

April 25, 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.

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 is in her last week of sabbatical, she will be back in the office Monday, May 3. Pastor Dee is on medical leave. Abby Bushman is serving as our Ministry Assistant; she is helping with Sunday School as well as assisting Barb in the office.

If you have pastoral care needs during Becky's time off, please contact the church office 419-629-2502.

Daily Devotions will return May 3.

The St. Paul Church Rummage Sale final count is in. \$1640.00 was raised for Project of the Year: The Blessing Pantry. Thank you to those who helped set up, tear down and man the sale, we couldn't have done it without you!!!!

We received a donation for Community Garden dirt. If you have time and equipment to pick up the dirt, deliver and place 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 Hanenkratt  
Council VP

## Financial Information as of April 25, 2021

### Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00  
Giving Income \$11,316.69 (weekly)  
Endowment Transfers \$10,124.00(ytd)  
Income \$111,066.30 (ytd)  
Expenses \$101,839.51 (ytd)  
Balance \$9,226.79 (ytd)

### Building Maint & Property Care

Beg. Balance \$73,644.37  
Income \$6,033.00(ytd)  
Endowment Income \$1,556.01(ytd)  
Expenses \$3,397.29 (ytd)  
Balance \$77,836.09 (ytd)

### Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$6,250.20  
Income \$5,762.00 (ytd)  
Expenses \$5,438.21 (ytd)  
Balance \$6,573.99

BP Beg Balance \$7,881.15

Bless Pantry Inc. \$11,341.00(ytd)

Bless Pantry Ex. \$2,815.59(ytd)

BP Balance \$16,406.56

### Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00

Income \$11.00(weekly)

Income \$9,290.00 (ytd)

### Project of the Year

Income \$1640.00(weekly)

Balance \$3,011.00(ytd)

**Women's Service Group**-will be meeting on Thursday, May 13th at 1 pm in the Assembly Room. We will be packing school bags for Church World Service and then will plan our new schedule for the coming year 2021-2022. Will also share our COVID stories. Bring your ideas for service projects and future meetings. All women are invited to attend. Hope to see you there. Bev Plattner

MAY 2, 2021  
FIFTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER



*Perfect love casts out fear.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

|           |                    |                                 |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sunday    | John 15:1-8        | Jesus the true vine             |
| Monday    | Acts 8:26-40       | Phillip and the eunuch          |
| Tuesday   | 1 John 4:7-21      | God is love                     |
| Wednesday | Isaiah 41:8-10     | The Lord's chosen servant       |
| Thursday  | 1 Peter 5:6-11     | Tending the flock of God        |
| Friday    | Deuteronomy 31:6-8 | Joshua becomes Moses' successor |
| Saturday  | Psalms 22:25-31    | A vow of thanksgiving           |
| Sunday    | John 15:9-17       | Love one another                |

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.*

**1 John 4:18 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

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

God of love, free us from fear so that we may love others as you have loved us through Christ Jesus. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for this gift of food. Help us to show care for others and remember that we love because you first loved us through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. (1 John 4:19)

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

May God who loves you dearly, free you from your fears so that you may love others.



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MAY 2, 2021  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Where True Charity and  
Love Abide*



### 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 a time you were afraid.
- How is fear and feeling judged closely related?
- How does God's love for you free you from fear so that you can love others?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* 1 John 4:7-21.

It is so tempting to protect and defend one's own life by judging others. Christ's model of life and love is to defend the cause, the needs of others, not oneself or one's own group. The love of God in Christ is sacrificial, it gives itself for others. The God of love casts out fear so that we can truly see others and care for them, knowing that we have already been cared for and loved by God. This love is totally freeing, without fear, without anxiety. The God of the day of judgment has already judged us with love. This is love perfected and the love we are now free to bestow on others—all others. Love is our way to see and experience God in the world. Hating others and loving God does not go together. Where in your life and in the world do you see that this great love needs to be known and experienced?

