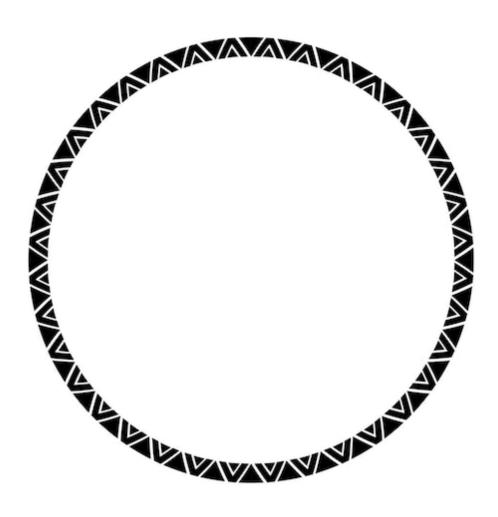
St. Paul United Church of Christ 119 North Franklin Street New Bremen, Ohio 45869 Phone (419-629-2502), Fax (419-629-3207) Email <u>stpaulnb@nktelco.net</u> Visit our website at <u>https://stpaulnb.org</u> Like and follow our page St. Paul United Church of Christ – New Bremen, Ohio on Facebook Rev. Ken Locke- Interim Pastor stpaulpastor@nktelco.net Matt Ranly - Council President 419-305-1057





Welcome to St. Paul UCC, we are glad you are here!! Whether you are worshipping online or in person, Welcome, one and all, to this time of worship. We are blessed to have you with us today.

IN PERSON WORSHIP NOTES:

Bulletins, Communion, Offering Plates, and Masks are available on tables.

Listening devices are available in the Narthex/front entrance, for those who need them. Please return your device to an Usher following worship. Thank you!

Children's Activity Bags containing children's bulletins and other activities are available. Thank you!

Restrooms are located in the Narthex/front entrance of the church and in the south hallway of the educational building.

WIFI Connection-connect via "St Paul – Guest" Password: godlovesyou

The * indicates all who are able may stand

April 21, 2024 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Worship Leaders

Ministers Interim Pastor Organist Liturgist Sr. Deacon The Congregation Rev. Ken Locke Arianne Henry Morgan Felver June Oaks

