

May 9, 2022

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Risen Christ who is our Savior and Friend!

We begin by expressing our thanks for your generosity. The organ project that we wrote about last week is now fully funded! The contract has been signed and repairs should begin in short order. Thank you!

We thank you for your generous and on-going donations to the Operating Fund of St. Paul Church. Your support provides ministry and mission for our congregation, our wider community, our nation and the world. When you give financially to St. Paul Church, you are offering a thanksgiving for all that God is doing in your life.

Our next, and possibly last, Open Table Community Meal will be Monday, May 16 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. The men of The Church of the Holy Redeemer will grill the hotdogs and hamburgers. The Buckeye Hustlers 4H Club will serve the meal. St. Paul staff is coordinating the menu and working with volunteers for deliveries and clean-up. Unless a team of folk step forward to coordinate the Community Meals, Monday's meal will be our last.

We are also seeking champions for:

Bremenfest Float	September Kick-Off Picnic
Trunk or Treating	Nursery Coordinator
Cookie Jar Volunteers	New Year's Eve Dinner




If you would like to champion any of these ministries, please contact Pastor Becky. Thank you!

Pastor Becky and Jim Strang are hosting a Summer Porch Party on Sunday, June 5 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the Parsonage. The Strangs will provide the main dish and drinks. We ask that attendees bring lawn chairs and a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. We haven't had a Porch Party in a few years; Jim and Becky are looking forward to seeing you there!

As a reminder, Pastor Becky is having foot surgery on June 14. If all goes well, she will return to St. Paul on Friday, July 15 and will return to worship on Sunday, July 17. Bryan Trego and our two SALT interns, Elyssa Mullins and Eli Schmitmeyer, will fill in during her absence. **While Becky is on medical leave, she will not respond to phone calls, text messages or Facebook messages.** Our St. Paul folk will need to go through the church office for any pastoral needs. Thank you for your understanding!

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

Blessings,

		
Roland Dicke Council President	Myra Hanenkratt Council VP	Rev. Becky Erb Strang Senior Pastor

Financial Information as of May 9, 2022

Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00
Giving Income \$2,770.00(weekly)
Endowment Trans \$8,300.00(ytd)
Income \$129,655.25(ytd)
Expenses \$115,168.83(ytd)
Balance \$14,486.42(ytd)

Building Maint & Property

Beg. Balance \$36,648.59
Income \$32,517.50(ytd)
Endowment Inc. **(\$2,161.11)**(ytd)
Expenses \$9,815.92(ytd)
Balance \$57,189.06(ytd)

Project of the Year

Income \$5,556.00

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$12,218.82
Income \$4,353.50(ytd)
Expenses \$10,465.68(ytd)
Balance \$6,106.64(ytd)

Blessing Pantry

Beg. Balance \$29,161.12
Income \$7152.00(ytd)
Expenses \$5,666.51(ytd)
Balance \$30,646.61(ytd)

Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00
Income \$299.50(weekly)
Income \$8,661.50(ytd)



Paul's Sermon at Athens

May 15, 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 all wisdom, Paul knew how to sit with people in their own reality before bringing them along the journey of the story of Christ. Teach us to honor people's journeys with grace and respect. Amen.



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

²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. (Acts 17:24-25)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Paul met the people where they were when he addressed them at the Areopagus in Athens. He brought them on the journey of the story of Jesus by starting at their starting line.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

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

Tell of a time you stepped way outside your comfort zone. What did you learn?

Where would you like to travel? What would you like to see there?

For the littles: What's your favorite story?



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God stretch you to learn and grow. Amen.



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

Do a Google search on the Muslim community. Learn 3 things about them that you didn't know before. How does learning about them strengthen your own faith?



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

Sunday, Acts 17:16-31, Paul's Sermon at Athens

Monday, Acts 18:1-17, Paul in Corinth

Tuesday, Acts 19:1-10, Paul in Ephesus

Wednesday, Acts 21:27-36, Paul Arrested in the Temple

Thursday, Acts 21:37-22:5, Paul Defends Himself

Friday, Acts 23:12-22, The Plot to Kill Paul

Saturday, Acts 28:23-30, Paul Preaches in Rome



St. Paul United Church of Christ

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Email stpaulnb@nktelco.net or stpaulnb@gmail.com

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

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

Rev. Becky Erb Strang-Senior Pastor

Roland Dicke-Council President

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

Whether you are worshipping online or in person, blessing and greetings to one and all. In the name of Christ, you are welcome today and every day.

