

January 16, 2023

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

Grace and peace to you during this continuing Epiphany season!

Last week's letter spoke of the upcoming pastoral transition and the announcement of the Pastoral Search Committee. Today we share with you a few more open staff positions:

1. Office Administrator & Bookkeeper beginning February 1, 2023
2. Sanctuary Custodian beginning February 5, 2023
3. Music Director/Bell Choir Director/Chancel Choir Director beginning May 22, 2023
4. Groundskeeper beginning Spring 2023
5. Technology Director beginning May 2023

You are welcome to prayerfully consider applying for any of these positions.

The Office Administrator and Bookkeeper position is near-full time position which includes payroll, bill paying, bulletin and newsletter creation, keeper of vital church records, and phone answering among other tasks. This position works closely with Church Council and the Financial Team. We will consider breaking this position into a couple of part time positions.

The Sanctuary Custodian position is part-time. It includes cleaning and sanitizing the sanctuary, bathrooms vestibules for all worship services. The Sanctuary Custodian unlocks and locks the sanctuary for all services-including weddings and funerals.

The Music Director/Bell Choir Director/Chancel Choir Director serves part time to recruit, rehearse and perform bell and chancel choir music. The Music Director works closely with the Worship Team.

The Groundskeeper position includes regularly mowing, trimming, edging, blowing and other needed maintenance of all of St. Paul Church's grounds. This is a seasonal position.

The Technology Director serves part time at St. Paul Church to maintain and update all computer, networking and worship technologies. The Technology Director works closely with the Worship Tech Team and the Worship Team.

If you would like to apply for any of these positions, please send a resume, cover letter, and references to St. Paul Church office, attention Myra Hanenkraat, Council President.

Due to the upcoming staffing transitions, beginning in February, this weekly mailer will become a monthly mailer. This mailed packet will include worship information, Church Council minutes, financial report, nursing home list, and giving envelopes. We began the weekly mailings

in March 2020 when Covid19 lock-downs first began as a way to keep the congregation connected to one another and to St. Paul Church. Moving forward, we are simply unable to maintain these mailings on a weekly basis. We thank you for your understanding.

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 symptoms and/or tested positive for Covid19, Influenza, RSV, or pneumonia, we kindly ask you to stay home.** Thank you for your attention to this detail.

Thank you for your ministry to Jesus Christ through St. Paul Church!

Blessings,



Myra Hanenkraat  
Council President



Matt Ranly  
Council VP



Becky Erb Strang  
Senior Pastor

### 2023 Financial Information as of January 16, 2023

#### Operating Fund

Giving Income \$11,128.00(weekly)  
Endowment Trans \$3,073.00(ytd)  
Income \$19,266.00(ytd)  
Expenses \$15,701.45(ytd)  
Balance \$3,564.55(ytd)

#### Building Maint & Property

Beg. Balance \$56,920.53  
Income \$926.00(ytd)  
Endowment Inc.\$0.00(ytd)  
Expenses \$109.02(ytd)  
Balance \$57,737.51(ytd)

#### Project of the Year

Income \$29.00

#### Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$9,977.49  
Income \$414.00(ytd)  
Expenses \$2,305.00(ytd)  
Balance \$8,106.49(ytd)

#### Blessing Pantry

Beg. Balance \$35,371.23  
Income \$1,075.00(ytd)  
Expenses \$1,077.54(ytd)  
Balance \$35,368.69(ytd)

#### Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00  
Income \$844.50 (weekly)  
Income \$1,772.00(ytd)

Please remember the family of Becky Quellhorst in your prayers. Becky passed away Tuesday, January 10, 2023. Service to celebrate her life was held Monday, January 16, 2023.



January 29, 2023, Treasure in Heaven

Matthew 6:7-21, [25-34]

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



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

Gracious God, you invite us to come to you in prayer, and offer us a promise of your never-ending care. Give us the humility to ask only for what we need and to be grateful when we receive it. Amen.



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

*"When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him." (Matthew 6:7-8)*



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

People had learned how to look like they had open communication with God. God taught us that everyone has direct access to God, whether they have treasures to store or not.



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- How is the accumulation of *more* encouraged in your community? What media or messages could you stop listening to so that you could limit your exposure to those messages?
- Name three things you wish you had more of. Reflect on how the desire for more shapes your behaviors and attitudes.
- For the littles: What is your favorite prayer? God likes all prayers.



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God fill your heart with words of praise. Amen.



