

January 3, 2022

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

This week Christians throughout the world celebrate Epiphany on January 6. Epiphany: the visitation of the Magi to Baby Jesus. Epiphany: the Light of Christ shining in our lives. Epiphany: the moment the Holy Spirit breaks into our lives offering us new insight and hope in the midst of darkness.

As we write this letter, there is no heat in either the sanctuary or the education building. We are working to fix this situation as quickly as possible, but there is a chance we will not have heat in the sanctuary by Sunday morning. Years ago, St. Paul Church set a policy not to cancel worship services. However, we might need to move Sunday's in-person worship to the chapel. We will keep you posted as the weekend nears. Thank you for your understanding.

We end with a reminder about Covid19 transmissions—especially with the Omicron variant. Incidences of positive cases are going up in our congregation and community. **If you have been in contact with someone who either tests positive for Covid19 or have been in contact with someone who soon after you've been with them tests positive, you need to quarantine yourself from St. Paul Church, its building, and its staff.**

It is our goal to keep one another (and our neighbors) as healthy as possible. What's more, if essential staff become infected, we will be forced to shut down worship, weekly mailers, and all programs for two weeks. We thank you for your attention and care. We know it is difficult to stay home. Isolation is hard. And yet, it is our Christian calling to care for one another in the best way possible.

We thank you for your faithfulness. We thank you for your generosity. We thank you for your love for God and neighbor.

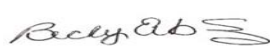
Blessings,



Roland Dicke
Council President



Myra Hanenkratt
Council VP



Rev. Becky Erb Strang
Senior Pastor

Financial Information as of December 31, 2021

2021 has not been closed. All numbers subject to change.

Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00
Endowment Transfers \$25,672.00(ytd)
Income \$306,594.97 (ytd)
Expenses \$311,905.72 (ytd)
Balance **(\$5,310.75)** (ytd)

Building Maint & Property Care

Beg. Balance \$73,644.37
Income \$49,408.50 (ytd)
Endowment Income \$3,720.37(ytd)
Expenses \$89,841.61(ytd)
Balance \$36,931.63 (ytd)

2022 Financial Information

Operating Fund

Income \$1,131.00
Expenses \$1,257.39
Balance **(\$126.39)**

Building Maint & Property Care

Income \$80.00

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$6,250.20
Income \$27,241.15 (ytd)
Expenses \$21,272.53(ytd)
Balance \$12,218.82(ytd)
BP Beg Balance \$7,881.15
Bless Pantry Inc. \$32,409.13(ytd)

Bless Pantry Ex. \$15,837.16(ytd)

BP Balance \$24,453.12

Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00
Income \$25,299.50 (ytd)

Project of the Year

Balance \$4,708.00(ytd)

Local Aid

Income \$60.00

Blessing Pantry

Income \$20.00

Our Church Wider Mission

Income \$530.00



Wedding at Cana

January 9, 2022

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

Holy God, you rejoice with us when we celebrate our relationships. When Jesus turned water into wine, he honored the hosts. Teach us to honor our relationships as Jesus did. Amen.



Read: Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

"Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. (John 2:11)"



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Jesus performed his first miracle—turning water to wine at a wedding—for his mom.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

Tell of a time you were challenged to act before you were ready. Did you act anyway? How did it go?

For the littles: Do you think Jesus had fun at his friend's wedding? Did he dance? Did he laugh?



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God bless all your milestones. Amen.



Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Celebrate your nearest milestone with cake. If you don't have one coming up, celebrate anyway! Here are some upcoming holidays you could celebrate:

Jan 10, National Houseplant Appreciation Day

Jan 11, National Learn Your Name in Morse Code Day

Jan 12, National Hot Tea Day

Jan 13, National Rubber Ducky Day

Jan 14, National Dress Up Your Pet Day

Jan 15, National Hat Day (And MLK's Birthday, of course!)



Go Deeper: Go to clergystuff.com/daily-devotions for devotions on the daily readings.

