

March 15, 2021

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

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

Yesterday marked the halfway point in our Lenten journey. With Holy Week around the corner, these are the services offered:

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.

Pastor Dee's health continues to be compromised. She is taking an unpaid medical leave of absence until July 1. Council voted last week to continue to pay Dee's medical insurance and pension. We will hire a part time Ministry Associate to assist Pastor Becky and Barb Holdren in day-to-day operations and programs.

We have welcomed three new members into our St. Paul Family: Emily Shelby & Beth and Greg Bretz. Emily is married to Steven; they have two sons: Holden and Hunter. Greg and Beth have two daughters: Adele and Mara.

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. When Becky takes sabbatical time in mid-April to early May, Daily Devotions will be offered twice a week.

St. Paul Church will host a Rummage Sale on April 15, 16 and 17. Donations of your household items can begin to arrive and be placed in front of the stage in the auditorium beginning Tuesday April 6. All proceeds will go to the Project of the Year: The Blessing Pantry.

Our Golden Harvest Community Garden is in need of soil for the garden boxes. Purchasing the soil will be approximately \$200. You are invited to consider donating to the purchase of soil. We will also need volunteers to transport and spread the soil. Please see Pastor Becky if you are able to assist.

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

Grace and Peace,



Roland Dicke
Council President



Myra Hanenkratt
Council VP



Becky Erb Strang
Senior Pastor

Financial Information as of March 15, 2021

Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00
Giving Income \$2,481.00(weekly)
Endowment Transfers \$8,793.00(ytd)
Income \$66,643.78(ytd)
Expenses \$71,352.30(ytd)
Balance **(\$4,708.52)** (ytd)

Building Maint & Property Care

Beg. Balance \$73,644.37
Income \$3,399.00(ytd)
Endowment Income **(\$918.85)** (ytd)
Expenses \$2,590.36 (ytd)
Balance \$73,534.16 (ytd)

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$6,250.20
Income \$3,747.00(ytd)
Expenses \$2,467.79(ytd)
Balance \$7,529.41
BP Beg Balance \$7,881.15
Bless Pantry Inc. \$7,726.00(ytd)
Bless Pantry Ex. \$1,876.99(ytd)
BP Balance \$13,730.16

Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00
Income \$547.00(weekly)
Income \$6,182.00 (ytd)

Project of the Year

Income \$74.00(weekly)
Balance \$1,197.00(ytd)

MARCH 21, 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY
IN LENT



A time for new beginnings.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 12:20-33	The hour has come
Monday	Jeremiah 31:31-34	A new covenant from God
Tuesday	Hebrews 5:5-10	Jesus as high priest
Wednesday	2 Corinthians 3:5-18	Ministers of the new covenant
Thursday	Nehemiah 1:5-11	Nehemiah prays for his people
Friday	Hebrews 8:6-13	A better covenant
Saturday	Psalms 51:1-12	A prayer for cleansing
Sunday	Mark 14:1-15:47	The passion of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
Jeremiah 31:33 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of new beginnings, help us to face our shortcomings knowing that you promise to be our God and that we are your people through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with this food restore our bodies as your promise of love and care for us restores our hearts. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God create in you a clean heart through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord.



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MARCH 21, 2021
HYMN OF THE WEEK

*My Hope Is Built on
Nothing Less*



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:

- Think or tell about a time you failed at something.
- Failure is a part of life, but when we learn from our mistakes, it is not a total failure, but a learning moment. When have you learned from your mistakes?
- The Bible is filled with mistakes by God's people, yet God refuses to give up on us. What does that say about the God who reaches out to us through Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Jeremiah 31:31-34.