*Pray:* **Loving God, help us to see with the eyes of faith and love that we may witness to your power and glory through our risen Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Jesus' model for us is to care for others, especially the helpless. There are many who are in need of food, clothing, housing, and medical supplies. Can you think of ways you can help those in need?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In John 15:5, Jesus says, *"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."* It is by being joined to Jesus, the true vine, that we bear the fruit of Jesus. Draw a vine and branches. Add leaves and fruit to the end of each branch. In what ways do you show God's love and kindness to others? Write those ways on the fruit. Look at your drawing this week and pray that you will produce fruit and show God's love to others.



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)



## **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, Welcome! Your presence increases our joy as we praise our loving Savior. May every blessing be yours.

**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.

**May 2, 2021**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Holy Communion**

### **Worship Leaders**

Ministers

Rev. Jeanette Tangeman

Myra Hanenkratt

Cheyenne Olt

Dick Hudson

Kirk Dicke

The Congregation

Guest Preacher

Council Vice President

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: UCC Disaster Ministries

The UCC disaster Team is currently supporting long term recovery efforts from winter storms that impacted states from Texas to the Carolinas. In Kentucky, there were 264 destroyed and 741 damaged homes. Many homes were also damaged in Georgia and Mississippi. All this damage has happened in the last several months due to late winter storms. Replacement of burst pipes, restoration of church food pantries and making homes safe again is being met by UCC Disaster Ministries response. Filling clean-up buckets and personal care kits are still a very important way of helping in disaster clean-up efforts. The clean-up bucket/supply list has undergone changes. Now, a five-gallon bucket with a resealable lid is used. More supplies are placed in the bucket making the price to fill, a bit more expensive. St Paul can fill the buckets with the funds that we collect or Church World Service will be happy to receive donations to purchase the contents. If sending your donation through St. Paul, please make check out to St. Paul (this way your giving account is credited) and designate bucket supplies. Please consider donating to this cause. Personal care kits are still the same as in the past. You will find the clean-up bucket list and personal care kit list in the back of the bulletin. Your donations to our May Mission will be appreciated by all who are affected by these disasters. Thank you, the Mission Team

# WELCOME SONG

## No Matter

$\text{♩} = 120$

No mat-ter who, no mat-ter what no mat-ter where you are on the  
jour-ney of life; you're wel-come, wel-come in this place. No mat-ter  
who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the  
jour-ney of life: ac-cept-ed, wel-comed by God's grace. grace.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come children of God, to sing a new song, clap your hands and shout for joy.

**People: Jesus is our good news, our joy, and our salvation.**

Leader: In steadfast love and faithfulness God has done marvelous things.

**People: God raised Jesus from the dead; Christ is alive and at work among us.**

Leader: The ends of the earth turn to God; all families of nations worship our Creator.

**People: Christ is the vine; we are the branches. Apart from Christ we can do nothing.**

GATHERING

## 647 We Have Come to Join in Worship

G D G  $\frac{G}{D}$  D7 G

1 We have come to join in wor - ship and a - dore the Lord our God.  
 2 See them gath - er all a - round you, those he bought at such a cost;  
 3 Let us love our God su - preme - ly; let us love each oth - er, too.

G D G  $\frac{G}{D}$  D7 G

Let us come in prayer, ex - pect - ing God to speak his might - y Word.  
 see the wea - ry, see the hurt - ing, see the lone - ly, see the lost.  
 Let us care for all his peo - ple till our God makes all things new.

G D G D

All is vain un - less the Spir - it of the Ho - ly One comes down.  
 Be his hand, and touch the need - y; be his gos - pel, let it sound!  
 Christ will call us home to heav - en; at his ban - quet we'll sit down;

G D G  $\frac{G}{D}$  D7 G

Chris - tians, pray, and ho - ly man - na will be show - ered all a - round.  
 Be his bod - y, and sweet man - na will be show - ered all a - round.  
 Christ him - self will rise and serve us liv - ing man - na all a - round.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Let us confess our sin against God and each other.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**We confess, God, that we are accustomed to having our own way. Our abundance has tricked us into believing that we are independent, self-sustaining creatures. Yet, when our ingenuity solves one problem, a dozen more seem to take its place. We need help to understand, to be reconnected, to be truly productive. We need your love and forgiveness in order to live with ourselves, and with one another. Help us, God! Amen**

## SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: God takes away branches that bear no fruit and prunes others that they may flourish. We are grafted into the true vine for the nourishment we need. Abide in Christ and receive the spoken word that cleanses and empowers. Ask anything, as Christ's disciples, and it will be done, for God's love is perfected in us. Amen

## GLORIA PATRI

*Glory Be to the Father*

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.***

## PRAYER HYMN

*O Lord Hear My Prayer*

verse 1



## O Lord, Hear My Prayer

484

N.C. Em Em D Am C D G/B C Am6 B

1 O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call an - swer me.  
2 The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.

Em Em D Am C D Em G Am B Em

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer, come and lis - ten to me.  
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

WORDS: Taizé Community, 1982; para. Psalm 102

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

Words and Music © 1982 Les Presses de Taizé (Admin. GIA Publications)

## 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 Ethel Mesloh, James Nelson, Ryan Birt, Annabelle Wenning, Peg Henschen, Drew Wray, Jan Dammeyer, Shannon Shupp and Pastor Dee Schroer.

## PASTORAL PRAYER, PERSONAL PRAYER, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Amazing God, whose voice we hear in unexpected places, among persons who seem unlikely witnesses we come together to renew our commitment and sing your praise. Thank you for your love poured out in Jesus Christ. Thank you for teaching us to love each other and grant us patience when that sometimes seems nearly impossible. Help us to take time and make the effort to see and hear what our neighbors' needs and feelings are, what situations might be making them difficult to love. Thank you for those who have loved us when we were difficult to love as well. So many need your comfort, your healing touch, your hand to guide, your

arms to hold. Be with them and may they feel your presence during times of darkness. In gratitude we remember that you are also present sharing in our particular joys as we celebrate. We pray today for our church and for the churches of the world that all our hands and hearts may reach out in love, that all remember that living the Gospel means beyond church walls and is shown in everyday actions in addition to words. Bless those who are bringing your love in faraway places where our hands and feet cannot go. We pray for strength and endurance for all those who continue to care for the many still suffering in the pandemic. We pray that one day soon the numbers will plummet even more and the things we have missed we can once again enjoy without fear. These and so many other prayers we pray in the name of Jesus the Risen Christ who taught us to pray together...**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.**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: John 15:1-8

(NRSV)

*15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup> He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Vivace from Sonata in F Major*

Telemann

Tim Olt tuba, Cheyenne Olt piano

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 John 4:7-21

(NRSV)

*<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.*

*<sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup> So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.*

*God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup> Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup> The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.*

RESPONSE

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

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

SERMON

*Abiding in Love*

Rev. Jeanette Tangeman

The past several years there has been a very interesting happening at the residence at the end of our road. Now I live in the country outside of Wapakoneta—when anyone asks me I always say in the middle of a cornfield, sometimes soybeans. I was raised and spent my first 50 years of life in the city of Toledo so you can imagine that this is quite a different

scene for me, but I have come to love it. Even having learned a whole lot about country living and farming since being here for 24 years now, I never cease to be amazed at what surrounds me. At that time, I was amazed to see the beginnings of a vineyard at the end of our road. I do know this is not grape or wine country usually. I am used to vineyards along Lake Erie in particular and an occasional grape vine or two in backyards for grapes to eat or make into jelly. But I am talking about rows and rows of grapevines. During that time, as my husband and I watched the first growth and harvest we became more and more curious. This went on for a couple of years until one day our neighbor, whom we knew only by name, was out mowing and our curiosity got the best of us, so we stopped and asked him about his vineyard.

