

April 6, 2021

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of the Risen Christ who calls us his friends.

Our three Easter worship services were Spirit-filled and joyous. We will continue to offer worship in-person and via Facebook Live in order to give you safe options for worshipping.

As a gentle reminder, we ask that if you plan to worship in the sanctuary, please remain masked for the duration of the service in order that we might keep each other safe. Thank you.

Pastor Becky will take three of her sabbatical weeks beginning Monday, April 12. With Pastor Dee taking medical leave, Abby Bushman has been hired part time as our Ministry Assistant—helping with Sunday School, youth groups and office projects.

If you have pastoral care needs during Becky's time off, please contact the church office.

While Pastor Becky takes time off, Daily Devotions will not take place. They will pick back up when she returns in early May.

St. Paul Church is hosting a Rummage Sale on April 15, 16 and 17. Donations for the Rummage Sale can be left near the stage on the main auditorium floor. All proceeds will go to the Project of the Year: The Blessing Pantry.

We received a donation for Community Garden dirt. If you have time and equipment to pick up the dirt, delivered and placed into the garden beds, please let us know.

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 Hanenkraft
Council VP



Becky Erb Strang
Senior Pastor

Financial Information as of April 6, 2021

Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00
Giving Income \$6,120.70 (weekly)
Endowment Transfers \$9,624.00(ytd)
Income \$85,136.43 (ytd)
Expenses \$90,490.35 (ytd)
Balance **(\$5,353.92)** (ytd)

Building Maint & Property Care

Beg. Balance \$73,644.37
Income \$4,821.00(ytd)
Endowment Income **(\$918.85)** (ytd)
Expenses \$2,987.13 (ytd)
Balance \$74,559.39 (ytd)

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$6,250.20
Income \$5,517.00(ytd)
Expenses \$4,110.29(ytd)
Balance \$7,656.91
BP Beg Balance \$7,881.15
Bless Pantry Inc. \$11,041.00(ytd)
Bless Pantry Ex. \$2,280.63(ytd)
BP Balance \$16,641.52

Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00
Income \$383.00(weekly)
Income \$7,566.00 (ytd)

Project of the Year

Income \$75.00(weekly)
Balance \$1,297.00(ytd)

APRIL 11, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY
OF EASTER



Seeing is believing, and believing is seeing.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 20:19-31	Come and see and believe
Monday	Acts 4:32-35	The sharing of goods
Tuesday	1 John 1:1–2:2	The word of life
Wednesday	Hebrews 11:1-40	The meaning of faith
Thursday	2 Corinthians 4:7-18	Living by faith
Friday	2 Corinthians 5:6-10	We walk by faith
Saturday	Psalms 133	The blessing of unity
Sunday	Luke 24:36b-48	Jesus appears to the disciples

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Jesus said to [Thomas], "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."
John 20:29 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Come Holy Spirit, give us the eyes of faith that we may believe and have life in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let this food to us be blessed. Let there be a goodly share on every table, everywhere. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Holy Spirit give you eyes to see and believe in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ.



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APRIL 11, 2021
HYMN OF THE WEEK
We Walk by Faith



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 need to see in order to believe it is real.
- What does the expression "seeing is believing" mean to you?
- Jesus wants us to see with the eyes of faith. How is this possible?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 20:19-31.

Thomas wants what the other disciples experienced: seeing the risen Lord. Seeing is a major theme in the Gospel of John. Jesus says to two disciples, "Come and see" (John 1:39). The woman at the well tells the townspeople to "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done" (John 4:29); the man born blind sees Jesus and says, "Lord, I believe" (John 9:38). Mary Magdalene sees the resurrected Jesus in the garden and tells the disciples, "I have seen the Lord" (John 20:18). Our reading for this week ends with sensitivity to those who will not see the resurrected Lord Jesus yet will come to believe. The Gospel of John wrote down enough signs from Jesus that people "may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God" and "have life in his name" (v. 31). Today's disciples, like the ones in the Gospel of John, believe because they see through the eyes of faith. We have the Holy Spirit that we may have a living relationship with Jesus through today's disciples, those who continue to tell the stories of the Scriptures that we may come "to see," to believe and have life in the name of Jesus. Who or what has helped you see with the eyes of faith?

