January 10, 2022

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Christ Jesus who sends us into the world to share his Light with others!

We have heat! After 9 days of frigid temps in our educational building and sanctuary, new gas lines were installed and heat has returned. Worshiping in a warm sanctuary yesterday was a joy.

Beginning this coming Sunday in worship through the rest of the year, we will share the many ministries and missions of St. Paul Church. The theme for these will focus upon growth: Planting Seeds, Taking Root, Rain Come Down, Thriving, and Harvest. We will include these in your worship bulletin found in this packet.

Also this Sunday, January 16, we will celebrate Anna Louise Hoelscher's ministry among us as Lay Minister of Visitation and as Saturday Song Leader. Anne retired at the end of 2021 after years of service to our community and our congregation. We will formally thank Anna Louise during worship on Sunday and a reception will follow worship.

We end with a reminder about Covid19 transmissions—especially with the Omicron variant taking hold in our area. 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,

Rosend Decker Mysa Hanenkutt Roland Dicke Myra Hanenkratt

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Beckyab

Council President Council VP

Senior Pastor

Financial Information as of December 31, 2021

2021 has not been closed. All numbers subject to change. We are hoping to close 2021 this week.

Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00

Endowment Transfers \$25,672.00(vtd)

Income \$306,594.97 (ytd) Expenses \$312,052.29 (ytd)

Balance (\$5,457.32) (ytd)

Bless Pantry Inc. \$37,117.13(ytd)

Building Maint & Property Care Bless Pantry Ex. \$15,837.16(ytd)

Beg. Balance \$73,644.37 Income \$49,408.50 (ytd)

Endowment Income \$3,720.37(vtd)

Expenses \$94,242.24(ytd)

Balance \$32,531.00 (ytd)

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$6,250.20 Income \$27,241.15 (vtd)

Expenses \$21,272.53(ytd) Balance \$12,218.82(ytd)

BP Beg Balance \$7,881.15

BP Balance \$29,161.12

Our Church Wider Mission Pledge \$25,000.00

Income \$25,299.50 (ytd)

Project of the Year

Balance \$4,708,00(vtd) (moved to Bless Pantry)

2022 Financial Information **Operating Fund**

Income \$5.010.00

Endowment Transfers \$700.00

Expenses \$2,750.88

Balance \$2.959.12

Building Maint & Property Care

Income \$460 Expenses \$221.98 Local Aid

Income \$220.00 Expenses \$1,13.54

Blessing Pantry

Income \$2.805.00

Our Church Wider Mission

Income \$830.00

Project of the Year Income \$50.00





Jesus Cleanses the Temple

January 16, 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.

God of justice, Jesus was angry when he saw how people treated the temple, your house. Remind us that how we treat your house, your mission, and your people matters. Amen.



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

¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. (John 2:14-15)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Jesus was angry when he saw what was going on in the temple. Sometimes anger is the right thing.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

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

What questionable behaviors or customs does your community practice that are so embedded in your community, they have not been examined for a long time? How could you begin to effect change?

What do you think happened after Jesus' fit of anger? Did people change? Why or why not?

For the littles: Do you like to spend money or save it?



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God shake up your status quo. Amen.



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

Clean your house. Get rid of things that are bogging you down. Lighten your load. Simplify.



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

Sunday, John 2:13-25, Jesus Cleanses the Temple Monday, Psalm 127:1-2, God's Blessing in the Home Tuesday, Psalm 127:3-5, God's Blessing in the Home Wednesday, Psalm 128:1-2, The Happy Home of the Faithful Thursday, Psalm 128:3-4, The Happy Home of the Faithful Friday, Psalm 128: 5-6, The Happy Home of the Faithful Saturday, Psalm 129:1-8, Prayer for the Downfall of Israel's Enemies

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YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Now more than ever, we need to find ways to stay connected with our community. No one should feel alone or without the information, support and help they need.

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 16, 2022 Second Sunday After Epiphany Celebration of Anna Louis Hoelscher's Ministry

Worship Leaders

Ministers The Congregation
Rev. Becky Erb Strang Senior Pastor
Julia Mullins Liturgist/Guest Speaker
James Nelson Liturgist
Becky Quellhorst Organist
Tracy Oldiges Sr. Deacon
Jim Strang Music Director