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF CANDLES

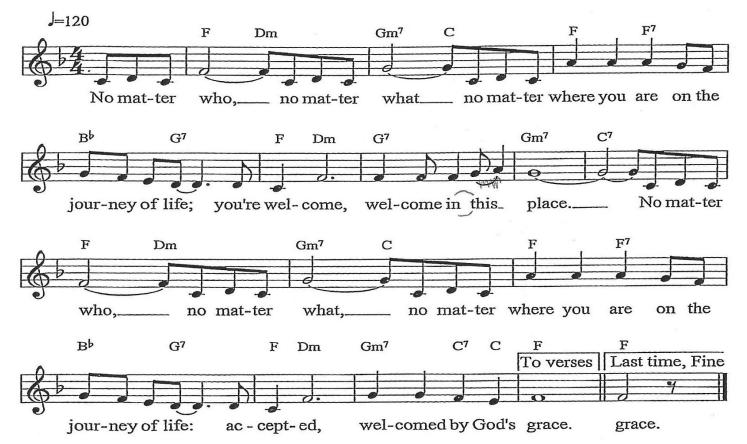
We Gather Together

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*WELCOME SONG

No Matter

No Matter



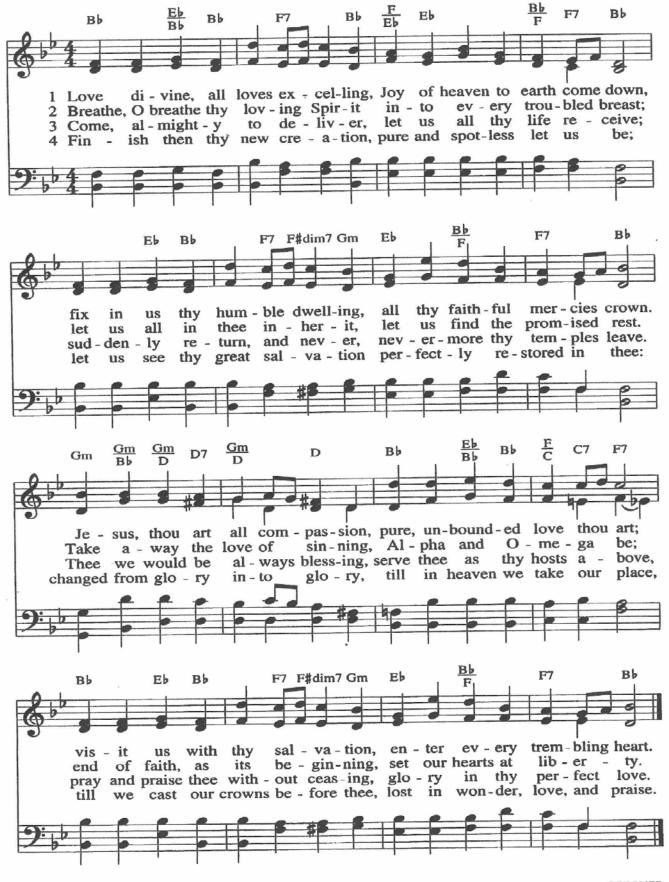
*CALL TO WORSHIP

<u>Leader:</u> The Holy Spirit has called us to this place. <u>People:</u> Inspiring us to hear and know God's word. <u>Leader:</u> The Holy Spirit has called us to this place.

<u>People:</u> Inspiring us to praise God through word, song, and sacrament!

*HYMN *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* No. 358

358 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



WORDS: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) MUSIC: John Zundel (1815-1882)

*CALL TO CONFESSION

<u>Leader</u>: Aware of our shortcomings, but confident of God's grace, let us boldly declare our sins to God and one another.

*CONFESSION

Leader: Risen God,

<u>People:</u> We confess to you, to ourselves, and to one another that we have caused harm by the things we have said and done, and by the things we have not said and not done. We have sought out conflict for the sake of battle, not victory. We have stood with the marginalized until opposition or rejection reared its head, and then we ran and hid. Leader: Risen God, take away our sins so we may fully live out your commandment to love you with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength,

and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

<u>People</u>: God, forgive us. Lord, hear our prayer.

(TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION)

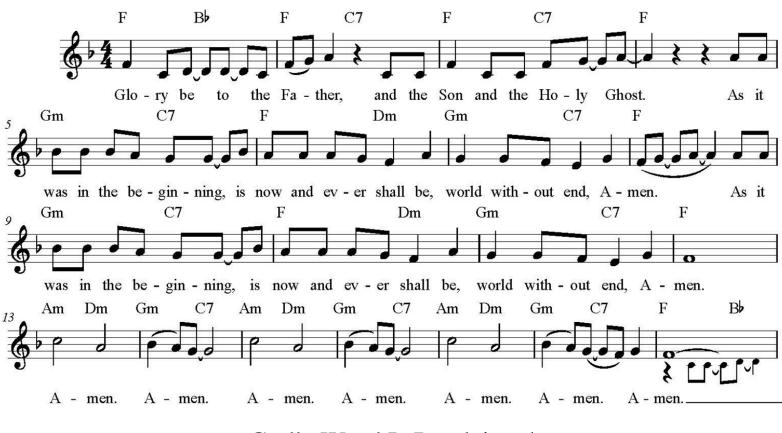
*PARDON

<u>Leader</u>: In grace and mercy, God forgives all our sins, and with joy and expectation calls us into new life for the sake of the world, through Jesus Christ our savior.

<u>People:</u> In Jesus Christ our savior, our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Amen!



Glory Be to the Father



God's Word Is Proclaimed

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 1:1–2:8(NT) pg. 203

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.

⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a

living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

²You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, ²but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. ³For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; ⁶nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

ACTS LESSON: Acts 17:1-9

17 After Paul and Silas had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. 2 And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three sabbath days argued with them from the scriptures, 3 explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This is the Messiah, Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you." 4 Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. 5 But the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the marketplaces they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar. While they were searching for Paul and Silas to bring them out to the assembly, they attacked Jason's house. 6 When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some believers before the city authorities, shouting, "These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also, 7 and Jason has entertained them as guests. They are all acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another king named Jesus." 8 The people and the city officials were disturbed when they heard this, 9 and after they had taken bail from Jason and the others, they let them go.

(NT) pg. 137

SERMON

TIME WITH CHILDREN

(Our youngest disciples are invited to the chancel steps for a special word. Afterwards, they are invited to return to their seats. Worship bags are available on the tables in the sanctuary.)

We Respond to God's Word

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Our Lord gave this commandment: "You are to go and make disciples of all the nations and baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to observe all that I have commanded you." We receive these words from Matthew in the belief that all ages are included in the benefits and joy of discipleship. As we read in Luke's Gospel, "People even brought little children to him, for him to touch them; but when the disciples saw this, they turned them away. But Jesus called the children to him and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.""

In the sacrament of baptism, we celebrate the grace and forgiveness of God that we know in Jesus Christ. Here we proclaim that all life is God's gift, and the gift is good. We thank God for this young person. We praise God for the ever-new possibilities which lie open to her as a child of God. We receive her into the love and care of the Christian church, so that as she grows and matures, she may come to know God more fully and offer herself more faithfully in God's service to the world.

Let us proclaim together the faith we share, the faith into which we baptize.

*CREED

<u>All</u>: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

<u>Leader</u>: Do you desire to have your daughter baptized into our faith and do you promise, with God's help, by your life and teaching to lead her toward an understanding of our faith and into the service of Jesus Christ? **I do.**

<u>Leader</u>: Do you desire to be baptized into our faith and do you promise, with God's help, to grow in understanding of our faith and into the service of Jesus Christ?

I do.

<u>Leader</u>: Do we, the congregation, promise to receive this individual and do we promise, with God's help, to lead her toward an understanding of our faith and into the service of Jesus Christ?

*<u>People</u>: We receive her as a new person in Christ. We offer our understanding and support as she explores life. We enfold her in our love, seeking together to grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and all people. We will tell the gospel in our midst so that she may live with us for Christ, showing forth his love for all people.

(Water is poured.)

<u>Leader</u>: O Lord, giver of life and power, you have promised not only to be our God but also the God and Father of all those we love. Sanctify with your spirit this child whom we baptize according to your word, and bless this water, that it may be a sign and seal of new life in Christ our Lord.

Send your Spirit to move over this water that it may be a fountain of deliverance and rebirth. Wash away the sin of all who are cleansed by it. Raise them to new life and graft them to the body of Christ. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon them, that they may have power to do your will, and continue forever in the risen life of Christ. To you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, be all praise, honor, and glory, now and forever. Amen.

What is the name of this child of God?

_____, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We praise God for calling this young person into the company of Christ's people. We accept her with joy. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

RECOGNIZING OUR GRADUATES

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

<u>Leader</u>: Trusting in the promise of the resurrection, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

O God, you sustained Paul and the early Christians through harsh opposition and persecution. Give us the persistence to do your work of justice even when we face strong pushback or personal risk.

<u>People</u>: Strengthening God, in mercy hear our prayer.

<u>Leader</u>: Open the minds of all our leaders to new ideas and learnings from younger generations and other nations, that together we may solve the issues saddening your world.

<u>People</u>: Opening God, in mercy hear our prayer.

<u>Leader</u>: Bring healing and wholeness to those recovering from injury or surgery, and to all whose health is challenged in any way, especially we pray for Karen Fox, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Karen Vornholt, Terri Mullins, Denise Joyce, Bev Poppe, Ann Hudson, Dee Schroer, and Anna Hoelscher.

