

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

Website: <https://stpaulnb.org>

Facebook: St. Paul United Church of Christ – New Bremen, Ohio

Rev. Ken Locke, Interim Pastor

Email: stpaulpastor@nktelco.net

Matt Ranly, Council President

Phone: 419-305-1057



(You Decide)

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, Offering Plates, and Communion (1st Sunday of each month), are available on the long table in the Narthex/front entrance and the round tables in the sanctuary.

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.

May 12th, 2024
7th Sunday of Easter

Worship Leaders

Ministers	The Congregation
Interim Pastor	Rev. Ken Locke
Organist	Patty Ruckman
Liturgist	Cindy Newman
Sr. Deacon	June Oaks

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF CANDLES

We Gather Together

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*WELCOME SONG *No Matter*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Listen! Here is a mystery!

People: We are listening, eager to learn.

Leader: At the last trumpet, we will be changed. What appears to be the end is not.

People: We will rise, a new creation. We will be transformed by God's love.

Leader: O Death, where is your victory?

People: O Death, where is your sting?

All: Together, we worship our death defeating God!

*HYMN *He Lives* No. 302

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: We once were dead in our sins, but now we are alive in Christ. Let us confess the hard truth that there are still times when we veer towards death.

*CONFESSION

Leader: God of resurrection, yours is the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ. Yet we confess we have often turned aside from joyful living in favor of pain, illness, and death.

People: **With tears and trembling we confess that we have caused harm by the things we have said and done, and by the things we have not said and not done.**

Leader: Take away our sins that we might fully embody your commandment to love you with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

People: **God of resurrection, stir up in us the hope of salvation, and the strong conviction that we will overcome the trials of this life and live in your tender, loving presence forevermore. God, forgive us. Lord, hear our prayer.**

(TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION)

*PARDON

Leader: We, who once were dead in our sins, are now alive to God through Jesus Christ, our Lord. In grace and mercy, God has forgiven all our sins, and with joy and expectation is calling us into new life for the sake of the world, through Jesus Christ our savior.

People: **In Jesus Christ our savior we are forgiven. Thanks be God! Alleluia, Amen.**

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

God's Word Is Proclaimed

SCRIPTURE LESSON:

1 Corinthians 15:1–26, 51–57

(NT) pg. 176

¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the

message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. ³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. ²¹For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²²for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

⁵¹Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.)

SERMON

Living with Mystery

Rev. Ken Locke

We Respond to God's Word

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Leader: 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 this 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 child. 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**

**All: 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.**

Leader: Do you desire to have your child 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.

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

***People: We receive this child 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.)

Leader: 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 child 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Risen God, through the power of your act of love on the cross and your resurrection from the tomb, you shattered the power of death and opened to us the way of everlasting life. Make us confident in this promise, that we might live and work fearlessly to bring about your reign in the here and now.

People: God of resurrection, in mercy hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for the redemption of all that you have made, and trust that the promise of eternal life extends to this beautiful earth.

People: Redeeming God, in mercy hear our prayer.

Leader: Renew hope in the face of discouragement. Inspire our leaders to continue persisting in the often-frustrating work of addressing inequity, so that all might have life and have it abundantly.

People: Inspiring God, in mercy hear our prayer.

Leader: Comfort all who are grieving the loss of loved ones, the loss of health, or any other loss, with the promise of the resurrection. Especially bring your promise of abundant life to Karen Fox, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Karen Vornholt, Terri Mullins, Denise Joyce, Bev Poppe, Ann Hudson, Dee Schroer, and Anna Hoelscher.

People: Comforting God, in mercy hear our prayer.

Leader: With the hope of those who have been baptized in mystery, we lift up every community throughout the world where death is a harsh, daily reality due to war, famine, disease, natural disasters, domestic violence, random violence, desertion, and addiction. Strengthen all people in the hope that death will not have the last

word and spur us to action to address these pressing issues so that your beloved children might live long, healthy lives in this world.

People: Strengthening God, in mercy hear our prayer.

Leader: Risen God, we know you have not deserted us. We know you are still speaking to us through word, song, sacrament, and silence.

People: Speak, Lord. Your people are listening.

(Time for silently listening to God.)

Leader: Speaking and listening God, we place in your arms all for whom we pray, out loud or in our hearts, confident in your mercy and grace, through Jesus Christ, our savior, who taught us how to live eternal lives when he taught us 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. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. 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, v.1–2

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

All: Generous God, you provide all we need in this life. We proclaim our gratitude for your generosity and trust in your promised future by returning these gifts to the service of this community of faith and all that you have created. Accept them, we pray, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our savior. Amen.

*HYMN

Christ is Alive

No. 312

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Leader: 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.

People: **And also with you.**

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

*POSTLUDE

Death, Be Not Proud

John Donne (1572–1631)

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so;

For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow

Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me.

From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be,

Much pleasure; then from thee much more must flow,

And soonest our best men with thee do go,

Rest of their bones, and soul's delivery.

Thou art slave to fate, chance, kings, and desperate men,

And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell,

And poppy or charms can make us sleep as well

And better than thy stroke; why swell'st thou then?

One short sleep past, we wake eternally

And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.