Sunday, John 2:1-11, Wedding at Cana

Monday, John 2:12, Jesus Goes to Capernaum

Tuesday, Psalm 104:1-9, God the Creator and Provider

Wednesday, Psalm 104:10-23, God the Creator and Provider

Thursday, Psalm 104:24-26, God the Creator and Provider

Friday, Psalm 104:27-30, God the Creator and Provider

Saturday, Psalm 104:31-35, God the Creator and Provider



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 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 9, 2022

Baptism of Christ Sunday

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Installation of Council Members

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Kim Hemmelgarn

Connie O'Neill

Tracy Oldiges

Jim Strang

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Liturgist

Organist

Sr. Deaconess

Chancel Choir/Music Director

PRELUDE

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION: Church World Service Blankets (CWS)

Church World Service has been involved with disaster response for many years, in many ways, and in many places. One way CWS helps is by supplying blankets for people who have been involved in all kinds of tragedies-floods, hurricanes, fires and yes tornadoes. Two years ago tornadoes ripped through the poorest section of east Dayton. Many houses were damaged or destroyed and CWS supplied blankets to families and other assistance as well as clean up buckets. The blankets come in two different weights and can be used in various ways, not only to keep warm but as make shift tents for protection from the elements. Our mission offering for January will be designated for CWS. Thank you for your support. The Mission Team.

WELCOME SONG

No Matter

$\text{♩} = 120$

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 120 beats per minute. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple, with quarter and eighth notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: F, Dm, Gm7, C, F, and F7. The lyrics are: "No mat-ter who, no mat-ter what no mat-ter where you are on the". The second staff continues the melody with chords Bb, G7, F, Dm, G7, Gm7, and C7. The lyrics are: "jour-ney of life; you're wel-come, wel-come in this place. No mat-ter". The third staff has chords F, Dm, Gm7, C, F, and F7. The lyrics are: "who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the". The fourth staff has chords Bb, G7, F, Dm, Gm7, C7, C, F, and F. The lyrics are: "jour-ney of life: ac-cept-ed, wel-comed by God's grace. grace." There are two boxed options at the end of the fourth staff: "To verses" and "Last time, Fine".

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: Jesus calls us into this house of worship.

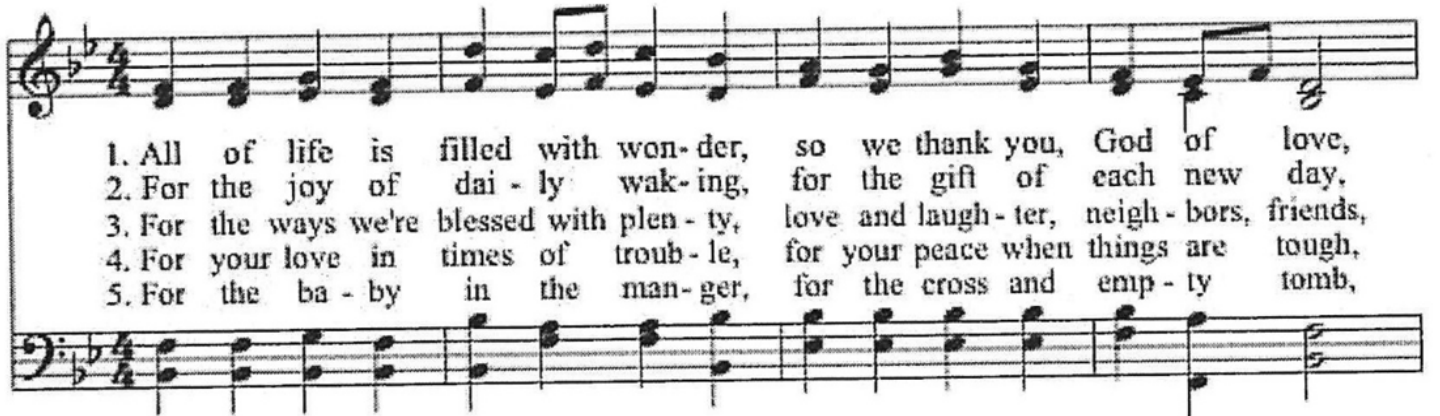
People: We come with open ears, minds, and hearts.