Jeremiah is speaking to a people who are either in exile in Babylon or about to be conquered and sent to Babylon. The northern kingdom of Israel had already fallen to the Assyrians well over a hundred years before. Now the southern kingdom of Judah is doomed. The people have been unfaithful and God's promises to Abraham, Moses, and David seem to have come to naught. But Jeremiah prophesies, "Not so." God promises to find a new way, a new covenant. This passage is about God's people only because it is about the God who continues to claim them. God will not give up on the people God loves. It is the very nature and character of God not to give up on us. God finds a way by having a new covenant, a new start. What God ordains will happen: we shall be God's people and God will be our God. We are not there yet. We are people of the new covenant, but the prophesy has not happened completely. We still need to be taught, but the day is coming that God's promise will be fulfilled. How do you learn about faith in Christ?

Pray: **God of the new covenant, give us faith to trust in your promises and courage to walk in your ways through Jesus Christ, the one who came to set us free. Amen.**

SERVICE

Psalms 51 is a prayer for cleansing and pardon. Christian prison ministries reach out to inmates with the love and hope of Jesus Christ. There are many who care for the children and families of prisoners and lead Bible studies and prayer with the prisoners. Pray for those who work with inmates and their families this week.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This is our fifth week suggesting the discipline of using the *Daily Bible Readings*. At the core of new beginnings for Christians is the work of God revealed from the cross and in the Bible. Begin each day's reading by reciting Psalm 51:10: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." Say the *Prayer for the Week* after each reading, add your own prayers, and 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



St. Paul United Church of Christ

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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 21, 2021

Fifth Sunday in Lent: Restoration

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Cheyenne Olt

Connie Friemering

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Accompanist/Vocalist

Liturgist

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.

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: The demands of following Jesus are great. He shows us that sometimes we must make extraordinary efforts to move in a new direction. As we consider the health of humanity, we cannot ignore the need to heal the very planet that sustains us. We live in increasing chaos of a beleaguered environment and the hoarding of resources. We want to be “saved” by something or someone else, but we discover this week that we are in the boat with the One who shows us our power to turn it around, to calm the storm. We protect the jewel that is our home, restoring something beautiful from scars of the past.

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. The first staff is for the vocal line, starting 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 is for the piano accompaniment, starting with a treble clef. The notes are: C4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), 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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OPENING PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us acknowledge our need to restore, repair, renew our Holy Vessels, especially this holy container of life on which we live—planet Earth. Let us pray.

People: Life-giving God, in the beginning you created this universe with the phrase, “Let it be...” and the waters and dry land, the sky and the creatures were formed. You set humanity among these wonders and invited us to care and honor all things. We have not successfully answered that call. Seeing the abundance as a feast that would never end, we gorged ourselves, taking more than we could replenish at a rate that could not be sustained. We are

beginning to comprehend the magnitude, beginning to see that things cannot just keep going “as usual” and not have dire consequences. We are frightened, which is partly why we are slow to accept it. But we now are witnesses to the forces of a world more broken than when we inherited it: water, wind, and wave, fire, drought, and earthquake that signal it is time to pay attention and to make real change. Too often we think there is nothing we can do—that the change required is too great. It all feels overwhelming and so we look away, sometimes even from the small things that could make a difference for our own community. Help us, Healer-God. Show us our ability to chart a different course. Forgive our inaction. 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

C *colla voce* Dm7 C/E F2 Am7 G Dm7 G sus
 Ves - sels, hol - y and whole. Bro - ken, need - ing the One
 C/E F D/F# G Am7 C/E G sus G
 O - pen, bod - y and soul Heal - er, come.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: 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 and it fills you with determination and courage. It floods your whole body until your skin is glowing with it, radiating outward. You feel strong.

Know this: Jesus asks us to do hard things, to make changes, knowing we are capable. No. Matter. What. We can change in order to heal this beautiful planet called home. The calm of Christ in the storm is available: for you. For me. For all.

People: We offer to God our thanks and praise!

