

June 1, 2021

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ: our Savior and Friend.

This past Sunday in worship, we celebrated Trinity Sunday. As Christians, we affirm that God comes to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Masking in worship is now a personal choice. We affirm both the masked and unmasked folk as we gather to worship God through the Risen Christ.

Even with Covid19 restrictions lifted, we will continue to livestream worship and send the weekly worship mailing.

This coming Sunday, we partake in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We will also dedicate our St. Paul Community Playground to God. Following worship, the Discipleship Team will host a reception in the Playground.

As a reminder, our sanctuary is fully air conditioned as the weather warms up.

On Wednesday, June 9, children and parents of all ages are invited at 10:00 a.m. for activities in our Playground. We invite participants to bring a sack lunch/snacks, water bottles, tennis shoes or sandals. All are welcome.

At May's Church Council meeting, we voted to work with a local construction company to replace the steeple roof. Council agreed on a metal roof for the steeple and the cost is estimated to be between \$52,000-\$60,000. While this is NOT our Project of the Year, we will begin raising funds.

We are also hoping to purchase and spread mulch in our landscaping beds. While we have not taken any bids for this, we are estimating the cost will be between \$700 and \$1000. If you would like to donate toward the purchase of mulch, please mark your financial donation "mulch."

Included in this mailer is a giving envelope. Your ongoing financial support of St. Paul Church keeps the many ministries and missions going strong.

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



Rev. Becky Erb Strang
Senior Pastor

Financial Information as of June 1, 2021

Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00
Giving Income \$2,556.00(weekly)
Endowment Transfers \$11,455.00(ytd)
Income \$132,426.66(ytd)
Expenses \$133,581.99 (ytd)
Balance **(\$1,155.33)**(ytd)

Building Maint & Property Care

Beg. Balance \$73,644.37
Income \$7,387.00(ytd)
Endowment Income \$2,477.46(ytd)
Expenses \$8,295.36 (ytd)
Balance \$75,213.47 (ytd)

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$6,250.20
Income \$6,850.00 (ytd)
Expenses \$6,480.70 (ytd)
Balance \$6,619.50
BP Beg Balance \$7,881.15
Bless Pantry Inc. \$12,866.00(ytd)
Bless Pantry Ex. \$3,688.45(ytd)
BP Balance \$17,058.70

Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00
Income \$44.00(weekly)
Income \$11,583.00 (ytd)

Project of the Year

Income \$0.00(weekly)
Balance \$3,135.00(ytd)

JUNE 6, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Be careful of judging others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 3:20-35	Doing the work of God
Monday	Genesis 3:8-15	Adam and Eve hide from God
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1	Living by faith
Wednesday	Matthew 4:1-11	The temptation of Jesus
Thursday	Genesis 3:1-7	Adam and Eve eat forbidden fruit
Friday	John 8:39-59	Distinguishing truth from evil
Saturday	Psalms 130	Prayer of lament and hope
Sunday	Mark 4:26-34	Parables of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And looking at those who sat around [Jesus], he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." Mark 3:34-35 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to see your healing and saving work in our daily lives through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for feeding us with this food and for nurturing us with hope in your saving work through Christ Jesus. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you to know you are brothers and sisters of Christ Jesus.



© 2020 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

JUNE 6, 2021
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Out of the Depths



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:

- When people disagree and are unkind to each other, how can they resolve the dispute?
- What is something you would describe as evil?
- The scribes described Jesus' healing others as the work of evil. How would you describe Jesus' healing of others?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 3:20-35.

In the opening chapters of Mark, Jesus has already cast out demons and healed lepers and others with physical ailments, but scribes said he did this work on behalf of demons. To this accusation, Jesus states in the strongest terms possible that such a position is wrong. It is one thing not to see God's liberating work at play in the world. It is another to dare to call it the work of evil. The good news is that Jesus' work of healing (same word for salvation in the Greek language) is real and is meant to bless and save lives. In our age of divided loyalties and accusations, Jesus' words are a good warning to us not to judge others too harshly. Even though you may not see it, they may be doing the work of God to free lives and reconcile relationships. It is a sobering thought for sobering times. When have you felt that someone was acting in a way opposed to God's work in the world? Explain.