Pray: **Risen Lord, we thank you for blessing us with a community of faith and the Scriptures that we may see that you are the Messiah, the Son of God. Amen.**

SERVICE

In Acts 4:32-35 the first Christians gave witness to their faith by how they lived and cared for one another so that there was no needy person in their midst. It is still important for Christians to care for the needs of others. How can you reach out to someone in need this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

John 20:19-31 tells us that Thomas found it hard to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. Jesus appeared to him and invited Thomas to touch him. God's love is not turned away by our questions and doubts. Complete this statement: Something I wonder about the Christian faith is _____. Then pray: **Lord Jesus, please come to me so that I may see you and believe. Amen.**



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








07-13-2015

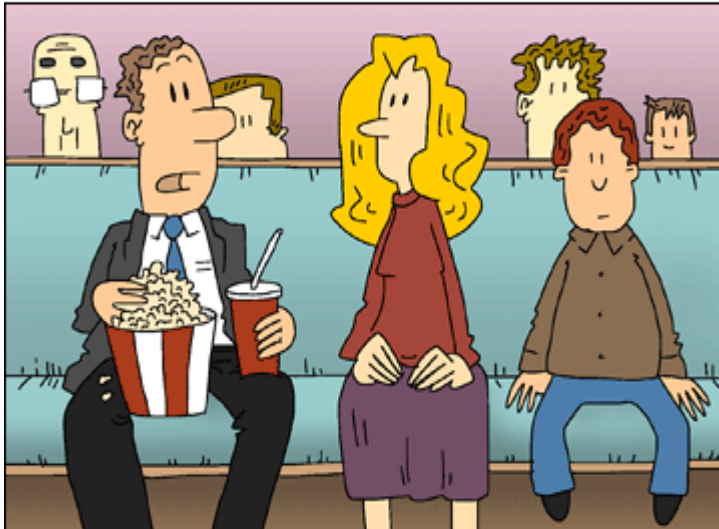
NICE WORK



07-20-2015

FIRST OFF, I'M HAPPY TO SEE THAT SO MANY OF YOU ARE ENJOYING THE NEW STREAMING OF OUR SERVICES ONLINE ...

<p>RFB <small>www</small></p> <p>Presents The Best of COFFEE WITH JESUS</p> <p>Big Weekend</p> 	 <p>Ready for the big weekend, Jesus?</p>	 <p>Always, Bunny. And you know your role, I trust?</p>	 <p>No worries there, Boss. I bring the basket - and you jump out of the casket.</p>	 <p>Tomb, Bunny.</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">© Radio Free Babylon</p>
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04-24-2015

WHAT?



05-05-2014

(See Genesis 37:3-36)

JOSEPH!!!

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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New Bremen, Ohio 45869

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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, Welcome, one and all, to this time of worship. We are blessed to have you with us today.

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.

April 11, 2021

Second Sunday of Easter

Holy Humor Sunday

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Cheyenne Olt

Dick Hudson

Kim Hemmelgarn

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Accompanist/Vocalist

Organist

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

MOMENT FOR MISSION: The Hills are Alive! Templed Hills

Nestled in the rolling landscape of central Ohio, Templed Hills offers a sacred space beloved by generations. A place for spiritual growth and fun! Stewarded by the churches of the Ohio Conference, Templed Hills is a place for people of all ages to be able to connect with God in nature. As our April Mission project, we would like you to prayerfully consider donating to "The Hills are Alive" campaign to give our current and future generations a special place to learn and grow with God!

Thanks, Mission Team

WELCOME SONG

No Matter

$\text{♩} = 120$

F Dm Gm7 C F F7

No mat-ter who, no mat-ter what no mat-ter where you are on the

B \flat G7 F Dm G7 Gm7 C7

jour-ney of life; you're wel-come, wel-come in this place. No mat-ter

F Dm Gm7 C F F7

who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the

B \flat G7 F Dm Gm7 C7 C F F

jour-ney of life: ac-cept-ed, wel-comed by God's grace. grace.

To verses Last time, Fine

CALL TO WORSHIP (Adapted from a longer call to worship written by Shari Miller Wagner (copyright © 2000 Shari Miller Wagner). Posted on the [Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference website](#).)

