

# St. Paul United Church of Christ

119 N. Franklin St.  
P.O. Box 6  
New Bremen, OH 45869

## July 2024 Newsletter



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**Join us for Worship! All are Welcome!**

Worship services are held each Sunday at 10:15 am  
in the sanctuary and on Facebook Live.

Saturday services are held in the chapel the  
first Saturday of each month at 5:00 pm.



## **From Dave's Desk....**

As you read this, I have been at St. Paul for almost three weeks as your Interim Pastor. I appreciated the spirit in worship on my first two Sundays. Thank you to those who have attended, to those who greeted and welcomed Janise and me, to all who stayed for the Welcome Reception after worship on 6/9, to those who planned and hosted the reception and brought goodies for the tables, and to all who have offered words of care and support. I am grateful to God to be here!

We are moved into the parsonage and appreciate those who have been so wonderfully attentive to some needs and details that needed to and will soon be taken care of. We were mostly unpacked in short order, except for boxes and other items that are waiting until after the new flooring is installed upstairs and in parts of the first floor. But Janise's organizational skills, cleaning abilities, and decorating touches are evident in both the inside and outside areas of the house. It is beginning to feel like home. Once the flooring is done and we can complete our unpacking we look forward to hosting an Open House so everyone can see the parsonage.

I'm very excited about beginning our mutual ministry. I look forward to learning more names (please bear with Janise and me!), making new friends, journeying with you in faith, and working with you during my time here in continuing what is already a friendly and Spirit-filled church family. I covet your support and prayers as I learn the ropes at St. Paul, get further settled, and determine how best to partner with you while you seek a new settled pastor.

Special thanks to the Search Team and Council for their faith in me as shown in extending the call to me to serve St. Paul as Interim Pastor; to some of the staff and volunteers with whom I've met; and to our Office Administrator Jenn

for patiently answering questions and helping me navigate my couple of weeks in the office.

Feel free to stop by my office to say hello and to see some of my personal touches – if you don't mind a lot of Chicago Cubs baseball decor that is! I have regular office hours Monday-Thursday in the mornings and occasionally in the afternoons when I'm not visiting or have other tasks, I am off on Fridays, and I work part of the day on Saturdays.

May God bless our time together!

See you in church....

*Pastor Dave*

### **Pastoral Care and our New Interim Pastor**

In the interest of fostering the best communication possible as we begin our relationship as interim pastor and congregation, please let Pastor Dave know if there's a need for which you desire pastoral assistance. You can reach him by phone at the church office (419-629-2502) or on his cell (419-410-4090, text also), or via email at [stpaulpastor@nktelco.net](mailto:stpaulpastor@nktelco.net). He invites members to make contact when there's a hospitalization, surgery, health concern, or death, when you need to talk, when there's a birth, when you'd like to plan a baptism or a wedding, when you have questions about faith and/or the church, or when you or someone about whom you care need to be lifted up in prayer. Pastor Dave, along with Jeff Paul, our Lay Minister of Visitation, desires to be responsive to your pastoral care needs and to share your joys and concerns, so please communicate with him as you feel comfortable. He also promises to maintain confidentiality if you share with him a circumstance or prayer concern that you wish to remain private.

### **New Members' Orientation Coming Soon**

Are you or is someone you know interested in church membership or perhaps in simply learning more about St. Paul and/or the United Church of Christ? Plans will soon be made for a series of New Members' Orientation Sessions. There are two people who are definitely interested in joining St. Paul. We just need to know if there are more. If so, please speak with Pastor Dave or contact the church office about your intentions, and you will be given

a new member packet. You will then be contacted regarding the schedule of the three orientation sessions.

**Found and (possibly) Lost:** Box of Bibles: The New Adventure Bible, 2 Good News Bibles, Large White Holy Bible, Book –“ You’ll Get Through This”, and Antique Bible presented to Frank Rudd on Dec. 25, 1910. Anyone missing these or know who they belong to please contact Bev Plattner, 419-629-2694 or 419236-1558

## July Events

### **Coffee Shop Gathering**

**Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup>**

Take an afternoon break, and join other community members at the New Bremen Coffee Co. every Monday at 2:00 pm for conversation and fellowship.

### **Elmwood Worship**

**Tuesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Join Pastor Dave at 2:00 pm for worship service with Elmwood Residents. Volunteers are welcome. Please arrive at Elmwood by 1:45 pm.