Well, you have never seen a man's face light up with so much excitement and love as he told us about his 3 acres of grapes, gave us a tour and had us taste the 4 types of grapes he tends and grows and harvests. What a lesson we learned that day about the hard, persistent work, weather, birds and animals who love the grapes too, and so many details about tending a vineyard to grow great tasting grapes. His grapes did go to a local winery and now he also makes his own wine. In the past couple of years, he has added a wonderful outdoor and indoor area for tasting and enjoying the wine and wine slushies. It has become quite the popular spot in our corner of the countryside and people gather as we have been able. Every year through the seasons I watch with fascination and now also have a better understanding as the vines grow and bring forth the beautiful fruit.

Noting the number of times, often daily, that I see our neighbor carefully tending and pruning and guarding his vineyard and watching each year as what looks like dead leftover vines blossom with lush leaves and grapes, makes me able to understand why Jesus chose the vine and the branches to teach his disciples and ultimately all of us about love. You know how often Jesus used something so familiar to people to get his point across and the Bible is full of references to vineyards. It always helps most of us if we have some knowledge of the images.

Whether you have seen a vineyard in person or maybe just a vining house or yard plant it is obvious that the vines all come from one main stem and then intertwine until there is no one branch that occupies a

higher or lower status, none that have any really different appearance from another. It is easy to see that all the branches must be nourished by the main stem. And if the vines are not carefully pruned and protected from weeds and animals and birds, then there will be no fruit. Sounds like a sermon to me.

In the scripture from the Gospel of John today are verses which follow the ones in Chapter 14 where Jesus tells the disciples to rise and get on their way and then gives a long farewell speech full of instructions for them. It is a call to get moving, to put them and us in motion through works that will bear witness to God's love and to our love for one another. And then today's scripture elaborates on that.

Sometimes we use a word so much and in so many different ways that the impact of it is lost. The word love gets tossed around pretty freely these days from loving a new possession or even a favorite food (think chocolate!!). We love beautiful, warm spring days, great movies, good books, etc. You get the picture. Of course a deeper love is the kind we have for parents, spouses, children, grandchildren. But today we are going to think about God's love for us and the way we then respond to that love by loving one another, a love known as agape love.

Apparently the writer of 1 John thought it was quite important for his readers to understand this meaning of love, devoting 15 verses to it. Scholars feel this scripture is one of the most eloquent statements about love in all Johanne texts, maybe the entire New Testament. The Lectionary, the three-year Scripture Assignments for Sundays, pairs these two readings today for a good reason. One is to remind us of the true meaning of God's love, over and over and in many different ways, and the other to tell us in images we can understand just how to abide in that love and bear fruit by loving one another. Abiding in love literally means to abide in God because God is love.

If you do not take anything else away from my sermon today, I want you to remember this: God loved us first before we could even respond and God loves us even if we don't respond. God's love does not depend upon our love for God, because God is love. Love is not known in the first place by the way we love God, but by God's having loved us first. God's love for us is the source of our power to love God and love one another, so it has to come first. No one has seen God but this love is not

abstract, it has a face, a face we know...it looks like Jesus. God's love for the world is revealed in the life of Jesus, the heart of the Gospel. And we who proclaim we belong to Jesus need to be a sacrament of God's love for others by being for one another what Jesus is for us, one who loves, heals, and nourishes. As a leader at Back Bay Mission once said, when we are doing that we are bringing the Gospel right off the pages into our corners of the world.

So what if we take the image of the vine and branches and think about what the church would look like if we were the branches—not just this church, although I mean to include it, but all of the churches in our neighborhood, in our country, in all the countries where churches proclaim that God is love. For if we proclaim that we are abiding in love then what happens in our churches should be the same no matter the location, because love becomes authentic when it is acted out in the world in concrete ways with others. And we are reminded in Scripture that if we cannot love those whom we can see, how can we love God whom we cannot see?

Jesus said, "I am the vine and you are the branches." So again, thinking of the way the branches intertwine, we in the churches are all connected to the main stem and also to each other. I am reminded of a room at the Tiffin office of the Northwest Ohio Association of the UCC. All around the top border is a grapevine and each of the churches (including St. Paul) which make up the Northwest Ohio Association is one of the branches. And all together, beautiful grapes are painted representing the fruits of all the churches. What a visual to show that none of us is acting alone, we are all connected to each other and together bearing fruit.