Leader: O praise to our God of laughter whose humor sends ripples through even the river of death, who turns a tiny mustard seed into a tree, who conceals the meaning of life in a loaf of bread.

People: Like a trickster, O God, you turn our world upside-down. What is truth to the world, you consider a folly. What we consider absurd, you hold up in the light of your love.

Leader: On Holy Humor Sunday, the popular routes lead us in circles. But dead ends have doors.

People: Let us laugh and dance and sing with resurrection joy!

HYMN OF PRAISE *Every Morning Is Easter Morning*
Every Morning Is Easter Morning

Words and Music by
Richard Kinsey Avery
and Donald Stuart Marsh

B \flat F 7 B \flat

Ev - 'ry morn - ing is Eas - ter morn - ing from now on!

5 Cm F 7 Last time to Coda Coda symbol

Ev - 'ry day's res - ur - rec - tion day, the past is o - ver and gone!

9 E \flat maj 7 Dm Cm 7 F 7

1. Good - bye guilt, good-bye fear, good rid-dance! Hel - lo Lord, hel - lo sun!
2. Dai - ly news is so bad it seems the Good News sel - dom gets heard.
3. Yes - ter - day I was bored and lone - ly; But to - day look and see!

13 B \flat Gm 7

I am one of the Eas - ter peo - ple!
Get it straight from the Eas - ter peo - ple!
I be - long to the Eas - ter peo - ple!

15 C^9 1, 2. F^7 3. F^7 D.C. al Coda

My new life has be - gun! me!
God's in charge! Spread the word!
Life's ex - cit - ing to

18 \oplus Coda Bb F^7 Bb F^7

Ev - 'ry morn - ing is Eas - ter morn-ing, ev - 'ry morn - ing is Eas - ter morn-ing,

22 Bb F^7

ev - 'ry morn - ing is Eas - ter morn - ing,

24 Cm F^7 Bb

from now on!

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Today is Holy Humor Sunday—the day we laugh at the absurdity of the resurrection. I love to laugh, but those closest to me will tell you I'm a lousy joke teller because I either forget the punchline or I don't GET the punchline. True story. But let me try some of these out on you:

George Burns: The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible.

An inexperienced preacher was to hold a graveside burial service at a pauper's cemetery for an indigent man with no family or friends. Not knowing where the cemetery was, she made several wrong turns and got lost. When she eventually arrived an hour late, the hearse was nowhere in sight, the backhoe was next to the open hold, and the workmen were sitting under a tree eating lunch.

The diligent young pastor went to the open grave and found the vault lid already in place. Feeling guilty because of her tardiness, she preached an impassioned and lengthy service, sending the deceased to heaven in style.

As she returned to her car, she overheard one of the workmen say to the other, "I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years and I ain't never seen anything like that."

Several children found a dead robin. Feeling that a proper burial should be performed, they secured a small box and some cotton batting, dug a hole in the back yard, and prepared to bury the bird. The minister's 5 year old son was chosen to say the prayer. And so with great dignity, he intoned, "Glory be to the Father and to the Son and into the hole he goes..."

After explaining the commandment to honor your mother and father, a Sunday School teacher asked her class if there was a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters. One girl, the oldest in her family, immediately answered, "Thou shalt not kill."

A pastor's wife was preparing pancakes for her young sons. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a Bible lesson. She said to her sons, "If Jesus was sitting here, he would say, *let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.*" The oldest turned to his younger brother and said, "You be Jesus."

Poet Wendell Berry once wrote: *Laugh. Laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful though you have considered all the facts.* This week I encourage you to laugh—not a malicious laughter, but laughter that welcomes others into the joke. Be joyful—even in the midst of these turbulent times. Celebrate and celebrate some more.

ANTHEM: *Celebration* (YouTube: Kool & the Gang *Celebration*)

Yahoo! This is your celebration

Yahoo! This is your celebration

Celebrate good times, come on (Let's celebrate)

Celebrate good times, come on (Let's celebrate)

There's a party goin' on right here

A celebration to last throughout the years

So bring your good times and your laughter too

We gonna celebrate your party with you

Come on now

Celebration

Let's all celebrate and have a good time

Celebration

We gonna celebrate and have a good time

It's time to come together

It's up to you, what's your pleasure?

Everyone around the world, come on

Yahoo!

