

July 12, 2021

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,  
Grace and peace be yours!

Sunday in-person worship services are going well. We will continue to livestream worship and send the weekly worship mailing.

Pastor Becky is in her final week of sabbatical. She will return to the office on Monday July 19. Lauren Miller (SALT Intern) and Abby Bushman (Ministry Assistant), will be assisting Barb in the office.

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

Pastor Dee's health continues to be compromised. She is continuing her unpaid medical leave of absence.



We are hosting a Summer Safari Carnival: Let's Reconnect on Wednesday, July 21 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. This event will be held in our St. Paul Community Playground and will include a meal, crafts, games and music. We will need lots of volunteers. If you'd like to assist, please contact SALT Intern Lauren Miller or the Church Office.

We also have two Circle of Friends ministry opportunities. First, we are seeking someone to coordinate card sending and phone call folk to reach out to our nursing home and at-home members. Second, we are seeking a volunteer to coordinate the Circle of Friends cards that, up until Covid19, were signed each week in the sanctuary. Please contact the Church Office if you are willing to take either or both of these important ministries.

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.

Blessings,


  
 Roland Dicke                      Myra Hanenkratt  
 Council President              Council VP

### Financial Information as of July 12, 2021

#### Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00  
 Giving Income \$13,137.00 (weekly)  
 Endowment Transfers \$13,617.00(ytd)  
 Income \$164,749.85(ytd)  
 Expenses \$163,232.98(ytd)  
 Balance \$1,516.87(ytd)

#### Building Maint & Property Care

Beg. Balance \$73,644.37  
 Income \$40,034.00 (ytd)  
 Endowment Income \$2,535.26(ytd)  
 Expenses \$35,233.14 (ytd)  
 Balance \$80,980.49 (ytd)

#### Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$6,250.20  
 Income \$9,666.00 (ytd)  
 Expenses \$9,434.42(ytd)  
 Balance \$6,481.78

BP Beg Balance \$7,881.15  
 Bless Pantry Inc. \$17,116.00(ytd)

Bless Pantry Ex. \$9,062.15(ytd)

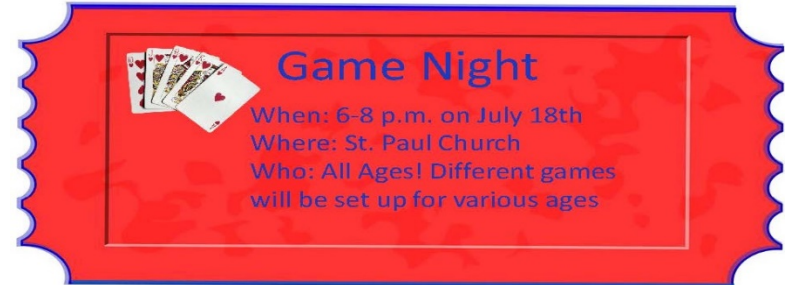
BP Balance \$15,935.00

#### Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00  
 Income \$2,366.00(weekly)  
 Income \$16,098.00 (ytd)

#### Project of the Year

Income \$0.00(weekly)  
 Balance \$3,394.00(ytd)



**Game Night**

When: 6-8 p.m. on July 18th  
 Where: St. Paul Church  
 Who: All Ages! Different games will be set up for various ages



Wednesday July 21 5:00pm-8:00pm

All are welcome at no cost

Activities include Crafts, Games, Dancing, Living Music  
 Meal-Hot dogs, Mac N Cheese, Chips, Yogurt and Cookies  
 (Please bring individually wrapped cookies to share)

JULY 11, 2021  
SEVENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*God's steadfast love and faithfulness.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Mark 6:14-29	The death of John the Baptist
Monday	Amos 7:7-15	Vision of setting a plumb line
Tuesday	Ephesians 1:3-14	Thanksgiving for blessings
Wednesday	Psalms 86:1-17	Save me, Lord
Thursday	Deuteronomy 7:7-11	A chosen people
Friday	Leviticus 26:1-13	Rewards for obedience
Saturday	Psalms 85:8-13	God speaks peace to the people
Sunday	Mark 6:30-34, 53-56	Jesus teaches and heals

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Psalm 85:10 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

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

God of glory and might, guide the rulers of the earth toward justice and mercy for the sake of peace in your world through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, may we see in this food a banquet filled with your love that brings justice and peace to all the earth. Amen.

