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Numbers 21:4-9 records that God sent snakes among the people of Israel to punish them. But after Moses prayed for the people, God directed Moses to make a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. When anyone who had been bitten looked at the snake, they were healed. The symbol of a snake on a pole is associated with medicine and health care. This week, plan an act of thanks and appreciation for a doctor, nurse, or medical worker in your community.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Martin Luther referred to John 3:16, the *Scripture Verse for this Week*, as “the gospel in miniature.” “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” This week, light a candle and read the *Daily Bible Reading* each day, then say the *Prayer for the Week* and a word of thanks for how God shows love to you and the world. End 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)



TRUTH

TRUTH

FAITH

FAITH

BELIEVE

WISDOM

LOVE

LOVE

## **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, we welcome you to this service of worship. We hope that you will find it meaningful.

**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.

**March 14, 2021**

**Third Sunday in Lent: Stories  
Sacrament of Holy Communion**

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

*Song Leader: Holy Vessels*

Leader: Prolonged times of difficulty can impede our ability to stay creative. The picture of our lives is dulled and hope for a brighter future can fade. We need a touch of inspiration to awaken us from our sleep, as we hear in one of this week’s healing stories. We also awaken to our ability to seek out the Divine Healer, reaching out to touch the power we know can restore our intellect and our imagination. We emerge ready to re-engage with the world, seeking and seeing solutions, creating different pictures of life renewed just as a mosaic artist creates beauty from broken pieces of glass.

**Song Leader/Congregation:**

### Holy Vessels

#### Threshold Song

MUSIC: Chuck Bell  
WORDS: Marcia McFee

The musical score is written on two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 'colla voce' instruction. The notes are: C (quarter), Dm7 (quarter), C/E (quarter), F2 (quarter), Am7 (quarter), G (quarter), Dm7 (quarter), and G sus (quarter). The lyrics under the first staff are: 'Ves - sels, hol - y and whole. Bro - ken, need - ing the One'. The second staff continues with notes: C/E (quarter), F (quarter), D/E# (quarter), G (quarter), Am7 (quarter), C/E (quarter), G sus (quarter), and G (quarter). The lyrics under the second staff are: 'O - pen, bod - y and soul Heal - er, come.'.

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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 Possibilities, made in your image, you have tasked us as co-creators of a better world. You bestowed imagination and the ability to learn and progress. But we are tired. Our energy and enthusiasm wane. The call for ideas, solutions,**

work-arounds, and adaptations has been non-stop for us all—whether we are needing to find ways to keep children engaged and well, or figuring out how to maintain a passion for our work in the midst of trying times, or desperately needing to undo systems of oppression too long affecting our lives and the lives of our neighbors. Not only our livelihoods, but our liveliness is at stake. Too often we want to give up, declare it all too hard, and simply isolate, waiting out the time for better days. It all feels overwhelming and so we look away, sometimes even from the needs in our own community. Help us, Healer God. Show us our energy of reserves. Forgive our cynicism. 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 score is written on two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a common time signature, and the instruction 'colla voce'. The melody consists of quarter notes and half notes. The lyrics are: 'Ves - sels, hol - y and whole. Bro - ken, need - ing the One'. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: 'O - pen, bod - y and soul Heal - er, come.'. Chords are indicated above the notes: C, Dm7, C/E, F2, Am7, G, Dm7, G sus on the first staff; C/E, F, D/E#, G, Am7, C/E, G sus, G on the second staff.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: I invite you to imagine and search for a warmth in 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 ignite and spark imagination. It floods your whole body until your skin is glowing with it, radiating outward. This light from you offers a beacon for

those around you, a light that reflects and multiplies your own. There is now exponentially more radiance.

Know this: you are accepted. No. Matter. What. We are not alone and we can join with others to magnify hope. Christ will answer when we call, when we reach out for what we know can help. Take a deep breath in and let this truth fill you...and breathe out with the relief of assurance.

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

OPENING HYMN      *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go*      verses 1 & 2

TRUST & ASSURANCE

*O Love That Will Not Let Me Go* 446

1 O Love that will not let me go,  
 2 O Light that fol - lowest all my way,  
 3 O Joy that seek - est me through pain,  
 4 O Cross that lift - est up my head,

I rest my wea - ry soul in thee;  
 I yield my flick - ering torch to thee;  
 I can not close my heart to thee;  
 I dare not ask to fly from thee;

I give thee back the life I owe, that  
 my heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray, that  
 I trace the re - in - bow through the rain, that  
 I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, and

in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.  
 in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may bright - er, fair - er be.  
 feel the prom - ise is not vain that morn shall tear - less be.  
 from the ground there blos - soms red life that shall end - less be.