It's a celebration

Yahoo!

Celebrate good times, come on

It's a celebration

Celebrate good times, come on

Let's celebrate

There's a party goin' on right here

A dedication to last throughout the years

So bring your good times and your laughter too

We gonna celebrate and party with you

Come on now

Celebration

Let's all celebrate and have a good time, yeah yeah

Celebration

We gonna celebrate and have a good time

It's time to come together

It's up to you, what's your pleasure

Everyone around the world, come on

Yahoo! It's a celebration

Yahoo! It's a celebration

Celebrate good times, come on

Let's celebrate, come on now

Celebrate good times, come on

Let's celebrate

We're gonna have a good time tonight

Let's celebrate, it's all right

We're gonna have a good time tonight

Let's celebrate, it's all right, baby

We're gonna have a good time tonight (Celebration)

Let's celebrate, it's all right

We're gonna have a good time tonight (Celebration)

Let's celebrate, it's all right

Yahoo!

Yahoo!

Celebrate good times, come on (Let's celebrate)

Celebrate good times, come on (It's a celebration)

Celebrate good times, come on (Let's celebrate)

(Come on and celebrate tonight) Celebrate good times, come on

(Baby everything's gonna be alright, let's celebrate)

Celebrate good times, come on

Celebrate good times, come on (Let's have a great time, celebrate)

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Joy in the resurrection of Jesus and the new life he gives to each of us.

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Ryan Birt, Annabelle Wenning, Peg Henschen, Drew Wray, Jan Dammeyer, Shannon Shupp and Pastor Dee Schroer.

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER
(Adapted from Edward Hays in *Pray All Ways: A Book for Daily Worship Using All Your Senses.*)

God of Fools, Lord of Clowns and Smiling Saints, we rejoice in this playful prayer that you are a God of laughter and of tears.

Blessed are you, for you have rooted within us the gifts of humor, lightheartedness, and mirth, with jokes and comedy, you cause our hearts to sing as laughter is made to flow out of us.

We are grateful that your Son, Jesus, who was this world's master of wit, each day invites us to be fools for your sake, to embrace the madness of your prophets, holy people, and saints.

We delight in holy madness which becomes the very medicine to heal the chaos of the cosmos since it calls each of us out of the humdrumness of daily life into joy, adventure, and, most of all, into freedom.

We, who are so easily tempted to barter our freedom for tiny speckles of honor and power, are filled with gratitude that your Son's very life has reminded us to value only love, the communion with other persons and with you, and to balance honor with humor.

With circus bands and organ grinders, with fools, clowns, court-jesters, and comics, with high-spirited angels and saints, we too join the fun and foolishness of life, so that your holy laughter may ring out to the edges of the universe. Still our busy hearts and minds, O God, that we might hear your laughter in this gift of silence. SILENCE

Blessed are you, Lord our God, who invites us to be holy fools. All of this we pray joyfully 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.

*I give you all the credit, God—
you got me out of that mess,
you didn't let my foes gloat.*

*²⁻³ God, my God, I yelled for help
and you put me together.*

*God, you pulled me out of the grave,
gave me another chance at life
when I was down-and-out.*

*⁴⁻⁵ All you saints! Sing your hearts out to God!
Thank him to his face!*

*He gets angry once in a while, but across
a lifetime there is only love.*

*The nights of crying your eyes out
give way to days of laughter.*

*⁶⁻⁷ When things were going great
I crowed, "I've got it made.*

*I'm God's favorite.
He made me king of the mountain."*

*Then you looked the other way
and I fell to pieces.*

*⁸⁻¹⁰ I called out to you, God;
I laid my case before you:*

*"Can you sell me for a profit when I'm dead?
auction me off at a cemetery yard sale?*

*When I'm 'dust to dust' my songs
and stories of you won't sell.*

*So listen! and be kind!
Help me out of this!"*

*¹¹⁻¹² You did it: you changed wild lament
into whirling dance;*

*You ripped off my black mourning band
and decked me with wildflowers.*

*I'm about to burst with song;
I can't keep quiet about you.*

God, my God,
I can't thank you enough.