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

May our God and the Lord Jesus Christ bless you with love and faithfulness. (Psalm 85:10)



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JULY 11, 2021  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Goodness Is Stronger  
than Evil*



### 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:

- If you had a magic wand, what would you want to do or have happen?
- We like to have power, but power can be misused and be insensitive to others. Give an example of someone misusing their power.
- Jesus brings a power full of love and faithfulness. Where do you see that power in action?

### DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 6:14-29.

This story of the beheading of John the Baptist at a banquet hosted by King Herod presents an image of contrasts. This story comes between last week's Gospel reading about Jesus' disciples traveling without riches or power of their own and staying with others as guests. The Gospel reading two weeks from now is about Jesus' own banquet of feeding hungry souls on a hillside. Jesus treated the people with compassion like a shepherd caring for the sheep. Earthly powers represented by Herod bend toward corruption, greed, violence, and impulsive actions without thought of consequences. Jesus' rule brings people together in peace, feeds the multitudes out of love, and brings healing and an end to demonic powers. We are reminded that earthly powers and governments are not the rule that wins the day in God's universe. We are called to an ordering of life where "love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other" (Psalm 85:10). How does Jesus' power in your life influence your thoughts and actions?

Pray: **Shepherding God, in a world that seeks to dominate and humiliate others, we thank you for your reign of love and faithfulness that will never let us go through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### SERVICE

In our forms of government, local, regional, and national representatives need to hear from us, especially about issues that relate to our moral resolve. How have you voiced your views on current issues?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 85 talks about peace. Verse 8 states, "Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts." Make a list or draw a picture of what brings peace to you. Then, read the verse slowly three times. Pause after each reading and wonder what God may be saying to you today. Close by praying the Lord's Prayer.



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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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 Strang-Senior Pastor

Pastor Dee Schroer-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! This is the house of the Lord, and all are welcome to enter and praise our loving Creator. May God's love fill you with kindness, mercy and joy.

**July 18, 2021**

**Eighth Sunday After Pentecost**

### **Worship Leaders**

Ministers

Lauren Miller

Cheyenne Olt

Kristen Nelson

Roland Dicke

Myra Hanenkratt

The Congregation

SALT

Accompanist/Vocalist

Liturgist

Council President

Council Vice President

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF CANDLES: You are invited to light a candle or candles at home in preparation for worship.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

# WELCOME SONG

No Matter

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of quarter note = 120. The key signature has one flat (Bb). 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 chords are: F, Dm, Gm7, C, F, F7, Bb, G7, F, Dm, G7, Gm7, C7, C, F, F7, Bb, G7, F, Dm, Gm7, C7, C, F, F7.

## CALL TO WORSHIP (Chalice Worship 112)

Leader: Let us sing a hymn in unison,

**People: for we are not many, but one!**

Leader: Let us praise our God in harmony,

**People: for we are not one, but many.**

Leader: Members are we, one of another: the Body of Christ, the people of God.

**People: Let our melody rise as if from one voice, while the chorus swells from each mouth of creation**

HYMN OF PRAISE

*Community of Christ*

verses 1 & 4

N.C.  $\frac{Em}{G}$  B Em  $\frac{Am}{C}$  B Em  $\frac{Am}{C}$   $\frac{G}{B}$  Am7 D G

1 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, who make the cross your own,  
 2 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, look past the church - 's door  
 3 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, through whom the word must sound—  
 4 When men - ace melts a - way, so shall God's will be done,

D  $\frac{G}{B}$   $\frac{F\#dim}{A}$  G C  $\frac{G}{B}$  D7 Em Am7  $\frac{G}{D}$  D G

live out your creed and risk your life for God a - lone:  
 and see the ref - u - gee, the hun - gry, and the poor.  
 cry out for jus - tice and for peace the whole world round:  
 the cli - mate of the world be peace and Christ its sun;