May 15, 2022

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Cindy Newman

Connie O'Neill

Tracy Oldiges

Jim Strang

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Liturgist

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

RECOGNITION OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

TAKING ROOT: ELDERS *And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed. (Acts 14:23)* The Elders of St. Paul Church focus on the sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion. Elders are present for all baptisms—private and public. The Elders also make certain all details are covered for communion worship services. The Junior Elder recruits liturgist for Sunday worship services.

WELCOME SONG

No Matter

J=120

The musical score for "No Matter" is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 120 beats per minute. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics under the first staff are: "No mat-ter who, no mat-ter what no mat-ter where you are on the". The second staff continues the lyrics: "jour-ney of life; you're wel-come, wel-come in this place. No mat-ter". The third staff repeats the first line of lyrics: "who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the". The fourth staff concludes the lyrics: "jour-ney of life: ac-cept-ed, wel-comed by God's grace. grace." and includes performance directions: "To verses" and "Last time, Fine".

Chords: 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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is the day God has made, the day to rejoice and give thanks.

People: For Jesus has been raised from the dead, and lives as an everyday presence in our midst.

Leader: This is the day that God has made, the day to remember God's faithfulness through the ages.

People: To hear God's challenge and attend to God's dream for the future.

Leader: God calls us to live in the vision, to share the ministry and mission of Christ.

People: Let us worship with praise; let us serve God with resolve!

48 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

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

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

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

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

G $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G Em $\frac{G}{B}$ D

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains, high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,
 all praise we would ren - der, O help us to see

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

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish - but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

INVOCATION (in unison) (based on Acts 17:22-31)

**Lord God of heaven and earth,
Creator of our world, and everything in it,
yet as close to us as our own breath—holy is your name.
In you we live and move and have our being;
we are your own children,
the work of your hands.**

**We pray that your Holy Spirit
would move among us as we worship,
opening our eyes to your presence,
opening our ears to your Word.**

**Receive the worship of our hearts and minds and bodies;
may it be a pleasing offering to you.**

**We pray in the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ,
in whose death and resurrection we find life. Amen.**

HALLELUJAH!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jahl
Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jahl
Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jahl Hal - le -
lu - jahl Hal - le - lu - jahl

RECOGNITION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND YOUTH LEADERS

PRAYER OF THANKS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS (in unison)
(by Elsie Rempel of the Mennonite Church of Canada)

**We thank you God, for these teachers and youth leaders. We thank
you for good curriculum and for their creativity and patience. We**

thank you for these men and women who helped us all learn to know you and learn about you. Bless our teachers and youth leaders, we pray. Infuse them, and us all, with an eagerness to dwell in you and your Word; to seek and find you in nature, in quiet reading and conversations, in outdoor activity, and in other experiences as the summer nears. In Jesus' name, Amen.

RESPONSIVE HYMN
560

I Love to Tell the Story
I Love to Tell the Story

G G/B C G

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove, of
2 I love to tell the sto - ry, 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat what
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best seem

D7 D7/G G D D7

Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love. I love to tell the
seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet. I love to tell the
hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest. And when in scenes of

D7/G G Em B C C/G G

sto - ry be - cause I know 'tis true; it sat - is - fies my long - ings as
sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from
glo - ry I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old sto - ry that

D7 G/D D7 G Refrain D D7 D7/G G G/B C

noth - ing else can do.
God's own Ho - ly Word. I love to tell the sto - ry, 'twill be my theme in
I have loved so long.



PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Our High School Seniors, Teachers, and Youth Leaders.

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Donald Mohrman, Carol Mohrman, Julia Paul, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Jan Dammeyer, Shannon Shupp, and Dee Schroer.

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray. Holy and Life-Giving God, we lift up to you today the world, our nation, our state, our community and our congregation.

