

January 9, 2023

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

Grace and peace to you as we follow the star to the Christ Child. May the Light of Christ shine in your lives this week!

2023 will be a year of transitions. The Pastoral Search Committee has been formed. Members include John Gilberg, Terri Mullins, Tracy Oldiges, Gavin Dicke, Mimi Messick, Ben Bergman, Kathy Nedderman, and Morgan Felver. We plan to commission the Search Committee for their service to St. Paul during an upcoming worship service in January.

Speaking of January worship, we are bringing back Hymn Sing Sunday on January 29. We are inviting in-person worshippers to write the titles of their favorite hymns on their Worship Cards, placing them in offering plates. The hymns with the most "votes" will be the ones we sing during worship on the 29th.

Youth programs and confirmation kick-off the new year beginning this Wednesday, January 11. Splash (3-5 grade) meets from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The Splash youth stay for the all-youth dinner at 6:30. Junior/Senior High Youth Group and Confirmation take place beginning at 7:0 p.m.

Cami Flenar is hosting a Book Club on Sunday, January 29 following worship in the Zoom Room. The group will discuss Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. Copies can be found on the table outside Pastor Becky's office. The Book Club is also available via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82332803465?pwd=WVIBdXoxM3FIUGRMTGg4NmhFSVgwQT09>

Meeting ID: 823 3280 3465 Passcode: 134323

Pastor Becky's office email has been working only sporadically. If you need to reach her, please email her at stpaulpastor@nktelco.net.

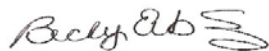
As a gentle reminder, our primary tasks as Christians is to love God and love our neighbors. This includes keeping one another safe and healthy. **If you have tested positive for Covid19, Influenza, or RSV, we kindly ask you to stay home until you are symptom free.** Thank you for your attention to this detail.

Blessings,



Myra Hanenkratt
Council President

Matt Ranly
Council VP



Becky Erb Strang
Senior Pastor

2022 Financial Information as of December 31, 2022 (2022 Financial Books are not closed.)

Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00
Endowment Trans \$24,360.00(ytd)
Income \$326,313.45(ytd)
Expenses \$328,469.61(ytd)
Balance **(\$2,156.16)**(ytd)

Building Maint & Property

Beg. Balance \$36,648.59
Income \$51,858.00(ytd)
Endowment Inc. **(\$4,664.85)**(ytd)
Expenses \$26,921.21(ytd)
Balance \$56,920.53(ytd)

Project of the Year (2022)

Income \$15,673.00
Expenses \$15,673.00
Balance \$0.00

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$12,218.82
Income \$24,746.70(ytd)
Expenses \$26,968.03(ytd)
Balance \$9,997.49(ytd)

Blessing Pantry

Beg. Balance \$29,161.12
Income \$20,639.00(ytd)
Expenses \$14,428.89(ytd)
Balance \$35,371.23(ytd)

Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00
Income \$23,715.50(ytd)

2023 Financial Information as of January 9, 2023

Operating Fund

Giving Income \$3,880.00(weekly)
Endowment Trans \$850.00(ytd)
Income \$5,915.00(ytd)
Expenses \$6,773.28(ytd)
Balance **(\$858.28)**(ytd)

Building Maint & Property

Beg. Balance \$56,790.53
Income \$378.00(ytd)
Endowment Inc. \$0.00(ytd)
Expenses \$9.02(ytd)
Balance \$57,159.51(ytd)

Project of the Year

Income \$100.00
Balance \$100.00

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$9,977.49
Income \$290.50(ytd)
Expenses \$2,180.00(ytd)
Balance \$8,087.99(ytd)

Blessing Pantry

Beg. Balance \$35,371.23
Income \$1,025.00(ytd)
Expenses \$775.83(ytd)
Balance \$35,620.40(ytd)

Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00
Income \$257.50 (weekly)
Income \$927.50(ytd)

Birth Candle welcomes Eloise Lyn Staton born December 28, 2022. She is the daughter of Karli and Bennett Staton, granddaughter of Staci and Gary Jones. Great granddaughter of Mary Finke and John and Nancy Knost. Welcome Eloise!