Leader: We come to nurture our relationship with others,

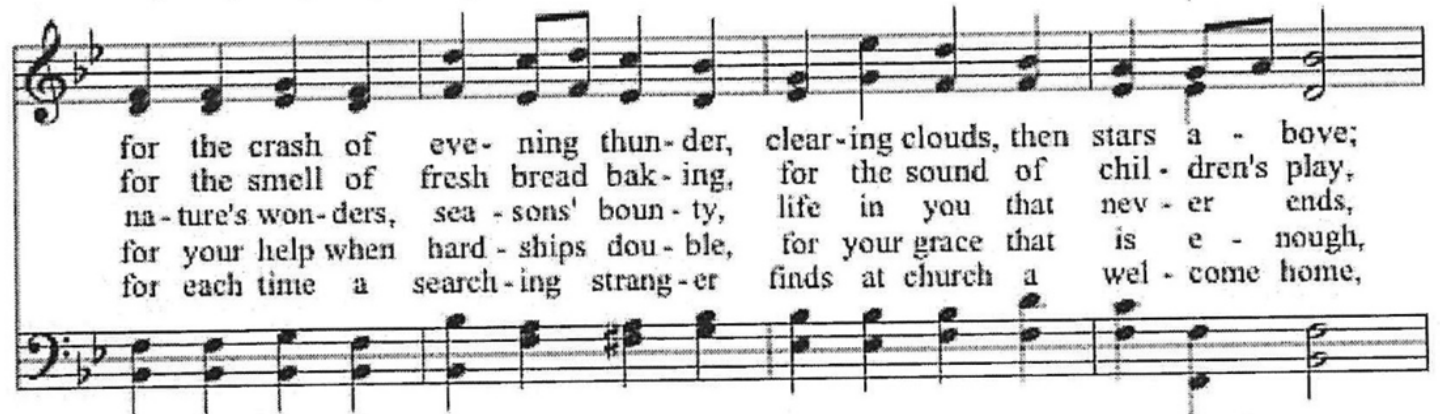
People: With ourselves, and with God.

Leader: Let us worship God!

All of Life Is Filled with Wonder



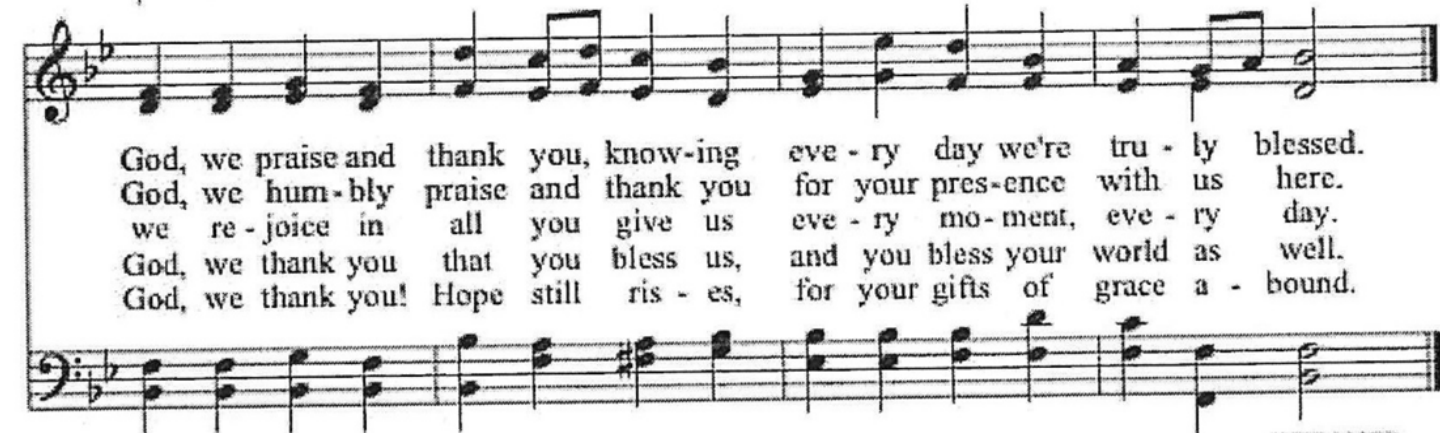
1. All of life is filled with wonder, so we thank you, God of love,
 2. For the joy of dai - ly wak - ing, for the gift of each new day,
 3. For the ways we're blessed with plen - ty, love and laugh - ter, neigh - bors, friends,
 4. For your love in times of troub - le, for your peace when things are tough,
 5. For the ba - by in the man - ger, for the cross and emp - ty tomb,