OPENING HYMN

Creating God, Your Fingers Trace verses 1 & 4

GOD OF CREATION

Creating God, Your Fingers Trace 32

N.C. G B7/F# Em Am D D₂ D G G/B

1 Cre - at - ing God, your fin - gers trace the
 2 Sus - tain - ing God, your hands up - hold earth's
 3 Re - deem - ing God, your arms em - brace all
 4 In - dwell - ing God, your gos - pel claims one

C F#dim/A G/B A/C# D A7 D N.C. G B E Am7

bold de - signs of far - thest space; let sun and moon and
 mys - teries known or yet un - told; let wa - ter's frag - ile
 now de - spised for creed or race; let peace, de - scend - ing
 fam - ily with a bil - lion names; let ev - ery life be

D D₂ D G G/B C F#dim/A G/B C+ Am/C G/D D7 G

stars and light and what lies hid - den praise your might.
 blend with air, en - a - bling life, pro - claim your care.
 like a dove, make known on earth your heal - ing love.
 touched by grace un - til we praise you face to face.

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 pink glass bead onto our bracelets.

In spiritual terms, the color pink represents compassion, nurture and love. It is the color of unconditional love and understanding along with the giving and receiving of God's nurturing love. Pink represents kindness and lightheartedness that can move us to joy. Wear your pink bead this week to remind yourself to offer kindness, compassion and love—especially in situations in which these are lacking.

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

*i held an atlas in my lap
ran my fingers across the whole world
and whispered
where does it hurt?
it answered
everywhere
everywhere
everywhere.
-Warsan Shire*

*The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe, the less taste we shall have for destruction.
-Rachel Carson*

*We don't inherit the earth from our ancestors.
We borrow it from our children.
-David Brower*

AN ANCIENT WORD: Matthew 8:18-27

(NRSV)

Now when Jesus saw great crowds around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. ¹⁹ A scribe then approached and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." ²⁰ And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ²¹ Another of his disciples said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ²² But Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

²³ And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. ²⁴ A windstorm arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. ²⁵ And they went and woke him up, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" ²⁶ And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. ²⁷ They were amazed, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?"

RESPONSE

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

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

JESUS CHRIST

111 When Morning Gilds the Skies

B \flat Cm7 B \flat / \overline{D} Eb Cm7 F7 E \flat / \overline{G} F7 A Gm/ $\overline{B\flat}$ F/ \overline{A} Gm7 C7 Dm7

1 When morn-ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries,
 2 Does sad - ness fill my mind? A sol - ace here I find,
 3 The night be - comes as day, when from the heart we say,
 4 Be this, while life is mine, my can - ti - cle di - vine,

C7/ \overline{E} F B \flat C7sus C7 F F/ $\overline{E\flat}$ B \flat / \overline{D} F7/ \overline{C} E \flat / $\overline{B\flat}$ F7/ \overline{A} E \flat / \overline{G} Dm/ \overline{F}

may Je - sus Christ be praised! A - like at work and prayer
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Or fades my earth - ly bliss?
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! The powers of dark - ness fear
 may Je - sus Christ be praised! Be this th'e - ter - nal song

F/ $\overline{E\flat}$ B \flat / \overline{D} B \flat Am/ \overline{C} C7 F Dm F7/ \overline{C} B \flat B \flat / $\overline{A\flat}$ E \flat / \overline{G} F7sus F7 B \flat

to Je - sus I re - pair, may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 My com - fort still is this, may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 when this sweet chant they hear, may Je - sus Christ be praised!
 through all the a - ges long, may Je - sus Christ be praised!

CONFIRMATION FAITH STATEMENTS AND FAMILY BLESSINGS

Emma Fledderjohann

My favorite scripture is 1 Corinthians 4:3-- *As for me, it matters very little how I might be evaluated by you or by any human authority. I don't even trust my own judgment on this point.* I chose this verse because I relate to it. What people think of me doesn't affect me.

I believe God is there for me. God loves me and watches over me.

I believe Jesus is a guide. Jesus protects me. Like God, Jesus loves me also.

I believe the Holy Spirit lives in me. The Holy Spirit inspires me to keep going.

