

May 2024 Newsletter

St. Paul United Church of Christ

119 North Franklin Street

P.O. Box 6

New Bremen, Ohio 45869

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Email: stpaulnb@nktelco.net

Website: <https://stpaulnb.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/p/St-Paul-United-Church-of-Christ-New-Bremen-Ohio-100064276556097/>

Interim Pastor: Rev. Ken Locke

Council President: Matt Ranly



MAY EVENTS

May 4th | Men's Club – 8:00am at Speedway Lanes.

May 4th | Worship with Holy Communion at 5:00pm in the chapel.

May 5th | Youth Sunday School Celebration/Last day of Sunday School.

May 5th | Worship with Holy Communion at 10:15am in the sanctuary. Our Sunday School youth will sing and be recognized during worship.

May 7th | Elmwood Assisted Living Worship at 2:00pm. All are welcome. Please arrive at Elmwood by 1:45pm.

May 7th | Church Council reports are due to the office by noon.

May 9th | Women's Service Group meets at noon.

May 12th | Mother's Day

May 12th | Rev. Locke's last day in the pulpit. All are welcome to join us in honoring him with at an open house following worship. Light refreshments will be served.

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

May 20th | Deadline for June monthly mailer submissions. Email your submissions to the church office at stpaulnb@nktelco.net.



Stay Connected

Devotional Email - If you would like to receive the weekly devotional email, please email stpaulnb@nktelco.net to let the church office know.

Prayer & Visitation Requests – If you or a close family member is in need of prayers or homebound/in assisted living and would like to be visited, please call the church office at 419-629-2502 or contact Jeff Paul, our Lay Minister of Visitation, at jrpaul@nktelco.net or 419-305-0584.

Join the Prayer Chain – Please contact Prayer Chain Champion, Jeff Paul at jrpaul@nktelco.net or 419-305-0584 to be included in the prayer chain list.

New Office Hours – Starting May 1st, the church office will be open Monday through Friday from 10:00am to 5:00pm (closed for lunch from 12:00-1:00pm).

Leadership and Community

2024 Council Candidate – 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 News

Hours: Tuesdays- 5:30pm-7:30pm, Wednesdays & Thursdays- 1:00pm-3:00pm. The Pantry is closed Mondays and Fridays.

March Numbers – There were 48 visits to the blessing pantry with 157 people served.

Donation to American Red Cross – The Blessing Pantry donated \$1,000 to the American Red Cross to support disaster relief efforts in the Indian Lake Region.



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

April 02, 2024

RED CROSS SUPPORTER
PO BOX 6
NEW BREMEN OH 45869-0006



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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gail McGovern".

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

Supporting Our Mission

Time & Talent – Share your gifts with our church family. There are many opportunities to share your time and talents from serving on the mission team to baking cookies, tending to our community garden, helping with luncheons or worship services, and everything in between. For more information, contact the church office at (419) 629-2502 or stpaulnb@nktelco.net.

"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about." Margaret J. Wheatley

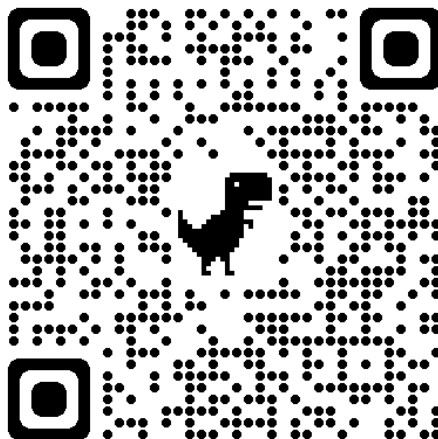
Ways to Give:

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.

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

Text – Make a donation to our Number: 833-308-0048 (*Text instructions are listed on the second to the last page of this mailer and in the Sunday bulletins.*)



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.

April Church Council Meeting Minutes

St. Paul UCC Council Meeting

April 9, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Matt Ranly in attendance were Pastor Ken, Mike Holdren, June Oaks, John Mohrman, Tim Nevels, Shelly Zeller, Marlene Ahlers, Janet Eilerman, Brenda Siefring, Lindsay Quellhorst, Abby Bushman, Bev Plattner, and Mimi Messick.

Opening Scripture and Prayer were given by Pastor Ken.