Just like the branches of a vine, none of us, whether ordained or lay, large or small, young or old, have a higher or lower presence in the church. We often say we are a congregation of ministers, or that the congregation are all missionaries. When I was at Buckland UCC our Confirmands made signs that were placed on the inside over the doors so that as people went out from worship they read, "you are now entering the mission field." And the signs were also in the parking lot. A reminder that the work of spreading the Gospel is not limited to any one person or

place and that none of us are more or less important than another in doing so. It is the responsibility of every one of us.

There is no major difference in the appearance of the branches. For the church that means that no gift or talent that one brings is better than another. It is the way the church loves that is the mark of community. Just as all the branches are needed to produce the fruit on a grapevine, all the gifts and talents of the people in the churches are needed to produce the fruit that is love. Some time ago at St. Paul's St. Marys, where I now belong, we had been talking about the stewardship of generosity and we had been asked to fill out a paper indicating some of the different ways individual talents could be used in the church. There were no numbers indicating which things were more important. Every one of them was an act of love for others. And if you did not find something that matched what you could do you could write it in. It takes all of us giving our time and talents in love to continue the love in action that is an integral part of any church.

Bearing fruit for the church means acting out in love. Having love according to Jesus doesn't mean knowing what love is intellectually. Having love means allowing love to make its way from our minds to our hearts and finally to our bodies so that we act on it for the sake of others. It is hard to "love thy neighbor" if you are equating it with love of family, for instance. Love is not just an emotion or an attitude. The kind of love Jesus talks about is opening our eyes and hearts to really see and feel the joys and pain of others, to do the best we can with the resources we have. If we love others because of God's love we do not claim credit for it nor only love those that are lovable.

We know love is a risky business sometimes. Just think of Martin Luther King Jr, Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, Oscar Romero, for instance. Maybe it feels like a risk to our possessions, or involves betrayal, or need for a change in our ambitions or expectations. It is not always easy whether thy neighbor is close or around the world. We are inclined to fear and pain in relationship to others rather than compassion and connectedness, especially those we do not know well, or who live differently from us. If love is genuine we will often encounter barriers, conflict and resistance. So what do we do about this? How can we follow that commandment to love thy neighbor?

First of all, when we experience anger or fear or unhappiness as we try to love more as God loves us, we can use it as an opportunity to grow in grace. And you will not have to do this alone. On your own you can become cut off from your life source. Call upon the Holy Spirit to help you grow in love and grace. It is a growing process, not a race. It will be a rollercoaster at times. Meditate on what it is that is making you feel anger or fear. What is the deeper hurt within you that perhaps is coming out in these emotions? Maybe you have some unhealed memories or you have been hurt by love. Remember that love comes from God, that the nourishment of the branches comes from the main stem and so the more you abide in God, the more you will be able to act in love toward one another. God continues to create and sustain in us a capacity to love. God's persistent presence, not fear of judgment to come, is experienced in the lives of those who entrust themselves to Christ and who activate that trust in love for one another. Perfect love casts out all fear.

When the church acts in love as a community, we are acting corporately, an act rooted in Jesus' love for community. Fruitfulness does not occur automatically just because a congregation calls themselves a church. It takes participation of the disciples that make up the church, it takes prayer, grace, forgiveness of others and of ourselves as well. When abiding is two sided—disciples in Christ and Christ in them, then love will grow. According to writer Lindsay Armstrong "We branches will be cared for by the vine. The vine grower knows just how to develop us, exactly when to prune, when to wait, when to harvest."

We have a source for all the grace and strength we need by abiding in love and acting in love. The result is fruit that blesses the world. Mother Teresa once said that when the time comes for God to judge us, God will not ask how many great things have you done in your life rather God will ask how much love did you put into what you did? How will you answer on that day?

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

**OFFERING INVITATION:** Beloved, let us love one another because God has first loved us and given us Jesus. In joyous gratitude we accept the privilege of making a generous response. May God bless and multiply our gifts and increase in us the joy of sharing.