Pray: **God of power and might, in Christ's name help us to recognize your healing work in the world and be part of reconciling relationships. Amen.**

SERVICE

A life of service begins with an attitude of humility and repentance. Psalm 130:1-2 states, "Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication." We are asking God to hear our cry for help and our cry for forgiveness. God hears our prayers. Pray either alone or with others as you ask for God to hear your prayer of repentance so that you can be a loving servant.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Summer activities will begin soon. Talk about your plans and the changes in schedules. Conclude your discussion time with this prayer: **Dear God, thank you for school, work, friends, and family. As we begin our summer activities, keep us safe, renew us in body and spirit, and help us to show kindness to others. Amen.**



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
COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND
come play with us!

MEMORY OF
CINDY DICKE

St. Paul United Church of Christ

119 North Franklin Street

New Bremen, Ohio 45869

Phone (419-629-2502), Fax (419-629-3207)

Email stpaulnb@nktelco.net or stpaulnb@gmail.com

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! Blessing and greetings to one and all. In the name of Christ, you are welcome today and every day.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the Church-Following the CDC guidelines on May 14, 2021, you no longer need to wear a mask during worship. We do ask, however, that you maintain social distancing. We are aware that some of you will want to continue wearing a mask in worship. We affirm both the masked and unmasked folk as we gather to worship God through the Risen Christ.

June 6, 2021

Second Sunday After Pentecost Worship Leaders

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Lauren Miller

Dick Hudson

Cheyenne Olt

Mike Tontrup

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

SALT

Organist

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

MOMENT FOR MISSION: Strengthen the Church

Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. The Heartland Conference and the National setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations.

Your generosity to Strengthen the Church (STC) provides the funds that allow the Heartland Conference to provide Seminary Scholarships for those who are seeking authorization for ministry in the United Church of Christ.

In the National Setting, funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. Thank you, the Mission Team.

PLAYGROUND DEDICATION

Leader: Today we gather to dedicate to God the St. Paul Community Playground in memory of Cynthia Louise Pape Dicke. The new play space has been constructed for the children of St. Paul Church and the wider community. It has been built to the glory of God.

People: Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to those like them belongs the kingdom of heaven."

Leader: Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for this church which calls us together in the name of Christ Jesus to worship and serve you.

People: We celebrate the good news that through Christ Jesus you have given us new life. We celebrate today the gift of the St. Paul Community Playground given in memory of Cindy Dicke.

Leader: We offer thanksgiving and praise to you, O God, for those leaders who cast a vision for this play space for our children.

People: We thank you, O God.

Leader: We offer thanksgiving and praise to you, O God, for those whose generous gifts made this play space possible for the wider community.

People: We thank you, O God.

Leader: We offer thanksgiving and praise to you, O God, for the life of Cindy Dicke whose love of children lives on in her children, grandchildren and wider community.

People: We thank you, O God.

Leader: We offer thanksgiving and praise to you, O God, for the many volunteers whose tireless work have made this vision a reality.

People: We thank you, O God.

Leader: Bless this playground, O God. Let your love rest upon it. May your promised presence experienced through joy, laughter and praise remain with us for all of our days.

People: We commit into your care, O God, the children who will find joy and laughter in this playground. We lift these children up to you as they grow in their love for you and their love for all creation.

Leader: We consecrate this playground and the children who play today and who will play for years to come.

People: Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, and honor be to you, our God. Amen!

WELCOME SONG

No Matter

J=120

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 120. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: "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." The chord symbols are: F, Dm, Gm7, C, F, F7, Bb, G7, F, Dm, G7, Gm7, C7, F, Dm, Gm7, C7, C, F, F. The score ends with a double bar line and the instruction "To verses" and "Last time, Fine".