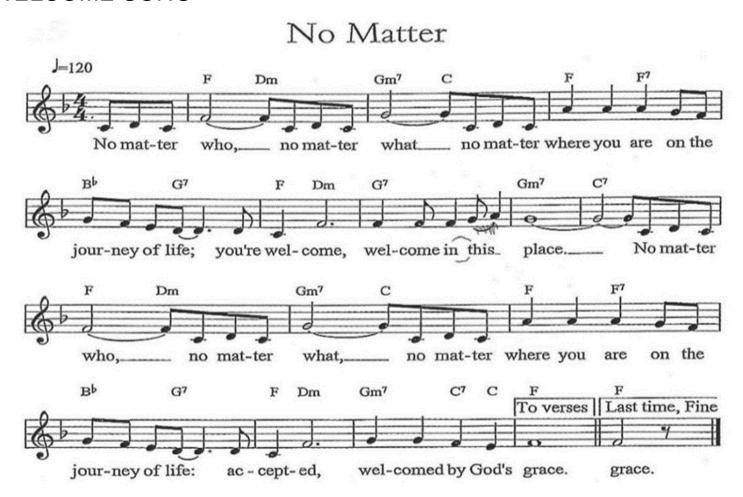
PRELUDE

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Planting Seeds: Sunday School. Beginning today, each week in worship we will give an update of ministries and missions at St. Paul Church throughout the rest of the year. The theme of these moments focus on planting, growth and harvest. Then Jesus took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me." (Mark 9:36-37) St. Paul Church's Sunday School is open to children and youth of all ages. We meet each Sunday morning, September through May at 9:00 am. Sunday School begins each week in the auditorium for sign language lessons and then we move to classrooms. This year the Sunday School curriculum follows the Narrative Lectionary—the same scriptures we have each week in worship. St. Paul's Sunday School plants seeds of faith and service in our young people—seeds that will grow throughout their lives. If you would like to be part of seed planting through Sunday School, please see Pastor Becky or Abby Bushman.

WELCOME SONG



CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus calls us into this house of worship.

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

Leader: We worship—whether gathered or scattered, celebrating God's love.

People: We worship, we praise, then we go out to share God's love.

HYMN OF PRAISE Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty verses 1 & 4 136 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!



CALL TO CONFESSION

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

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Merciful God, Jesus shows us all the ways that we fall short. Show us our shortcomings. Show us our brokenness. Show us and love us. Show us and forgive us. Show us and offer us your grace. 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!



PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Celebration of Anna Louise Hoelscher Ministry.

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Vicki Brackman, Dick Hudson, Carol Mohrman, Denise Joyce, Julia Paul, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Jan Dammeyer, Scott Kuenning, Shannon Shupp, and Dee Schroer.

Please remember the family of Andrea Huber in your prayers. Andrea passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, January 5, 2022.

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER, 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: Merciful God, so often we turn what was meant to be good into something self-serving, distorted, or unjust. Forgive us and lead us back to your right paths. God of righteousness,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We do not always understand the purpose of all that you have made, O God. Your vision far transcends our own. Teach us to trust in your provision and wisdom, and to justly order the corner of this world we occupy. God of righteousness,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Inspire us by the lives of your servants like Martin Luther King, Jr., who saw a vision of your justice and gave his life to bring it about. Move us by your passion for the disenfranchised, the persecuted, and the misunderstood. God of righteousness,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Your sanctuary is a place of prayer, praise and healing. Grant all who need it your wholeness and restoration. God of righteousness,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Our legacy is with all those, throughout the ages, saw injustice and did not rest, but rather fought to restore your good order to the world. Join us with them and give us also their zeal and love for you. God of righteousness,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: All these things we entrust to you, knowing that you are merciful and have already heard our prayers. We pray all of this 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.

When the Passover Feast, celebrated each spring by the Jews, was about to take place, Jesus traveled up to Jerusalem. He found the Temple teeming with people selling cattle and sheep and doves. The loan sharks were also there in full strength.

15-17 Jesus put together a whip out of strips of leather and chased them out of the Temple, stampeding the sheep and cattle, upending the tables of the loan sharks, spilling coins left and right. He told the dove merchants, "Get your things out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a shopping mall!" That's when his disciples remembered the Scripture, "Zeal for your house consumes me."

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ But the Jews were upset. They asked, "What credentials can you present to justify this?" Jesus answered, "Tear down this Temple and in three days I'll put it back together."

²⁰⁻²² They were indignant: "It took forty-six years to build this Temple, and you're going to rebuild it in three days?" But Jesus was talking about his body as the Temple. Later, after he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this. They then put two and two together and believed both what was written in Scripture and what Jesus had said.

²³⁻²⁵ During the time he was in Jerusalem, those days of the Passover Feast, many people noticed the signs he was displaying and, seeing they pointed straight to God, entrusted their lives to him. But Jesus didn't entrust his life to them. He knew them inside and out, knew how untrustworthy they were. He didn't need any help in seeing right through them.

RESPONSE

When I Behold the Son

When I Behold the Son

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



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Julia Mullins

Good Morning. A couple months ago Pastor Becky asked me to talk to all of you about the importance of mental health. This past summer I decided to make my 4-H project over mental health and how to help others cope with mental illness. When I started, I thought that this project would push me to my limits. I was correct, it was challenging and tough but now I can confidently state that I can help someone through their tough times.

