

December 26 Meditation Cheyenne Olt

A couple weeks ago, my husband and I took our two year old daughter to see a giant display of Christmas lights down in Hamilton. Now, I've always been one to enjoy light displays, but this time was different. From the moment she saw the start of the display, Charlie started exclaiming, "Mommy! Daddy! It's Christmas!! See the 'hights'?!" As we slowly drove through the 2 and a half mile long colorful journey, the utter joy and wonder in her eyes never faded. With each new character and color, she would urgently reach up to tap our arms. With each new sight, she implored, "Mommy! Daddy! Look! Look! See the 'hights'? Wowww." Charlie wanted to make absolutely sure we did not miss a single thing on our drive.

I had always thought Christmas lights were beautiful, but for the first time, I was nearly in tears. *This*, I thought, *is the true meaning of Christmas*. Hearing Charlie's awe and wonder gave me permission to revel in those moments, just being together with the people I love and appreciating the beauty around us. Knowing that my daughter was so happy made me positively overflow with joy in a way I had never experienced before. My husband felt the same, and just being together, *feeling* together, had a profound effect on all of us.

On this first Sunday after Christmas, it is easy to lose sight of what's truly meaningful. We spend so much time and energy (and money) in preparation for Christmas morning, that by the time the true Christmas season rolls around, we cannot give our hearts to honoring the baby in the manger who has finally arrived. Like John the Baptist explains in today's scripture reading, *now* is the time to prepare the way for Jesus. Now that Jesus is here, the work of Christmas is just beginning!

So, just what is this work of Christmas? How do we prepare the way for Jesus? A number of ideas spring to mind, but the truth is, all of them revolve around one main concept: agape. Agape is the Greek word for unconditional, spiritual love and charity. In contrast to other types of love, agape represents the love God has for his creation. In a way, this could be considered the highest form of love, because it transcends circumstance and judgment. When we practice agape, it involves seeing aspects of Jesus in others while bringing out those qualities in them and ourselves. If, as Christians, we derive all of our actions from a place of unconditional love, we embody our faith.

Unfortunately, the world makes the practice of agape unimaginably difficult. Agape runs counter to our culture. When we recognize that Christmas joy comes through the act of giving, not receiving, this grates against the ways of our immediate gratification society. We live in a microwave lifestyle where convenience reigns and self-interest governs. Something my AP European History teacher always used to quip when discussing motives throughout history is, "well, as we all know, the one who dies with the most toys wins." Yet, as Christians, we are called to live differently. We know that death is not the end, so why do we make choices as though this life is all there is?

To prepare the way for Jesus, we must resist the pull of ubiquitous consumerism. We are immersed in advertising throughout our days, and our children grow up knowing no other way. This consumer culture is insidious, because it drives our lack of contentment and discourages generosity. After all, content, secure people don't tend to purchase as much stuff. But, if advertising can make us insecure...can gradually degrade our very self-worth as God's creation...well, suddenly more stuff seems like the answer when you feel as though you are never enough. Insecurity is very profitable. So, what are we to do?

For starters, we should take after John the Baptist. As John defines himself as separate from, but witness to, Jesus, so must we constantly define ourselves in relation to the world. To be yourself is truly difficult, especially to be content as a creation of God in a world where everyone wants you to fit in and buy the next best thing. When we give of ourselves and our spirit through the practice of agape, we find the beauty of humanity. As we help others, we discover and appreciate the humanity (and therefore, Godliness) in ourselves. When we recognize that divine spark that connects us all as common spirits, perfect in our imperfections, we become that much closer to God. We are all mirrors—cracked, broken, missing shards, but nonetheless we reflect God's essence in our very being. The greeting of "namaste" exemplifies this—the spirit in me greets the spirit in you.

As we strive for contentment, we should also remember that God has given us a secret weapon to aid in our struggle. This powerful antidote to consumerism? Childlike wonder. Just like my daughter and the Christmas lights, if you ever need a reminder of how to be more Christlike, take a toddler for a walk outside. At some point, a bug or leaf or blade of grass will catch their eye, and suddenly, that becomes their entire world. As they marvel at something so simple, overlooked, and often taken for granted, consider that this is one of God's ways of reminding us what is truly important.

There is a reason Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me!" The wonder and innocence of children is something we should strive to emulate in our journey to become more Christlike. When we appreciate the holiness of the mundane through childlike wonder, we take another step toward preparing the way for Jesus. Taking delight in simple facets of existence is a great way to worship God's creation. So, don't be afraid to play with the boxes you got yesterday. After all, it's what's inside YOU that really matters.



