



January 1, 2023

New Year's Day

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 or stpaulnb@gmail.com

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

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

Rev. Becky Erb Strang-Senior Pastor

Myra Hanenkratt-Council President

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

Whether you are worshipping online or in person, Welcome!

Your presence increases our joy as we praise our loving Savior.

May every blessing be yours.

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Roland Dicke

Myra Hanenkratt

Bryan Trego

Bev Plattner

June Oaks

Jim Strang

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Worship Leader

Worship Leader

Worship Leader

Accompanist

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

$\text{♩} = 120$

F Dm Gm7 C F F7
No mat-ter who, no mat-ter what no mat-ter where you are on the

B^b G7 F Dm G7 Gm7 C7
jour-ney of life; you're wel-come, wel-come in this place. No mat-ter

F Dm Gm7 C F F7
who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the

B^b G7 F Dm Gm7 C7 C F F
jour-ney of life: ac-cept-ed, wel-comed by God's grace. grace.

To verses Last time, Fine

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: As we welcome in the new year, we look to the past:

People: So many things have happened. Some of them have been wonderful; others very sad.

Leader: In all of this, God has been with us: guiding, healing, comforting and rejoicing.

People: Thanks be to God for God's continual presence with us.

Leader: Now we are on the threshold of a new tomorrow.

People: We don't know what it will hold for us.

Leader: In all of what is to come, God will be with us.

Everyone: Thank you, God, for your steadfast love and presence. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

Come, Let Us Praise the Lord

No.9

Come, Let Us Praise the Lord

C G/B C Am Cmaj7/G F C/E G7/D C G

1 Come, let us praise the Lord, with joy our God ac-claim, his
 2 Our God of match-less worth, our King be-yond com-pare, the
 3 In wor-ship bow the knee, our glo-rious God con-fess; the
 4 Come, hear his voice to-day, re-ceive what love im-parts; his

C Am Am7 D D/C G/B C G/B D7 G C F Bdim/D

great-ness tell a-broad and bless his sav-ing name. Lift high your
 deep-est bounds of earth, the hills, are in his care. He all de-
 great Cre-a-tor, he, the Lord of Right-eous-ness. He reigns un-
 ho-ly will o-bey and hard-en not your hearts. His ways are

C G/B C F/A C/G F E Am Dm/F C/G G7 C

songs be-fore his throne to whom a-lone all praise be-longs.
 crees, who by his hand pre-pared the land and formed the seas.
 seen: his flock he feeds and gent-ly leads in pas-tures green.
 best; and lead at last, all trou-bles past, to per-fect rest.

WORDS: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-); para. Psalm 95
 MUSIC: John Darwall (1731-1789)

DARWALL'S 148th
 6.6.6.4.4.8.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: God has come to us in Christ, but often we live as if that makes no difference. Let us confess our sin.

*UNISON CONFESSION OF SIN

God of grace, we confess that we have elevated the things of this world above you. We have made idols of possessions and people and used your name for causes that are not consistent with you and your purposes. We have permitted our schedules to come first and have not taken the time to worship you. We have not always honored those who guided us in life. We have participated in systems that take life instead of give it. We have been unfaithful to our covenant relationships. We have yearned for, and sometimes taken, that which is not ours, and we have misrepresented others' intentions. Forgive us, O God, for the many ways we fall short of your glory. Help us to live together according to your ways through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*SILENT CONFESSIONS OF SIN

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Be of good courage, for God sent the Word into the world not to judge but to save. I say to you in the name of Jesus Christ: your sin is forgiven. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, let us live as children of God. Amen.

*HALLELUJAH!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht Hal - le -

lu - jaht Hal - le - lu - jaht

Chord markings: C, Am7, D7, G, D, Em

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Welcoming 2023!!!

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Barb Tostrick, Larry Kuhn, Betty Bushman, Rob Paul, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Karen Vornholt, Shannon Shupp, and Dee Schroer.

PASTORAL PRAYER. SILENT PRAYER. THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Leader: Let us pray. Confident that your promises are sure, O God, we pray for the church, your world, and for all in need.