At the beginning of this project, I began to learn about what mental health actually is. Mental health can be defined as a state of well-being in which the individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community. As we fall sick physically, in a similar manner, we can also fall sick mentally. Mental illness does not mean that you're going crazy, and one should not be ashamed of it. Our society needs to change its perception of mental illness or disorder. Mental illness is the instability of one's health, which includes changes in emotion, abnormal thinking and behavior. Mental illness is usually caused because of stress, or it can also be due to a reaction to a certain traumatic incident. According to many types of research, it has been found that mental illness could also arise from genetic factors, biochemical imbalances, child abuse or trauma, social disadvantage, poor physical health conditions, etc. people suffering from mental health issues show various symptoms like lack of energy, pushing away people, not doing any physical activities, loss of sleep or the will to eat, smoking or drinking or even doing drugs, felling helpless, yelling and fighting, losing temper very quickly, harming themselves. But regardless of these things, mental illness is curable. You can always seek help from the experts in this particular area, or you can simply overcome your illness by keeping positive thinking and by bringing a change in your lifestyle. It has been proven that regular fitness exercises like morning walk, yoga and meditation are great medicines for curing mental illness. Besides all these things, it is most important for you to have a good diet and enough sleep. A person can easily prevent mental illness by taking care of himself or herself, which can be done by calming the mind by listening to soft music,

being more social and taking care of the body. In today's world many citizens suffer from a stigma. A stigma is a mark of disgrace associated with a particular circumstance, quality, or person. Many people believe that if they admit they are mentally ill or are different in any way, they will not be accepted. We, as a community, need to reach out to the people who are struggling mentally or physically and help them admit that they may need help.

Once someone admits they would like help, they are normally sent to rehab or are scheduled to see a therapist. The misconception that most people cannot take medicine to control their mental illness is a lie. Mental illness treatment (medicine). There are good things about mental illness medication. Mentally ill people are not faking their behavior, there are different medicines and treatments that have changed tremendously over the years. There are a lot of different mental illnesses that people are diagnosed with. People are also misdiagnosed, with the wrong mental illness. Today, the most widely acclaimed and effective method for treating mental illness is to use both medication and also some type of therapy based on the diagnosed disorder together.

Perceptions of mental health have changed dramatically since the 1800's and will continue to advance as more is learned about the human mind. Significant advancements have been made in this field, but there is still much room for progress to be made as more is learned. From barbaric assumptions about the mentally ill in the 1800's, to what is now known about mental illness and the human brain.

To wrap it up, mental illness, also called mental health disorders, refers to a wide range of mental health conditions. Disorders that affect your mood, thinking and behavior. Examples of mental illness include depression, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, eating disorders and addictive behaviors. All of these can cause stress to happen and that can just add to how people feel. After being diagnosed with a mental illness, a patient will be sent to rehab. Rehabilitation is a service to help people recover from the difficulties of long-term mental health problems. It will help and support people who still find it difficult to cope with everyday life or get along with other people. I hope that you will take this information to heart and that the next time you see someone struggling, you attempt to help them. Thank You.

Celebration of Anna Louise Hoelscher: retiring Lay Minister of Visitation Leader: On March 15, 2011, St. Paul Church called Anna Louise Hoelscher to serve as our Lay Minister of Visitation.

Anna: I thank St. Paul Church, its members and friends, for the love, kindness and support you have shown to me. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. As I leave this position, I carry with me all that I have learned.

People: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept your retirement as our Lay Minister of Visitation. We are thankful for your ministry with us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your retirement.

Anna: I forgive you and accept your gratitude. I look forward to retirement and for continuing to love God through St. Paul Church.

Leader: Do you, the members and friends of St. Paul UCC release Anna Louise Hoelscher from the duties of Lay Minister of Visitation? **People: We do, with the help of God.**

Leader: Let us pray. O God, we give thanks for the gifts of ministry and service you give to each of us. Today we gather to thank you for Anna Louise Hoelscher's service to St. Paul Church as Lay Minister of Visitation. We pray that the Holy Spirit pour her love onto Anna in her retirement. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: Let us come before God with our tithes and our offerings. Amen.

DOXOLOGY



PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

We bring our offerings before you, O God, not to show how good or deserving we are, but to praise you and to care for those that have greater needs than we do. Steer us toward justice, righteousness and unity, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.



WORDS: Daniel L. Schutte (1947-); para. Isaiah 6:8 MUSIC: Daniel L. Schutte (1947-); arr. Michael Pope (20th c.), Daniel L. Schutte (1947-), John Weissrock (20th c.) Words and Music © 1981 Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music



BENEDICTION: Go now, surrounded by the love of God and led by the presence of Jesus Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE Pass the Love



PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are given in honor of Anna Louise Hoelscher's Ministry by your St. Paul Family.

Attendance-Daily Devotions-62, January 2-Sunday Worship Online-288, In Person-45, Confirmation-5, Leaders-4.

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

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 23, 30,** February 20, April 3, 24, May 8, 22, June 26, August 14, 28, October 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 N, 1, 2, 3 and especially 4), Pull Ups (size 3-6), Baby Wipes, Diaper Cream, Vaseline, Shampoo, Conditioner, Toothpaste, Deodorant (Men), Feminine Hygiene Products, Bandages, Cotton Balls, Manicure Items, Paper Plates, Garbage Bags, Toilet Paper and Paper Towels. Thank you! There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

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. 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. Thank you for your support. The Mission Team.

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	y 16	, 2022
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Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School
	10:15am Worship in person & via Facebook Live	
Monday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop-New Bremen
	4:00pm-6:00pm	Open Table-Community Meal
Tuesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	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

E-Giving @ St. Paul

Online – Make a donation on our website: stpaulnb.org **Text** – Make a donation to our Number: 833-308-0048