## 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 yellow glass bead onto



our bracelets. Yellow is the brightest of colors—the color we associate with the brightness of the sun. Yellow symbolizes optimism, energy, joy, happiness and friendship. By adding a yellow bead to your bracelet, you are choosing joy over sorrow, friendship over enmity, optimism over pessimism. In these months of illness, racial unrest and uncertainty, yellow stands as a beacon of hope.

This week I encourage you to wear your bracelet with its green, blue, grey and yellow 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

*A single event can awaken within us a stranger totally unknown to us.  
To live is to be slowly born. –Antoine de Saint-Exupery*

*Get out of your comfort zone. Wake up the sleeping giant in you.  
–Dr. T.P. Chia*

*The path of awakening is not about becoming who you are. Rather it is  
about unbecoming who you are not. –Albert Schweitzer*

## ANTHEM

*Sacred the Body*

Duck/Landes

(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 9:18-26

(NRSV)

*While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live."<sup>19</sup> And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples.<sup>20</sup> Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak,<sup>21</sup> for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well."<sup>22</sup> Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well.<sup>23</sup> When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion,<sup>24</sup> he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him.<sup>25</sup> But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up.<sup>26</sup> And the report of this spread throughout that district.*

RESPONSE

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

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

CONFIRMATION FAITH STATEMENTS AND FAMILY BLESSINGS

**Ella Dicke**

My favorite Bible verse is Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8 "For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest. A time to kill and a time to heal. A time to tear down and a time to build up. A time to cry and

a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones. A time to embrace and a time to turn away. A time to search and a time to quit searching. A time to keep and a time to throw away. A time to tear and a time to mend. A time to be quiet and a time to speak. A time to love and a time to hate. A time for war and a time for peace."

These verses are meaningful to me because they show how everything has a time to take place even if we are ill prepared. This verse helps me know God by telling me he has a plan for everything and everyone and that we must fully trust Him to guide us on our journey through life. I believe God created everyone and everything. I also believe He guides us through life even when we hit some bumps or fall down and takes a little bit to get back on track. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross to take our sins. I also believe that He rose to show us we never truly die. I believe that the Holy Spirit is always with you during your life. I think It guides you to always believe in God and connects all of us together as one. I believe the church is a safe place and a sanctuary where everyone is family. I also believe it is a place everyone can share the challenges and hardships they are going through and never be turned away or judged. I believe myself to be a Christian because I believe in God and helping others even when you can barely make it for yourself. I believe I am a Christian because I believe that God is with me always and always tries to help me go in the right direction. I want to be confirmed because I want to fulfil the promise my parents made when I was baptized as a baby. I want to continue being a good Christian by becoming a member of the church to help others. I intend to continue my Christian journey by helping others lead and setting an example for the younger kids so they will want to become a part of the church one day too.

## **Grant Dicke**

### **Favorite Bible Verse**

Philippians 4:13 *I can do all things through him who strengthens me.* This means to me that everything you do is through him, decided by him and in his name. This passage helps know God by showing me the best way to live and the best paths.

## **What do you believe about God?**

I believe that He will be there no matter what. He will be there when I need him. I believe He heals us, changes us, and guides us. He accepts everyone. He is very forgiving.

## **What I believe Jesus is.**

I believe that Jesus is my friend, my teacher, my healer, and is very patient. I also believe that he sees everyone as equal. He unites us all. He is a role model. I believe that he is our savior, and that he died for us to relinquish our sins.

## **What do I believe about the Holy Spirit?**

I believe the Holy Spirit is with us at all times. It is everywhere and everything. It fills us with skills, talents and passion. It is ever changing, and is in the now. It inspires us to be better people. It is Us.

## **What I believe about the Bible.**

I believe that it is the story of God. It shows life's beginning. It is a guide for anyone who wants to know God. You can interpret it in many different ways. It shows us how to work through problems.

## **What I believe about church.**

I believe that church is a safe place for anyone willing to worship. Everyone is welcome in the church. I believe that it is the home of God and a place to worship. The church community is a family, and they are there for people in need.

## **Why do I consider myself a Christian?**

I consider myself a Christian because I believe in God. I serve others and I believe that Jesus was the son of God.

## **Why do I want to be confirmed?**

I want to fulfill my parents promise and become a bigger part of St. Paul UCC. I want to help others and continue my journey to serve. Also, I want to learn more about God and his story.

## **How I intend to continue my Christian journey.**

I plan on continuing to praise and worship God. Go to church, get involved in it and stay involved. I want to follow Jesus' path and follow what he preaches.

Thank you, Grant Dicke

## **Jack Oldiges**

**Favorite Bible Verse:** *I can do anything through Christ who gives me strength.* Philippians 4:13.

This is meaningful to me because it shows that you can do anything because Christ is there with you. This passage reminds me that God is always with me and helps me accomplish things.