ANTHEM (Special Music)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Luke 24:13-35 (The Message)

That same day two of them were walking to the village Emmaus, about seven miles out of Jerusalem. They were deep in conversation, going over all these things that had happened. In the middle of their talk and questions, Jesus came up and walked along with them. But they were not able to recognize who he was.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ He asked, "What's this you're discussing so intently as you walk along?" They just stood there, long-faced, like they had lost their best friend. Then one of them, his name was Cleopas, said, "Are you the only one in Jerusalem who hasn't heard what's happened during the last few days?"

¹⁹⁻²⁴ He said, "What has happened?" They said, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene. He was a man of God, a prophet, dynamic in work and word, blessed by both God and all the people. Then our high priests and leaders betrayed him, got him sentenced to death, and crucified him. And we had our hopes up that he was the One, the One about to deliver Israel. And it is now the third day since it happened. But now some of our women have completely confused us. Early this morning they were at the tomb and couldn't find his body. They came back with the story that they had seen a vision of angels who said he was alive. Some of our friends went off to the tomb to check and found it empty just as the women said, but they didn't see Jesus."

²⁵⁻²⁷ Then he said to them, "So thick-headed! So slow-hearted! Why can't you simply believe all that the prophets said? Don't you see that these things had to happen, that the Messiah had to suffer and only then enter into his glory?" Then he started at the beginning, with the Books of Moses, and went on through all the Prophets, pointing out everything in the Scriptures that referred to him.

²⁸⁻³¹ They came to the edge of the village where they were headed. He acted as if he were going on but they pressed him: "Stay and have supper with us. It's nearly evening; the day is done." So he went in with

them. And here is what happened: He sat down at the table with them. Taking the bread, he blessed and broke and gave it to them. At that moment, open-eyed, wide-eyed, they recognized him. And then he disappeared.

³² Back and forth they talked. “Didn’t we feel on fire as he conversed with us on the road, as he opened up the Scriptures for us?”

³³⁻³⁴ They didn’t waste a minute. They were up and on their way back to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and their friends gathered together, talking away: “It’s really happened! The Master has been raised up—Simon saw him!”

³⁵ Then the two went over everything that happened on the road and how they recognized him when he broke the bread.

RESPONSE

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

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

SERMON

Easter Laughter

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Catholic and Protestant congregations are celebrating this first Sunday after Easter as Holy Humor Sunday. In some of these congregations, the pastor dresses as a clown or jester and tells jokes and invites the congregation to share jokes. The custom is rooted in the musings of early church theologians such as Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa and John Chrysostom that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. It was called The Easter Laugh.

Truly, there is much to laugh about at Eastertime—yet we hardly take time to laugh at the absurdity of the resurrection: of life from death. On this weekend, we celebrate that God has had the last laugh over death.

So, in honor of Holy Humor Sunday, let me share with you some knock knock jokes.

Knock Knock (Who’s there?)

Rita (Rita Who)

Read a Bible if you want to hear the good news!

Knock Knock (Who's there?)

Luke (Luke Who?)

Look all around you at the smiles on your neighbor's faces

Knock Knock (Who's there?)

Gladys (Gladys Who?)

Glad it's Sunday, aren't you?

Knock Knock (Who's There?)

Oliver (Oliver Who?)

All of our joys come from the Lord.

Or how about this one: A woman invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to her six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I wouldn't know what to say," the little girl replied.

"Just say what you hear Mommy say," the mother said.

The little girl bowed her head and said: "Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

Paul Lintern, a Lutheran pastor, has re-written a whole host of Christmas carols for Holy Humor Weekend. One goes like this:

Hark the Herald Angel Said

Why seek Jesus with the dead?

He's not here, as you can see,

Gravecloths lie where he would be.

On your way now, tell the others,

Jesus will be with his brothers.

Sisters, too, he wants to see,

On the hills of Galilee.

Hark the Herald Angel said,

He is risen from the dead.

When we think about practical jokes, we tend to think about rubber chickens, whoopee cushions, and the like. In other words, we usually laugh at the expense of someone else. But that is not God's way. God,

on Holy Humor Sunday, reminds us that the last laugh is on us: that God surprises us beyond our wildest imaginations and lifts us up, rather than putting us down.

So here is another one:

A man was being tailgated by a stressed out woman on a busy street. Suddenly, the light turned yellow just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping at the crosswalk. The tailgating woman hit the roof, and the horn, screaming as she missed her chance to get through the intersection.