I believe the Bible tells our history and how we can live. The Bible tells how the world was created.

I believe the church is God 's house and a safe place. It's a place where you can go to open up about life.

I consider myself a Christian because I want to follow Jesus and help others.

I want to be confirmed to fulfill the baptism promises my parents made for me. Family is important to me and confirmation is part of that.

I want to keep coming to church and help others.

Ava Huber

My current favorite Bible verse is Colossians 3: 12-14

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone, forgive as the lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

This verse reminds me of family and friendship. It is important to always be kind and to do our best to forgive others as God did for us. In my family and with friends it is important and a great reminder to be compassionate and gentle and to always try to have patience. I am grateful for good friends and family. They are a true gift from God.

I believe God is always there for us and is a constant guide when I feel like I may have lost my way. He is there and I can count on him. We

were taught the song at a very young age in Sunday school, "Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells us so". I believed that then and now.

I believe Jesus died for us, that he is a healer, a friend, and rose again to show us that he is still very present.

The Holy Spirit is everywhere also. It gives us gifts daily, such as a bird flying by when we need a reminder of goodness and life other than our own. The little nudges you may feel like we are alone and need something good to remind us, and it does.

The Bible to me is a book of stories to remind us since the beginning of time, people had joy and sorrow, friends and loves. I feel it is a guide on how to look at life, how to handle life and how to try and be a better person each day I am alive.

I feel the church is a place where all are welcomed. It is a place to hear about stories from the Bible, to sing songs, to pray and give thanks for all I have. I also like to give back to the church as a volunteer and support the good things that church does for others.

I believe I am a Christian because I believe in God. I believe I can learn from God and try to do things for God. It is a great reminder for me to be a Christian to always try and do the right thing.

Becoming confirmed is something I have been looking forward to for a while. My mom was confirmed at St Paul, and so was my brother. It is what the next step is for me. I can now take communion, vote on important church issues, volunteer, sing in the choir, and become more active in the church than before. I look forward to continuing my faith journey at St. Paul.

I plan to continue my journey in faith by always helping others, doing the kind thing, go to church, volunteer when I can and pray for not just my family and friends but for all God's creatures. Amen.

Gavin Petee

My favorite Bible verse is John 3:16—*For this is how God loved the world: he gave his one and only son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.* This is meaningful to me because God gave up his only son for our protection and sins. I can always remember that God is the protector and he is our Father in heaven.

God is our Father, our Lord and our Savior, our Holy Spirit and our protector.

Jesus is our Holy Spirit and died on the cross for our sins.

The Holy Spirit is our protector in life.

The Bible is God's way of speaking with us and it gives us some motivation.

The Church is God's house and a place to worship and praise.

I consider myself a Christian because I am a believer and follower of God and a believer in the Holy Spirit.

I want to be confirmed so I can help guide others and continue my beliefs in God.

I will continue my Christian journey by continuing to worship God.

Owen Rindler

My favorite Bible verse is Genesis 1:3-5 which reads "Then God said let there be light and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated light from darkness. God called the light day and the darkness night." This passage shows me that God is very powerful and that he created this Earth for us to live on. I believe that God created this Earth for us to live on and that he gave up his only son Jesus Christ for us. I also believe that God helps us through the tough times and that he will lead us down the right path. God is our savior and that he is patient with us. I believe that Jesus came to us to teach God's word and that he died on the cross for us and then rose again 3 days later, and that he is our teacher and healer. In the Bible story Jesus and the tax collector Jesus saw Zacchaeus the tax collector just as he saw everyone else. This shows me that Jesus saw everyone as equal even those looked down on. I believe that the Holy Spirit is always with us and is our inspiration when we need it. I believe that the Bible is the story of God and Jesus over time. The story of Jesus spreading God's word, Stories of God and Jesus performing miracles such as Jesus healing a blind man so that he could see, and the creation of the Earth. I believe that the Church is bigger than just a place to worship God. The church is a family. A Safe place. A place to worship God. A place to pray, and a community where we offer help to those in need. I consider myself a Christian because I believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose again 3 days later, I serve others, and I believe

in God and that he created the Earth for us. I want to be confirmed so I can become a member of the Church and continue my faith journey. I intend to continue my faith journey by going to church, continue to worship God, continue to read the Bible, and help those in need.