January 15, 2023, Tempted in the Wilderness

Matthew 4:1-17

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



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

Sustaining God, with the words of your holy scriptures, Jesus resisted all the temptations of the devil. Write your word on our hearts that we might also turn away from evil, in Jesus name. Amen.



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

The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4:3-4)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Before Jesus began his ministry, he needed to face his own demons. He would be tempted like he never had before. How would he fare?

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used with permission. All rights reserved.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- How does a community come to agreement about which laws, rules, or norms are to be followed? Which rules or norms are unique to your setting? How are they followed? How are they enforced?
- What tempts you the most? How can your faith help you resist temptation?
- For the littles: Which is harder to resist: a sweet treat or staying up past bedtime? God can help you resist both!



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God deliver you from temptation. Amen.



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

Choose one temptation to resist this week. Look at the challenge not as a punishment, but as an opportunity to be free from the object of your temptation. Notice how you feel after one week.



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

Monday, Psalm 91:9-12, *Psalm*

Tuesday, Genesis 1:26-27, *Creation of Humanity*

Wednesday, Genesis 3:1-7, *Temptation in the Garden of Eden*

Thursday, Deuteronomy 8:1-10, *A Warning from God*

Friday, Matthew 4:18-22, *Jesus Calls the First Disciples*

Saturday, Matthew 4:23-25, *Jesus Ministers to Crowds of People*



St. Paul United Church of Christ

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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.

January 15, 2023

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

John Wierwille

June Oaks

Jim Strang

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Accompanist

Sr. Deacon

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

190TH ANNIVERSARY-DID YOU KNOW: When the church first started church services was held once a month. During 1835-1838 the first constitution was written, and the first parsonage was built.

WELCOME SONG

No Matter

J=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 the lyrics 'No mat-ter who, no mat-ter what no mat-ter where you are on the'. The second staff continues with 'jour-ney of life; you're wel-come, wel-come in this place. No mat-ter'. The third staff repeats 'who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the'. The fourth staff concludes with 'jour-ney of life: ac-cept-ed, wel-comed by God's grace. grace.' and includes a double bar line with the instruction 'To verses' and a final measure with 'Last time, Fine'. Chords are indicated above the notes: F, Dm, Gm7, C, F, F7, Bb, G7, F, Dm, G7, Gm7, C7, F, Dm, Gm7, C, F, F7, Bb, G7, F, Dm, Gm7, C7, C, F, F.

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 139)

Leader: We gather in this place: as an open book before God.

People: No matter where we go, God is with us!

Leader: Even in our mothers' wombs, God knew us and loved us.

People: We are created by God who knows us: inside and out!

Leader: Let us worship God!

HYMN OF PRAISE

Morning Has Broken

Morning Has Broken

Unison
C G7 D C E Dm F G7 Am C G B

1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing,
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en,
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing

Am G F Dm C Gsus G

black - bird has spo - ken like the first bird.
 like the first dew - fall on the first grass.
 born of the one light E - den saw play!

C E G7 F C Fmaj7 G F C E Am C7 G Dm7 G7 D

Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
 Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
 Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,

C G B Am7 Dm7 F G7 C

Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass.
 God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)
 MUSIC: Gaelic melody; arr. David Evans (1874-1948)

BUNESSAN
 5.5.5.4.D.

Words © 1957 Harold Ober Associates
 Music © 1927 Oxford University Press

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

UNISON CONFESSION OF SIN

God, forgive us: we have made such a chaos of the earth. Forgive our babel sounds, our lust for power and religious strife, separating us from one another and sapping all life's joys. Teach us humility, keep our hope alive, sustain our love for all humanity, until conflict is stifled and we stand together in your silence which is filled with eternal praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Jesus looked up and said to a sinner, "Where are your accusers? Has no one come to condemn you? Then neither do I condemn you. Go, and do not sin again." We are loved. We are forgiven. We are children of God!

People: Thanks be to God!

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

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Celebrating our 190th year!