As she was still in mid-rant, she heard a tap on her window and looked up into the face of a police officer. He took her to the police station where she was placed in a holding cell.

After a couple of hours, the policeman opened the cell door and said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, flipping off the guy in front of you, and swearing a blue streak at him. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do?' bumper sticker, the 'Follow Me to Sunday School' bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the trunk. Naturally, I assumed you had stolen the car!"

So what does Holy Humor Sunday mean for us?

It means we need to live like Easter People. We need to celebrate Christ's resurrection not only last Sunday, but every day of our lives. And we celebrate Easter by sharing Christ's love with others.

Ann Weems is a poet and theologian who has written a wonderful piece called, "Come to the Easter Party":

I think on Easter morning we should throw confetti in church!

No?

What about a little fanfare?

A deafening drum roll?

A three minute standing ovation?

What? Have we had the drums beaten out of us?

That we in the celebrative community can't really

Get excited about God's aliveness?

About God's love given to us unconditionally?

*Have we given Easter to the lily bearers, the bunny rabbits and
the patent leather shoes?*

Let's face it: We live as though we don't believe in Easter.

*We're the crowd—
Easily swayed, Easily scared, Easily calling for blood.
We're the good church people
Who can't believe Jesus meant love one another—
Not all the one anothers:
Not drug addicts and criminals.
We hate injustice when it's injustice toward us;
We love mercy when it's mercy for us;
We walk humbly with our God when it's convenient.*

*We're Baby Believers who resist the resurrection;
We're Christmas Christians who are very good at
Celebrating Christ's birth.
We can cling to the Baby.
We're even Crucifixion Christians,
Agonizing, sympathizing,
Relating to the Hero of the Cross.
We can rock a Baby;
We can weep for a Dead Man;
But what can we do with a 33 year old who won't let the story
end?*

*Easter scares us
Because we're the people who can't believe
That God gives us abundant Life;
We think we have to earn it.
In our pull-yourselfes-up-by-your-own-bootstraps society
It's hard to remember that God doesn't buy the self-made man.
So we in the church spend our lives showing God
What good people we are,
What achievers we are,
How much we deserve God's love.
We want to pay our own way,
But Easter says it's already been paid!
Easter says, no matter how prodigal,
We can go home again!
So come to the Easter party!*

*Let's celebrate that Amazing Grace
That in Christ's resurrection
We are still loved even at our most outrageous.
The Lord has given us the music;
All we need to do is dance it!
Come to the Easter party!*

That, my dear friends, is the prank, the joke, the gift God has given to us as Easter: we are invited to the party when we don't deserve it. Christ has been raised to new life through no effort of our own. We are filled with the Holy Spirit for service NOT to prove we are good Christians, but that we might scatter joy in this community and beyond.

Let the laughter begin. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING SENTENCES: Knock, Knock (Who's There?) Philip (Philip Who) Philip the offering plate by donating online or sending in your gifts and tithes to the ongoing ministries of St. Paul Church.

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)

Receive these gifts, O God, offered in gratitude for all the gifts of life and for your love, and use them to serve the cause of your mission in this world. May these offerings point to Jesus' way of lovingly serving all in need. Bless us as we give, and bless your world with a renewed awareness that you hold us all in your loving hands. Amen.

HYMN OF SENDING

This Is the Day

This Is the Day

652

Unison

E_b *F₂* *F_m*

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the

F₂ *F_m* *B_b7* *F_m7* *B_b7*
C *D*

Lord has made; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be

E_b2 *E_b* *A_b6* *E_b* *D_b* *E_b7* *A_b* *B_b9*
B_b *F* *G*

glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the

E_b *G7* *C_m* *A_b* *B_b9* *E_b* *E_b* *B_b7sus* *B_b7*
D *B_b*

Lord has made; we will re-joice and be glad in it.