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

(from The Worship Sourcebook; Faith Alive Christian Resources; 2013)

Leader: God, our Creator, from nothing you made our world.

People: You formed us, love us, and give us all that we need.

Leader: God, our Redeemer, you rescued us from sin.

People: You have given us new life and the hope of healing to the world.

Leader: God, our Comforter, you are with us always.

People: You comfort us, renew us, and guide us into your truth.

Leader: Almighty God, for your gracious love for us, we praise you.

People: We worship you with thanksgiving! Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

O Worship the King

Verses 1 & 4

O Worship the King

2

1 O wor-ship the King, all glo - rious a - bove, O grate - ful - ly
2 O tell of his might, O sing of his grace, whose robe is the
3 Thy boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite? It breathes in the
4 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail, in thee do we

sing his power and his love; our Shield and De - fend - er, the
light, whose can - o - py space. His char - iots of wrath the deep
air, it shines in the light; it streams from the hills, it de -
trust, nor find thee to fail; thy mer - cies how ten - der, how

An - cient of Days, pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.
thun - der clouds form, and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.
scends to the plain, and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
firm to the end, our Mak - er, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er and Friend.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: God has come to us in Christ, but often we live as if that makes no difference. Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed: by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS.

Leader: God set you apart before you were born. In God's grace there is a place for you. Leave your past behind. It is forgiven. Embrace the new future Christ offers. Live and share the faith, now vital and alive to you!

People: Amen!

HALLELUJAH!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht Hal - le -

lu - jaht Hal - le - lu - jaht

Chord markings: C, Am7, D7, D, G, Em

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Today our New Testament lesson from the Gospel of Luke tells the story of an unnamed woman (at least unnamed in Luke's gospel) anointing Jesus' feet with nard—an oil/perfume used in ancient times to show honor and reverence.

Today's scripture tells us that nard (from the spikenard plant) was very expensive. Why? Because it was imported to the Holy Land from the Himalayan Mountains of China, Nepal and India. The oil of nard was expressed from the roots of the plant.

After Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension to heaven, the early church used anointing oil as part of the Sacrament of Baptism. Typically, new Christians were baptized at dawn on Easter Sunday. Baptism took place by immersion—all the way into the water—symbolic of dying to the old life/rising in Christ. Upon coming out of the water, these brand new Christians were given honey on their lips (having now entered the Promised Land/Land of Milk and Honey). They were also anointed with oil—a reminder that their baptism signified their entry into the priesthood of believers: anointed/ordained for service to others.

While we no longer keep these traditions of honey on the lips, baptism by immersion, and anointing for Christian service, today, following worship, I will offer to you anointing. I have a bottle of nard with me. If you would like to be anointed with anointing oil either on your head or back of your hand, find me near the narthex and I will anoint you for service to Jesus Christ, our Savior and Friend. Amen.

"I anoint you with oil in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: St Paul Community Playground!!!!

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Pam Simon, John Gilberg, James Nelson, Drew Wray, Jan Dammeyer, Shannon Shupp and Pastor Dee Schroer.

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of the earth and of all other worlds that are or ever will be, by your Spirit assist us this day to worship gladly! Help us to be familiar with you but never assuming, to relish your love but never take it for granted, to be in awe of you yet not be afraid, to worship you yet realize we have only touched the edges of your majesty.

God, we pretend much more than is good for us. We disguise aspects of our real selves from public scrutiny. We hide ugly things from our friends and dearest loved ones. We even deceive ourselves. Those among us who pride ourselves on being up-front and frank, still have dark aspects of character which are hidden.

But not here in your presence, God. With gratitude we say: "Thank God we don't have to hide from you."

You know us thoroughly. With a 100% accuracy you read our thoughts and our feelings. You discern our strength and our weakness, our anxiety and our hunger, our goodness and our evil. You can distinguish between our healthy pride in ourselves and sick arrogance, between honest intentions and our excuses, true repentance and our empty apologies.