SILENT PRAYER

Leader: Your servant, Paul, is a model for approaching the other and sharing the gospel in a spirit of generosity and openness. May we follow his lead and respectfully accompany those whom we serve, rather than preaching without listening or insisting that others agree with us. Risen Lord,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We, too, are your offspring, O Lord, created in your very image to give glory to you. Forgive us when we try to re-create you in an image of our own choosing, for reasons which do not honor you, and return us to our true identity as your children. Risen Lord,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: There are fewer and fewer places like Areopagus, where each may share their own experience and have their views heard and accepted. We are quick to judge, disqualify, and justify rather than opening ourselves to being transformed in the presence of one another. Expand our horizons to include more than just those who agree with us and whom we consider part of us. Risen Lord,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: When assumptions and self-righteousness are released, healing can begin. Free us of all that holds us prisoner without our realizing it, and make us agents of your renewal. Bless today those who are in need of your healing and life-giving touch. Challenge us to be Christ's hands and feet in this community and beyond. Risen Lord,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We are a motley and diverse group, your saints. Thank you for making us different from one another, yet united in your love and redeemed by your grace. Risen Lord,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We have, indeed, received grace upon grace from you, O God. Accept these prayers and use them to transform hearts and lives. We pray 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.**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 17:16-34 (The Message)

¹⁶ The longer Paul waited in Athens for Silas and Timothy, the angrier he got—all those idols! The city was a junkyard of idols.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ He discussed it with the Jews and other like-minded people at their meeting place. And every day he went out on the streets and talked with anyone who happened along. He got to know some of the Epicurean and Stoic intellectuals pretty well through these conversations. Some of them dismissed him with sarcasm: "What a moron!" But others, listening to him go on about Jesus and the resurrection, were intrigued: "That's a new slant on the gods. Tell us more."

¹⁹⁻²¹ These people got together and asked him to make a public presentation over at the Areopagus, where things were a little quieter. They said, "This is a new one on us. We've never heard anything quite like it. Where did you come up with this anyway? Explain it so we can understand." Downtown Athens was a great place for gossip. There were always people hanging around, natives and tourists alike, waiting for the latest tidbit on most anything.

²²⁻²³ So Paul took his stand in the open space at the Areopagus and laid it out for them. “It is plain to see that you Athenians take your religion seriously. When I arrived here the other day, I was fascinated with all the shrines I came across. And then I found one inscribed, to the god nobody knows. I’m here to introduce you to this God so you can worship intelligently, know who you’re dealing with.

²⁴⁻²⁹ “The God who made the world and everything in it, this Master of sky and land, doesn’t live in custom-made shrines or need the human race to run errands for him, as if he couldn’t take care of himself. He makes the creatures; the creatures don’t make him. Starting from scratch, he made the entire human race and made the earth hospitable, with plenty of time and space for living so we could seek after God, and not just grope around in the dark but actually find him. He doesn’t play hide-and-seek with us. He’s not remote; he’s near. We live and move in him, can’t get away from him! One of your poets said it well: ‘We’re the God-created.’ Well, if we are the God-created, it doesn’t make a lot of sense to think we could hire a sculptor to chisel a god out of stone for us, does it?

³⁰⁻³¹ “God overlooks it as long as you don’t know any better—but that time is past. The unknown is now known, and he’s calling for a radical life-change. He has set a day when the entire human race will be judged and everything set right. And he has already appointed the judge, confirming him before everyone by raising him from the dead.”

³²⁻³⁴ At the phrase “raising him from the dead,” the listeners split: Some laughed at him and walked off making jokes; others said, “Let’s do this again. We want to hear more.” But that was it for the day, and Paul left. There were still others, it turned out, who were convinced then and there, and stuck with Paul—among them Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris.

SUNG RESPONSE

Here I Am!

Piano/Organ

Here I Am!

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

♩ = 160

Am F Dm G

Here I am! Let me pro - claim your word!

Em Am F G

Help me to be heard and let their hearts be stirred!

Am F Dm G

God, who made this world now filled with sin,

F C/E

came to earth and then died and rose a - gain,

Dm G C

giv - ing all the world new birth.

SERMON

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

We rarely hear this story read in worship. And yet, it is a really awesome story. Paul had gone to Athens, Greece, to await the arrival of Timothy and Silas. The waiting was driving the Jesus-believer Paul crazy. Everywhere he looked in Athens, the city was filled with Greek and Roman gods and goddesses. The city was literally filled with idols and Paul was appalled. While he waited, he talked to Jews and intellectuals of the city, trying to figure out the best way to reach the people of Athens with the good news of the gospel.