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

Limit your exposure to TV, internet, and other media this week. First, notice how you spend that recovered time. Second, notice how you feel after limited exposure to messages that encourage the accumulation of more.



**Go Deeper:** Go to [clergystuff.com/daily-devotions](http://clergystuff.com/daily-devotions) for devotions on the daily readings.

Monday, Psalm 20:7, *Psalm*

Tuesday, Matthew 6:22-24, *Teachings of Jesus*

Wednesday, Matthew 6:25-34, *Teachings of Jesus*

Thursday, Matthew 7:15-20, *Teachings of Jesus*

Friday, Matthew 7:21-23, *Teachings of Jesus*

Saturday, Matthew 8:1-17, *Healings of Jesus*





**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 22, 2023**

**Third Sunday after Epiphany**

**Worship Leaders**

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Arianne Henry

June Oaks

Jim Strang

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Organist

Sr. Deacon

Music Director

PRELUDE

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

# WELCOME SONG

## No Matter

$\text{♩} = 120$

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

To verses | Last time, Fine

# CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Happy are we when we delight in God's word.

**People: We are like trees planted by living water.**

Leader: Let us meditate on God's law and gospel,

**People: And bear good fruit in its due season.**

Leader: Let us worship God!

# HYMN OF PRAISE

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

verses 1, 3, 4

# For the Beauty of the Earth

40

G  $\frac{D7}{A}$  G  $\frac{D}{F\#}$  G  $\frac{C}{E}$   $\frac{D7}{F\#}$  G C  $\frac{D}{C}$   $\frac{G}{B}$  C  $\frac{G}{D}$  D G

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,  
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
 4 For the church that ev - er - more lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,  
 5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our race so free - ly given;

G  $\frac{D7}{A}$  G  $\frac{D}{F\#}$  G  $\frac{C}{E}$   $\frac{D7}{F\#}$  G C  $\frac{D}{C}$   $\frac{G}{B}$  C  $\frac{G}{D}$  D G

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,  
 hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,  
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,  
 of - fering up on ev - ery shore her pure sac - ri - fice of love,  
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven,

G  $\frac{D}{F\#}$  G  $\frac{D}{F\#}$  D G C  $\frac{D}{C}$   $\frac{G}{B}$   $\frac{C}{E}$   $\frac{G}{D}$  D7 G

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

## SERVICE OF CONFESSION

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

### SILENT CONFESSION

Leader: Merciful God,

**People: Christ came into the world and showed us how to live, but we have failed to live by what you taught. We have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We have not done to others as we would have done to ourselves. Shine a light on our hearts, O God, that we might turn from the shadows of our sin and walk in your ways. Amen.**

Leader: Jesus came not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. By his abundant love, all your sins are forgiven, that you might walk in the light of Christ.

**People: We offer to God our thanks and praise!**

## 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 a single melodic line on a treble clef staff in the key of D major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of five lines of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: C, Am7, D7, D, G, D, Em. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final cadence on the fifth line.

## TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US

Let's watch this God's Story video about the Sermon on the Mount.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ze7w3-BL3OM>

## PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

**Joys:** Commissioning St. Paul search committee.

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

## PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Leader: Let us pray. Confident that our Savior, Jesus Christ, hears us when we pray, we lift up to you, O God, the church, the world, and all in need.

### SILENT PRAYER

Leader: God of abundant mercy, pour your blessings upon all whose needs are visible and all whose needs are not visible to our eyes. Make us instruments of blessing for others. Merciful God,

**People: You hear our prayer.**

Leader: Heal the harms we have done to our creation. Keep us from inflicting further distress on what you have made and make us good stewards of this earth. Merciful God,

**People: You hear our prayer.**

Leader: Keep our elected leaders mindful of the needs of those they serve, that they might work for the blessing of all people. Merciful God,

**People: You hear our prayer.**

Leader: Your blessing is for all who suffer, O God. Grant healing and wholeness to those who are sick in body, mind, and spirit. Comfort all who mourn. Merciful God,

**People: You hear our prayer.**

Leader: Walk with all people of the earth, both those who follow you and those whose ways are unfamiliar to us. Merciful God,

**People: You hear our prayer.**

Leader: We remember with joy all the saints whose lives have been a source of incredible blessing. May we, in gratitude, bless others until we are all together in your eternal presence. Merciful God,

**People: You hear our prayer.**

Leader: Receive our prayers and hold all for whom we pray in your loving arms, in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray together...**Our**



**Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Micah 6:1-8 (NRSV)

*Hear what the Lord says: Rise and plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord as a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.*

*“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me for I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”*

*“With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbling with your God?*

EPIPHANY HYMN

*The Three Drovers*

# THE THREE DROVERS

Words by  
JOHN WHEELER

Music by  
WILLIAM G. JAMES

Gaily— with spirit

*mf* A - cross the plains one Christ - mas night, Three drov - ers rid - ing

blythe and gay, Looked up and saw a star - ry light, More

rad - iant than the Mil - ky Way; And on their hearts such won - der fell, they

sang with joy "No - el! No - el! No - el! No - el! No - el! No - el!"