Swanson Presentation
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St. Paul United Church of Christ

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Bremen, Ohio on Facebook

Rev. Becky Strang-Senior Pastor

Roland Dicke-Council President

Welcome to St. Paul UCC, we are glad you are here!!

Whether you are worshipping online or in person, your presence increases our joy as we praise our loving Savior. May every blessing be yours.

January 2, 2022

Second Sunday after Christmas

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Rev. Jeanette Tangeman

Shelly Zeller

Connie O'Neill

Tracy Oldiges

Jim Strang

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Guest Pastor

Liturgist

Organist

Sr. Deacon

Music Director

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF CANDLES: You are invited to light a candle or candles at home in preparation for worship.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME SONG

No Matter

$\text{♩} = 120$

No mat-ter who, no mat-ter what no mat-ter where you are on the
jour-ney of life; you're wel-come, wel-come in this place. No mat-ter
who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the
jour-ney of life: ac-cept-ed, wel-comed by God's grace. grace.

To verses | Last time, Fine

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph

People: God is there

Leader: When Jesus is presented at the temple,

People: God is there

Leader: When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms

People: God is there

Leader: When Anna recognizes Jesus in the temple

People: God is there

Leader: This very morning

People: God is here

Leader: In the future we cannot see,

People: God is there

All: Let us worship God together.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

180

F Fdim7 F $\frac{F\#dim7}{Bb}$ $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 F

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

F $\frac{F}{Eb}$ D D7 Gsus Gm $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ $\frac{Am}{C}$ C7 F

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love,
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

F $\frac{Edim}{G}$ G#dim7 A N.C. $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ A

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

F Fdim7 F Bb+ $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ $\frac{G7}{D}$ $\frac{Am}{C}$ C7 F

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

INVOCATION (unison)

Sovereign God, who visited this planet in Jesus of Nazareth, renew within us the sense of your presence with us. We give thanks for your works of love and your merciful provision for all our needs. In covenant with you and all your people we join in worship and service. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Lift your eyes to see the mercy of our God. We need not carry the guilt that is in us, day after day. God is willing to knit the fragmented pieces of our existence into a meaningful whole. Let us pour out our need for pardon, trusting God's mercy.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we bring to you our good intentions and our poor follow-through. We want to live in the light, yet we continue to dwell content in the shadows, where less seems to be demanded of us. We desire to identify with the poor and help to win justice for them, but sometimes they seem a threat to our values and advantages. We pray for peace and yet tolerate whatever violence seems to offer us protection. Forgive our duplicity and restore us to single-minded devotion to your compassionate will, through Christ, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: God offers to bridge the distance between our aims and our achievements, and is ready to use our gifts in service to a needy world. Thanks be to God for healing our fragmented lives and empowering our witness. Amen.

CHRISTMAS CAROL

Mary Did You Know

Mary, Did You Know?

1 Ma - ry, did you know that your ba - by boy would
2 Ma - ry, did you know that your ba - by boy would

Chords: Cm, Bb

some - day walk on a wa - ter? Ma - ry, did you
give sight to a blind man? Ma - ry, did you

Chords: Ab, Cm/G, G, Gsus

know that your ba - by boy would save our sons and daugh -
know that your ba - by boy will calm a storm with his

Chords: Cm, Bb, Ab, Fm/G

- ters? Did you know that your ba - by boy has
hand? Did you know that your ba - by boy has

Chords: G, Ab, Bb

WORDS: Mark Lowry (20th c.)

MUSIC: Buddy Greene (20th c.); arr. Jack Schrader (1942-)

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Gsus G N.C. Cm Bb

Lamb. Ma-ry, did you know that your ba - by boy is

Ab Cm/G G Gsus Cm Bb

Lord of all cre - a - tion? Ma-ry, did you know that your ba -

Ab Fm/G G Gsus Ab

- by boy will one day rule the na - tions? Did you know

Bb Eb Gm7/D Cm

that your ba - by boy was heav-en's per-fect Lamb? This

Fm Fm/Eb Fm6/D Cm/G G7 Cm

sleep-ing child you're hold-ing is the great "I AM!"

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Birth Candle on the altar for Cole Joseph Albers born December 21, 2021. Cole is the son of Jessica and Matt Albers, brother of Jace Albers, grandson of Jeff and Deb Scheer and great grandson of Martha Plattner.

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Carol Mohrman, John Tostrick, Julia Paul, Susan (Topp) Wicker, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Jan Dammeyer, Scott Kuenning, Shannon Shupp, and Dee Schroer.

Please keep the family of Dorothy "Dot" Koeper in your prayers. Dot passed away Thursday, December 23, 2021.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER.