Jackson Suchland

My favorite Bible verse is Mark 10:27 which states, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God." To me this means that God can help you do anything that you want and he will help you get through the tough times. I believe that God is a friend to all and he loves everybody, no matter what. He is also our savior and would never let anybody down.

I believe that Jesus is a hero that died and was resurrected in order to save us from our sins. Jesus is a teacher in the ways of God. Jesus is also very welcoming and forgiving to everybody. He is a healer and believes that everyone is equal to each other.

To me, the Holy Spirit is guiding us through life and helping us through our struggles. It is everywhere at all times and will always be with you throughout your life. The Holy Spirit connects us to one another and helps us be friends with the people around us.

The Bible is the word of God over a long period of time and it tells us the things that he and Jesus did. Without the Bible, we would not know about our beginnings and the things that God has done for everyone. I also believe that anybody can read it and think of the stories in their own ways.

I believe that the church isn't just a building and that it is all of the people that worship God within the church. It is a home for people and anyone can come to worship with everyone else. It is a safe place for people to confess and talk about the things that are going on in their lives.

I consider myself to be a Christian because I believe in God and Jesus. I am also very kind to the people around me and am willing to do things that most people wouldn't. I also do the things that God would want me to do and what I know is the right thing to do.

I want to be confirmed because I want to fulfill the promises that my parents made at my baptism. I also want to help other people and take care of those in need with the help of God.

I want to continue my Christian journey by going to church and worshipping God. I also want to keep going to the Youth Group classes and follow Jesus' path.

Bryce Voress

My Bible verse is from Matthew chapter 19, verse 14: "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children". It is meaningful to me because it shows that God is welcoming all people to heaven. It helps me know God by showing me that he does not discriminate and is welcoming of all. This shows me how I want to live my life by being accepting of others no matter where they come from, what they wear, or what they look like.

I believe that God is always caring for you no matter what is going on in your life. He can be a friend that is always there for you even though you may not always see him. He always forgives your sins when you have not done right.

I believe that Jesus spread the words of Gods kingdom to all who would listen, even those who were hesitant to listen and did not want to follow God. I believe he died on the cross and rose from the dead in order to forgive all of our sins. He is a savior who makes us whole.

I believe that the Holy Spirit is always present around us. I believe that you breathe in the Holy Spirit every time you take a breath. Therefore, the Holy Spirit lives within all of us at all times.

I believe the Bible is the story of God for us to learn from. It teaches us how we were created and important lessons. You could look at it as a modern-day spiritual GPS. It shows us the path we should take throughout our lives.

I believe the church is a family where everyone is welcome, not judged, and truly there to help you out in every situation you may find yourself. It is also a place where we can come together for worship. But most importantly, it is a safe place for all of us. Safe from being judged. Safe from harm.

I consider myself to be a Christian because I believe in Jesus and God. I also try to serve others that need help.

I want to be confirmed to fulfill my parent's baptismal promise when I was a baby. I want to be confirmed to continue to help others in need while being a member of St. Paul's.

I will continue my Christian journey by continuing to attend worship services and volunteering to help others. I will worship God in all things I do and follow the path that Jesus has set out for me.

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Our confirmands presenting their faith statements. **Sacrament of Baptism:** Jameson Edward and Bennett James Langenkamp. Sons of Emily and Jake Langenkamp. Jameson's sponsors, Jackie and Jordan Christman. Bennett's sponsors, Ally Langenkamp and Wesley Langenkamp. Congratulations Jameson, Bennett and family.