## 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)

**We give to tell the world your good news in Christ. As you have loved us, we give ourselves in love for all your people. May we glorify you through our discipleship. Amen**

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### INVITATION

Come to the table.

You are welcome if you are waiting.

You are welcome if you are buried.

You are welcome if you are hidden.

You are welcome if nothing's happening.

You are welcome if you are growing.

You are welcome if you are flourishing.

All are welcome at God's table, especially those who know they are poor, weak and broken.

God is good, the One who makes the seed grow.

### COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: May the Lord of Easter be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

Leader: Open your hearts to God, beloved of the Lord.

**People: We lift them to the One who fills our lives with joy and wonder.**

Leader: Children of Easter, sing praises to God.

**People: Our voices unite in thanksgiving to the One who walks with us in this life.**

Leader: You opened your hands, pouring creation's glory into the emptiness of chaos, God of beginnings. The sun, moon, and stars became the mirrors of the light of your face, shining down upon all that was crafted. Shaping us in your divine image, you stood beside us, pointing out all the good you offer to us. But we found comfort in sin's

shadows, fear and doubt claiming us as friends, and we turned our backs on you. Through our ancestors in the faith, Sarah and Samuel, Hannah and Hosea, you demonstrated your faithfulness, your longing to welcome us into your embracing arms of love. But we did not recognize them, and clung to the vain words spoken to us by temptation. So, you sent your child to us, to show us what love truly is, that we might have this hope offered to us in Jesus. So, with little children who delight in your joy, and with older folks who trust in your promises, with our sisters and brothers throughout all time, we join our voices in praising your name:

**People: Holy, holy, holy, God of grace and beauty. All creation joins in singing your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes so we may be like him. Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: Blessed are you, Holy and Righteous God, and blessed is Jesus Christ, Author of Life. In the Word become flesh, you call us to repent and turn to you. In the Light of the world, our eyes are opened so we can see you standing with us. In scarred hands and feet, we see the power of sin and death destroyed by your grace and hope, so we can reach out and embrace that life which is ours forever with you. As we gather around the table to remember, as we give thanks for the life which was given for us, we speak of what we do not always understand – the mystery of faith.

**People: Christ walked to Calvary to die for us. Christ strode from the tomb to raise us to life. Christ will come and stand among us, to lead us home.**

Leader: In this moment, and in this place, pour out your Spirit upon us, and on the gifts of the bread and cup which have been prepared for us. As we take the bread from your scarred hands, may we reach out to mend the broken of our world. As we drink from the cup, open our hearts and eyes, so we may see those the world overlooks, so we may stand with them in every moment and place. And when our journey has ended, when at last all is revealed to us, we will take our places around the wedding banquet in heaven, joining our sisters and brothers in singing our thanks and joy to you, God in Community, Holy in One, now and forevermore. Amen.

# SHARING THE MEAL

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

We thank you God for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

## HYMN OF SENDING

## Pass it On

WITNESS & MISSION

557

## Pass It On

1 It on - ly takes a spark to get a fire go - ing,  
2 What a won-drous time is spring when all the trees are bud - ding,  
3 I wish for you, my friend, this hap - pi - ness that I've found—

and soon all those a - round can warm up in its glow - ing;  
the birds be - gin to sing, the flow - ers start their bloom - ing;  
on God you can de - pend, it mat - ters not where you're bound;

that's how it is with God's love, once you've ex - per - i - enced it:  
that's how it is with God's love, once you've ex - per - i - enced it:  
I'll shout it from the moun-tain top, I want my world to know:

you spread God's love to ev - ery - one, you want to pass it on.  
you want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.  
the Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

BENEDICTION: Walk in the light as God's own children, united in love for one another. Be guided by God's word that you may bear fruit. Pray for God's guidance that you may love in word and deed. The Spirit of God send you on your way rejoicing. Shalom

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 honor of Edith Wissman's 93 Birthday by Cindy & Jerry Newman and Chris & Bill Poepelman & Family. HAPPY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY EDITH!!!!