God of love and mercy, hear the silent prayers of our hearts...God of all times, now that the mad rush is over, now that the needles are falling from the tree, in the stillness and the peace, we thank you that you are still God-with-us. As we face the year ahead help us to accept the difficult parts of our lives, help us to make the changes we must make, bring us to new places of openness and love toward you and the people around us. Help us to overcome the fears which keep us from the fullness of life that is your desire for us. As we face the year ahead, we thank you for one another. Help us together, as a congregation, to be signs of your compassion, hope, joy, and unity in this world you love. As we worship together we bring to you our joys, knowing that you share in every moment of our lives. Accept our gratitude for all your gifts. Confident of your presence we pray for strength and comfort for those who are hurting or struggling this day. May your love surround them and sustain them, your touch bring them wholeness. As we begin another year in our time, there are many who are always on our hearts: those who do not have sufficient food or shelter, those whose lives are filled with pain and hopelessness, those who are victims of disasters and tragedies beyond our ability to even imagine, brothers and sisters whose names and faces are known only to you. Hear our prayers, too, for those who serve you as missionaries, bringing hope to those who would otherwise never know that you are their God. We pray for the church in the world, for all who would bring your message of constant presence, love and forgiveness...and now hear us as with the confidence of children of God

we pray the prayer Jesus taught his disciples and us... **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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Luke 2:22-40

22 When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), 24 and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. 27 Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

29 “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

30 for my eyes have seen your salvation,

31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel.”

33 And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed 35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

36 There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband

seven years after her marriage, 37 then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. 38 At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

39 When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

RESPONSE

Leader: The word of God for the people of God!

People: God is still speaking! Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Long-Awaited Gift

Rev. Jeanette Tangeman

Well it's over. The stores have quit playing Christmas carols and put out Valentine's Day candy. The radio stations which have been playing Christmas songs since before Thanksgiving have gone back to regular broadcasting the day after Christmas. Many people have already taken down Christmas trees and other decorations. Gifts have been used, used up or even broken. It happens every year.

One of my favorite writers, Ann Weems, in her book entitled *Kneeling in Bethlehem*, writes a poem called "Later" which I would like to share with you. "Later, after the angels, after the stable, after the Child, they went back...as we always must, back to the world that doesn't understand our talk of angels and stars and especially not the Child. We go back complaining that it doesn't last. They went back singing praises to God! We do have to go back but we can still sing the alleluias!"

Today's scripture follows the birth story in the Gospel of Luke and leads us right into the ways in which two people who had been living in the world, waiting an inordinate amount of time for the gift of a Savior, did not stop singing just because the child had arrived. They, in their own ways, still sang the Alleluias—Simeon announcing that he had, in the child in his arms, seen God's salvation and he praised God and blessed Jesus' parents; and Anna, having seen the child began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of

Israel. They continued by realizing for themselves and for the world that this tiny baby's birth was not the end of the gift giving, but the beginning.

There is much to learn from these few verses, things we need to understand to help us to continue to have hope, to have faith, to speak and sing the good news of the gift of the Christ child far beyond the Christmas season. The writer of the Gospel of Luke wants us to understand that Jesus was raised in the faithful observance of Jewish law. Luke mentions the word for law 9 times in the gospel and 5 of them are found in this passage. The Law of Moses honors God in all of life, in your coming in, your going out, when you rise and when you lie down, the way you eat and the way you dress. For new parents it was the law to present the infant in the temple and to give an offering of a lamb. However, Mary and Joseph brought 2 turtledoves, the offering of those who were too poor to bring a lamb. So no matter their circumstances, they did what the law required right from the beginning. And we can surely assume that from the beginning he was taught to honor God as that law specified. So for us, who claim to follow Jesus, do we teach our children by word and example to honor God in all our lives, in our coming in and going out, when we rise and when we lie down? Do we know that no matter our economic circumstances, whatever we bring to God with our hearts is enough?

After years of waiting, Simeon and Anna were there, in the right place at the right time to see God's promise fulfilled. And how did that happen? Luke was very specific. The Holy Spirit rested upon Simeon. It was revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah, and the Holy Spirit guided him into the temple. What if he hadn't listened? What if he shrugged it off as one of those crazy feelings? He would have missed the gift that God was planning to give him. He would never have known the joy of tenderly holding the infant Jesus in his arms. Imagine holding in your arms the hope of the ages. What have you missed because you could not imagine that the Holy Spirit was leading you somewhere for something? Anna had spent all those years worshiping by fasting and praying and the wait and faith was worth it, for she at last knew that the little baby was the redemption of Israel and she shared the news with all who, like her, were waiting for it. Do you have faith that your prayers will be answered, even if it is not today or

tomorrow? What is worth it to you to be faithful in prayer and wait for the answer? Will you share it with the world?