### **Happy Independence Day - Church Office Closed**

**Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup>**

### **Men’s Group**

**Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup>**

The Men’s Group will meet at Tom Quellhorst’s home at 8:00 am for fellowship on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Tom’s address is 04795 Tangeman Rd. New Bremen.

### **Saturday Worship**

**Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup>**

Join us for worship with Holy Communion at 5:00 pm in the chapel. Saturday worship is the first Saturday of each month. All are Welcome!

### **Communion Sunday**

**Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>**

Join us for worship with Holy Communion at 10:15 am in the sanctuary.

### **Church Council Meeting**

**Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>**

Church council meetings are at 7:00 pm on the second Tuesday of each month.

*“It is not how much we do but how much love we put in the doing.”*

– Mother Teresa

## United in Our Mission

### **Calling All Musicians – Musicians Needed for Special Music this Summer**

To enhance our music ministry, we invite talented members and friends of St. Paul to offer the gift of music during our worship services. If you would like to provide special music this summer – sing, play an instrument, get a group together, play the piano – please contact the church office at 419-629-2502. Music is such an integral and appreciated part of our worship, so we look forward to expanding and celebrating this gift in a special way!

### **Blessing Pantry News**

**Hours:** Tuesdays: 5:30-7:30 pm, Wednesdays & Thursdays: 1-3 pm.

**Visits:** During the month of May, there were 35 visits to the blessing pantry with 145 people served.

### **Join the Prayer Chain**

Prayer chains are a powerful way for people to support one another and lift up their needs and hopes to God. You can join the prayer chain by contacting Jeff Paul at [jrpaul@nktelco.net](mailto:jrpaul@nktelco.net) or 419-305-0584.

### **July Mission - Washington UCC Back to School Ministry**

The school year is quickly approaching and again we are continuing to help the disadvantaged children served by Washington UCC by supporting their *Back to School* ministry program. With the funds, they are able to send many of their low-income children back to school, each in a uniform, if required, or new school clothes, socks and shoes, along with a backpack of school supplies and a personal hygiene kit. Our donations last year helped them to provide school uniforms for nearly 20 students in the Camp Washington community.

On average it is estimated that each student's average annual needs are \$100.00 per child. Camp Washington aims to help about 25 children this year, so the project costs would be around \$2500. Throughout the month of July we will be sharing the gifts that are donated to provide uniforms and hygiene kits to the children at Camp Washington, as their needs are continuing to grow.

Donations at any level are welcomed, and will make a great impact on the children in these communities. Thank you for your continued generosity and support, the Mission Team.

### **Community Garden Updates**

The community garden volunteers have been busy planting, weeding, and watering these past few months. The cherry tree is flourishing, tomatoes are ripening, and the zucchini and green bean plants are starting to produce.

Thank you to ALL the volunteers who plant, water, weed, and keep our garden healthy and fruitful year after year! We would like to also thank our neighbors, Scott and Natalie Thitoff, who live next to the garden, for generously donating their water each year.

The food grown in the community garden is for all to enjoy! Be sure to stop over and discover all the delicious, fresh food waiting for you to pick and enjoy!



**Photo Description:** St. Paul members and community garden volunteers, John and Nancy Knost stand in front of a cherry tree in the community garden.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST SAYS

# Thank You!

To the members of

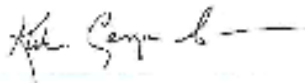
**St. Paul UCC, New Bremen**

For your **2023** contribution of

**\$24,699.10** Basic

For Basic Support of

**Our Church's Wider Mission**



**Karen Georgia A. Thompson**  
General Minister and President  
United Church of Christ



**Rev. David Long-Higgins**  
Conference Minister



**Rev. Daniel L. Beach**  
Association Minister



## Worship Team Meeting Minutes from June 16th

**Attendees:** June Oaks, Mike Holdren, John Mohrman, Gary Wehmeyer, Jeff Paul, Ann Kuhn, Patty Ruckman. Lisa Wiegandt, Bev Plattner, Myra Hanenkratt, Pastor Dave Voll

**Old Business:** The follow-up discussion on the bulletin print style resulted in agreement the booklet style is preferred. Further discussion was had on the need to print the hymns in the bulletin. It was felt it was overkill as they are presented on the monitors, and we have hymnals in the pews. We will offer to have the hymns printed separately for those who want them.