Wise and loving God, it is a relief to bow before you. It is so good to be able to let go and let you take over. To allow your saving grace to work quiet miracles within us: the miracles of your judgment and mercy, the miracles of your cleansing and your healing, the miracle of your new life, the promise of a new start and the rebirth of honesty and truth.

In this season, this ordinary season, make our lives extra-ordinary, O God, that we might, in turn, share your love with others. Open us to the wonder of your word that we might share your good news with others. Nourish us with your grace that we might feed those who are hungry in this community and beyond.

Today we pray for healing in our world. SILENCE

We pray for healing in our nation. SILENCE

We pray for healing in our community. SILENCE

Holy One, hear us now as we lift up to you our prayers. SILENCE

Loving God: we thank you! We thank you for hearing our prayers and for answering us in surprising and life-filled ways. All of this we pray with the prayer your son taught us praying...

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Josie Bornhorst

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Psalm 100

(NRSV)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

² *Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.*

³ *Know that the Lord is God.*

*It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

⁴ *Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.*

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

⁵ *For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Luke 7:36-8:3

(NRSV)

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went to into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." "A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he cancelled the debts for both of them. Now which of them

will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Soon afterwards he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.

RESPONSE

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

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

SERMON

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Because women's stories in the Bible have been overlooked for centuries, I'm particularly fond of the ones that made it into our canon. And today's reading from the Gospel of Luke is a favorite.

Clearly, the story of a woman who anointed Jesus with expensive, extravagant ointment was cherished by the early church. In all four gospels there is a story of a woman who, at a dinner party, comes and anoints Jesus' feet with a jar of expensive ointment. You might want to look at all four stories to compare them. When you do, you'll see that the woman is portrayed differently: by name and by whether she is shamed or honored. In each case somebody protests the use of such a valuable substance for anointing Jesus. In each story, Jesus' credentials as a

prophet or as a socially-minded person are called into question. And in each telling of this story, Jesus defends the action of the woman.

As we've come to expect from the four gospel portraits of Jesus, each is a little different, and one is very different. Usually when we say that, we expect the "very different one" to be John, but with this story John hangs with the majority. In this case, it is Luke who takes this story in a different direction.

Luke is the only one who doesn't put this well-remembered story immediately before Jesus' passion. He doesn't put it so close to Jesus' death that we make the connection between the anointing and the preparation for burial. In his portrait of Jesus, Luke paints with a color of his own creation. He creates a new color by taking this story of anointing, placing it in the house of a Pharisee, mixing it with a parable and other teachings, to give us a startling image of forgiveness projected directly from the heart of God.

All accounts of this story agree that the ointment the woman used to anoint Jesus wasn't just expensive: it was extravagant. It was so pricey that those who witnessed the act of anointing were shocked, so shocked they remembered it well and kept it in the memory of the church. It is the extravagance of the story that draws us in and makes us pay attention.

Luke makes the connection between this extravagantly unexpected action in Simon's house to something that's extravagantly unexpected about God. For Jews at the time like Simon, God had been taught as one who cannot endure sinners but saves only those like Simon who uphold the laws of God in all their purity. But, Jesus teaches a different lesson. He says that the depth of gratitude is proportional to a person's need for forgiveness. The math is so simple, even Simon cannot disagree.

Luke connects grace and gratitude together as Jesus reveals himself to be the one who has God's authority to forgive sins and as the one who shares God's generous intention to heal life and restore broken relationships. For a creditor to forgive a debt simply out of grace is indeed extravagant.

So I wonder: is this forgiveness too extravagant to be doable for we wobbly Christians? Let's face it, as Christians, we lean more toward Simon's interpretation of scripture, toward his understanding of what God

is like. Judgement rather than forgiveness simply seems more practical in the real world.

I guess that's the tough challenge for us whenever we smell that extravagant ointment in the air. Are the core values of the Christian life--grace, love, mercy, forgiveness--really possible in our world? Or are they simply things that we hope God will bring about one day? Or is this just wishful thinking?