And do not miss the important message that Simeon and Anna understood about this baby. This infant was the fulfillment of God's promise to provide a way of salvation for ALL the peoples. A light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel. Not just for people of a particular ethnic or color or religion or any of the "isms" we assign them, but for ALL. And as James Howell tells it, "God did not come down as a powerful emperor or a rich man. God came down not to thrash evildoers or crush Romans, but as an infant to elicit love, to nurture tenderness." Do we always need power and authority telling us how to live our lives? Does crushing power and authority really keep us safe, really make our world a better place? Is tenderness a sign of weakness? Do we really believe that God loves us better than those others?

Once we begin to shape our daily lives with love, with kindness, with the ability to see God's love in others, to see the heart of a person, to see the Christ within, we know it can make a real difference, not just to others but to ourselves as well. Love and kindness do not make up the majority of the daily news, that is for certain. But think how it makes you feel when you see something in the news, on TV, or Facebook about some loving thing that someone is doing whether it is in your neighborhood or across the country. Love is out there, and great good is being done, but you need to be open to seeing and hearing it. And most of all, you need to be open to reminding yourself in every situation what the loving or kind thing would be and then to carry it out. It is not always easy. Revenge is sweet they say. Greed creeps in. Jumping to conclusions when you don't know the facts or circumstances is much quicker than looking for them in love. The hope within is that love can conquer all. But love is an action verb and we must follow and shape our lives in the love of Christ. As the saying goes be the change you want to see in the world.

In our culture of immediate gratification, instant messaging, fast food meals and next day deliveries, we are not accustomed to the kind of waiting which Simeon and Anna had experienced. We do not make long term commitments very well. Just try to plan something for a particular date and time, maybe next month, maybe next year, and you will be frustrated to find that many who might participate will not commit until very

close to the date. You never know when something better might come along. The way in which we live our lives today makes it difficult for us to understand Simeon spending his whole life waiting and Anna spending all of those year praying and fasting in the temple. And the way in which we so quickly move from the celebration of the birth of Jesus back to “normal” days and nights might get in the way of our continuing to sing those alleluias. The long-awaited gift has been given, we celebrated, done for another year. What is left to sing about?

The message to us from Simeon and Anna is this—a baby changes everything. In this humble, vulnerable baby, in the simplicity of his birth, lies the hopes and fears of all the years, as we just sang in the carol, O Little Town of Bethlehem. Do you remember singing those words or do you just sing the carol because that’s what we do at Christmas? It is amazing if we stop and think about the meaning of the words of our favorite carols. They put a voice to the understanding that the writers had that the birth of the child Jesus was only the beginning of the gift God gave to the world.

For me, the absolute picture of this is found in the hymn we just sang, Mary Did You Know. Did you know, the song asks, that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters? Did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation? Did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations? Did you know that this sleeping child you’re holding is the great “I AM?” What a reminder as we sing that God gave us more than a precious little baby to love.

An article I once read in the Lima Sunday news really touched my heart. A mom usually writes her column about parenting joys and tribulations with her two small girls. This day she was looking back at her first pregnancy and how she prepared her heart and her body and her lifestyle for the coming baby. She went into great detail that I know those of you who have experienced pregnancy and those of you who have adopted, waited for a grandchild, or a new family member could shake your heads as you remember too. She talked about loving it, defending it, nurturing it, and her hopes for it. She wondered if she would be good enough, know enough, what would he/she look like, what would he/she look like as an adult. And she knew it would be God’s greatest gift to her. When the baby was placed in her arms after all the waiting and planning

she knew she felt a piece of heaven. What if we waited for Gods greatest gift, a son, Jesus to come into our lives with that same anticipation, planning, hoping? What if having received it we told the world about it, just as a new parent shares their good news with anyone who will listen? What if we continue to sing alleluias about the good news we have been given? We can change a bit of the world!

As we sing our last hymn, Go Tell it on the Mountain, one way we continue to sing alleluias to the world, note the very last words before the final refrain—"God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn." Yes, as we go back to our daily norms of life, we need to let Jesus be born in our hearts and continue to sing the alleluias so that the world will know that there is hope, that there is something worth waiting for and living for. May our alleluias never stop ringing.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: God calls us to give as we have received. On this Sunday following Christmas, when our blessings are great, when God has shared God's child with us, we need to share our blessings with those in need.

OFFERING CAROL

In the Bleak Midwinter

What can I offer poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

yet what can I offer: all of my heart.