E_b *C_m* *G_m* *A_bmaj7* *B_b7* *E_b* *A_b* *E_b*
B_b *E_b*

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

BENEDICTION(from <http://www.ucc.org/50/pdfs/worship-resources.pdf>):
May the God of surprises bring smiles and joys to the everyday and ordinary. May the God of love be seen in all we do and say. Go forth rejoicing, for the good work has just begun! Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Pass the Love*

Pass the Love

♩=95

F Gm7 F Gm7 F/A F/Bb Gm9 C7

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

F Gm7 F Gm7 F/A F/Bb Gm9 G7 C

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

Fmaj7 Dm F/G F/C

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

Am7 Dm7 Gm7 F/C C7 F

Bless the Ho - ly Name. Praise our__ God.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of Rodney R. Miller by Bev Plattner, Pam and Jacob Miller and Cara and Daryl Mabry.

Attendance-Online-Daily Devotions Avg.-79, March 28-Sunday Worship Online-511, In Person-192, Sunday School Online-112, In Person 11, Teachers-5, Splash-2, Leaders-3, March 31-Sr/Jr High Youth Group-5, Leaders-3.

Daily Devotions-Are paused until Monday, May 3 at 11:30.

Sundays in April-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.

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 two dates available **August 22nd & 29th**. Please sign up for the date(s) you would like or call the church office Monday-Friday to sign up. Thank you.

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

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

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, Paper Towels, Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap, Razors, Shaving Cream, Deodorant, Hand Soap, Cleaning Supplies, Toilet Paper, Baby Wipes, Storage Bags, Garbage Bags and Dry Pet Food. Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

Calendar-Week of April 11, 2021

Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School-in person & via Facebook Live
	10:15am	Worship-in person & via Facebook Live
	5:00pm	Splash-in person
Monday	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop Hours
Tuesday	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	7:00pm	Church Council
Wednesday	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Thursday	9:00am-5:00pm	Rummage Sale
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Friday	9:00am-5:00pm	Rummage Sale
	Afternoon	Office Closed
Saturday	9:00am-1:00pm	Rummage Sale

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)

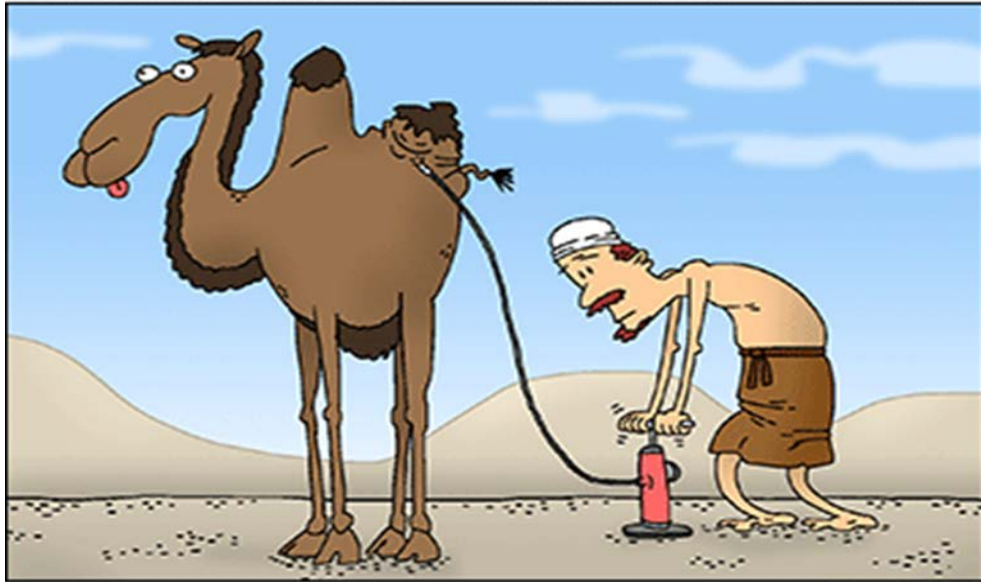
How To Give by Text (Example - my amount for the example is \$25 (minimum amount is \$5.00))

- 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)

