

# **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](mailto:stpaulnb@nktelco.net)

Visit our website at <https://stpaulnb.org>

Like and follow our page St. Paul United Church of Christ – New Bremen, Ohio on Facebook

Rev. Ken Locke- Interim Pastor [stpaulpastor@nktelco.net](mailto:stpaulpastor@nktelco.net)

Matt Ranly- Council President

## **March Mailer**



## MARCH EVENTS

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>** | Men's Club – 8:00am at Speedway Lanes

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>** | Worship with Holy Communion at 5:00pm in the chapel

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>** | Worship with Holy Communion at 10:15am in the sanctuary

**March 4<sup>th</sup>** | Finance Team Meeting at 7:00pm

**March 5<sup>th</sup>** | Elmwood Worship at 2:00pm. All are welcome. Please arrive at Elmwood by 1:45pm.

**March 7<sup>th</sup>** | Church Council reports are due to the office administrator by noon.

**March 12<sup>th</sup>** | Church Council Meeting at 7:00pm in the assembly room

**March 14<sup>th</sup>** | Women's Service Group at 11:00am in the assembly room.

**March 14<sup>th</sup>** | Easter Lily Orders Due - Submit your order form & payment to the church office.

**March 17<sup>th</sup>** | Fellowship & Bowling at Speedway Lanes from 11:30am-1:30pm. ALL ARE WELCOME!

**March 18<sup>th</sup>** | Deadline for April monthly mailer submissions - Newsletter submissions can be emailed to the church office at [stpaulnb@nktelco.net](mailto:stpaulnb@nktelco.net).

**March 24<sup>th</sup>** | Palm Sunday Service and Rite of Confirmation at 10:15am worship

**March 28<sup>th</sup>** | Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion at 7:00pm in the auditorium.

**March 29<sup>th</sup>** | Good Friday Service will take place at 7:00pm in the sanctuary.

**March 31<sup>st</sup>** | Easter Brunch in the assembly room from 8:15-9:45am.

**March 31<sup>st</sup>** | Easter Worship will be offered at 7:00am (Sunrise Service) and again at 10:15am.

**Church Nursery Champion-** We are looking for a nursery champion. If you feel called to be that person, please contact the church office. In the meantime, if you would like to volunteer on a first Sunday of the month (Holy Communion Sundays) to help in the nursery, please contact the church office until a champion is found.

**Devotional Email–** If you would like to receive the weekly devotional email, please email [stpaulnb@nktelco.net](mailto:stpaulnb@nktelco.net) to let the church office know.

**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.



**2024 Altar Flower Chart** is posted. Please sign up for the date(s) you would like. Currently April 21st and May 19th are available to sign up. You may also call the church office to sign up. The cost for altar flowers is \$40.00.

**Volunteers Needed-** The church office is looking for volunteers to be in the office to answer the phone during posted office hours of Monday-Wednesday from 9:00am-12:00pm. If you are interested, please contact the office at 419-629-2502.



**The Women's Service Group has received a grant for \$500** from the Heartland Conference to assist in the making of 100 school bag kits for Church World Service. The bags include a ruler, eraser, pencils, scissors, crayons, pencil sharpener, notebooks, and articles needed for children to learn. Church World Service distributes them to areas of need in our world. Natural disasters and conflicts happen often, and the need is great.

We are a small group and need help from our congregation in the making of these bags. Material is being supplied along with a very simple pattern. If interested, please contact Joyce Gilberg at 419-629-2947 or Sally Dicke at 419-629-2720.

**St. Paul UCC Job Openings**— The following positions are available: Music Director, Bell Choir Director, and Chancel Choir Director. Interested applicants are asked to submit a resume and cover letter, indicating position applying for, to the church office, ATTN: Matt Ranly, Council President.

The Music Director/Bell Choir Director/Chancel Choir Director serves part time to recruit, rehearse and perform bell and chancel choir music. The Music Director works closely with the Worship Team.

**Blessing Pantry** is open on **Tuesdays- 5:30pm-7:30pm, and Wednesdays & Thursdays- 1:00pm-3:00pm**. The Pantry will be closed Mondays and Fridays. **All Donations Welcome—Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.



**Want to be part of the Prayer Chain?** Please contact Prayer Chain Champion, Jeff Paul at [jrpaul@nktelco.net](mailto:jrpaul@nktelco.net) or 419-305-0584. The St. Paul Prayer Chain has two formats: texting and email. All are welcome.