Announcements:

Cardinal Music Boosters thank you.

Old Business:

1. Trustees Update:
 - a. keypad update: there is a timing glitch on the west door, New Wave to come out and take a look
 - b. 2 more keypad quotes for North and East doors motion to accept Brenda Siefring, seconded by Mike Holdren, motion approved
2. Project of the Year: Parsonage Phase 2 - Matt Ranly presented to congregation
3. Music Director position is still open
4. Leaded window panels in parsonage update: these are finished, need to be hung
5. Pastor Voll update: additional salary (Medicare Plan B) motion to accept Tim Nevels, seconded by Marlene Ahlers. Pastor Voll's first service to preach will be June 9, 2024.
6. Pastor Ken last service will May 12th with a sanctuary reception to follow. Mimi Messick will head this up.

7. Technology update: Church Windows needs updated ASAP
8. Community Garden update: John and Nancy Knost to head this up

Secretary's Report: Secretary's Report was reviewed and approved by Lindsay Quellhorst, and seconded by Brenda Siefring, minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was reviewed with a motion to accept by June Oaks, and Mike Holdren seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Team Reports:

Discipleship: no report

Finance: no report

Budget: no report

Stewardship: no report

Deacon's Report: We are always looking for more ushers to help out with our church services. We are still looking for a Junior Deacon, so if you feel that you are this person, please contact June Oaks, Matt Ranly or the church office.

Elder's Report: no report

Blessing Pantry: no report

Trustees Report: Lindsay Quellhorst

1. Locks are changed and the electronic system is in place and working. There have been some issues but we are working through them; I appreciate everyone's patience during this. I want to also thank John Mohrman and Jenn Snider for their

help running this system day to day and working out any glitches.

- a. Keys have been distributed to those we believe should have one (John, Shelly, funeral home, blessing pantry, and pastor)
- b. Suggestion has been made to install an electronic system on the north door of education building for blessing pantry
2. Parsonage renovations are in full swing:
 - a. Quotes have been given for flooring
 - b. Drywall is being repaired in the next few weeks
 - c. Hoffman decorating gave us an estimate for painting upstairs and laundry room
 - d. Light covers are being ordered for upstairs hallway
 - e. Unnecessary curtain rods and shelves have been removed
 - f. Laundry room door is being repaired by Roland Dicke
 - g. Baumer Construction is coming out to look at the porch railing
 - h. Porch floor needs repainted...I suggest power washing the house too along with the porch floor before painting
3. Gene Topp offered to do snow removal of parking areas.
 - a. We still need someone for sidewalks and stairs.
4. Tim has been working with John on the broken sign on the west side as well as other things in and around the church.
Lindsay Quellhorst, Tim Nevels, Tom Brandewie - Trustees

Worship: Next Worship Team Meeting: April 21, 2024, 11:30AM

Mission: will meet June 2, 2024

Staff Reports:

Maintenance Report: John Mohrmon

- Working with the maintenance trainee and the trustees.
- Performed weekly and monthly preventive maintenance checks.
- Set clocks to daylight savings time.
- NuWave Technologies installed programmable lock on east educational building entrance. Both east and west educational building doors now controlled by these locks. Fobs and pin numbers issued to who need frequent access. We are working through minor glitches.
- All outside access doors for the sanctuary and educational buildings rekeyed with limited distribution of these keys.
- The left column of modules of the electronic sign on the west side of the educational building quit working. Worked with the sign company and found a power supply was not working. They shipped us a new power supply to be installed before the council meeting.
- One end of the lights above the curtains behind the alter in the sanctuary dropped down about a foot. A majority of the screws holding fell out. Put it back in place with longer screws.
- Other small things taken care of as needed.

Ministry Assistant's Report: Abby Bushman

It's been a great year to grow in faith and friendships at St. Paul Church. Thank you to the families, for your commitment to Wednesday night youth group as we have grown our faith together through bible lessons, activities and games. Thank you to our many volunteers and mentors for being a part of the ministry team! It is such a blessing to watch our congregation enjoy

fellowship in bowling together as well as Youth Group enjoying their last dinner at the Mexican Restaurant in New Bremen. Thank you to everyone involved in the planning and preparation for the Lenten Season as your hard work is greatly appreciated! Congratulations to the new members of the church! If you see these confirmands, please take a minute to congratulate them. Thank you to all who helped us enjoy a brunch together between services on Easter Morning.