for the crash of eve - ning thun - der, clear - ing clouds, then stars a - bove;
 for the smell of fresh bread bak - ing, for the sound of chil - dren's play,
 na - ture's won - ders, sea - sons' boun - ty, life in you that nev - er ends,
 for your help when hard - ships dou - ble, for your grace that is e - nough,
 for each time a search - ing strang - er finds at church a wel - come home,



for the night that turns to glow - ing as we feel the morn - ing mist,
 for the ways we seek to serve you as we work and vol - un - tear,
 for the ones who've gone be - fore us, giv - ing wit - ness to your way,
 for a strang - er's gen - tle kind - ness, for a doc - tor's heal - ing skill,
 for your king - dom's great sur - pris - es, poor ones lift - ed, lost ones found,



God, we praise and thank you, know - ing eve - ry day we're tru - ly blessed.
 God, we hum - bly praise and thank you for your pres - ence with us here.
 we re - joice in all you give us eve - ry mo - ment, eve - ry day.
 God, we thank you that you bless us, and you bless your world as well.
 God, we thank you! Hope still ris - es, for your gifts of grace a - bound.

WORDS: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2011
 MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870

BEECHER
 87.87 D

Alternate tunes: *IN BABILONE* and *HYMN TO JOY*.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: We confess our sins before God and one another.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Holy and Forgiving God, Jesus shows us all the ways that we fall short. He also provides a way out of the holes we dig ourselves into. Forgive our sins, and show us how to make better choices, be better friends, parents, kids, partners and co-workers. Let Christ's light shine through us, for the sake of Jesus we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Jesus does, indeed, forgive. Jesus cleanses us from our sin and recreates us in God's image. Receive the entire forgiveness of all your sins. Go, and walk free of guilt, shame and sin. You are made new! In Jesus' name we pray.

People: 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

The musical score is written for four staves in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics 'Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht' repeated across the staves. Chord markings include C, Am7, D7, D, and Em.

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Epiphany's Light and Joy!

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

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENTPRAYER, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Leader: Let us pray. Today, O God, we lift up to you our world greatly in need of your love. We pray for our nation. We pray for our community. We pray for our neighbors. We pray for our congregation. SILENCE

Leader: God, you are capable of turning the ordinary into something miraculous. Bolster our faith and give us confidence to do whatever it is that you require, so that your glory might be shown through the humblest of acts. Wondrous God,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: You have given us blessings far beyond our imagination, and joys which surpass our own powers to produce. Gladden our hearts with the fruits of your creation, given to be enjoyed, cherished and shared. Wondrous God,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Sometimes, O God, we need encouragement to carry out those things of which you have made us capable. Use us and others to call forth the best and the highest purpose in each other, even when we don't feel so inclined. Wondrous God,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: You have fed us with the best, and blessed us with life abundant. Bring healing where there is suffering, infirmity, or lack of any kind. We lift up to you those who are grieving. We pray for those who are suffering. We pray for those who are recuperating. We pray for all who feel lost and alone. Wondrous God,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: All these prayers we place in your trustworthy hands, knowing that our concerns, our desires, and our loved ones are safe in your keeping. We pray also with the prayer Jesus taught us praying...

All: 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.

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: John 2:1-11

(The Message)

Three days later there was a wedding in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there. Jesus and his disciples were guests also. When they started running low on wine at the wedding banquet, Jesus' mother told him, "They're just about out of wine."

⁴ Jesus said, "Is that any of our business, Mother—yours or mine? This isn't my time. Don't push me."

⁵ She went ahead anyway, telling the servants, "Whatever he tells you, do it."

⁶⁻⁷ Six stoneware water pots were there, used by the Jews for ritual washings. Each held twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus ordered the servants, "Fill the pots with water." And they filled them to the brim.

⁸ "Now fill your pitchers and take them to the host," Jesus said, and they did.

⁹⁻¹⁰ When the host tasted the water that had become wine (he didn't know what had just happened but the servants, of course, knew), he called out to the bridegroom, "Everybody I know begins with their finest wines and after the guests have had their fill brings in the cheap stuff. But you've saved the best till now!"