God means many things to me. He is loving, patient, forgiving, very powerful, and he gives us strength. A relationship with him gives people the power to change. God accepts and loves us no matter what. Jesus, this guy, well he is amazing. He is forgiving, and he tolerates us just like God. He is like a friend, that is always present with us. He loves us so much that he died so our sins would be forgiven. The Holy Spirit is like the spirit of God in us. When I'm filled with the Holy Spirit I feel joyful and inspired about being a Christian. I believe the Bible was inspired by God. When you read the Bible, many things come to mind like the creation and all of the stories of God and Jesus. The Bible is the great beginning, the beginning of everything about Christ. It has many takeaways and life lessons, but often leaves me with questions. The church is the home of God where He is always present. It is a safe place to share feelings, pray and work together to serve others. I consider myself to be a Christian because I am a follower of God. I try to follow the word of God, pray, and praise Him.

I want to be confirmed because I want to join in the church membership and live my life as one of God's followers. I want to continue my Christian journey by praying to God, reading the Bible, and being an active part of the church.

## **Aiden Teeters**

My favorite Bible Verse is John 3: 16 It is meaningful because of Christian belief that God sacrificed his son for the salvation of humanity. This verse helps me know God by saying that God loves the world and he sacrificed his only son and said whoever believed in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

What I believe about God is he is everlasting, trustworthy, faithful, He sent his only son into the world to help us. God loves us, God gives us grace.

I believe in Jesus because of His teachings, His promises, His accomplishments.

I believe in the Holy Spirit because it's always with us, The Holy Spirit is a gift from God. The Holy Spirit is accomplishing the work of God in creation.

I Believe the Bible gives me inspiration. The Bible is very trustworthy. For me the Bible gives me authority.

I Believe in the church because it's a safe place for people to worship. Also God admonishes His people to assemble together regularly for worship, for participation in ordinances, for edification through the Scriptures and for mutual encouragement.

I consider myself to be a Christian because I believe in and have been redeemed by my Lord Jesus Christ. He is my Way, my Truth, and my Life and I live for Him. Is my relationship with Jesus evident through my actions and words? Jesus did whatever God required of Him, and with His best abilities He did not ignore those who reached out to Him. Jesus focused on reaching the lost as His first priority after serving God.

I want to be confirmed so I can be closer to God and Jesus; I want to learn more about God and our religion and about how important it is to receive communion. God will be by my side always and I can be a better Christian, a better person.

## **Kaitlyn Tontrup**

Good Morning my name is Kaitlyn Tontrup and I would like to share with you my faith statement. My faith means a lot to me, it makes up most of the person I am today. My favorite bible verse is one that most of you probably know or have heard. It is Philippians 4:13 which states "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." I chose this bible verse because I believe that not only does God strengthen us during the good times but also through the bad. He can show us what we are able to do in our lives. I believe like many that God is always there for us no matter what and he forgives us, trusts us, and guides us through life, but most importantly he is our savior. Jesus is the son of God, but he is not only that. He died on the cross for us and three days later rose from his grave to forgive all of our sins just like he said he would. He spreads the word of God all over the world and God's kingdom. He welcomes everyone no

matter how much wrong you have done in your life and he is our friend. The Holy Spirit is everywhere and is always present. The Holy spirit is also part of the reason that we are all different and special in our own ways. The church is just not just a building without a doubt but when you enter it is a comforting and safe place, it is a place where you can confess your sins, and it is a place where you can worship and pray. The bible is the story of God written for all to hear. I want to be a Christian because I believe in God and Jesus Christ and want to help others in need of knowing that he is there for them when they are in need. I would like to be confirmed so that I can become closer with God but also so that I can become the person God wants me to be. I plan to continue my Christian journey by worshiping and Praying to God, staying involved with the church and my community, and going to church. I never plan to end my Christian journey with God and I will continue to pray to him every day no matter what it is. Thank you!

**PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Joys:** Our confirmands presenting their faith statements

**Concerns:** We are continuing to pray for Annabelle Wenning, Peg Henschen, Drew Wray, Jan Dammeyer, Shannon Shupp and Pastor Dee Schroer. Please remember the family of Gary Farley in your prayers. Gary passed away Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

**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      F      C7

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

C13      F      Bb/D      E/C      C13      F

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

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

You remind us that we do not have to shoulder everything alone. We give thanks to you that all we are called to do is orient ourselves toward your Spirit to accompany us, touch us, inspire us, heal us.

We pray especially for all who feel opportunity and possibility is cut off to them. We pray for those whose spirit is continually damped and damaged by those who fail to see value in their contributions. We give you thanks for communities, churches, non-profits, and businesses that are supporting the flourishing of all voices, especially voices that have been silenced.