G  $\frac{G}{B}$  C#m7(b5) D  $\frac{G}{B}$  C G Am7 Bsus B

the God who wears your face, to whom all worlds be - long,  
 Take hands with the op - pressed, the job - less in your street,  
 dis - arm the powers that war and all that can de - stroy,  
 our cur - ren - cy be love and kind - li - ness our law,

B  $\frac{Em}{G}$  B Em D G  $\frac{Am7}{C}$  Am  $\frac{Em}{G}$   $\frac{Em}{B}$  B Em

whose chil - dren are of ev - ery race and ev - ery song.  
 take towel and wa - ter, that you wash your neigh - bor's feet.  
 turn bombs to bread, and tears of an - guish in - to joy.  
 our food and faith be shared as one for ev - er - more.

## CALL TO CONFESSION (unison)

**Merciful God, we admit the mistakes of our life which we cannot undo. Help us accept their consequences without bitterness, and within their limits to see our immediate obedience, to act upon it with joy. Amen.**

## SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Hear these comforting words: If you repent and believe in God's redeeming mercy, your sins are forgiven. Trust in God's promises and begin anew your life with God and all people. In the name of Jesus Christ. 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, Em

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

The cookies that I brought to share with you today are very special. These cookies were made from a recipe that was used for many years by a special lady named Lottie Moon. Lottie Moon lived many years ago. She grew up in a Christian home and went to church and learned about Jesus and his love.

Lottie had six brothers and sisters. One of her sisters moved another country to be a missionary. Reading the letters her sister wrote helped Lottie to come to be more interested in other cultures and decide that she

also wanted to move and be a missionary. Lottie went to college and studied to become a teacher, then went to help her sister teach the children.

When she arrived, Lottie started a school and began to hold classes to teach boys and girls to read the Bible. At first, the children were afraid of Lottie. She tried to think of a way to get the children to trust her. She decided to bake some cookies, but that didn't work. You see, the children were afraid to eat the cookies because they were afraid that they might have poison in them. One day, one of the boys was so hungry that he decided to try one of the cookies. When he didn't get sick, the other children decided to try them too. Soon, Lottie became known as "the cookie lady." After the children ate the cookies, they would talk with Lottie, hear Bible stories and learn to read.

Why do you think Lottie loved the children so much? I think it was because she believed and put into practice what Jesus taught his disciples. Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you." How much did Jesus love us? He loved us so much that he gave his life for us. Lottie loved the children of China so much that she dedicated her life to teaching them how to read and write. And, even more important, she taught them about Jesus and his love.

Jesus loves you too — and he wants you to love others as he loved you. How can you show the love of Jesus to other people? Maybe you could bake cookies for someone who is sad or lonely. Maybe you could be a friend to a new student at school who doesn't know anyone. You could go visit and pray for someone who is sick. There are a lot of ways to show people that you love them.

God wants all of us to be missionaries — like Lottie Moon — but you don't have to go across the world to be a missionary. You can be a missionary right where you live! In fact, I think that is what God wants us to do.

Let us Pray. Dear Father, we are thankful for people like Lottie Moon who show the love of Jesus in their daily life. Help us to show the love of Jesus by loving one another. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



## PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

**Joys: Birth Candles** welcome Margot Jane Tressler, born on June 26, 2021 to Samantha Barhorst and Frederick Tressler IV. She is the granddaughter of Amy and Mark Barhorst.

Nathan Glynn born on July 6, 2021 to Megan and Marcus Glynn. Welcome Margot and Nathan!!

**Concerns:** We are continuing to pray for Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Annabelle Wenning, Bob Kettler, Drew Wray, Jan Dammeyer, Shannon Shupp and Pastor Dee Schroer.

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

Our Father in heaven, we love you.

How can we *but* love you, for you are so worthy of our love. We look at the gods that men have invented and we can only conclude that none of them are worthy of love. They are small, they are capricious, they are arbitrary, they are unfair, they are unjust, they are unlovable. We could not love those gods. But we look at what you have revealed of yourself and our hearts swell, our hearts rejoice, our hearts are drawn to you. We love you because you are kind, because you are good, because you are merciful. We love you because you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. We love you because you are the same yesterday, today, and forever. We love you because you have first loved us. Thank you for being a God who is eminently worthy of our deepest loyalty, our highest affection.