Connection card samples have been obtained from vendors as well as pricing. They will be forwarded to council for discussion and decision.

### **New Business:**

Pastor Dave shared his preferences on order of worship and lectionary options. He prefers the Children's Moment before the Scriptures and use of the Revised Common Lectionary. Inclusive language at his discretion as the congregation is comfortable with either. Worship team felt he should continue with what he is comfortable with.

**Other Business:** It was decided the ushers will consolidate the offering into the single offering plate brought to the altar for dedication. The altar will be moved back to its original position. Clarified that on Sundays that start on the first of the month, Communion will be offered on the following Saturday and Sunday. Discussed Kickoff Sunday in September. Pastor Dave shared that he and Jenn were working on revising forms for Baptisms, Wedding and Funerals. He also shared that he typically offers home Communion to shut ins and nursing home residents five times a year. Ann Kuhn brought how wonderful it would be if we could restart a program to reach out to people with random acts of kindness as we have done in the past. An example was delivering cookies door to door. It was decided to get the Discipleship Team and youth involved to come up with ideas.

Pastor Dave suggested we meet every other month going forward. The next Worship Team meeting will be August 11, 2024 after worship, 11:30AM. Meeting in the assembly room. Bev Plattner will offer devotions and opening prayer.

Meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Dave.



## Church Council News and Updates from June 11<sup>th</sup>

**Attendees:** Pastor Dave, Mike Holdren, June Oaks, John Mohrman, Tom Brandewie, Katie Dietrich, Tim Nevels, Terri Mullins, Marlene Ahlers, Janet Eilerman, Brenda Siefring, Abby Bushman, and Mimi Messick.

**Old Business:** Escape route maps are being updated and will be placed next to each door in the church. Council will form a committee for a cleanup project of the church and educational buildings.

**Interim Pastor's Report:** Good to finally be here! I'm getting acclimated; and it's been very busy, but things are going well thus far. I've settled into the office and have put a few personal touches on it. Feel free to stop in and take a look. Jenn has been very helpful with supplying information and answering lots of questions. I hope to begin doing some visits soon. I've talked with Jeff Paul about this. I've already had several people stop by my office and introduce themselves. I have met some of the staff members but look forward to getting together with each of them one on one. I visited with the Coffee Group each of the last two Mondays. I led the Chapel/Communion Service at Elmwood on 6/4 with assistance from six volunteers from the congregation. I participated in a staff meeting on 6/6.

By the time we meet I will have had my first worship service under my belt. Thank you for covering our moving expenses. The tolls are still being ironed out because of a discrepancy, so I'm waiting to turn in all the paperwork at once in order to be reimbursed. Church Membership – Janise & I will not be transferring it here, which is normal for interim pastors. Please let me know how I can be of assistance in a way that I may not be aware. Feel free to tap into my years of experience if you have questions. I'm grateful that St. Paul is a healthy congregation and I look forward to continuing and building upon the positive work that has been done. My basic plan as your interim pastor is to accompany, support, and help lead you through this time of transition of seeking a settled pastor and look at the congregation through fresh eyes. And in general, my role during this interim time is to help the St. Paul church family ask three basic questions: "Who are we?" "Who is our neighbor?" and "What is God calling us to do or become?" More on these as we move forward together, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

## Community Calendar

- July 1** – New Bremen Library, Patriotic Paper Lantern, 10 am
- July 2** – Minster Story Time at the Gazebo in Centennial Park, 10:30 am
- July 3** – Wapak Library, Kids Drawling and Donuts, 12 pm
- July 4** – St. Joe Festival Fireworks, Auglaize County Fairgrounds, 10:30 pm
- July 6** – Indian Lake Beach Spectacular & Fireworks, 10 pm
- July 7** – Tom John Concert, Minster Machine Centennial Park, 6:30 pm
- July 8** – Minster Library, Live Animals with Indiana WILD, 6-7 pm
- July 9** – New Bremen Library, Live Animals with Indiana WILD, 1-2 pm
- July 11** – New Bremen Library, Story Time and Craft, 10:30 am
- July 14** – Walt Schmitmeyer Concert, New Bremen Crown Pavilion, 6:30 pm
- July 18** – New Bremen Library, Story time and Craft, 10:30 am
- July 23** – Minster Story time at the Gazebo in Centennial Park, 10:30 am
- July 25** – New Bremen Library, Story time and Craft, 10:30 am
- July 26 & 27** – Fireman’s Picnic, New Bremen Crown Pavilion
- July 28** – Auglaize County Fair Begins
- July 30** – Auglaize County Fair Kids Day Activities, 12-4 pm
- July 30** – Minster Story time at the Gazebo in Centennial Park, 10:30 am