Looking ahead St. Paul UCC would like to invite our St. Paul high school graduates to Senior Recognition Day during 10:15am worship on Sunday, April 21st. Prior to this day we ask for a senior photo to be emailed to the church office at stpaulnb@nktelco.net to be included in the bulletin on April 21st. We look forward to this day of celebration! Please let us know if your son or daughter will be attending this worship service by emailing stpaulnb@nktelco.net no later than Monday, April 15th.

Earth Day is April 22nd! Help your family connect with nature by promoting a service of “pick up” in your neighborhood. We encourage you to engage in nature by picking up sticks, cleaning up flower beds, pick up trash in the side ditches and recycle.

Save the Date for Upcoming Youth Events:

April 21: Senior Recognition, 10:15 am worship

April 22: Earth Day

May 5: Last Day of Sunday School, 9:00 am – 10:00 am

May 5: Teacher and Youth Leader Recognition, 10:15 am worship

July 28–August 3: Auglaize County Fair

Summer events with details to come:

- Dayton Dragons Baseball Game
- Fellowship
- Fishing and Swimming
- KC Geiger Miniature Golf Course
- Camp Clay Aqua Park
- NB Splash Pad

Lay Minister Report: no report

Pastor Ken's Report: March 7 – April 3, 2024

Sermons 4

Visits 5

Adult Sunday School class 1

Confirmation class 2

Maundy Thursday Service

Good Friday Service

Easter Sunrise Service

Easter Brunch

Church-wide Bowling

Coffee Shop Hours 4

Funeral 1

Elmwood Worship Service

Community of Practice

Webinar – Vitality in Small Churches

Since we last met, I experienced God in the way so many people came together to help the Holy Week and Easter Sunday services come together. My great thanks to each of you who had anything to do with them being such a success. Now that my leaving has been officially announced, I will share that I am sad to be leaving. I

haven't left yet, and I intend to show up every day ready to be your pastor, but I am starting to get excited about seeking out the next place to which God will call me. My prayer is that I will learn as much about ministry from them as I have from you. I would very much appreciate your prayers as I seek my next call.

Motion to accept all reports made by Mike Holdren, seconded by Brenda Siefring, motion approved.

Announcements: Next meeting – May 14, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Mimi Messick, Secretary

Matt Ranly, President

Transition Service Schedule:

April 14: Bryan Trego

May 12: Pastor Ken's final service

May 19: Bryan Trego

May 26 Bryan Trego

June 1st & June 2nd: Jeanette Tangeman

June 9: Pastor Voll's first service



A Message from Our Church Council President, Matt Ranly

As many of you know, Pastor Ken will be moving on to his next interim parish soon. We hope that he has some wonderful memories of St. Paul to take along with him! He will be sorely missed, but changing parishes is at the core of his mission as an interim minister.

Please plan to attend his last service on May 12th to wish him well. We will also honor him with food and drinks in the sanctuary following the service.

The name of our new interim minister is Pastor David Voll. He and his wife Janise will be moving into the parsonage on June 1st. His first service with us will be June 9th. Pastor David is a lifelong UCC Minister and has extensive experience serving small communities like New Bremen. Please give him a warm welcome as we take on this next chapter in our mission.

Services will go on as planned during this transition; May 19th and May 26th will be led by Bryan Trego, while Jeanette Tangeman will be here for our June 1st and 2nd services.

Matt Ranly
Council President

Interim Pastor's Message

My Beloved –

As I hope you all know, my time here at St Paul UCC is rapidly drawing to its natural end. Our Council has chosen our next pastor, who will begin ministry here on June 1st. My last Sunday in the pulpit will be May 12th, Mothers' Day. I will be in and out of the office from May 13-16, and will end the month with packing, moving, and vacation.

Of course, now I have to find another job. I have cast several nets in the water. Please pray that I will soon find an appropriate position.

I am sad to be leaving you. I have enjoyed my time as your interim pastor and living in New Bremen. As well as getting to know many of you personally, I have a number of fond memories and lessons learned that I will take with me. Breakfast at a bowling alley can be surprisingly filling, and drinking too much coffee on a Monday afternoon is not always bad for you. Youth can actually be fun. (Thank you, confirmation class and teachers.) Opening and closing songs can add to worship, provided we don't sing them so often we no longer pay attention to the message. And it can be relaxing to sit back and let someone else moderate council meetings.