**Giving Envelopes** will no longer be included in the monthly mailers. Monetary donations are always welcome and much needed to continue the mission of St. Paul UCC New Bremen. Ways to give:

***In Person*** – Giving envelopes and offering plates are available on the tables in the chapel and sanctuary.

***By Mail*** – Checks can be mailed to

St. Paul UCC

P.O. Box 6

New Bremen, OH 45869

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

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

*(Please find the text instructions on the back of this mailer and the Sunday bulletins.)*



# The March Monthly Mission is One Great Hour of Sharing®



One Great Hour of Sharing® (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

Share the Light! If you would like to support the mission of One Great Hour of Sharing mail your donation to St. Paul UCC P.O. Box 6 New Bremen, OH 45869. Be sure to write "March Mission" on your check or envelope. You can also designate your online donation to the March mission of the month, or visit <https://support.ucc.org/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/one-great-hour-of-sharing-donation> Thank you! The Mission Team

## A message from the St. Paul Trustees:



iHeartCraftyThings.com

Over the last several months, we have all heard of the numerous thefts that have taken place in our region. In order to respond to these threats, the Church Council has decided to do two things:

1. Change the locks on all the outside doors. We feel that there are so many keys out there, that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to assess who has keys right now. Changing the locks gives us an opportunity to start from scratch!
2. Add an Electronic Key System to the west door. This system allows us to easily grant access for the various groups that use our building. It will also allow us to monitor who is using the building and when. In this way we intend to improve the overall security of the facilities.

Therefore, we need to establish a list of all the folks who need access to the Church/Education Building. We want to ensure that everyone who currently needs access will continue to have access. It is not our intention to prevent the wonderful people of St. Paul and our community from using our church or the education building. It is, however, our intention to ensure the safety and security of the building and those who use it. This transition will take some time, so please be patient with us.

In order to get things started, we would like to know who will require access to the buildings. If that is you, please see call, stop by or email ([stpaulnb@nktelco.net](mailto:stpaulnb@nktelco.net)) the church's administration office.

If you have any questions about this transition, please reach out to the council. Thank you. St. Paul Trustees

February 18, First Sunday of Lent

9 am Sunday School / 10:15 am worship

February 25, Second Sunday of Lent

9 am Sunday School for all ages  
Annual Congregational Meeting 10:15 am

March 3, Third Sunday of Lent

9 am Sunday School for all ages  
10:15 am Confirmation Faith Statements,  
Baptism and Holy Communion

March 10, Fourth Sunday of Lent

9 am Sunday School for all ages  
Confirmation Faith Statements 10:15 am  
Daylight Savings Time (Spring Forward!)

March 17, Fifth Sunday of Lent

9 am Sunday School for all ages  
Confirmation Faith Statements 10:15 am  
Fellowship & Bowling 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

March 20, Last Wednesday  
of Youth Group for all youth

March 24, Palm Sunday

Rite of Confirmation Sunday worship at  
10:15 am

March 28, Maundy Thursday

Hand Washing Service  
at 7:00 pm

March 29, Good Friday

Service at 7:00 pm

March 31, Easter Sunday

7:00 am and 10:15 am

March 31, Easter Brunch

Assembly Room  
8:15 am - 9:45 am

March 31, Sunday School

9:00 am - 10:00 am



# Lenten Lessons with Pastor Ken

All are welcome to join Pastor Ken in the chapel  
for a special time set aside for  
Adult Sunday School, Bible readings & prayers.

1. Sunday, February 18th @ 9 am
2. Sunday, February 25th @ 9 am
3. Sunday, March 3rd @ 9 am
4. Sunday, March 10th @ 9 am
5. Sunday, March 17th @ 9 am



## Are You Preparing for the Big Event?

Most of us have probably heard of the Roman Emperor Nero (37-68 AD), one of the most vapid, useless, destructive, and self-destructive of Roman Emperors. Most of his horribleness was concentrated on his immediate family and within the city of Rome. What made him an international object of derision was his behavior at the Olympic games.

*“In AD 67 Nero participated in the Olympics. He had bribed organizers to postpone the games for a year so he could participate, and artistic competitions were added to the athletic events. Nero won every contest in which he was a competitor. During the games Nero sang and played his lyre on stage, acted in tragedies and raced chariots. He won a 10-horse chariot race, despite being thrown from the chariot and leaving the race. He was crowned on the basis that he would have won if he had completed the race. After he died a year later, his name was removed from the list of winners.”* (Source: Wikipedia)

In effect, Nero won an Academy Award without ever learning his lines. He won the Pulitzer Prize without ever picking up a pen. And he won Wimbledon without ever holding a racquet. Nero loved celebrating his victories without ever training for a match.