OFFERING PRAYER (in unison)

God of Vision, take these offerings of money and turn them into vision: vision of all people fed, vision of all people safe, vision of all people housed, vision of all people educated, vision of all people learning of your love. Amen

CAROL

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

CHRISTMAS

218

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain (Unison)

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery-where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.

Parts

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

to Refrain

BENEDICTION: As you go your way, remember that you have received the long-awaited gift, a gift meant for sharing with all you meet. So never stop singing the alleluias, for you have been richly blessed and the world needs to know. May God give you peace. Shalom

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of Janice Schroer by the Lloyd Schroer Family.

Attendance-Daily Devotions-63, December 19-Sunday Worship Online-186, In Person-86, Sunday School-In Person-29, Teachers-7, Splash-11, Confirmation-6, Leaders-13.

Sundays in January-Worship will be in person and via Facebook Live at 10:15am. **Sunday School** will be in person at 9:00am. **No Sunday School** January 2.

Wednesday night youth/confirmation resume Wednesday, January 5, 2022. Hours-**Splash** 5:30pm-6:30pm, **youth dinner** 6:30pm, **Jr/Sr high youth group** 7:00pm-8:00pm, **confirmation** 7:00pm-8:30pm.

Anna Louise Hoelscher Retirement Reception-For over ten years, Anna Hoelscher served as our Lay Minister of Visitation. This was a position that she loved and her impact on our congregation has been mighty. Anna retired at the end of 2021 from this position—along with the position of Saturday Worship Song Leader. To celebrate Anna's retirement and to honor her service with us, we will celebrate her ministry during worship on Sunday, January 16. There will be a reception in the sanctuary following worship. We invite the congregation to write cards/notes of thanksgiving to give to Anna Louise that day.

Women's Service Group-Will meet Thursday, January 13. Soup and a movie are the plans for the meeting. Time to be announced. All are welcome.

Widow and Widower Luncheon-The next Widow, Widower Luncheon will be at 11:30 am on Wednesday, January 12th. All are welcome to come for a time of eating, sharing and laughter. Immanuel Church Fellowship Hall, Kettlersville.



When: January 17, 2022

Who: Everyone

Where: St. Paul Assembly Room

Serving: 4:00pm-6:00pm

Menu: Pasta, Vegetable, Salads, Bread, Yummy Desserts

Carry-outs Available, Free Chair Massages

Prepared and Served by: OCCL

Daily Devotions-Please join us, Monday-Thursday at 11:30am, online via Facebook Live. These will air on our Facebook page: St. Paul United Church of Christ-New Bremen, OH.

2022 Altar Flower Chart has been posted in the Narthex. Please sign up for the date(s) you would like. Dates available-January 16, 23, 30, February 6, 20, April 3, 24, May 8, 22, June 26, July 3, August 14, 21, 28, September 18, October 23, 30, November 20. You may also call the church office Monday-Friday to sign up. Thank you. Price is \$30.00.

2022 Council Positions-2022 has arrived and we still need to fill the **Jr. Deacon** council position. Please prayerfully consider serving. Questions or willing to serve, please contact Roland Dicke or Myra Hanenkratt. Thank you!

Blessing Pantry-is accessible during these hours - **Tuesdays 5:30pm-7:30pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays 1:00pm-3:00pm**. The Pantry will be closed Mondays and Fridays. **All Donations Welcome – Blessing Pantry Needs- Diapers (size 2, 6), Pull Ups (size 3-6), Baby Wipes, Diaper Cream, Tampons, Bandages, Paper Plates, Toilet Paper, and Paper Towels. Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

Bulletin Availability-weekly bulletins are available for download on our website stpaulnb.org. Just click the yellow **BULLETINS** box in the upper right hand corner.

January/February Upper Rooms-are available at the East entrance to the education building and on the round tables in the sanctuary. Or please call the church office if you would like one and we will gladly mail one to you.

Mailbox-There is a mailbox outside of the East Educational Building door for any correspondence you may have for the church and would like to drop off. Please lift the flap and drop through the slot on the top. Thank you!

Calendar-Week of January 2, 2022

Sunday	10:15am	Worship in person & via Facebook Live w/Holy Communion
Monday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop-New Bremen
Tuesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00pm	Elmwood Worship
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Wednesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	5:30pm-6:30pm	Splash (4 th & 5 th grade)
	6:30pm	Youth Dinner
	7:00pm-8:00pm	Jr/Sr High Youth
	7:00pm-8:30pm	Confirmation
Thursday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Friday	Noon	Office Closed
Saturday	8:00am	Men's Club-Speedway Lanes

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