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

PASTORAL PRAYER. PERSONAL PRAYER. THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Loving God, though most of us come here from comfortable homes, surrounded with many possessions, we still yearn for the holy riches which money cannot buy. We seek the wealth of your abundant light and love. We need your Holy Spirit if this time of worship is to rise higher than our shoe laces. Grant us your Spirit we pray, that with rekindled love and awe we may praise and adore you, and so doing, find ourselves wonderfully satisfied through the grace-filled love of Jesus.

Forgiving God, we confess to you today that far too often we are broken people who would prefer to live with broken relationships, broken faith, and broken lives. We seek your forgiveness for when we have turned our Christian journey into a dull routine without joy and laughter. We confess to you that we often trade the new wine of the gospel for the old beverages of law, anxiety, and self-loathing.

O Light of Christ, your abundant forgiveness is ready ages before we seek it; your love is enfolding us long before we become aware of it. Fill us, we pray, with the peace that the world cannot give us, and with the joy that no doubt, failure, or fear can steal from us.

God of temptations and new beginnings, we ask that your Holy Spirit fill us for ministry and mission beyond these walls. Challenge us to live as the Body of Christ that others might see Christ's light in us.

Today we pray for those who are in search of meaningful work. We pray for those who work long hours for little compensation. We pray for those who struggle to put food on the table and pay their rent and utilities. Mold us into instruments of your hope, O God, that we might alleviate the suffering around us.

We pray today for those who are broken down, oppressed, and downtrodden. We pray for those who are exploited by others.

We pray today for those who are caught in cycles of violence: in their own homes, in their neighborhoods, in their home countries. Open our

hearts that we might welcome those who flee violence in search of peace.

We pray today for those who suffer from physical or mental illnesses. We pray for doctors, nurses, therapists and caregivers who work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of the world. Remind us again, O God, to reach out in love to those around us who are in pain.

We pray today for this congregation, that abundant love may flow in our prayers and that our prayers become generous words and deeds. We pray for unity among Christians—that we might work together to bring Christ’s Light into our darkened world.

Holy God, we humbly ask you to still our busy hearts and minds that we might hear your still-speaking voice in the silence that is yours.

SILENCE.

Gentle God, we thank you for the gift of Christ Jesus who loves us, forgives us, heals us, and calls us his own. It is his prayer we lift up to you: **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: Matthew 4:1-17 (NRSV)

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—
¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

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

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

SERMON

Turn Back!

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

If we were following the Revised Common Lectionary, today’s story of Jesus’ Temptation in the Wilderness would come on the first weekend of Lent. But in the Narrative lectionary, we start Jesus’ prophetic ministry with today’s story.

Temptation. That is something each and every one of us struggles with on varying levels and varying ways. What tempts you to turn from God’s grace and love might be very different than what tempts me to turn away. And yet, we are tempted.

Temptation. When my sons were little, I read books to them ALL THE TIME. One of the book series we read were the *Adventures of Frog and Toad* by Arnold Lobel. For those of you who haven't read these children's books, they tell the story of two best friends, Frog and Toad, who were always looking for the next adventure. Today, I have a story of temptation as told by Frog and Toad:

Toad baked some cookies. "These cookies smell very good," said Toad. He ate one. "And they taste even better," he said. Toad ran to Frog's house. "Frog, Frog," cried Toad, "taste these cookies that I have made."

Frog ate one of the cookies, "These are the best cookies I have ever eaten!" said Frog.

Frog and Toad ate many cookies, one after another. "You know, Toad," said Frog, with his mouth full, "I think we should stop eating. We will soon be sick."

"You are right," said Toad. "Let us eat one last cookie, and then we will stop." Frog and Toad ate one last cookie. There were still many cookies left in the bowl.

"Frog," said Toad, "let us eat one very last cookie, and then we will stop." Frog and Toad ate one very last cookie.

"We must stop eating!" cried Toad as he ate another.

"Yes," said Frog, reaching for a cookie, "we need willpower."

"What is willpower?" asked Toad.

"Willpower is trying hard not to do something you really want to do," said Frog.

"You mean like trying hard not to eat all these cookies?" asked Toad. "Right," said Frog.