We are not Nero. We are not destructive and evil. But truth-be-told, wouldn't we prefer celebrating victories without training for the match? Wouldn't we like to write a great novel without ever going to the trouble of actually writing it? Wouldn't we like to play world-class guitar without ever getting callouses on our fingers?

The last Sunday of this month, March 31<sup>st</sup>, is Easter Sunday. We will celebrate Jesus' resurrection and his triumph over death. I hope our church will be so packed, at both services, that people will be standing in the aisles. I hope we that we will have so many households worshiping online that our Facebook feed comes within a breath of crashing.

But more than that, I hope that our services will be meaningful. I hope that they will be meaningful, powerful, uplifting, and God-praising for everyone. Whether it is someone's first time ever to enter a church, or if they have been here every Sunday for years, I pray that the experience will help them draw closer to God and know God's love more clearly.

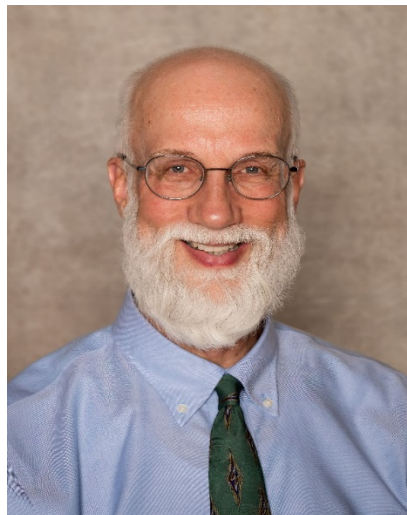
Easter is not an athletic event or a writing contest. But nor should it be celebrated without preparing for it. Celebrating Easter without preparing for it is like the difference between air-guitar and real-guitar. One looks good, the other is good.

What will help our Easter be genuinely meaningful is training for it. The more we prepare for Easter by reading our Bibles, worshiping, praying, and following one of the Lenten disciplines, the more we will long for Jesus' resurrection. The more we will look forward to eternal life with God. The more meaningful and powerful Jesus' resurrection will be for us.

Easter is the High Holy Day of our faith. Jesus' victory over death is at the core of our beliefs, guides our Christian practices, and makes us distinctive among world religions. And to get the most from it, for it to genuinely change our lives, we really need to prepare.

Easter is barely a month away. May we use these days training ourselves for the victory to come.

God's peace to us all,  
Pastor Ken.



## **2024 Financial Information as of February 17, 2024**

### **Operating Fund**

Beg. Balance \$16,714.70  
Endowment Trans \$6,170.00 (ytd)  
Income \$36,979.83 (ytd)  
Expenses \$38,075.45 (ytd)  
Balance \$15,619.89 (ytd)

### **Building Maint & Property**

Beg. Balance \$71,978.89  
Income \$2,515.00 (ytd)  
Endowment Inc. \$12.74 (ytd)  
Expenses \$7,363.41 (ytd)  
Balance \$67,117.74 (ytd)

### **Project of the Year**

Income \$216.50

### **Local Aid**

Beg. Balance \$16,791.50  
Income \$1,270.00 (ytd)  
Expenses \$125.00 (ytd)  
Balance \$17,936.50 (ytd)

### **Blessing Pantry**

Beg. Balance \$32,845.83  
Income \$2,895.00 (ytd)  
Expenses \$243.50 (ytd)  
Balance \$35,497.33 (ytd)

### **Our Church Wider Mission**

Pledge \$25,000.00  
Income \$3,698.00 (ytd)





# PALM SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, March 24, 2024  
10:15 a.m.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION



**ST. PAUL U.C.C.**

*Maundy Thursday*

**MARCH 28, 2024**

**TO CELEBRATE JESUS' LAST SUPPER  
WE WILL WORSHIP IN THE AUDITORIUM**

**7:00 PM**

**SERVICE WILL INCLUDE HANDWASHING & COMMUNION**





*Good Friday*  
**SERVICE**

Friday, March 29, 2024

**7:00 P.M.** ST. PAUL CHURCH

**JOIN US AS WE REMEMBER JESUS' ARREST AND  
CRUCIFIXION. WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY  
WILL INCLUDE THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF  
CHRIST AND THE STRIPPING OF THE  
SANCTUARY.**

## **E-Giving @ St. Paul**

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