*f* *D.C.*

Verse 2. The air was dry with Summer heat, and smoke was on the yellow Moon;  
But from the Heavens, faint and sweet, came floating down a wond'rous tune;  
And, as they heard, they sang full well, those drovers three—"Noel! Noel!"

Verse 3. The black swans flew across the sky, the wild dog called across the plain.  
The starry lustre blazed on high, still echoed on the Heavenly strain;  
And still they sang "Noel! Noel!" those drovers three. "Noel! Noel!"

ONE OR MORE OF THE VERSES MAY BE SUNG IN UNISON, IF DESIRED.

*When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying:*

*<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

*<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.*

*<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.*

*<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.*

*<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*

*<sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*

*<sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

*<sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.*

*<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*

*<sup>17</sup> "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*

Piano/Organ

# We Reach For You

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

January 8 through February 19, 2023

F C/E Dm

Oh, Je-sus teach us, guide us with your preach-ing. Like a flow-er grow-ing, al-ways reach-ing

*with pedal*

*introduction*

B<sup>b</sup>maj7 Gm7 Gm7/C F B<sup>b</sup>m F **Fine**

for the sun, we reach for you.

B<sup>b</sup> Gm7 Am G

<sup>1/22</sup> Lord Je - sus, when you tell us of the bless - ings yet to come, you

Gm7 Gm7/C F Gm7/C **D.C. al Fine**

ask us to be light for ev - 'rv - one.

In this season of football playoffs and local basketball games, it is easy to get caught up in the glory of winning. Each game ends with a winning team and a losing team—the winners rejoice and the losers are left to review their plays and prepare to return to the field or the gym floor the following week.

Life has its share of winners and losers in all kinds of competitions: including competition for jobs, prestige, grades, financial security. In all of these, we win or lose as the world counts winning and losing. Far too often, it is easy to portray the winners as those who are blessed and the losers as those who have somehow missed out on God's blessings.

But Jesus, in our gospel lesson, turns this understanding upside down. We do NOT hear:

Blessed are the rich, because they can buy what they want.

Blessed are they strong, because they need not show weakness.

Blessed are the winners, because they get the prize.

Blessed are the talented, for they will be admired and loved by all.

Blessed are the educated, for they will have many opportunities.

Instead, Jesus declares blessing upon those who are poor in spirit, those who are meek, those who mourn, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, those who are merciful, those who are pure in heart, those who are peacemakers, and those who are persecuted.

In our society that honors and glorifies the winners, the successful, the wealthy, and the talented, Jesus calls us to shift our thinking and enter the Kingdom of God—not by our own merit, but through God's grace.

The word "beatitude" is Latin that translated means fortunate, happy, and well off. With religious undertones, it also offers a sense of salvation. Scholars are very clear about the beatitudes found in the gospels—they are not meant to be practical advice for successful living. Instead, they are marks of discipleship, marks of the coming and ever-present kingdom, marks of a community that is living into the Kingdom of Heaven. Right here and right now.

So let's look at these beatitudes a little more closely. Scholars have long-argued that Luke's version of the Sermon on the Plain is a closer translation, speaking of "blessed are the poor." In Matthew, we hear



“blessed are the poor in spirit.” Here, Jesus is not talking about literal poverty, but about people who do not depend on their own devices to get by—they place their entire trust in God.

“Blessed are those who mourn.” For each of us who have mourned great losses in our lifetimes, this seems like an odd thing for Jesus to say. Yet, our biblical tradition is one that is filled with lament—crying out to God. As a community of believers, we are called to mourn with those who mourn AND to mourn that God’s Kingdom is not fully here—that we still live in a world of hunger, homelessness, illness, violence, and despair.

“Blessed are the meek.” Translated from the Greek, meekness is married to gentleness. Blessed are the gentle for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who approach others with gentleness of spirit rather than domination, competition, and oppression.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.” Translated, righteousness means justice. Throughout the gospel of Matthew, we hear of righteousness and justice. Of the call to actively live within hope that is based in God’s love and justice.