I ask you today: Have you witnessed extravagant love given by ordinary people like the woman who anointed Jesus' feet? Maybe. Maybe not.

Just because things are unbelievable or seem impossible, doesn't mean they aren't both real and possible. This is Jesus' message--with God all things are possible. Jesus shows us what grace and forgiveness look like, what it can be like. The tough sell is that extravagance never seems practical and it seldom seems like good stewardship. It's hard not to side with the protestors in the story--this ointment could have been sold and the money given to the poor.

Truly, there's a thin line between extravagance and wastefulness. As Christian disciples, we are still shocked to realize that we have been claimed and called by a God who is unapologetically extravagant. This is God's way and we glimpse it in other Biblical passages like the story of the Prodigal Son and Christ's giving of his whole self on the cross.

God's dream is that this extravagance will be the anchor of your life too. As Christians we are called to give ALL—rather than what we might deem as “enough.” As Christians, we are called to set aside our prejudices and judgmental ways in order to extravagantly love, extravagantly give. We are called to transform the world, one alabaster jar at a time.

Let us pray. O God who makes all things possible: we confess that we love to sing about your amazing grace but often doubt that it can be real for us. We often treat stories of forgiveness as if they are fairy tales. Make us as extravagant and generous toward our neighbors as you are toward us. Help us to celebrate with joy rather than nervously counting the cost. Thank you for all the ways you anoint us with the oil of gladness this day and forevermore. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: As God's dear children, then, take him as your pattern, and follow Christ by loving as he loved you, and giving himself up for us as an offering and sacrifice to God.

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)

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us—Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION (adapted from Emerge: Blessings and Rituals for Unsheltering. United Church of Christ. 2020)

INVITATION: Beloved in Jesus Christ, the Holy Communion we are about to celebrate is a feast of remembrance and of hope. We come in remembrance that our Lord Jesus Christ was sent of the Father into the world to assume our humanity and to fulfill for us all obedience to divine law, even to the bitter and shameful death of the cross. By Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, he established a new and eternal covenant of grace and reconciliation, that we might be accepted by God and never forsaken by him. We come to this table to have communion with this same Christ, who has promised to be with us always, even to the end of the world. In the breaking of the bread he makes himself known to us as the true heavenly bread that strengthens us unto life eternal. In the cup of blessings, he comes to us as the vine, in whom we must abide to bear good fruit. We come to this table in hope, believing that this bread and this cup are a foretaste of the feast of love of which we shall partake when his kingdom has fully come. Let us pray.

COMMUNION PRAYER (unison)

Leader: God of life and all creatures, from the first day to this day you have showered us with gifts of mercy and grace. From the first

day to this day you have sent us signs and wonders, prophets and dreamers to call us to yourself and offer us your grace:

People: healing for our brokenness, release from our pain, calm for mental stress, peace for soul-grief and regret, pardon to remedy our sin, and justice to make life whole and glad.

Leader: Thanks and praise to you for all your gifts, and most of all for Jesus, our wounded risen brother and friend who abides with us here in mystery, as he abided that last night among his friends.

People: From his safe and holy hands you give us this, our daily bread, his body surrendered for us. From his safe and holy hands, we also now receive this brimming cup, this life poured out for us.

Leader: We remember him now, as he told us to do, whenever we break his bread and drink his cup at our tables.

People: As we take him to ourselves, we remember before you the enemies we do not love, and all who suffer in this world, the frail and falling sparrows on whom your eye is fixed.

Leader: By the grace and power of the Holy Spirit. Let all who share this bread and cup be one in Christ, no matter where we are, near or far, together or apart: one in heart and purpose, one in love and service, one in fearless witness to new heavens and new earth: that joyous kingdom to come where, by your promise, there will be no more tears, no more death, but only joy, only life, only justice, only you.

People: All praise and thanks to you, God of all life, now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader: The Body of Christ, broken for you.

Leader: The Cup of the Covenant, poured out for you.

SHARING BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west and north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we

may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.