We give thanks for the courage of innovators who use their resources and creativity to make more good in the world, making this a priority over profit. We ask for courage and encouragement to re-evaluate how we as a congregation can join this effort of creativity now and into the future.

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):**

*There Is a Balm in Gilead*

sung through twice



## OFFERING OUR GIFTS, OUR TITHES, OUR LIVES

OFFERTORY SENTENCES: Our ancestors in faith gathered together long ago to remember, to be restored, to be renewed. They shared their story, prayed together, and made an offering to God as they prepared to set out on the long journey to freedom in the Promised Land. Today we gather to remember and to pray together, to be restored and renewed, and we bring our own offerings so that the ministries and missions of St. Paul Church will continue to work to bring God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise. 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, we are made glad by the good news of your love for us and for all. We thank you for creating us and giving us all that is necessary for life. We thank you for your action in Christ Jesus by which our lives are measured, found wanting, and renewed. Help us to remember your gifts that we may praise you with lives of joy and service. Amen.**

### HYMN OF SENDING

*Be Thou My Vision*

# Be Thou My Vision

502

Chords: Eb Eb/G Ab Bb Ab Eb/G Cm Bb Eb

1 Be thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my Wis - dom, and thou my true Word;  
 3 High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Chords: Bb F7/C Bb/D Eb Eb/G Ab Eb/G Cm Bb

naught be all else to me, save that thou art—  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

Chords: Ab Ab/C Ab/Eb Eb Gm7/D Cm7 Cm Gm7 Ab Bb

thou my and best thought, by day or by night,  
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Chords: Eb Bb/D Cm Eb/Bb Eb/G Fm/Ab Ab Fm7 Eb

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 high King of heav - en, my Treas - ure thou art.  
 still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

WORDS: Irish hymn, 8th c.; tr. Mary E. Byrne (1880-1931); versed Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935)  
 MUSIC: Irish melody; arr. Jack Schrader (1942- )  
 Music Arr. © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

SLANE  
 10.10.10.10.

**BENEDICTION:** Now go with confidence that we will awaken, we will seek out and reach for healing solutions that our neighbors, our communities, our world needs, recovering our depth of love for all and our joy of living in this world. May the words of Jesus ring in your ears: *the girl is not dead but sleeping*. And may the Holy Spirit hover, move, and deliver salve to your soul and a spring to your step. Amen.

# BENEDICTION RESPONSE

sung through twice

## Holy Vessels Threshold Song

MUSIC: Chuck Bell  
WORDS: Marcia McFee

Musical notation for the song "Holy Vessels Threshold Song". The notation is written on two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a "colla voce" instruction. The notes are: C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter). The second staff continues with: C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (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." 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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www.chuckbellmusic.com ~ info@chuckbellmusic.com

# PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

# POSTLUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Altar Flowers** are given in loving memory of Jesse, Verona and Don R. Miller by Bev Plattner.

**Attendance**-Online-Daily Devotions Avg.-69, February 28-Sunday Worship Online-368, In Person-59, Sunday School Online-88, In Person 12, Teachers-7, Splash-4, Leaders-2, March 3-Confirmation-12, Leaders-6, Sr/Jr High Youth Group-7, Leaders-2.

**Daily Devotions**-Please join Rev Becky Monday-Thursday 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=ZllqSDBpZzdzZi9LT0d6SThwblItZz09> 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 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.

**March Book Club**-All are invited to the March Book Club set for Sunday, March 28 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. We will discuss Mitch Albom's have a little faith. Copies of the book are available at the church office.

Zoom login information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81672987844?pwd=NTRMekJLK0UwTXEzUTV6TllzOTZpZz09>

**Meeting ID: 816 7298 7844      Passcode: 680642** All are welcome!

\*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 **March 28<sup>th</sup>**, **April 4<sup>th</sup>**, **August 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>**, **September 19<sup>th</sup>** **October 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

**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.

**Blankets + - March Monthly Mission** The Mission Team has chosen to spotlight **BLANKETS+** during the month of March this year. Most of you are familiar with this Church World Service ongoing effort to provide the bright yellow blankets in warm areas of need and the warm gray blankets where it is cold. We give \$10 to replace each blanket used in a disaster or personal crisis. This is how we wrap the world in love. Our goal is to fund 125 blankets during March.

## Calendar-Week of March 14, 2021

Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School-in person & via Facebook Live
	10:15am	Worship-in person w/Confirmation Faith Statements
	11:30am	New Member Class
Monday	5:00pm	Splash-in person
	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	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	Afternoon	Office Closed

**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!

**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.

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

**Online** – Make a donation on our website: [stpaulnb.org](http://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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_