SILENCE

Leader: God of new beginnings, you have gifted us with this day to start anew: forgiven and redeemed, loved and sent. Assure us that you will abide with us in this new year. Immanuel, God-With-Us,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: We are of one family with all of creation, interdependent with one another for our survival. Make us good stewards of all that you have made, working for the protection and care of water, plants, and animals. Immanuel, God-With-Us,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Remind all who lead of their responsibility to those they serve, and give them a heart for peace and justice for all your earthly family. Immanuel, God-With-Us,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: So many struggle with illness of body, mind, or spirit. Send your healing to all who suffer. Give strength to the families who support and care for them. Immanuel, God-With-Us,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: We are of one family with people all over the world. Make us committed to sharing our resources so that all people might have life abundantly. Immanuel, God-With-Us,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: We remember with gratitude all the saints who have come before us, faithful members of the Body of Christ, who continue to lead us by their example. Immanuel, God-With-Us,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: In faith, hope, and love, we lift our prayers to you in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray... **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.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 43:14-21

(NRSV)

Thus says the Lord,

your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:

For your sake I will send to Babylon

and break down all the bars,

and the shouting of the Chaldeans will be turned to lamentation.

¹⁵ *I am the Lord, your Holy One,
the Creator of Israel, your King.*

¹⁶ *Thus says the Lord,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,*

¹⁷ *who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;*

*they lie down; they cannot rise;
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:*

¹⁸ *Do not remember the former things
or consider the things of old.*

¹⁹ *I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?*

*I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.*

²⁰ *The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches,
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,*

to give drink to my chosen people,

²¹ *the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:16-20

(NRSV)

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God.

RESPONSE

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

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

MEDITATION

Bryan Trego

WE RESPOND WITH GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: In this season of gift giving, let us offer to God our very best through the giving of our tithes and our offerings.

*DOXOLOGY *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* No. 34

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

praise him, all creatures here below;

praise him above, ye heavenly host:

praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

We give of our abundance, O Holy One—the abundance you have so generously poured out for us. Use our gifts to increase justice and righteousness in our hurting world. Bring us into right relationship with each other and with you through Christ. Amen.

*HYMN OF SENDING

Give Thanks for Life

No.518

Give Thanks for Life

518

Unison

G Cmaj7 D7 Em $\frac{G}{B}$ C $\frac{G}{B}$ Am D G

1 Give thanks for life, the meas - ure of our days,
 2 Give thanks for those who made their life a light
 3 And for our own, our liv - ing and our dead,
 4 Give thanks for hope, that, like the wheat, the grain

D $\frac{A7}{E}$ D $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{D}{F\#}$ Gmaj7 A7 D $\frac{D}{C}$

mor - tal, we pass through beau - ty that de - cays, yet
 caught from the Christ - flame, burst - ing through the night, who
 thanks for the love by which our life is fed, a
 ly - ing in dark - ness does its life re - tain, in

$\frac{G}{B}$ C $\frac{G}{B}$ Am7 G $\frac{G}{F\#}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G $\frac{G}{B}$ D

sing to God our hope, our love, our praise:
 touched the truth, who burned for what is right:
 love not changed by time or death or dread:
 res - ur - rec - tion to grow green a - gain:

$\frac{G}{B}$ G7 C Am7 $\frac{G}{B}$ Em C $\frac{G}{B}$ Am7 $\frac{G}{B}$ Dsus D7 G

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*BENEDICTION: The grace of God, deeper than our imagination; the strength of Christ, stronger than our need; and the communion of the Holy Spirit, richer than our togetherness; guide and sustain us today and in all our tomorrows. Amen.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Pass the Love*

Pass the Love

Musical score for "Pass the Love" in 4/4 time, tempo J=95. The score consists of four staves of music with lyrics and chords. The chords are: F, Gm7, F, Gm7, F/A, F/Bb, Gm9, C7; F, Gm7, F, Gm7, F/A, F/Bb, Gm9, G7, C; Fmaj7, Dm, F/G, F/C; Am7, Dm7, Gm7, F/C, C7, F.

Love our God, ev - 'ry day, praise with joy go - ing on your way.
Pass it on, t'all you meet, ev - 'ry day in — ev - 'ry way.
Love our Ho - ly God. Pray with hope each day.
Bless the Ho - ly Name. Praise our — God.