**Happy! Happy Birthday!!!!** Loree Nedderman will be celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 8<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to wish her a Happy Birthday, please send her a card. Her address is available in the church office.

**Attendance**-April 18-Sunday Worship Online-472, In Person-53, Sunday School Online-93, In Person 9, Teachers-4.

**Elmwood Worship Service**-Tuesday, May 4 at 2:00pm. If you would like to assist Rev. Becky, please arrive at Elmwood at 1:30pm. All are welcome.

**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.

**Sundays in May-Sunday School** will be in person and via Facebook Live at 9:00am. (Last Day May 16) **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](http://stpaulnb.org). Just click the yellow **BULLETINS** box in the upper right hand corner.

**2021 Altar Flower Chart** has two dates available **August 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>**. Please sign up for the date(s) you would like or call the church office Monday-Friday to sign up. Thank you.

**May/June 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, Diapers (newborn-6), 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 May 2, 2021**

|           |               |   |
|-----------|---------------|---|
| Sunday    | 9:00am        | Sunday School-in person & via Facebook Live |
|           | 10:15am       | Worship-in person & via Facebook Live       |
| Monday    | 11:30am       | Devotions via Facebook Live                 |
|           | 2:00pm-4:00pm | Coffee Shop Hours                           |
| Tuesday   | 11:30am       | Devotions via Facebook Live                 |
|           | 2:00pm        | Elmwood Worship                             |
|           | 5:30pm-7:30pm | Blessing Pantry Open                        |
| Wednesday | 11:30am       | Devotions via Facebook Live                 |
|           | 1:00pm-3:00pm | Blessing Pantry Open                        |
| Thursday  | 11:30am       | Devotions via Facebook Live                 |
|           | 1:00pm-3:00pm | Blessing Pantry Open                        |
| Friday    | Afternoon     | Office Closed                               |

## **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.

## **Church World Service-Hygiene Kit**

Supplies needed:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 15”x 28” to 16”x 32”  
(no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb removed from the package
- One finger nail or toe nail clipper removed from the package
- One bath size bar of soap in the wrapper
- One toothbrush in the package
- Ten standard size Band-aids

All items need to fit inside a one-gallon plastic zipper closure bag. Remove the excess air from the bag and seal before boxing. Do not add any extra items or toothpaste. A tube of extended expiration date toothpaste will be added to each Hygiene Kit just prior to its journey.

Value: \$15

Processing fee: \$2 per Kit

# Church World Service-Emergency Cleanup Buckets

Supplies needed:

- One five-gallon bucket with resealable lid (If bucket has been used, clean well but do not use if it has held chemicals of any kind.)
- Four scouring pads
- Seven sponges, including one large
- One scrub brush
- Eighteen reusable cleaning towels (e.g. Handi Wipes or Easy Wipes)
- One 50 oz. or two 25 oz. bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-28 oz. bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap
- One 12-16 oz. bottle of household cleaner that can be mixed with water
- (no spray bottles)
- One package of 48-50 clothespins
- Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- Five dust masks
- Two pairs heavy-duty, waterproof dishwashing gloves (latex-free, non-surgical)
- One pair work gloves, cotton with leather palm or all leather
- 24-28 heavy duty or contractor type 30-45 gallon trash bags on a roll and removed from carton
- One 6-9 oz. bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent

All cleaning items must be new— all liquid items must be capped and securely tightened. Place all items into the bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment. Snap the lid on tight and seal with packing tape.

Value: \$75

Processing fee: \$3 per Kit





# Summer FULL OF LIFE

## **Blood Drive** **American Legion**

Hall  
6458 State Route 66  
New Bremen

**Monday, May 24**  
**12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: amlegnb to schedule an appointment.



Scan to be directed to  
RapidPass®



Scan to schedule  
an appointment.

**Share the vibe. Give blood to help save lives.**

Download the Blood Donor App | [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) | Call 1-800-RED CROSS