Yet we confess, God, that we have not always loved you as we ought. Too often we have loved ourselves far more. We have chosen to do what pleases us rather than what pleases you. We have chosen to pursue our heart's desires instead of yours. Each of us was born in a state of rebellion against you and each of us deepened that rebellion as soon as we had the ability to do so. So we confess our sin and our sinfulness, the sins we have committed and our very tendency toward sin. Forgive us, Lord, for being sinners, and do forgive us for each and every transgression of your law and each and every failure to perfectly conform to it.

Thank you, Lord, that you do forgive. Thank you that you have forgiven. Thank you that you always will forgive. Thank you that your

heart is forever inclined toward forgiveness, that your love is deep and strong and true. Thank you that your love does not waver and does not wither. Thank you that you have restored the relationship that we ruined, that you have bound up all that we had broken. Thank you that you have enabled us to come to you, and thank you that you tell us to come just as we are, thank you that you receive us with arms open wide, thank you that you make us new.

And Father, you have now invited us to bring our prayers before you, to speak so you can listen and respond. And so, because you have told us to do this, we now bring our petitions. We ask first and foremost that you would receive the glory through us. We ask that we would be faithful, faithful to be who you tell us to be, faithful to value what you tell us to value, and faithful to do what you would have us do. We ask that we would live out our love for you by loving one another. We ask that we would live with kindness and patience and generosity toward one another, that we would exemplify amongst ourselves the virtues that are so perfectly seen in you. We ask that we would comfort one another in sorrow, that we would forgive one another when sinned against, that we would be slow to speak ill of one another and quick to point out any and every evidence of your grace.

We pray that we would live well in this world, as faithful neighbors, faithful employees, faithful students, faithful friends. Help us to have a good reputation in the eyes of those around us. Help us to live in a way that displays the gospel and that makes it look attractive. Help us to be quick to tell others about Jesus. Help us to carry out your work in this world, to serve as your representatives.

We ask, Lord, that you would keep us faithful, that you would preserve us to the day we see you face to face. We ask that someday we would stand together before the Throne, as brothers and sisters, now perfectly holy, rejoicing in all you are and in all you've done. Please Lord, continue to show us your love. Please Lord, continue to help us to love you as we've been so perfectly and wonderfully loved by you. SILENCE

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ 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.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Charlotte Nelson

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Ephesians 2:11-22 (NSRV)

*<sup>11</sup> Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—*

*<sup>12</sup> remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.*

*<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

*<sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,*

*<sup>15</sup> by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace,*

*<sup>16</sup> and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.*

*<sup>17</sup> He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.*

*<sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.*

*<sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household,*

*<sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.*

*<sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.*

*<sup>22</sup> And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*

RESPONSE

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

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

## SERMON

by Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Located in modern-day Turkey, the city of Ephesus was a large seaport city that flourished during the Roman Empire because it was a major trading center. By the time of early Christianity, Ephesus had been in existence for nearly 1000 years. Because it was a trading hub, the city already had a wide diversity of religions when Christianity began to make inroads into the area.

Scholars argue to this day whether the Letter to the Ephesians was written by Paul or not. While it follows much of Paul's line of thinking, the letter is missing personal greetings and the names of associates—so often found in Paul's authentic letters. What's more, the language in this letter differs from ones that are more closely ascribed to the Apostle Paul. For example, in Paul's letters to the Corinthians, he speaks of the Body of Christ as a metaphor on how Christians are to order their everyday lives. On the other hand, in Ephesians, the language around the Body of Christ speaks not to a specific community, but instead a larger framework to include ALL Christians everywhere.

Also, the letter is closely aligned with Colossians—seen as the possible source for the letter to the Ephesians. Scholars do agree that Paul probably never made it to Ephesus, but his letters had circulated and they came to know Christ Jesus through Paul's legacy.