¹¹ This act in Cana of Galilee was the first sign Jesus gave, the first glimpse of his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

RESPONSE

When I Behold the Son

verses 1 & 2

When I Behold the Son

Word and Music by
J. L. Salt(er)

Every week When I be - hold the Son, the Lamb of God, my
1/9 In Gal - i - lee, a cou - ple there was wed but

heart wants to sing, "O Lord of ev - 'ry - thing,
wine was all gone. Then Je - sus' moth - er said,

change me like you changed the wa - ter in - to wine!
"Son, what can you do?" He said, "Fill jars of stone!"

Fill me with light so I'll be yours for all time!
And then with this, Je - sus' glo - ry now was shown!

SERMON

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

The story of Jesus turning water into wine was the favorite story of my favorite college religion class study-buddy, Jeff. Jeff, who was a devout religion major by day and an avid partier by night was certain that Jesus would endorse his party-ing ways since, after all, Jesus' first miracle was to turn water into wine! 😊

If you think about it, it really is an incredible miracle story. Between twenty or thirty gallons of water became wine. What extravagance! Not just ordinary wine either! We are told it is a splendid wine that flowed from the touch of Jesus.

This story is unusual, unlike any other in the New Testament. It is only found in the Gospel of John. What is more, John has Jesus beginning his public ministry with it. It is a pivotal moment in his Gospel story.

Yet, you need to know this about the story. What may seem like an unusual miracle story to us, was not seen that way in Jesus' day. The Greeks at the time told the story of the god Dionysius turning water into wine. Also the Jewish philosopher Philo wrote of the obscure (Old Testament) priest Melchizedek changing water into wine.

So this leads us to the question: Why did John give us this miracle story?

First, I believe that this story is critical to the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Galilee and beyond because the disciples were able to see Jesus power and place their trust in him. In fact, this story is not called a miracle, as such, but a sign. Signs, unlike miracles, point beyond the awesomeness of what just happened and to something greater: in this case, God's power manifested in Jesus. Through this first sign, we see God in Christ. Something new is happening. A new world is about to unfold before our eyes.

Truly, scholars believe that the Gospel of John was put together using written and oral sources that now no longer exist and that one of those sources was a pamphlet (perhaps) of Jesus's signs. In other words, biblical scholars are guessing that early believers traveled around, sharing the good news of Jesus with scrolls: some with stories of Jesus' signs, some with his parables, some with his miracles.

The Gospel of John gives us this sign as a reminder that, by the coming of Christ Jesus on earth, we are given new wine, new life, new hope. Because of Jesus, the old has passed away. Just as we have entered a new year, we enter also new life in Jesus—a life transformed beyond our imagining: filled with Light and Joy and Peace and Love.

Because God comes to us in Christ: first as a tiny baby, then as a man who healed and taught and lived like us, then as one who died and rose again, we have reason to rejoice. Because of Jesus, we can understand God better—as one who heals, forgives, accepts us and offers us new life.

Here is the good news for us today. The story of Jesus turning water into wine is one that is true for us today. Christ still turns our ordinary lives into **extra**ordinary lives—metaphorically turning the water of our ordinary days into quality wine of the extraordinary each day. Our lives are changed by his presence. Radical transformations take place. We only need ears to hear and eyes to see the transformation, the extra-ordinary, the holiness of our lives.

My guess is that each of us here today could write up our own pamphlet of the signs and wonders God in Christ Jesus has performed in our lives. Now, how would that be for Sunday afternoon homework? We each go home and make a list of the ways our lives have been transformed through the love we experience in Jesus.

Sometimes it is easy to see water turning into wine around us: dramatic transformations of lives. Other times, God works in much more subtle ways. We might be going through a particularly rough patch—fully believing that we have been abandoned by God, only to discover, when things are better, that God was with us: guiding, steering us, carrying us, and calling us his own.

How has water been turned into wine in your life?

Some of you have known tragedies that could have made you bitter or angry, but you have not allowed bitterness to win.

Some of you have achieved so much that you might have become stuffed up with self importance, but you have remained humble.