HYMN OF SENDING

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

HOLY COMMUNION

698 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

C G C F Dm7 G Dm Fmaj7 G $\frac{Dm}{F}$

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a

$\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{Dm}{F}$ $\frac{Am7}{E}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{G7}{D}$ C F $\frac{Am}{D}$ Gsus G

shout of joy: bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured,
 set the tone, teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless,
 world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share:

Dm7 $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{Dm7}{F}$ Dm7 $\frac{C}{G}$ G7 C *Refrain* Am $\frac{C7}{G}$

Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 love in word and in deed ex - press. Je - sus lives a - gain,
 God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!

F Dm G $\frac{F}{G}$ $\frac{Em}{G}$ G7 C $\frac{Dm7}{F}$ C

earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

BENEDICTION: May the blessing of God, our life, the friendship of Christ, our healer, and the daring of the Holy Spirit, our truth, be ours today and every day to come. Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Pass the Love*
Pass the Love

$\text{♩} = 95$ 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

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us turn to each other, joyfully sharing the peace of Christ!

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of Edgar, Vilma, Edward E. and Mamie Rump by Bev Plattner.

Playground Dedication-to continue this glorious celebration, please join us in the St Paul Community Playground following worship for cookies and drinks.

Attendance-Daily Devotions-69, May 23-Sunday Worship Online-410, In Person-74.

Daily Devotions-Please join Rev Becky and Lauren Miller 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 June-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.

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. 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- Toothpaste, Hand Soap, Diapers (size3, 4, 6), Baby Wipes, Training Pants (size 3T-6T), Laundry Detergent, Dryer sheets, Shampoo, Hair Conditioner, Shaving Cream, Cotton Balls, Feminine Hygiene Products, Cleaning Supplies, Pet Food (Dry & Wet), Paper Plates, Toilet Paper, Razors, and Garbage Bags. Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

Calendar-Week of June 6, 2021

Sunday	10:15am	Worship-in person & via Facebook Live w/Holy Communion
	11:15am	St. Paul Park Dedication Reception
Monday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop Hours New Bremen Coffee Shop
Tuesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	7:00pm	Church Council
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

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:

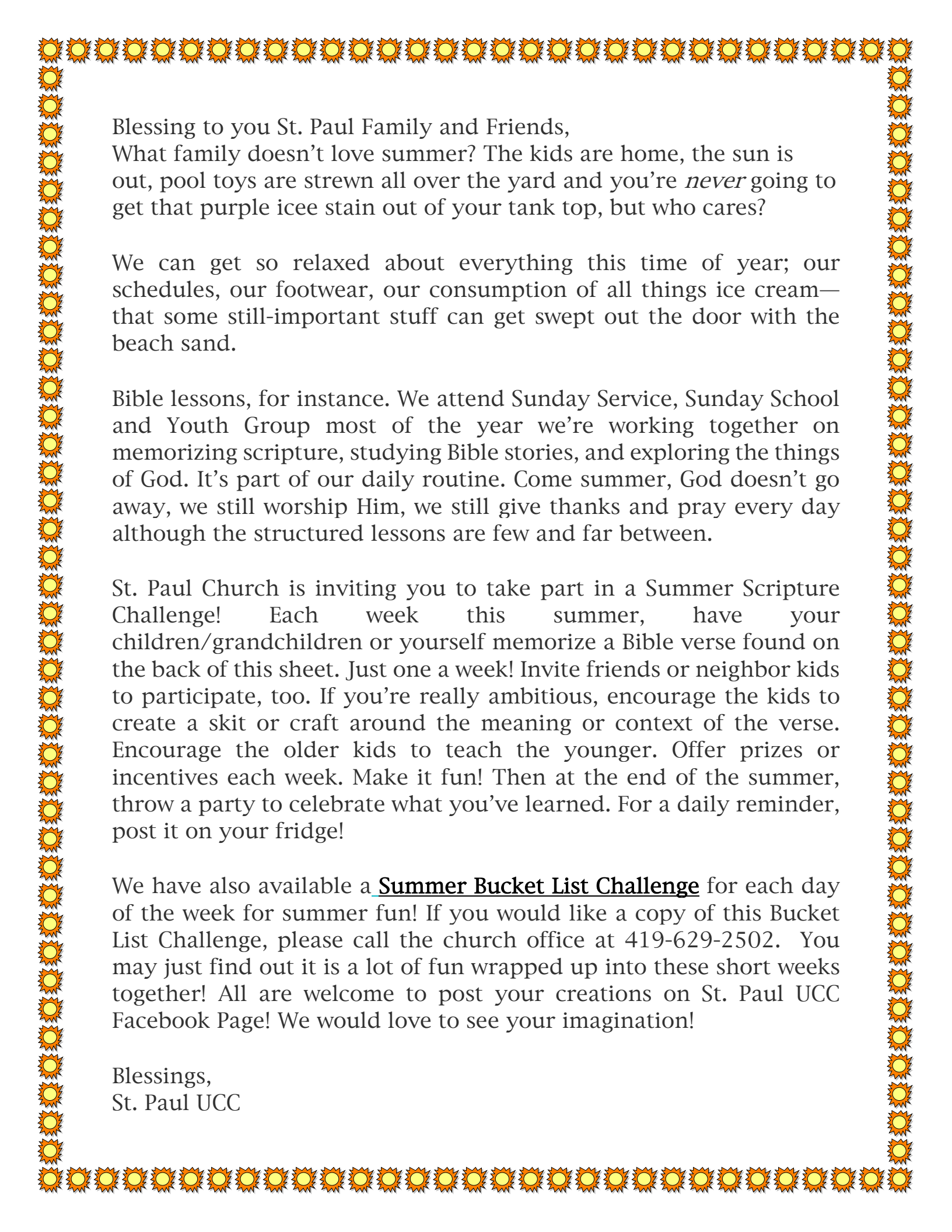
Registration Link- Sent via text the first time a donation is made.

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.





Blessing to you St. Paul Family and Friends,
What family doesn't love summer? The kids are home, the sun is out, pool toys are strewn all over the yard and you're *never* going to get that purple iced stain out of your tank top, but who cares?

We can get so relaxed about everything this time of year; our schedules, our footwear, our consumption of all things ice cream—that some still-important stuff can get swept out the door with the beach sand.

Bible lessons, for instance. We attend Sunday Service, Sunday School and Youth Group most of the year we're working together on memorizing scripture, studying Bible stories, and exploring the things of God. It's part of our daily routine. Come summer, God doesn't go away, we still worship Him, we still give thanks and pray every day although the structured lessons are few and far between.

St. Paul Church is inviting you to take part in a Summer Scripture Challenge! Each week this summer, have your children/grandchildren or yourself memorize a Bible verse found on the back of this sheet. Just one a week! Invite friends or neighbor kids to participate, too. If you're really ambitious, encourage the kids to create a skit or craft around the meaning or context of the verse. Encourage the older kids to teach the younger. Offer prizes or incentives each week. Make it fun! Then at the end of the summer, throw a party to celebrate what you've learned. For a daily reminder, post it on your fridge!

We have also available a **Summer Bucket List Challenge** for each day of the week for summer fun! If you would like a copy of this Bucket List Challenge, please call the church office at 419-629-2502. You may just find out it is a lot of fun wrapped up into these short weeks together! All are welcome to post your creations on St. Paul UCC Facebook Page! We would love to see your imagination!

Blessings,
St. Paul UCC

Week 1. June 6-12

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Week 2. June 13-19

Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
(Psalm 37:4)

Week 3. June 20-26

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)

Week 4. June 27- July 3

Do to others as you would have them do to you. (Luke 6:31)

Week 5. July 4-10

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7)

Week 6. July 11- 17

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.
(Galatians 5:22-23)

Week 7. July 18-24

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.
(John 13:35)

Week 8. July 25-31

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. (Psalm 46:1)

Week 9. August 1-7

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)

Week 10. August 8-14

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)