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Participants-December 18-Sunday School-14, Teachers-6, Worship Online-264, In Person-105.

Sundays in January-Worship will be in person and via Facebook Live at 10:15am. **Saturday, January 7-Worship** will be in the chapel at 5:00pm with Holy Communion.

Daily Devotions-Please join us, Monday-Thursday, online via Facebook Live. These will air on our Facebook page: St. Paul United Church of Christ-New Bremen, OH. They will be saved to our Facebook page.

Elmwood Worship- Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 2:00pm. All are welcome to assist Rev. Becky with this wonderful service. Please meet her by 1:45pm at Elmwood.

Women's Service Group-will meet January 12 at 11:30am in the Assembly room for a soup lunch followed by the movie *Green Book*. All are welcome! Please RSVP to Sally Dicke by January 9.

Hymn Sing Sunday: January 29-Back by popular demand! On the fifth Sunday of January, we will have a hymn sing. You can cast your vote for your favorite hymn(s) by writing them on a Worship Card and placing it in the offering plate no later than January 15. Let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

January Book Club-All are welcome to St. Paul UCC's Zoom Room at 11:30 on Sunday, January 29 for our monthly Book Club. We will discuss Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Books can be picked up on the table outside Pastor Becky's office. This event is offered in-person and via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82332803465?pwd=WVIBdXoxM3FIUGRMTGg4NmhFSVgwQT09> **Meeting ID: 823 3280 3465 Passcode: 134323**

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

2023 Offering Envelopes-are available in the Southwest corner of the sanctuary in front of the pews. Only members who are currently using their offering envelopes and/or who have indicated they wish to continue to have an offering box have been assigned an offering envelope box for 2023. All other members who are giving online or giving without using envelopes have been assigned a "Giving" number that is not linked to an envelope box. If you do not receive an "Envelope Box" but wish to, please contact the church office 419-629-2502, stpaulnb@nktelco.net or Janet Eilerman. A box number will be assigned and you may pick up your envelopes in the church office. Thank you, Janet Eilerman Financial Secretary.

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-Dish Soap, Body Wash, Bar Soap, Hand Soap, Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Deodorant, Shampoo, Conditioner, Toothpaste, Razors, Shaving Cream, Diapers (sizes N, 4, 5 & 6), Baby Wipes, Tampons, Bandages, Cotton Balls, Manicure Items, Food Storage Bags, Garbage Bags, Paper Plates, Napkins, Bleach, All Purpose Cleaner, Disinfectants. Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

St. Paul Church Nursery-is fully staffed during the entire Sunday worship service. Please spread the word to let young parents know this is available. If you would like to volunteer in the nursery, please contact Justine Homan, Nursery Champion.

2023 Altar Flower Chart has open dates: January 15, 22, 29, February 19, April 30, May 21, June 18, 25, July 2, 30, August 20, 27, October 1, 29, December 17, 31. Please sign up for the date(s) you would like. You may also call the church office Monday-Thursday to sign up. 2023 altar flower price will be \$40.00. Thank you.

Annual Report Articles-Please turn your report in for the February 26, 2023 Congregational Meeting by January 30. We would like reports from the following: 2022 Council President, Stewardship Board, 2022 Council Treasurer, Maintenance/Trustees, Technology, Sr. Deacon, Sr. Elder, Music Department, Worship Team, Mission Team, Called to Care Team, Discipleship Team, Blessing Pantry, Art Camp Festival, Prayer Chain and Lay Minister of Visitation, Women’s Service Group.

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.

Want to be part of the Prayer Chain? Please contact Prayer Chain Champion, Jeff Paul. The St. Paul Prayer Chain has two formats: texting and email. All are welcome.

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.

Calendar-Week of January 1, 2023

Sunday	10:15am	Worship-In Person & via Facebook Live
Monday	All Day	Office Closed
Tuesday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Wednesday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	7:00pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Friday	Noon	Office Closed
Saturday	8:00am	Men’s Club-Speedway Lanes
	5:00pm	Worship w/Holy Communion

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