In today's reading, we hear the author talking at length about the unity Jews and Gentiles have in Christ. In these twelve verses, we hear the word "peace" four times—a reminder that very often Christians are not particularly peaceful even amongst themselves. We tend to harshly judge other congregations, other Christians, other ways of following Jesus that are not like our own. The author of Ephesians was having none of this. He argues that it doesn't matter whether one is a Jew (physically circumcised) or a Gentile (uncircumcised) because we are now one in Jesus.

The author of this letter could have easily been talking to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christians. Rarely do we value diversity of thinking and believing. So many Christian congregations are certain they have the market cornered on "truth"—and are unafraid to point fingers at the congregations that are outside of their truth. And, if you are outside the "truth," you are condemned to eternal damnation.

Pastor Becky recently read a compelling essay about the evangelical Christian response to Rob Bell's theology. Once firmly in the evangelical camp, Rob was kicked out several years ago when he wrote a book saying he didn't believe that hell exists. Over time, his theology has become more inclusive, more open and welcoming. This shift in theology has some Christians bothered to the point of being antagonistic toward Rev. Bell. As the author of the essay said, *For a people whose go-to ideas are love for God and love for others, we Christians can be pretty horrible toward one another, especially to those of us who attain any sort of position in the larger culture.*

What sets Christians against other Christians? Can't we simply celebrate the gift that Jesus is in our lives and then work to bring his good news of love and forgiveness to a hurting world?

The author of Ephesians certainly would agree. He (or at least the author was probably a man) argues that not only does Jesus bring peace, he has torn down the walls that once divided us. That, through Christ, we are no longer strangers to one another, but we are members of God's family.

Before Mary Traverse's death, the folk group Peter, Paul and Mary recorded a song about walls that need torn down. The words go like this:

*Some walls are made of stone  
Sometimes we build our own.  
Some walls stand for years  
And some wash away with tears.*

*Some walls are lined with gold  
Where some hearts stay safe and cold  
Some walls are made of doubt  
Holding in and keeping out*

*If there's any hope for love at all some walls must fall.*

*Some walls are built on pride  
Some keep the child inside.  
Some walls are made in fear*

*That love let go will disappear.*

*If there's any hope for love at all some walls must fall.*

*How will you ever know what might be found  
Until you let the walls come tumbling down?*

*If there's any hope for love at all some walls must fall.*

What walls have you built in your life? Who or what are you trying to keep out? Why did you build the wall in the first place? In other words: where do your own prejudices lie? What are your places and spaces of fear and distrust?

Pastor Becky shares with us a story of a castle on the English coast owned by a landlord, but no one currently was living there. Vandals were coming in and destroying the place. So the landlord hired a contractor to build a tall rock wall around the castle. The fee was agreed upon and the contractor began his work.

But after a short time, the contractor began having trouble finding rocks for the wall. He called the owner to explain the situation. The owner sharply replied, "I don't care where you get the rocks, I want you to build that wall!"

Sometime later, the owner came to see the progress of the work, and found a beautiful and incredibly high wall. He was so impressed with the fine work the contractor had done. It was a perfect wall for his castle. But then he went on the other side of the wall he was stunned to find that there was no castle! The contractor explained, "There were all these wonderful rocks in that run-down old castle, so I used them."

When we build walls against others, that is exactly what happens. We find ourselves diminished and torn apart. As Christians, we are called to open our hearts and our lives to God's grace: which is bigger and greater than any sin, any brokenness, any prejudice, any wall. We might think we are protecting ourselves when we build our walls, that we are protecting something of value. But when the wall is built, we find that we have torn down everything of value within ourselves.

Many of us here today were alive to hear President Ronald Reagan at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin on June 12, 1987 say to Russian Prime Minister Gorbachev, “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!”

You know the history. That wall between East and West Germany was torn down and the face of Europe changed overnight.

The writer of Ephesians tells us that following Jesus does the same thing in our lives—walls fall down, old prejudices fade away and we become something completely new. Through our baptisms, we find unity, peace and reconciliation in Christ. No amount of bickering between Christians can take that away. No amount of prejudice between Jews and Gentiles eliminates this. **We. Are. One. In. Christ. Jesus.**

Then, according to today’s text, once the walls come down, we need to build something new. In the Roman Empire, new buildings were seen as signs of prosperity. The author of Ephesians says we have a different kind of building to erect. Because of Jesus, **WE** are God’s holy temple with Jesus as the cornerstone. We are God’s dwelling place. Our very bodies are sacred.