No Matter

♩=120

Musical staff with notes and chords: F, Dm, Gm7, C, F, F7

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

Musical staff with notes and chords: B \flat , G 7 , F, Dm, G 7 , Gm 7 , C 7

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

Musical staff with notes and chords: F, Dm, Gm 7 , C, F, F 7

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

Musical staff with notes and chords: B \flat , G 7 , F, Dm, Gm 7 , C 7 , C, F, F

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

To verses Last time, Fine

He Lives

B \flat $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ B \flat $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ B \flat $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ B \flat

1 I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, he's in the world to - day;
 2 In all the world a - round me I see his lov - ing care,
 3 Re - joice, re - joice, O Chris - tian, lift up your voice and sing

$\frac{D7}{A}$ Gm C7 F7

I know that he is liv - ing, what - ev - er some may say;
 and though my heart grows wea - ry, I nev - er will de - spair;
 e - ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ the King!

B \flat $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ B \flat $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ B \flat $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ B \flat

I see his hand of mer - cy, I hear his voice of cheer,
 I know that he is lead - ing through all the storm - y blast,
 The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find,

C7 C $\frac{E}{C}$ C7 $\frac{Am}{C}$ C7 F

and just the time I need him he's al - ways near.
 the day of his ap - pear - ing will come at last.
 none oth - er is so lov - ing, so good and kind.

688 We Give Thee but Thine Own

G $\frac{G}{B}$ C2 $\frac{D7}{A}$ G $\frac{G}{F}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ $\frac{Am}{C}$ C#dim7 Dsus D

1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be:
 2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
 3 To com - fort and to bless, to find a balm for woe,
 4 The cap - tive to re - lieve, to God the lost to bring,
 5 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:

D G $\frac{G}{B}$ C2 $\frac{D7}{A}$ Em D G $\frac{G7}{B}$ $\frac{Am}{C}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
 and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
 to tend the lone and fa - ther - less is an - gels' work be - low.
 to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing.
 what - e'er for thine we do, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

WORDS: William W. How (1823-1897)
 MUSIC: Mason and Webb's *Cantica Laudis*, 1850

SCHUMANN
 S.M.

Christ Is Alive!

C G7/D C/E F G7/D C G/D C/E

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live and comes to bring good news to

G7/D C G7/F C/E G7/D C G G/B D G G/B

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - ery age; till earth and sky and

C G/D D7 G G/F C/E C Dm7/F Dm6 C/E Dm F C/G G7 C

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Go with Us, Lord

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

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and ev - ery com - ing day,

G Am $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G $\frac{Am}{C}$ D G $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{Am}{C}$ D Em $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{Am}{C}$ D G

that in your Spir - it strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.

WORDS: Mary Jackson Cathey (1926-)
MUSIC: Thomas Tallis (ca. 1505-1585)

TALLIS' CANON
L.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Altar Flowers are in memory of Angela Lynne Bushman by Dennis Bushman and family. (*Altar flowers can be taken home after worship service.*)

Circle of Friends Cards for you to sign are for Rev. Locke (East door), Ann Hudson and Gina Kuenning (South door), Rev. May (North door). Recipients appreciate the cards you sign.

Today We Celebrate the Baptism of Cecilia Lane Sachtler, daughter of Markus and Briana Sachtler.

Open House for Rev. Locke Following Today's Worship Service -

As well as celebrating 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 join us for fellowship and to say your goodbyes. All are welcome.

(Although today is Pastor Ken's last Sunday in the pulpit, he will be in and out of the church office from May 13th-16th. He will be on vacation May 17th-31st.)



Worship Attendance:

May 4th - In-Person-21

May 5th - In-Person-127, Online-33

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 stpaulnb@nktelco.net.

Blessing Pantry –

Hours: Tuesdays 5:30pm-7:30pm, Wednesdays & Thursdays 1:00pm-3:00pm. **The Blessing Pantry's Current Needs Include:** Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Kleenex, Shaving Cream, Men's and Women's Deodorant, Laundry Detergent, Softener Sheets, Baby Shampoo, Diaper Cream, Baby Diapers sizes (3, 4, 5, and 6). Containers are located outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations to be dropped off. **All donations are welcome. Thank you!**

Church Office Hours: As of May 1st, the church office hours are 10 am–5 pm Monday through Friday. The office is closed for lunch from 12–1 pm.

This Week's Events:

13th Coffee and Conversation at the New Bremen Coffee Co.

14th Blessing Pantry is open from 5:30–7:30pm

14th Church Council Meeting at 7:00pm in the assembly room.

16th Blessing Pantry is open from 1–3pm

17th Blessing Pantry is open from 1–3pm

May Mission of the Month



CROSSROAD

Child & Family Services

Since 1883, Crossroad's mission has been to help vulnerable children and families. Today, we use our decades of expertise to help emotionally troubled children. Abuse, neglect, child trafficking, parental drug abuse, domestic violence, and brain trauma have impacted children. Crossroad encourages you to consider a thoughtful gift to help our kids.

There are many ways you can help:

- Please pray for our children, staff, and the Board of Directors.
- Your financial gifts of any amount are a blessing.
- We use gifts of merchandise for Christmas, birthdays, incentives, and more. *(If you would like to see the full list of items, please contact June Oaks.)*

Thank you for your financial donations to Crossroad Child & Family Services, St. Paul UCC's monthly mission for May. Thank you from the Mission Team.

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 \$2,113.5

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.**