Athens was a city of highly educated people whose worship practices focused on a wide variety of gods and goddesses. Paul was going to have to take special care to reach out to the Athenians, that they might hear and receive the good news of Jesus.

As Paul began to talk to more and more people, they began to ask him to make a public presentation—a sermon of sorts—so that more people could hear his message. The place where Paul chose to give his speech is significant: the Areopagus—a prominent rock outcropping northwest of the Acropolis in Athens reaching 377 feet into the sky. In fact, the rocky area had two names: one Greek and one Roman. The Greek name was Areopagus—named after the Greek god of war. The Roman name was Mars Hill—named after the Roman god of war. Centuries before Paul, the hill's location was used for the Roman Senate.

But perhaps, even more significantly, this place Paul chose to preach from had an altar that was entitled: To the God Nobody Knows.

Indeed, that was all the invitation Paul needed. Tying his sermon to that unknown God altar, Paul told the crowd gathered that they needn't worship gods and goddesses because that unknown God was known by Paul: God Almighty, Yahweh, Creator of the universe and Father to the Risen Christ. In his sermon, he told the Athens intellectuals that the Lord God does not need shrines and cannot be found in idols.

Paul's sermon included those incredible words of promise: that God is not some distant god—far away and removed from our daily lives. Not at all. God, the Lord God, is among us and in us and around us. There is nowhere we can go that God is not already there.

That was good news to the Athenians and it is good news for us today. We may look back at our lives and point to times when we walked

away from God or we think God walked away from us. But that is not God's nature. No matter which way we turn, no matter what path we choose, God is already there ready to walk alongside us.

There is a meme on Facebook that springboards off the classic footprints in the sand poem: the reminder that when we think Jesus has abandoned us, he is actually carrying us. The meme I saw recently says this: Jesus points to the single footprints to tell the man that is when he carried him. But then he added: see that long trail? That is when I dragged you kicking and screaming!

That is true. Sometimes Jesus calls us to places that are scary and uncomfortable. ALWAYS Jesus calls us to forgive even when we do not feel forgiving. ALWAYS Jesus calls us to serve him by serving others. Sometimes we serve Jesus willingly and sometimes we serve him kicking and screaming all the way.

According to Eugene Peterson's rendering of today's text, the Lord God calls each and every one of us to a radical life change. To completely turn around and follow God by following Jesus. To get to the root (the true meaning of "radical") of our lives and start over. To be radically rooted in the love and grace of God.

But Paul wasn't done with his sermon. He introduced the Athenians to the Lord God, but he had more to say. He now introduced them to Jesus: the judge of humankind whom God raised from the dead.

Mentioning Jesus was supposed to be the high point to Paul's sermon, but it was at this moment when he talked about God raising Jesus from the dead, that half the crowd walked away laughing. NO God, they said, is powerful enough to do that.

Others, however, were intrigued. They wanted to know more and so they stayed with Paul so he could continue to share with them the Easter good news.

Paul's sermon at Mars Hill in Athens was powerful, but it was also masterful. Paul had done his homework before he preached that day in 51 AD. He knew that the city of Athens had strict policies about starting new religions within the city walls. These policies included:

1. The speaker or sponsor must claim to represent the deity or god.
2. He must provide evidence that this deity is eager to reside in Athens AND

3. The deity's residing in Athens must bring goodwill to the people of Athens.

In his sermon that day, Paul addressed each of these points. He noted that he wasn't bringing a new god to the city, but he was giving a name to one already there. He demonstrated how the Lord God is ever-present with everyone and cannot be confined to a shrine or idol and that, through God's work in Jesus, all might experience new life.

Paul met the Athenians where they were, spoke their language and invited the listeners to follow the risen Christ.

Really, Paul's sermon in 51 AD could be his sermon for us today. Our lives are surrounded by idols: the trimmings and trappings of our lives upon which we place so much money and energy and trust. We live in a culture that glorifies stuff and greed over faithfulness and humility. We need only to turn on our televisions to notice that the volume increases exponentially when commercials begin. We are as surrounded by stuff as Paul was surrounded by idols and shrines in ancient Athens.