This is critically important to hear in our western society that regularly shames us about our bodies. The message we hear in commercials and see in magazine ads is that our bodies are bad. That we are too fat, too skinny, too old, too young, too tall, too short, too lazy, not good enough. The message we hear over and over is that our bodies are shameful. Friends, that kind of talk needs to be stopped right here. Right now. **YOU** are God’s dwelling place. Your body is sacred space for the Holy.

Starting this day, this hour, I challenge you to love yourself, love your body completely and wholly, because you are God’s house, God’s holy Temple.

Perhaps this should be the starting point to Christian unity. That when we begin to see each other as God’s dwelling place, differences melt away. When we invite Christ to take up residence in our hearts, the desire to judge others melts away. When we live each day, knowing that we are guided by the Holy Spirit, walls come tumbling down.

How does this happen? Because of Jesus. Because he loves each of us (and all of humanity/all of creation) so much that he took up **OUR** crosses that we might be redeemed, reconciled and made new. **We** can’t tear the walls down, but Jesus can.

So here is your good news for the coming week: Jesus has already torn down your walls. It is now your task to step onto the other side and start your new life in him. Amen.

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY SENTENCES: God calls upon us to love one another as God loves us. Even as God has abundantly blessed us with good things, let us bless others through gifts that show we care.

### 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)

**Lord of life, you promise abundant life to all who live together in Christ. We offer these gifts as a sign of our desire to share our resources for the common good the building up of your kingdom. We humbly ask that you use them to strengthen our unity and deepen our witness and healing presence in this hurting and broken world. Amen.**

## HYMN OF SENDING

*Rain Down*



# Rain Down

*Refrain (Unison)*

Chords: F, A7, G/B, A7/C#, Dm, F7, Eb/G, F7/A

Rain down, rain down,

Chords: Bb, F/A, Gm9, C7, Gm7/D, C7/E

rain down your love on your peo - ple.

Chords: F, A7, Dm, F7, Eb/G, F7/A

Rain down, rain down,

Chords: Bb, Am7, Gm7, Gm/C, Am/C, Gm/C, Bb/F, F

rain down your love, God of life.

F A7 Dm F7  $\frac{E\flat}{G}$   $\frac{F7}{A}$

1 Faith - ful and true is the word of our God.  
 2 We who re - vere and find hope in our God  
 3 God of cre - a - tion, we long for your truth;

B $\flat$   $\frac{F}{A}$  G7 C7  $\frac{B\flat}{D}$   $\frac{C7}{E}$

All of God's works are so wor - thy of trust.  
 live in the kind - ness and joy of God's wing.  
 you are the wa - ter of life for our thirst.

F A7 Dm F7

God's mer - cy falls on the just and the right;  
 God will pro - tect us from dark - ness and death;  
 Grant that your love and your peace touch our hearts,

*to Refrain*

B $\flat$  Gm7  $\frac{Gm}{C}$   $\frac{Am}{C}$   $\frac{Gm}{C}$  F C  $\frac{B\flat}{D}$   $\frac{C7}{E}$

full of God's love is the earth.  
 God will not leave us to starve.  
 all of our hope lies in you.

BENEDICTION: May God make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of your life.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Pass the Love*  
Pass the Love

Love our God, ev - 'ry day, praise with joy go - ing on your way.  
Pass it on, t'all you meet, ev - 'ry day in — ev - 'ry way.  
Love our Ho - ly God. Pray with hope each day.  
Bless the Ho - ly Name. Praise our — God.

Chords: F, Gm7, F, Gm7, F/A, F/Bb, Gm9, C7, F, Gm7, F, Gm7, F/A, F/Bb, Gm9, G7, C, Fmaj7, Dm, F/G, F/C, Am7, Dm7, Gm7, F/C, C7, F

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Altar Flowers** are given in loving memory of Ron Hittepole and Andrea Hittepole by Marlene Hittepole.