Some of you have been so bruised or injured by other people, that you could have become cynical and hard as nails, but you have not.

This is what I have seen in you for over a decade. From common, stone jars I see with my own eyes the new wine of Christ overflowing in this congregation and in you as individuals each and every day. What's more, you do not keep your new lives in Christ, your new wine, to yourselves. You take the good news of Christ into the community and into the world, working to change the lives of others: feeding the hungry, binding up the broken-hearted, healing the sick, and loving the unlovable.

And yet. Perhaps today you do not feel as if your life has been transformed by Christ. Perhaps you feel as if your life is one of drinking stale water rather than Christ's new wine. Perhaps you are filled with fear, brokenness, anger, or defeat.

Have you ever stopped, taken stock of your life, and asked: *Where do I see Jesus working in my life? Where have I experienced love and grace and forgiveness and peace?* The promises of the Risen Christ are not for a few—they are for everyone: and that includes you. God, through Jesus, loves you in ways you can barely begin to imagine. God loves YOU. Right here. Right now. Always and forever. In this new year, I encourage you/I challenge you to open your hearts to God's love.

Friends, my buddy Jeff was right: Jesus turning water into wine is perhaps the greatest of signs. 2000 years later it stands as a promise that our lives can be transformed in extra-ordinary ways. That promise is for you. And you. And you.

May your life be lived from this moment forward as the best vintage available. And then go out and share that amazing wine, your amazing love filled life, with others. Amen.

RESPONSIVE HYMN

All of Life Is Filled with Wonder

verse 3

ORDER FOR AFFIRMATION OF MINISTRY (Installation of Lay Leaders)

INTRODUCTION

Leader: Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church.

Leader: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

People: There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

Leader: There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

People: The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

Leader: Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

People: It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.

Leader: If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

People: All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.

PRESENTATION

Leader: These people have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of St. Paul Church to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

Roland Dicke

President

Myra Hanenkratt

Vice President

Amy Opperman

Recording Secretary

Lynda Goodwin

Treasurer

Diane Gilberg

Sr. Elder

Bryan Trego

Jr. Elder

Tracy Oldiges

Sr. Deaconess

June Oaks

Jr. Deaconess

Tom Brandewie

Trustee

Kirk Dicke

Trustee

Lindsay Quellhorst

Trustee

COVENANT

Leader: Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for particular service as members of Church Council. Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

Council Members: I am

Leader: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

Council Members: I do, relying on God's grace.

Leader: Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to serve on Church Council. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able please stand and witness to the commitment we now make?

Congregational Response: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER (in unison): Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name. Amen.

DECLARATION

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of St. Paul United Church of Christ, I rejoice to announce that you are installed in your respective positions. Go in peace.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: The good news is that God's love and provision are sufficient for all our needs. As followers of Jesus, we are challenged to share all that we have that no one will go without. Let us give generously and joyfully. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 34

Musical score for the hymn "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow". The score is in 4/4 time and G major. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are: "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." The chord progression for the first system is G, D, Em, Bm, Em, D, G, D, Em, C, G, D. The chord progression for the second system is Em, D/F#, G, D, G/B, C, F#dim/A, G, Em, D, Am, G/B, D7, G.

WORDS: *Doxology*, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)
MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois (ca. 1510-1561), *Genevan Psalter*, 1551

OLD 100th
L.M.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Loving God, you provide for all our needs, both the important ones and the ones we take for granted. May we never doubt that each act of kindness is blessed with your grace and received with thanksgiving. Pour your blessings upon these offerings and all those who give them, that we may be joined to one another in love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION INVITATION: Jesus brought joy to wedding guests 2000 years ago, and continues to bring joy with his feast today. Jesus feeds us on the bread and wine that lasts not only for this hour, but for all eternity. Our generous host is calling us to the table. Come, for the feast is prepared for you.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: We give you thanks, O God: you who are almighty, eternal and in all places and times. We thank you for Jesus, the only one begotten by you before all time by whom you made the world and all things.

People: We bless you for your continual love and care for every creature. We praise you for forming us in your image and for calling us to be your people.

Leader: Although we rebelled against your love, Forgiving God, you did not abandon us in our sins, but sent to us prophets and teachers to lead us into the way of salvation.