“Blessed are the merciful.” Like the meek and the poor in spirit, those who are merciful are those who are DOING merciful acts and not just talking about it. We might want to ask ourselves, “When have I shown mercy this past week? How can I show mercy to others in the days to come?”

“Blessed are the pure in heart.” We might like to think this means blessed are those who do not have impure thoughts. But really, it has come to mean a single-minded devotion toward God. Those who are pure in heart are those who place their entire trust in God and offer to God loving worship, stewardship, and praise.

“Blessed are the peacemakers.” Once again, this is not a passive call. Just like the meek, the merciful, and the pure in heart who are actively living into humility and grace, the peacemakers are those who actively work for reconciliation—between family members, between neighbors, between enemies, between nations. Jesus continues by saying that the peacemakers will be called Children of God. Now how cool is that???

Finally, we have a blessing upon those who are persecuted. And what's more, in the midst of words about persecution, Jesus calls on them (and us) to rejoice and be glad.

This is a tough one. People are persecuted worldwide: for their religious beliefs, their ethnicity, their skin color. People in our own nation are persecuted for being seen as "different." And yet, Jesus calls upon the persecuted to rejoice. The rejoicing comes **not** from the persecutions themselves, but from the support of the community, the communion with Christ, the solidarity our prayers and support bring to those who live with persecution daily.

When Jesus turned the concept of happiness, success, and winning on its head, I do not believe he meant for each and every one of us to embody each of these beatitudes. Not at all. Truly, when our faith community, when St. Paul UCC, when this gathered Body of Christ, is living within Christ's embrace of humility and grace, **together** we embody these beatitudes. I may not be particularly gentle, but I do thirst for justice. You might not be particularly meek, but you might be a peacemaker. Together we work to bring and to celebrate that the Kingdom of God is emerging among us.

For here is the deal: Christianity is not a scheme to reduce stress, lose weight, advance our careers, or protect us from illness. Instead, Christianity is a way of living based on the firm hope that meekness and humility will prevail over cruelty, violence, and war. Blessed are those who live this life now, even when living such a life seems foolish to the world, for they will place their trust in God and God will call them beloved children.

Our Old Testament reading mirrors this call to live fully as children of God. The prophet Micah lived about 700 years before Christ. Yet, his words are fitting for us today. When asked what God requires of us, we first hear what is NOT required. God requires NOT our firstborn child, empty rituals, nor meaningless offerings. For Micah, the stakes are much higher. A life lived in God requires us to do justice, to love kindness, and walking humbly with God.

As I said earlier, justice is active. It is not wishful thinking or complaining when justice is not present. Instead, God's justice calls each of us to work for fairness and equality for all God's children and all God's

creation. Justice involves taking a stand for the weak and powerless—those who often cannot speak for themselves.

And Micah pushes us further. We are also to love kindness. In the Hebrew, the word for kindness cannot be translated into a single word. It is multi-layered: Love. Loyalty. Faithfulness. Kindness is more than being nice to one another. It means entering fully and completely into relationships with others and with God. Kindness builds community, keeps covenants, and honors promises—not out of fear, but out of love.

Micah’s call to new life in community and new life with God means walking humbly with God and with one another. Humbly, when translated, means “carefully” or “circumspectly.” When we act humbly, we are careful with our words and our ways.

But it is this “walking” part of Micah’s call that sets the tone and pace for living in a faithful community. When we walk with God, we put God first, living in conformity with God’s will, living with humility and mercy and grace.

In a world that values championships and successes, we are called to humbly get onto our knees, placing our trust in God who loves us, forgives us, accepts us, and calls us his own. When we are on our knees—together, as a community—we will experience the Kingdom of God and the gift of blessedness. Amen.

## St. PAUL PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE COMMISSIONING

Ben Bergman

Gavin Dicke

Morgan Felver

John Gilberg

Mimi Messick

Terri Mullins

Kathy Nedderman

Tracy Oldiges

Address to the Committee Members: Sisters and Brothers, you have committed yourselves to a significant leadership task on behalf of St. Paul United Church of Christ. In recognition of the importance of your work, we pause to express our gratitude and to remind ourselves that you do not undertake this task alone; you will be guided by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, the prayerful support of the members of this church, and the assistance of the Northwest Ohio Association of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ.