Again, thank you to so many who have been so kind and taught me so much.

We have a lot going for us here at St Paul, UCC. We are blessed with a lovely building and grounds, which you have lovingly maintained over the years. We are financially stable. Many of our laity are deeply involved in the day-to-day running of our church. And the parsonage is a delightful place to live!

We also have a lot of opportunities. Our Blessing Pantry is the jewel in the crown of our missions, but there are plenty of other opportunities both close to home and farther away. We are in a good place to position ourselves as distinctive from other churches in our area, particularly in our understanding of God's love and such important issues as gender equality and embracing diversity. We talk about wanting to grow, but for many people we are just the right size. Small enough we can be known personally if we want, large enough we can be a face in the crowd if we prefer. And every Sunday we have a loyal following on Facebook Live.

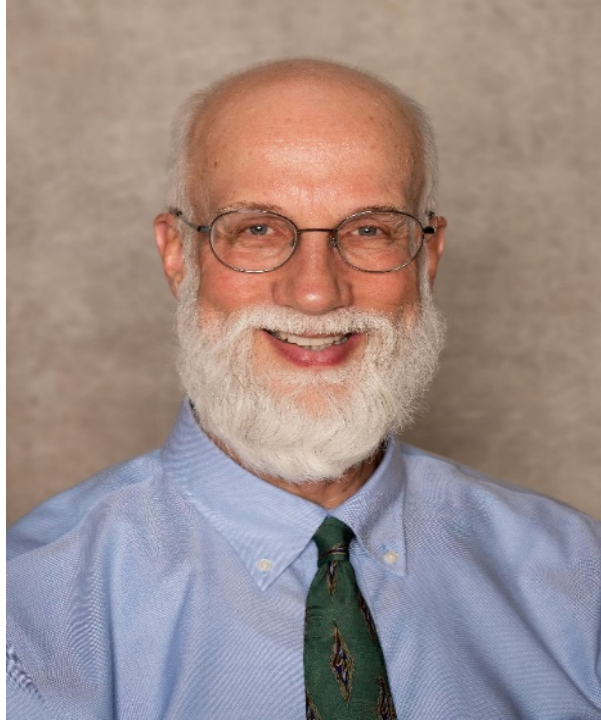
Of course, like any organization there are things we could improve. No gathering of human beings is perfect. It is arrogant to think we are. I have shared my thoughts on what I think could be improved with our Council. They will take such action as they deem best.

I would like to close by saying what I have said many times before. If we care about our church, if we want our church to be the best church it can be and to make the greatest impact possible, the best thing we can do is to grow in faith ourselves. The more we grow in faith - the more we know God's love up close and personal, the more we live the life of self-giving love Jesus modeled for us - the better we will serve our church and our ministries.

Reading our Bible, reading our devotions, praying with and for others, worshiping regularly, whether in person or online: these are not just things we do. They are the machines in the gym of spiritual development. They help us grow to be more and more the people God calls us to be. And the more we as individuals live the way God wants us to, the more our congregation will thrive and do ministry.

May God's peace be with you all, this day and always.

Pastor Ken.



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 Maintenance & 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))

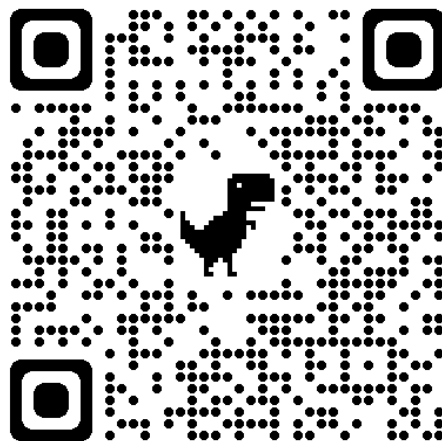
- For general fund giving: Send 25 gl (hit send)
- For building & property fund giving: Send 25 bp (hit send)
- For Blessing Pantry: Send 25 pantry (hit send)
- For project of the year giving: Send 25 poy (hit send)

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.





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!!!