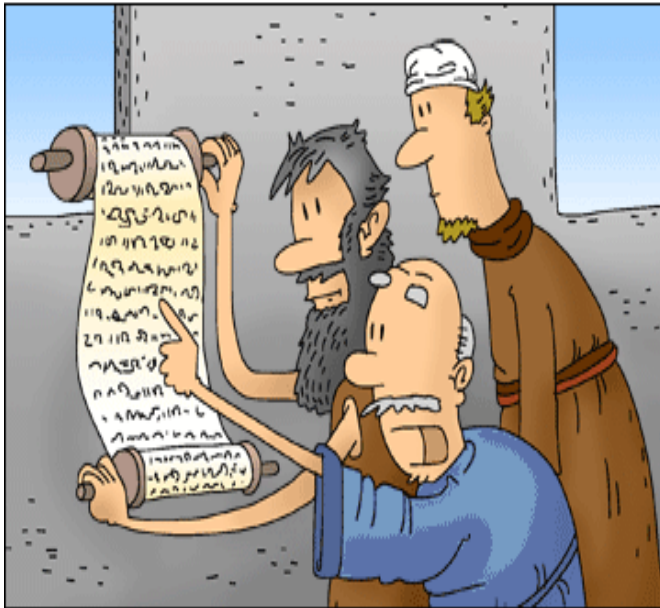
Once a text amount is sent:

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.

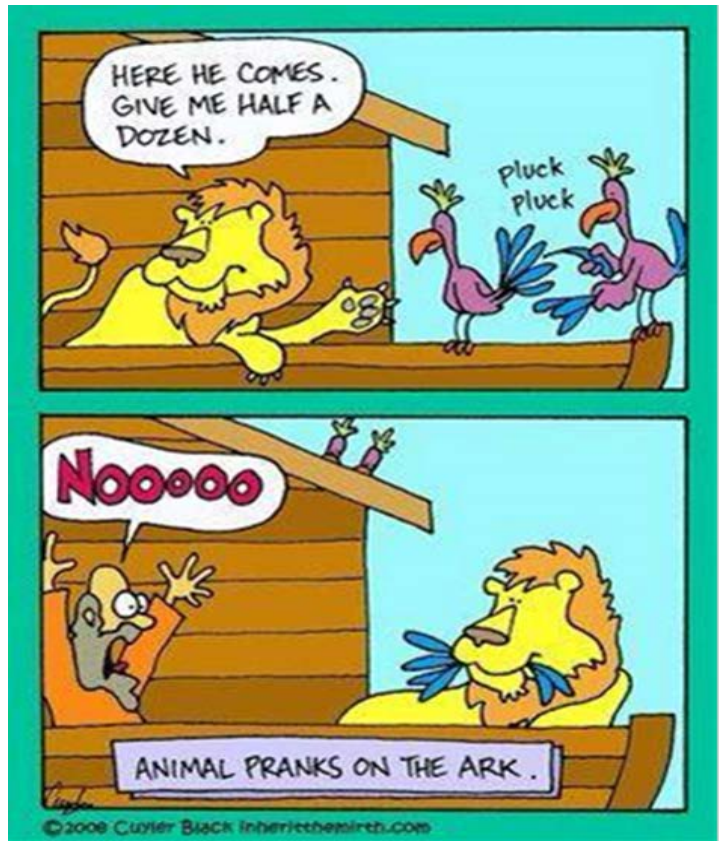


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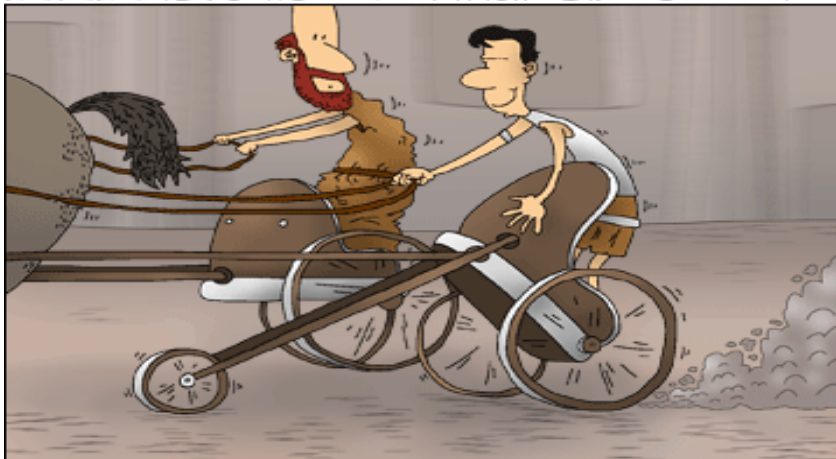


08-07-2015

CAN YOU SCROLL BACK UP?



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11-04-2013