<u>People</u>: Healing God, in mercy hear our prayer.

<u>Leader</u>: Comfort the victims of violence, especially gun violence, and bring healing to families and communities torn apart by it. Commit us to doing whatever is needed to end violence in our nation and our world.

<u>People</u>: Comforting God, in mercy hear our prayer.

<u>Leader</u>: Open and listening God, we confess that sometimes the roar of our demands drowns out your gentle voice. Open our hearts and minds to the words you are still speaking.

<u>People</u>: Speak, Lord, your servants are listening.

(*Time for listening to God.*)

<u>Leader</u>: Welcoming God, confident of your message of love we place before you all our prayers and concerns, through Jesus Christ, our savior, who taught us how to pray by saying, **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. 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.**

WE RESPOND WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

*OFFERTORY SONG

We Give Thee but Thine Own No. 688 vs 1&2

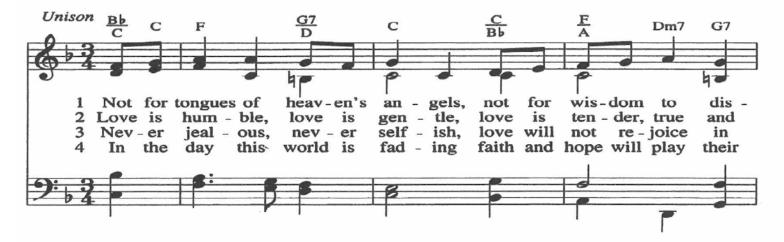


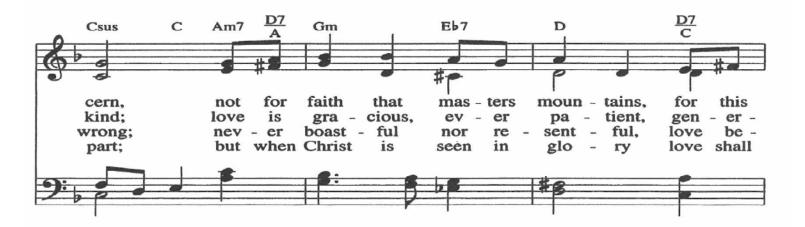
***OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

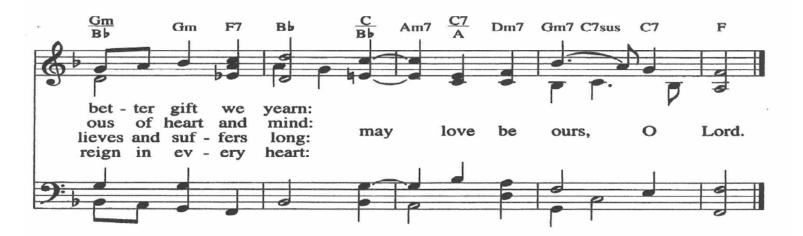
<u>All:</u> Holy Spirit, who guided Paul to carry the good news of Christ to all the world, and who inspires us in our giving to support the life and ministries of this congregation, accept these, our gifts, for your good purposes. Amen.

*HYMN Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels No. 400

400 Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels







WORDS: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-); para. 1 Corinthians 13 MUSIC: Peter Cutts (1937-) Words © 1985 Hope Publishing Company Music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company BRIDEGROOM 8.7.8.7.6. *CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Leader: It isn't always easy to share the good news of Jesus.

<u>People</u>: Some people don't think the "good news" sounds very good. <u>Leader</u>: Following Jesus is seldom the easier path.

<u>People</u>: It is a call into a life of working for the good of others.

Leader: It is the beginning of faith, not the ending.

<u>People</u>: In gratitude we are inspired to take the hard path to bring the gospel of justice and equity to all who suffer.

Leader: The good news of Jesus will not always be well received.

<u>People</u>: But trusting God is with us, we answer the call.

Leader: With firm conviction and trust, let all God's people say,

People: Alleluia, Amen!