Paul's sermon could be our sermon. When we begin a new life in Christ, when we follow Jesus all the way to the cross, the trimmings and trappings we've held onto have much less sway. We find ourselves becoming more generous. We want to share God's love with others. We want to help bring heaven on earth for everyone—not just a select few.

Following Jesus means setting aside competing loyalties and idols. It means worshiping God not just on Sundays, but through all that we do and say all week long. It means discovering that the God Nobody Knows is actually the Lord God of the universe who knows each and every one of us intimately and personally.

Now it is true: some people heard Paul preach at Mars Hill and walked away laughing. But some did not. One of the people who heard and believed was Dionysius: a prominent member of the Council of Athens. Legend tells us that Dionysius became the first bishop of Athens and ultimately died a martyr. Today there are ruins of the Church of St. Dionysius built in the 16th century in Athens.

And what about that other convert, Damaris? We know little about her, but that she was listed by Luke in this story in Acts, tells us she probably became a prominent Christian in Athens. Scholars have taken stabs of guesses about her life, but they are only that: guesses. But this

we know: when Paul preached his sermon at Mars Hill, both men and women were present and both men and women began to follow Christ Jesus.

Dear Friends: Jesus is calling you to a radical life change—an Easter life—today and every day. This new life in Christ is yours for the taking AND yours for the sharing.

You've heard Paul's sermon. It is now up to you to choose: will you walk away laughing or will you follow Jesus? Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: When we worship (whether gathered or scattered), we offer God three things: our time (this hour or so we have to praise him), our talents (our abilities to pray, praise, sing, and serve God in the world), and our monetary gifts. God accepts these because God wants not our gifts, but us as Givers. God wants us. We are the living sacrifice. 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 first two lines of the lyrics, and the second system covers the last two lines. Chord symbols are placed above the notes in the vocal line. The lyrics are: 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.'

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

OLD 100th
L.M.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

In you we live and move and have our being, Holy God. We can do nothing apart from you. Even these gifts we offer were first granted to us through your grace and generosity. Accept these gifts to teach us to continue your work as we meet people where they are. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

600 In Christ There Is No East or West

C $\frac{G}{F}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ F9 B \flat $\frac{B\flat}{D}$ F C F Am Dm7 G7 C $\frac{F}{C}$ C

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no pride of birth;
 2 For God in Christ has made us one from every land and race;
 3 It is by grace we are as-sured that we be-long to him:
 4 So broth-ers, sis - ters, praise his name who died to set us free
 5 In Christ there is no east or west—he breaks all bar - riers down;

Am G C Am $\frac{C}{G}$ $\frac{G9}{F}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{G7}{D}$ C F $\frac{C}{G}$ $\frac{D9}{F\#}$ $\frac{C}{G}$ G7 C

the cho - sen fam - ily God has blessed now spans the whole wide earth.
 has rec - on - ciled us through his Son and met us all with grace.
 the love we share in Christ our Lord, the Spir - it's work with - in.
 from sin, di - vi - sion, hate and shame, from spite and en - mi - ty!
 by Christ re-deemed, by Christ pos-sessed, in Christ we live as one.

WORDS: Michael Perry (1942-1996); from a line by John Oxenham (1852-1941)
 MUSIC: African-American melody; arr. Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949)

McKEE
C.M.

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

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Pass the Love*

Pass the Love

♩=95

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

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

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

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

Fmaj7 Dm F/G F/C

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

Am7 Dm7 Gm7 F/C C7 F

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

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us joyfully share Christ's peace with one another!

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are in loving memory of Angela Bushman by the Dennis Bushman Family.

Participants-Daily Devotions-45, May 1-Sunday Worship Online-270, In Person-74, Sunday School-11, Teachers-5.

Sundays in May-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.

Bible Study: Unafraid—Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times-Thursday's at 6:30pm. We meet in the Library.

Donut Sale-County Crossroads 4H Club will be selling donuts as a fundraiser here at St Paul after worship on May 15. Glaze and twist donuts are available. They will be sold individually-\$1.25, half dozen-\$7.50 and a dozen for \$15.00. You may place a pre-order by contacting Megan or Ashton Ritter or any other member of County Crossroads 4H Club. Thank you for your support.