So I ask you today, Do you promise to perform faithfully the vital task of searching for a new senior pastor? If so, please answer, I do.

Do you pledge, with God's guidance and your prayers, to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit in all you do, say, and decide? If so, please answer, I do.

Will you endeavor to work together as a team in the name of St. Paul UCC, maintain consistent attendance at Search Committee Meetings and to be open and patient listeners to each other and the congregation? If so, please answer, I will.

Do you pledge to work diligently as a team to develop a description of our faith community and the style of pastoral leadership we seek, to maintain strict confidentiality in all that we read, say, and hear—protecting the privacy of one another and of potential candidates? If so, please answer, I do.

As members and friends of St. Paul United Church of Christ in New Bremen, Ohio, we pledge to be patient with you and respect your need to be confidential in your task. We recognize that your work, as our Search Committee, is a difficult assignment and will take much effort. We pray for you and offer our support and words of encouragement throughout this time.

Let us pray. Holy God, pour your Holy Spirit upon St. Paul United Church of Christ's Search Committee. We lift up to you the members of this team as well as the candidates who seek to answer your call through St. Paul Church. We ask your presence in the months and years ahead in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior. Amen.

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY SENTENCES: Jesus's message 2000 years ago and today is the same: the Kingdom of God is near. It is amongst us now. As followers of Jesus, we are called to work toward that kingdom in all that we do. This includes our tithes and our offerings to God. Let us give generously and joyfully.

### DOXOLOGY

#### Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 34

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow'. It is written in G major and 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The first system covers the lyrics 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;'. The second system covers 'praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.' Chord symbols are provided above the vocal line for each system.

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.

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

OLD 100th  
L.M.

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

**You have planted us by streams of water, O God, that we might bear good fruit. We offer now these gifts that they would be that good fruit, given for the sake of your children throughout the world, in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.**

### HYMN OF SENDING

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*



# 496 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Ab Db6 Db Ab

1 What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-  
 2 O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim-way, lean-ing on the ev-er-  
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-

Eb Ab Db6 Db

last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,  
 last - ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,  
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,

Ab Eb Eb7 Ab Refrain Ab

lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing - ing,  
 lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing on Je - sus,  
 lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Db Ab Eb7 Ab Eb Ab Eb Ab

lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms; lean -  
 lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on

Db Ab Eb Eb7 Ab

ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
 Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

BENEDICTION: Now to the one who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of God's glory with exceeding joy; to the only wise Christ Jesus our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forevermore. Amen.

## BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Pass the Love*

### Pass the Love

*J=95*

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

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

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

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

## PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you

**People: And also with you.**

## POSTLUDE

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Altar Flowers** are in loving memory of Bill Tostrick by Barb Tostrick and Family.

**Participants**-January 7-Worship In Person-25, January 8-Sunday School-23, Teachers-4, Worship Online-271, In Person-94, January 11-Splash-4, Jr/Sr High Youth Group-22, Confirmation-3, Leaders-6.

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

**Daily Devotions**-Please join us, Monday-Thursday, online. Devotions will air and saved on our Facebook page: St. Paul United Church of Christ-New Bremen, OH.

**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: July 2, 30, August 27, October 1, 29, December 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.

**St Paul UCC Job Openings**-The following positions are or will be available in the near future: Groundskeeper, Technology Director, Music Director, Bell Choir Director, Chancel Choir Director and Office Administrator. Interested applicants are asked to submit a resume and cover letter, indicating position applying for, to the church office. Questions on any of the positions, please ask Myra Hanenkratt, Matt Ranly or Rev. Becky. 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, Dryer Sheets, Body Wash, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Shaving Cream, Diapers (sizes 4, 5 & 6), Baby Wipes, Baby Lotion, Baby Shampoo, Cotton Balls, Q-Tips, Manicure Items, Food Storage Bags, Garbage Bags. Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

**St. Paul Church Nursery Announcement.** Effective immediately the St. Paul Church Nursery will be open on Communion Sundays and on Children's Worship Sundays. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Justine Homan, Nursery Champion.

**Bulletin Availability-weekly bulletins** are available for download on our website [stpaulnb.org](http://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 22, 2023**

Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School
	10:15am	Worship-In Person & via Facebook Live
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
Wednesday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	5:30pm-6:30pm	Splash
	6:30pm	Youth Dinner
	7:00pm-8:00pm	Jr/Sr High Youth Group
	7:00pm-8:00pm	Confirmation w/Mentors
	7:00pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday		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](http://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

—  
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