*CLOSING SONG

Go with Us, Lord

No. 747 (x2)



***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

<u>People</u>: And also with you.

Leader: Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

*POSTLUDE

Congratulations to our 2024 High School Graduates



Henry Nelson, New Bremen

Megan Opperman, New Bremen



Hayden Zeller, New Bremen



Clint Voress, New Bremen





Birth Announcement: A birth candle has been placed on the altar to celebrate the birth of Miles Edward Messick born on April 13th. Miles is the son of Max and Ashley Messick, the grandson of Rob and Mimi Messick, and nephew to Mallory Messick.

Altar Flowers are in memory of sisters, Gloria and Jane and brothers, Stanley and Bill by John and Joyce Gilberg. (*After worship, please take home your altar flowers. They will be kept outside the church office after Sunday.*)

Circle of Friends Cards for you to sign are for graduates Clint Voress, Zach Wiedeman, Jay Waterman (South door), graduates Hayden Zeller, Henry Nelson, Megan Opperman (North door), and Nirvana Hoffmaster's baptism (East door). Recipients appreciate the cards you sign.

Open House for Rev. Locke - Although Pastor Ken will be with us to the end of May, his last service will be held on Sunday, May 12th. Along with this being Mother's Day, we would also like to honor Pastor Ken for his unwavering support of St. Paul with an open house immediately following the service. Finger foods and drinks will be provided in the sanctuary. Please stop by for fellowship and to say your goodbyes. All are welcome.

Church Office Hours: Starting May 1st, the church office hours will be 10:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday. The office will be closed for lunch from 12:00-1:00pm each weekday.

2023 Church Directories - Free copies of the 2023 church directory are available on the tables in the sanctuary and outside the church offices.

Participants-

April 14th | Worship In-Person 79, Online-26

OTHER NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

Women's Service Group Gathering - The Women's Service Group will meet on Thursday, May 9th at the home of Phyllis Fledderjohann at noon for lunch. The group will also use this time to plan for the upcoming year. Everyone is welcome. Call 419-953-7651 for more information and if you will be attending. We hope to see you there.

Join the Prayer Chain! Contact Jeff Paul at jrpaul@nktelco.net or 419-305-0584 to become a member of our St. Paul Prayer Chain. You will have the option to receive prayer concerns through text messages or emails.

Weekly Devotions and Monthly Mailer - Are you hearing from us? Are you keeping up with all that's going on here at St. Paul? If you would like to receive the Wednesday Devotions email and the Monthly Mailer with all the current St. Paul news and information, please contact the church office by calling 419-629-2502 or emailing <u>stpaulnb@nktelco.net</u>.

2024 Council Candidates - We are looking for a council candidate to fill the Jr. Deacon position. If you feel God is laying this on your heart or you would like to nominate someone, please reach out to the church office or Matt Ranly.

Blessing Pantry Hours: Tuesdays 5:30pm-7:30pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays 1:00pm-3:00pm. The Pantry is closed on Mondays and Fridays. The Blessing Pantry's current needs include: Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Kleenex, Shaving Cream, Men's and Women's Deodorant, Softener Sheets, Safety Q-tips, Diapers (sizes 3, 4, and 6).

Containers are located outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations. All donations are welcome. Thank you!

The Blessing Pantry recently made a \$1,000 donation to the American Red Cross to support relief efforts in the Indian Lake Region.



American Red Cross 431 18th Street, NW Washington, DC 20006 redcross.org/care

April 02, 2024

Dear Red Cross Supporter,

On behalf of the American Red Cross, thank you for your generous gift of \$1,000.00 on March 26, 2024, which will be applied to Disaster Response. Support from companies like yours is truly making an impact in the lives of those we serve every day.

During their darkest hours, people know they can turn to the Red Cross for comfort and care. Our humanitarian mission of preventing and alleviating human suffering in the face of emergencies depends on the compassion of our generous donors.