**Attendance**-Daily Devotions-45, July 4-Sunday Worship Online-183, In Person-38.

**Daily Devotions**-Please join Pastor 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 July-Worship** will be in person and via Facebook Live at 10:15am.

**Wednesday, July 21<sup>st</sup> Summer Youth Activity-10:00am-11:30am** Do Good Splash Pad/Park, 25 Main St, Osgood. All ages are welcome. Remember to bring a snack/lunch/drinks and a towel.

**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.

**July/August 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!

### **July Mission-Community Backpack+ and Washington UCC Back to School Ministry**

In the month of July, we will be helping The Community Backpack+ Program. The Community Backpack+ Program ensures that all students in our community have the supplies needed to start each school year. In addition, they donate toward school fees for those who cannot afford them, and fund the local "No-Shame Lunch Fund." Washington UCC's *Back to School* ministry program is able to send many of their low-income children back to school, each in a uniform, if required, or new school clothes, underwear and socks, along with a backpack of school supplies and a personal hygiene kit from donations they receive. Our donations last year helped them to provide school uniforms for nearly 25 students in the Camp Washington community. On average for both organizations it is estimated that each student's average annual needs are \$75.00 per student. So, throughout this month we will be equally sharing the gifts that are donated to provide uniforms and hygiene kits to the children at Camp Washington and school supplies for the students in our community. Gifts at any level are welcomed, and will make a great impact on the children in these communities. Thank you, the Mission Team.

**WOMEN'S SERVICE GROUP** gathered school articles for 50 Church World Service School Kits in their organization. These articles were placed in bags made by their group and by others from our congregation. School Kits, along with two donated clean-up buckets, were delivered to Church World Service's warehouse in Elkhart, Indiana recently. It was mentioned that the bags will be sent to wherever the need is greatest in the world and the buckets will be sent to areas in the USA that are experiencing flooding. Their representatives were thankful for the need is great. Thanks to all who helped.

**Blessing Pantry**-is accessible 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-Diapers (size 3 & 6), Baby Wipes, Training Pants (size 3T-6T), Men's & Women's Deodorant, Shampoo, Conditioner, Toothpaste, Manicure Sets, Cotton Balls, Dryer sheets, Sunscreen, Napkins, Bleach, Cleaning Supplies, Paper Plates, Laundry Detergent, Toilet Paper, Razors, Shaving Cream, Pet Food (Dry & Wet), and Garbage Bags. Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

**Celebration of life of the Rev. Dr. Ralph C. Quellhorst  
August 12,1937-June 23, 2020**

We are celebrating with a celebration, service and meal. **Heidelberg University, Wickham Great Hall, located in the Campus Center, Tiffin, Ohio. August 8, 2021 4 PM** service. Following the service, our family will greet guests outdoors on the Campus Center lawn (Campus Center 220 in case of inclement weather). A meal will also be served on the lawn following the visitation (Hoernemann Refectory in case of inclement weather). Please **RSVP**, so we know how much food to fix here: (If you would like the rsvp link emailed to you, please contact St Paul church office)

[https://www.alumni.heidelberg.edu/s/1897/bp19/interior.aspx?sid=1897&pgid=882&gid=2&cid=2430&ecid=2430&post\\_id=0](https://www.alumni.heidelberg.edu/s/1897/bp19/interior.aspx?sid=1897&pgid=882&gid=2&cid=2430&ecid=2430&post_id=0)

Please note that Heidelberg University continues to follow CDC guidelines with regard to COVID-19. We kindly request that those who

are not fully vaccinated continue to observe masking and distancing protocols while on campus for the Celebration of Life ceremony. Mindy, Jeff, AJ, Andy, Miranda, Charlotte-Cindy, Harry, Brad, Rob-Pam, Chris

### **Calendar-Week of July 18, 2021**

Sunday	10:15am	Worship-in person & via Facebook Live
	6:00pm-8:00pm	Game Night
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
Wednesday	10:00am-11:30am	Youth Activity-Do Good Splash Pad/Park, Osgood
	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	5:00pm-8:00pm	Summer Carnival
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

**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)