## 2024 Financial Information as of June 17, 2024

### **Operating Fund**

Beg. Balance \$16,714.70  
Endowment Trans \$18,510.00 (ytd)  
Income \$148,944.13 (ytd)  
Expenses \$136,976.62 (ytd)  
Balance \$28,682.21 (ytd)

### **Building Maintenance & Property**

Beg. Balance \$71,978.89  
Income \$25,738.00 (ytd)  
Endowment Inc. \$523.38 (ytd)  
Expenses \$15,209.98 (ytd)  
Balance \$83,030.29 (ytd)

### **Our Church's Wider Mission**

Pledge \$25,000.00  
Income \$12,203.00 (ytd)

### **Local Aid**

Beg. Balance \$16,791.50  
Income \$5,914.00 (ytd)  
Expenses \$929.00 (ytd)  
Balance \$21,776.50 (ytd)

### **Blessing Pantry**

Beg. Balance \$32,845.83  
Income \$6,791.62 (ytd)  
Expenses \$3,451.52 (ytd)  
Balance \$36,185.93 (ytd)

### **Project of the Year**

Income \$3,771.50

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

- Jane Goodall

## Ways to Give to St. Paul:

1. **Giving Envelopes** – Monetary donations are always welcome and much needed to continue the mission of St. Paul UCC New Bremen. Giving envelopes and offering plates are available on the tables in the chapel and sanctuary.
2. **By Mail** – Checks can be mailed to:

**St. Paul UCC  
P.O. Box 6  
New Bremen, OH 45869**

3. **Online** – Make a donation on our website: [www.stpaulnb.org](http://www.stpaulnb.org)

4. **Text** – Make a donation to our Number: 833-308-0048

**How to Give by Text:** (*\$25 is used in the example below. The minimum amount is \$5.*)

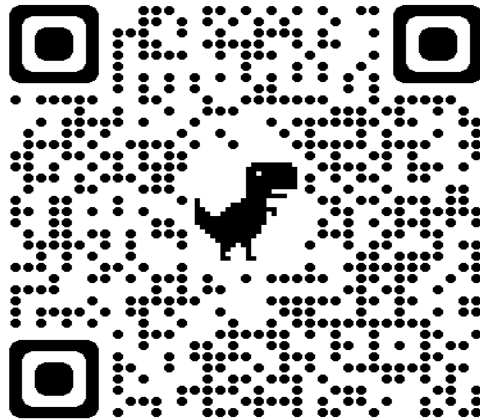
- For general fund giving: **Send 25 gl** (hit send)
- For building & property fund giving: **Send 25 bp** (hit send)
  - For the Blessing Pantry: **Send 25 pantry** (hit send)
  - For project of the year giving: **Send 25 poy** (hit send)

Once a text amount is sent:

**Registration Link** is sent by text the first time a donation is made.

*“Thank you! Please visit (link) to register.”*

**Donation Confirmation** is sent by text each time a donation is made.



# *St. Paul United Church of Christ*

*119 N. Franklin St.*

*(P.O. Box 6)*

*New Bremen, OH 45869*

Rev. David Voll, Interim Pastor      Email: [stpaulpastor@nktelco.net](mailto:stpaulpastor@nktelco.net)

Matt Ranly, Council President      Phone: 419-305-1057

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 10 am–5 pm

Phone: 419-629-2502

Email: [stpaulnb@nktelco.net](mailto:stpaulnb@nktelco.net)

Website: <https://stpaulnb.org>

Facebook: [St. Paul United Church of Christ – New Bremen, Ohio](#)

## *Who We Are*

**We are a justice-minded Christian community**

**WELCOMING TO ALL.**

At a time when religion is too often portrayed as narrow-minded and exclusive, St.

Paul UCC believes in an alternate vision:

- God is all-loving and inclusive.
- The Church welcomes and accepts everyone as they are.
  - Your mind is nourished as much as your soul.
  - Jesus the healer meets Jesus the revolutionary.
  - Together we grow a just and peaceful world.