Frog put the cookies in a box. "There," he said. "Now we will not eat any more cookies."

"But we can open the box," said Toad.

"That is true," said Frog.

Frog tied some string around the box. "There," he said. "Now we will not eat any more cookies."

"But we can cut the string and open the box." said Toad.

"That is true," said Frog. Frog got a ladder. He put the box up on a high shelf.

"There," said Frog. "Now we will not eat any more cookies."

"But we can climb the ladder and take the box down from the shelf and cut the string and open the box," said Toad.

"That is true," said Frog.

Frog climbed the ladder and took the box down from the shelf. He cut the string and opened the box. Frog took the box outside. He shouted in a loud voice. "Hey, birds, here are cookies!" Birds came from everywhere. They picked up all the cookies in their beaks and flew away.

"Now we have no more cookies to eat," said Toad sadly.

"Not even one."

"Yes," said Frog, "but we have lots and lots of willpower."

"You may keep it all, Frog," said Toad. "I am going home now to bake a cake."

Temptation. I don't know about you, but I am A LOT like Toad and Frog—always trying to find the loophole to temptation so I can have what I know is probably harmful or unhealthy for me and my spirit.

The Temptation of Jesus in the wilderness is much more epic than a box of cookies tied up with a string. Jesus began his ministry by fasting in the wilderness for 40 days. I have been to the Galilean wilderness twice and I can tell you this—it is wild, huge, desolate with deep cliffs and caverns and dangerous paths. It is not a place you or I would choose to fast and wander about for a day—much more for 40 days.

In the wilderness, Jesus encounters the devil—the tempter. The devil tries tempting the young Messiah with bread, with immortality, with power. And each and every time, Jesus turns the tempter away—quoting the Hebrew scriptures.

There is no doubt in my mind that Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness shaped the rest of his ministry. Indeed, as soon as Jesus leaves the wilderness, he hears that his cousin John has been arrested so he took up John's mantle and began to preach words similar to John the Baptist: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

Repent. Repentance. Penitent. These are not typically words you hear from United Church of Christ pastors. We tend not to be fire-and-brimstone types, pounding our pulpits and shouting for repentance.

Yet, repentance is exactly what is needed of each and every one of us each and every day. In our New Testament the Greek word for repentance is Metanoia, which means “change of mind” or “to turn around.” In other words, when we fall to temptation, when we turn away from God’s grace, repentance turns us back to God—to the source of forgiveness, healing, grace and love.

As disciples of Christ, as followers of Jesus, as children of God, each and every day we are challenged to repent—to turn back to God, to place our trust in Jesus, to be the Light of Christ in this community and beyond.

As we move into our new year and the beginning of Jesus’ ministry, we are called to turn away from the metaphorical box of cookies and turn toward Christ who offers us the Bread of Life.

We know this is not easy. Far too often we ARE Frog and Toad—trying our best to follow Jesus and yet stumbling at every turn. Far too often we allow our temptations, our brokenness, our bitterness, our addictions, our past history, to define who we are today.

But that is not how God works. This is how grace works. The grace of God is wider, deeper, stronger and more powerful than any of your temptations and wanderings. And here is the even better news: no matter which way you turn, God will turn to meet you there—in the midst of your brokenness, bitterness, addictions and past history. God meets you in the dry desert wilderness of your soul and offers you life abundant. Always. Forever.

There is a theological name for this: it is called Process/Relational Theology and the Reader’s Digest version is that because you are loved by God, God will pursue you—even when you wander off the path and into the desert wilderness. There is no place, no hidden cavern, no corner of darkness that is outside the bounds of God’s grace and love. Always. Forever.

Now hear me carefully—this does NOT mean that because God’s grace is so abundant you might as well eat that whole box of cookies or wallow in your bitterness. Instead, because of God’s grace, we are brought into Epiphany’s Light to be made new and to share Christ’s Light with others. That box of cookies will still tempt us and our past will still try to keep hold of our hearts, but Light and Love and Grace will always have the final word.