Red Cross Supporter, I am profoundly grateful for your commitment to the lifesaving work of the Red Cross. Thank you once again for standing with us to help turn heartbreak into hope. You can reach us any time with questions and feedback at redcross.org or by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Sincerely,

Shil Mc yousen

Gail J. McGovern President and CEO, American Red Cross

Please keep this page for tax purposes

As required by IRS regulations, we provide the following information: The American Red Cross is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. Our federal tax identification number is 53-0196605. As no goods or services have been provided in connection with this gift, the full amount is deductible to the fullest extent provided by law.

Donation Total: \$1,000.00 Donation Date: March 26, 2024 Will be applied to: Disaster Response

April Monthly Mission - Paper for Pentecost!

Paper for Pentecost is the act of giving paper items of all kinds. Isn't it amazing how many paper products our church uses throughout each day? From paper towels, note pads, Kleenex, envelopes, and stamps; the list goes on. This month let's give back to our church and the blessing pantry, which continually gives to so many people in need.

Whether it be a monetary donation or paper products which are useful to our church and Blessing Pantry, let's surround the altar with many paper blessings. Whatever your heart wants to donate is greatly appreciated.

Donations will be received this month and into May. We will receive them and bless them during worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th.

Thanks so much, Mission Team

Church Needs:

White and colored copy paper (8 $1/2 \ge 11$), stamps, white envelopes (No. 10; 4 $1/8 \ge 9 \le 1/2$), sticky notes, paper towels, Kleenex, paper plates, napkins, plastic ware, disposable (paper) coffee cups, construction paper for Sunday School.

Blessing Pantry needs:

Toilet paper (economy/store brand), paper towels, diapers sizes 4, 5, 6. (We do NOT need any feminine hygiene products. Proctor & Gamble made a large donation of those.)



Calendar-Week of April 21, 2023

Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School
·	10:15am	Worship
		In Person & Facebook Live
	11:30am	Worship Team Meeting
Monday	9:00-12:00pm	Office Hours
	2:00pm	Coffee and Conversation
		New Bremen Coffee Shop
Tuesday	9:00am-12:00pm	Office Hours
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Wednesday	9:00am-12:00pm	Office Hours
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Thursday	9:00am-12:00pm	Office Hours
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Friday	9:00am-12:00pm	Office Hours

APRIL EVENTS

April 21st | Worship Team meeting after worship.

April 22nd | Deadline for May monthly mailer submissions. Email your submissions to the church office at stpaulnb@nktelco.net.

April 27th | UCC Northwest Ohio Association Annual Meeting in Sandusky.

2024 Financial Information as of April 16, 2024

Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$16,714.70 Endowment Trans \$12,340.00 (ytd) Income \$99,827.77 (ytd) Expenses \$89,007.53 (ytd) Balance \$27,534.94 (ytd)

Building Maint & Property

Beg. Balance \$71,978.89 Income \$23,780.00 (ytd) Endowment Inc. \$2,393.17 (ytd) Expenses \$13,030.89 (ytd) Balance \$85,121.17 (ytd)

Our Church's Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00 Income \$8,418.50 (ytd)

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$16,791.50 Income \$4,491.50 (ytd) Expenses \$554.00 (ytd) Balance \$20,729.00 (ytd)

Blessing Pantry

Beg. Balance \$32,845.83 Income \$6,275.00 (ytd) Expenses \$1,995.12 (ytd) Balance \$37,125.71 (ytd)

Project of the Year

Income \$2,113.50

E-Giving @ St. Paul

Online – Make a donation on our website: stpaulnb.org 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 gl (hit send)
□ For building & property fund giving: Send 25 bp (hit send)
□ For Blessing Pantry: Send 25 pantry (hit send)
□ For project of the year giving: Send 25 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.



Your donation makes a difference. Thank you for helping us change lives.

Youth Sunday School Celebration

Sunday, May 5, 2024 9 am - 10 am Last day of Sunday School!

10:15 AM WORSHIP

SUNDAY SCHOOL YOUTH WILL BE SINGING & RECOGNIZED IN OUR CELEBRATION!!!