People: Above all, we give you thanks for the gifts of Jesus, our Savior and Friend, who is the way, the truth and the life.

Leader: In the fullness of time, you came to us and received our nature in the person of Jesus who, in obedience to you, by suffering on the cross, and being raised from the dead, delivered us from the way of sin and death.

People: We praise you that Jesus now reigns with you in glory and ever lives to pray for us.

Leader: We thank you for the Holy Spirit who leads us into truth, defends us in adversity, and gathers us from every people to unite us in one holy church. Therefore, with the entire company of saints in heaven and on earth, we worship and glorify you, God Most High.

People: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

Leader: Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader: It is through the broken Bread we recognize the risen Christ.

Leader: It is through sharing the Cup of Blessing that we know forgiveness today and always.

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Leader: The Body of Christ, broken for you. Take and eat.

The Blood of Christ, poured out for you. Take and drink.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

All of Life Is Filled with Wonder

1. All of life is filled with wonder, so we thank you, God of love,
 2. For the joy of dai - ly wak - ing, for the gift of each new day,
 3. For the ways we're blessed with plen - ty, love and laugh - ter, neigh - bors, friends,
 4. For your love in times of troub - le, for your peace when things are tough,
 5. For the ba - by in the man - ger, for the cross and emp - ty tomb,

for the crash of eve - ning thun - der, clear - ing clouds, then stars a - bove;
 for the smell of fresh bread bak - ing, for the sound of chil - dren's play,
 na - ture's won - ders, sea - sons' boun - ty, life in you that nev - er ends,
 for your help when hard - ships dou - ble, for your grace that is e - nough,
 for each time a search - ing strang - er finds at church a wel - come home,

for the night that turns to glow - ing as we feel the morn - ing mist,
 for the ways we seek to serve you as we work and vol - un - teer,
 for the ones who've gone be - fore us, giv - ing wit - ness to your way,
 for a strang - er's gen - tle kind - ness, for a doc - tor's heal - ing skill,
 for your king - dom's great sur - pris - es, poor ones lift - ed, lost ones found,

God, we praise and thank you, know - ing eve - ry day we're tru - ly blessed.
 God, we hum - bly praise and thank you for your pres - ence with us here.
 we re - joice in all you give us eve - ry mo - ment, eve - ry day.
 God, we thank you that you bless us, and you bless your world as well.
 God, we thank you! Hope still ris - es, for your gifts of grace a - bound.

WORDS: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2011
 MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870

BEECHER
 87.87 D

Alternate tunes: IN BABILONE and HYMN TO JOY.

BENEDICTION: God be in our head and in our understanding. God be in our eyes and in our looking. God be in our mouth and in our speaking. God be in our heart and in our thinking. God be with us in our end and in our departing as we go in peace. Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Pass the Love*
Pass the Love

♩=95

F Gm7 F Gm7 F/A F/Bb Gm9 C7

Love our God, ev - 'ry day, praise with joy go - ing on your way.

F Gm7 F Gm7 F/A F/Bb Gm9 G7 C

Pass it on, t'all you meet, ev - 'ry day in — ev - 'ry way.

Fmaj7 Dm F/G F/C

Love our Ho - ly God. Pray with hope each day.

Am7 Dm7 Gm7 F/C C7 F

Bless the Ho - ly Name. Praise our — God.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are given in memory of Loved Ones by Alice Hartwig

Attendance-Christmas Eve Worship Online-317, In Person-167, December 26-Sunday Worship Online-238, In Person-43.

Sundays in January-Worship will be in person and via Facebook Live at 10:15am. **Sunday School** will be in person at 9:00am.

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 at 11:30am for a lunch of soup followed by a movie. All are welcome. Please call Sally Dicke for questions.

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.

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.



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

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.

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), Pull Ups (size 3-6), Baby Wipes, Diaper Cream, Shampoo, Conditioner, Bandages, Cotton Balls, Manicure Items, Paper Plates, Garbage Bags, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, and Tampons. 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 9, 2022

Sunday	9:00am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	9:00am	Sunday School
	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
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	7:00pm	Church Council
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
Thursday	7:00pm-8:30pm	Confirmation
	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	TBA	Women's Service Group
Friday	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	Noon	Office Closed

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.