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Ryan Birt (Lima Memorial), Annabelle Wenning, 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 for our fractured creation, 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 you are in the boat with us in the midst of difficult times. We give you thanks for this path of following you, even when you call us to crossover from one way of life to another.

We pray especially for all who are impacted most by dwindling resources. We pray that we will continue to learn and see and know how our actions affect others, not just ourselves. We give thanks for the wakeup calls that our young people the world over are sounding and we pray for the fortitude to move this journey forward alongside them. We give thanks for the courage of scientists and educators who help us wake up to this storm and to see that we have within our power to calm that storm, to restore the earth's wholeness. We ask for courage and encouragement to re-evaluate how we as a church can join this effort now and in 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: God's blessings rain down upon us like manna from heaven. Sometimes we recognize them as blessings, and sometimes we don't. But God's presence is with us in either case. Today we pause on this journey to remember the many times God has been with us along the way, and has provided for our needs. Then, through the ministry of this church, we join in the work of God in providing for the needs of the world. 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, the Fountain of all good: we bring to you our gifts this day. Enable us, with our earthly things, to give you the love of our hearts and the service of our lives. Let your favor, which is life and your lovingkindness, which is better than life, be upon us now and always. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

HYMN OF SENDING

Let All Things Now Living

Let All Things Now Living

C
E
F
C
E
F
Dm
Gm
Bb
Gm
Gm
Bb
C
Dm7
C
E

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
 2 His law he en - forc - es; the stars in their cours - es and

F
F
A
Bb
Bb
D
Bb
F
C
C7
F
C
E

God the Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise, who
 sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine; the

F
C
E
F
Dm
Gm
Bb
Gm
Gm
Bb
C
Dm7
C
E

fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
 hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

F
F
A
Bb
Bb
D
Bb
F
C
C7
F

guides us and leads to the end of our days. His
 deeps of the o - cean pro - claim him di - vine. We

$\frac{F}{A}$ F $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{C7}{E}$ F $\frac{C7}{G}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{C7}{G}$ F C

ban - ners are o'er us, his light goes be - fore us, a
 too should be voic - ing our love and re - joic - ing; with

F $C\#dim7$ Dm $\frac{C}{G}$ G C $\frac{C}{E}$

pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night, till
 glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise, till

F $\frac{C}{E}$ F Dm $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ Gm $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ C Dm7 $\frac{C}{E}$

shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
 all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: to

F $\frac{F}{A}$ Bb $\frac{Bb}{D}$ Bb $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 F

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
 God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!

BENEDICTION: Now go with confidence that we can face the storm with Jesus in the boat, recovering our depth of love for all and our joy of living in this world. May the words of Jesus ring in your ears, "Follow me!" And may the 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

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

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of George Voress Sr. by Judy, George and Karen, John and Gin Voress.

Attendance-Online-Daily Devotions Avg.-81, March 7-Sunday Worship Online-339, In Person-62, Sunday School Online-151, In Person 16, Teachers-6, Splash-1, Leaders-2, March 3-Confirmation-1, Leaders-2, Sr/Jr High Youth Group-2, 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=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 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.

Holy Week Worship Services

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.

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

Carrie Newcomer Online Concert: March 28 at 6:00 p.m.

A year from now, St. Paul Church will host musician Carrie Newcomer for a live concert. Throughout this past year in worship, we have incorporated Carrie's music.

If you would like a "front row seat" to one of her upcoming concerts, you are invited to log onto the link below to purchase a ticket:

https://boxoffice.mandolin.com/collections/carrie-newcomer/products/carrie-newcomer-3-28?utm_source=ef&utm_medium=aff&utm_campaign=55&oid=55&affid=369

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

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**, **August 22nd & 29th**, **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.

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.

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.

Calendar-Week of March 21, 2021

Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School-in person & via Facebook Live
	10:15am	Worship-in person w/Confirmation Faith Statements
	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	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

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 Saturday, 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 \$ _____