So we are challenged to repent. Metanoia. To turn around. To turn back. And really, it is metanoia's other meaning that speaks the good news for us today: to turn toward the Light.

Friends: it is time to turn toward Christ's Light that other's might see his Light within each of us. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY SENTENCES: Despite the temptations in our lives, or perhaps because of them, we turn to God for strength, grace, and forgiveness. Let us respond to these gifts generously given with our own joyous giving.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 34

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system of music has the following lyrics: "Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;". The second system has the lyrics: "praise him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost." Above the treble staff, various chords are indicated: G, D, Em, Bm, Em, D, G, D, Em, C, G, D, 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)

Generous God, you tend to all our needs that we might better serve you and serve our neighbors. We return now these gifts you have first given us, as signs of our trust in you. Use them for the sake of the world, in Jesus' name. Amen.

HYMN OF SENDING

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

712 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Unison
N.C. F C/E F Dm Gm/Bb C C/E

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing our true faith con - fess - ing, the
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

F F/A Bb F/C C7 F N.C.

peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing we take leave. The
tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our

F C/E F Dm Gm/Bb Gm Gm/Bb C C/E

ser - vice is end - ed, O now be - ex - tend - ed the
faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em -

F F/A Bb F/C C7 F

fruits of our wor - ship in all who be - lieve. The
brac - ing God's chil - dren of each tribe and race. With

WORDS: Omer Westendorf (1916-1998)

MUSIC: Welsh folk tune; harm. Leland Sateren (1913-)

Words © 1964 World Library Publications

Music Harm. © 1972 Contemporary Worship 4: Hymns for Baptism and Holy Communion (Admin. Augsburg Fortress)

ASH GROVE
6.6.11.6.6.11.D.

F C7

seed of the teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls reach - ing, shall
 your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us: u -

F C Dm C/E C/G G C Dm7 C/E

blos - som in ac - tion in for this God life and for we all. God's
 nite us as one in this life that we share. Then

F C/E F Dm Gm/Bb Gm Gm/Bb C C/E

grace did in - vite us, and love shall u - nite us to
 may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing give

F F/A Bb F/C C7 F

work for God's king - dom and an - swer the call.
 hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.

BENEDICTION: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and the grace of Jesus Christ. May the blessing of the Holy Spirit remain with you always. Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Pass the Love*

Pass the Love

♩=95

F Gm⁷ F Gm⁷ F/A F/B^b Gm⁹ C⁷

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

F Gm⁷ F Gm⁷ F/A F/B^b 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

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you

People: And also with you.

POSTLUDE

"No Matter" Words and music by Roger P. Miller ©2007 All rights reserved.

"Halle Halle Halle" Words and music by Hal H. Hobson ©1998 Hope Publishing Company

"Pass the Love" Words and Music by Doris Ketner Copyright ©2000. All rights reserved.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are in memory of Loved Ones by Linda Rump.

Participants-January 1-Worship Online-205, In Person-52.

Sundays in January-Worship will be in person and via Facebook Live at 10:15am.

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.

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**

2023 Altar Flower Chart has open dates: February 19, April 30, May 21, June 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.

2023 Offering Envelopes-are available in the Southwest corner of the sanctuary in front of the pews for pickup. Thank you.

January Monthly 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. Three 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.

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.

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 15, 2023

Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School
	9:30am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	10:15am	Worship-In Person & via Facebook Live
	11:30am	Mission Team
Monday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop-NB Coffee Shop
Tuesday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	6:30pm	Discipleship Team
Wednesday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	5:30pm-6:30pm	Splash
	6:00pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	6:30pm	Youth Dinner
	7:00pm-8:00pm	Jr/Sr High Youth Group
	7:00pm-8:00pm	Confirmation
Thursday	7:00pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
		Devotions via Facebook Live
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 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*

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GUEST SPEAKER: CINDY NEWMAN

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023

5:30 PM AND 7:00 PM

YOUTH ROOM, EDUCATION BUILDING



A GOOD TIME
@ YOUTH GROUP

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN
ST. PAUL YOUTH FOR AN EVENING OF
FELLOWSHIP