St. Paul UCC Prayer Chain-I, Jeff Paul, will be the new leader of the prayer chain going forward. I encourage all members of St. Paul UCC to be involved in the prayer chain. For those interested please email or text me and let me know how you would prefer to receive the prayer requests (either email, text or both). For those wanting to submit a prayer request, you may either email or text me with the details as you would like me to present them to the prayer chain. I will get your request out as soon as possible. I'm looking forward to building this ministry of St. Paul. Jeff Paul

Attention Book Lovers! St. Paul's Book Club will be starting up in June 2022 and we will be kicking things off with *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis! (Yes, *The Chronicles of Narnia* author!) *The Screwtape Letters* is a story about Wormwood, a demon apprentice, who must secure the damnation of a young man who's just become a Christian. He seeks the advice of an experienced devil, his uncle Screwtape. Their correspondence offers invaluable---and often humorous---insights on temptation, pride, and the ultimate victory of faith over evil forces.

If you are interested in joining us for reading and discussion (date and time to be decided), please let Cami Flenar know as soon as possible so we can be sure to have book copies for everyone. Books have been ordered and will be available on the table outside the church office. You can reach Cami through Facebook Messenger, the Church Facebook page, email. I look forward to reading with you!

May/June 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.

MAY MISSION: CROSSROAD CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

Many children struggle – either because of who they are or because of what's happened to them. They have emotional and behavioral difficulties. Crossroad Child and Family Services in Ft. Wayne, Indiana is where they get help, healing and hope. Children who come to Crossroad learn to value themselves and others. For decades, judges, educators, social service professionals, and parents have turned to Crossroad for help with troubled children. Crossroad has become the rock of certainty for its children and for those who love and care about them. Crossroad offers a continuum of care that meets the needs of hurting children and families in Indiana – and beyond to neighboring states such as ours. This non-profit treatment provider for at-risk children and their families needs our support. The UCC established Crossroad in 1883 and St. Paul has been a continual supporter to this organization. Let's continue our support! Thank you!

NEW DISASTER BUCKETS & LIST FOR CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
Green Five Gallon buckets and lids can be picked up in the front of the sanctuary or by the church office to be filled with all kinds of supplies for disaster relief. The buckets and lids are free for the taking and to be filled with the list of supplies listed on the sheet of paper inside each bucket. For every bucket you fill, the Northwest Ohio Association will give St. Paul Church grant money to fill another bucket. This one-to-one match will allow twice as many buckets to be filled to help our neighbors in times of great need. Thank you for once again stepping up to help those in need after a natural disaster. –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-Paper Towels, Kleenex, Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap, Diapers (size 3-6), Baby Wipes, Diaper Cream, Safety Q-tips, Body Wash, Shampoo(Regular & Baby), Conditioner, Razors, Shaving Cream, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Feminine Hygiene Products, Manicure Items, Bandages, Paper Plates, Storage Bags, Garbage Bags, Toilet Paper, and Pull Ups (size 2-6). Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

Open Table

Free Community Meal

When: May 16, 2022

Who: Everyone

Where: St. Paul Assembly Room

Serving: 4:00pm-6:00pm

Menu: Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Macaroni Salad, Applesauce,
Chips, Dessert

Grillers: Holy Redeemer Men's Group

Servers: Buckeye Hustlers 4-H

Carry-outs Available, Free Chair Massages

Calendar-Week of May 15, 2022

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
Thursday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	6:30pm	Bible Study
Friday	Noon	Office Closed
Saturday	10:00am-Noon	SALT Retreat

E-Giving @ St. Paul

Online – Make a donation on our website: stpaulnb.org

Text – Make a donation to our Number: 833-308-0048

**How To Give by Text (Example - my amount for the example is \$25
(minimum amount is \$5.00))**

- For general fund giving: Send 25 space gl (hit send)
- For building & property fund giving: Send 25 space bp (hit send)
- For Blessing Pantry: Send 25 space pantry (hit send)
- For project of the year giving: Send 25 space poy (hit send)

Once a text amount is sent:

Registration Link- Sent via text the first time a donation is made.

Thank you! Please visit (link) to register.

Donation Confirm- Sent via text each time a donation is made.