June 6, 2022

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends.

We greet you in the name of the Holy Spirit who blows wind and fire and joy into our lives!

Summer is humming along at St. Paul Church. Worship services are Spirit-filled. Our SALT Interns, Elyssa Mullins and Eli Schmitmeyer are creating events for the upcoming weeks. Programs are planned for children and youth of all ages. Bryan Trego joins our staff part time beginning Monday, June 13 to provide coverage while Pastor Becky is on medical leave.

We thank you for volunteering in so many ways: Art Camp Festival, youth programming and Sunday School teaching, music ministries, and serving as Champions for a variety of ministry opportunities. We still need Champions in these areas:

Funeral Lunches Website Upkeep Nursery Coordinator Community Meal Coordinating Team **Daily Devotions** If you feel led by God to volunteer in any of these areas, please contact the church office.

As you know, Pastor Becky is having foot surgery on June 14 and will be out of the office for four weeks to recuperate. While Becky is away, Bryan Trego, Elyssa Mullins, Eli Schmitmeyer, Deb Klein, Abby Bushman and Barb Holdren will be available. Plan to call the church office (419-629-2502) if you have a pastoral need or emergency. Our staff will be happy to minister to and with you!

Also as a reminder, Becky's time away is for recuperation, not pleasure. She will not respond to any emails. text or Facebook messages or phone calls until she is back in the office on Friday, July 15. Thank you for your understanding!

One financial area at St. Paul Church that needs a boost is the Local Aid Fund. This is the fund that provides food and gas cards to our members, as well as emergency assistance of utilities and rent to both St. Paul folk and members of the community. If you would like to give to the Local Aid Fund, please mark your check or your online giving "Local Aid." Thank you!

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

Rolling Decker Myn Hannkutt Becly ab & Roland Dicke

Myra Hanenkratt Council President Council VP

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Senior Pastor

Financial Information as of June 6, 2022

Operating Fund Beg. Balance \$0.00

Giving Income \$4108.00 (weekly) Endowment Trans \$10,200.00(vtd) Expenses \$10,915.91(vtd)

Income \$143,233.38(vtd)

Expenses \$139,499.45(ytd)

Balance \$6,733.93(vtd)

Building Maint & Property

Beg. Balance \$36,648.59 Income \$33,753.50(ytd)

Endowment Inc. (\$2,790.33)(ytd)

Expenses \$10,074.10(ytd) Balance \$57,537.66(ytd)

Project of the Year

Income \$5,735.00

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$12,218.82 Income \$5,190.50(ytd)

Balance \$6,493.41(vtd)

Blessing Pantry

Beg. Balance \$29,161.12 Income \$7,738.00(ytd)

Expenses \$7,346.06(vtd)

Balance \$29,553.06(vtd) **Our Church Wider Mission**

Pledge \$25,000.00

Income \$982.50(weekly)

Income \$10,170.50(vtd)

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.

Please keep the families of Dale Quellhorst and Lucille Scheer in your prayers. Dale passed away Monday, May 30, 2022. Services are pending at Miller Funeral Home.

Lucille passed away Friday, June 3, 2022. Private family services will be held at a later date.

TRINITY SUNDAY



God is holy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 3:1-17	Born of the Spirit
Monday	Isaiah 6:1-8	A vision of God
Tuesday	Romans 8:12-17	Life in the Spirit
Wednesday	Luke 1:46-56	Mary's song of praise
Thursday	Psalm 103:1-14	Thanksgiving for God's goodness
Friday	John 15:12-15	Jesus calls us friends
Saturday	Psalm 29	The voice of God
Sunday	Mark 3:20-35	Doing the work of God

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And one [angelic figure known as a seraph] called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." Isaiah 6:3 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of power and might, give us courage and hope to live each day through Jesus Christ born in us through your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Creator God, for the beauty of the earth and for this food, the fruit of the earth that we are able to eat this day, we give you thanks and praise. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord give you strength and bless you with peace. (Psalm 29:11)



HYMN OF THE WEEK

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty



taking faith home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When you hear the world, "holy," what do you think of?
- How is God more than a "good buddy" who gets me through tough times?
- How does God's holiness strengthen you in your daily life?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Isaiah 6:1-8.

We live in an age when we can often envision God for us as a close and warm friend. That image is reinforced for us in John 15:15 when Jesus describes his followers as "friends." However, even in the John passage, there is an expectation of obedience, not just coziness. In Isaiah, the sense of reverence, awe—even deep fear—is present as Isaiah accepts his call as a prophet of God. In this dramatic moment in the temple with God and Isaiah present together, there are angels that have appearances that look like snakes and lions that can fly around with wings. It is a scene in which Isaiah responds with the words, "Woe is me" (v. 5). Trinity Sunday reminds us of God in three persons. A danger in such language is to assume that with such words we can really grasp the totality of who God is. Isaiah reminds us of the total otherness of God that is filled with power, might, judgment, and holiness. Jesus makes God accessible and personal. Trinity Sunday can remind us that our intimate relationship with God remains filled with awe and wonder. God is filled with glory, strength, majesty, and holy splendor (Psalm 29). Describe what this means to you and your faith.

Pray: Awesome God, you who are far beyond what I can imagine, I thank you for reaching out to me and to all people through the power of the Holy Spirit and saving grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SERVICE



Psalm 29 gives many images of the power and awesomeness of God. As followers of such a mighty God, you are entrusted with divine powers of love to serve your neighbor near and far. How can you use God's divine power of love to serve others this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Begin your devotion times this week by saying the *Prayer for the Week* and marking yourselves with the sign of the cross. You may also wish to light three candles during devotions to represent the Trinity.

Say: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org



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 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, your presence increases our joy as we praise our loving Savior. May every blessing be yours.

June 12, 2022 Trinity Sunday

Worship Leaders

Ministers	The Congregation
Rev. Becky Erb Strang	Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Deborah Krause	President, Eden Theological Seminary
Elyssa Mullins	SALT Intern
Eli Schmitmeyer	SALT Intern
Arianne Henry	Accompanist
Tracy Oldiges	Sr. Deacon
Jim Strang	Chancel Choir/Music Director

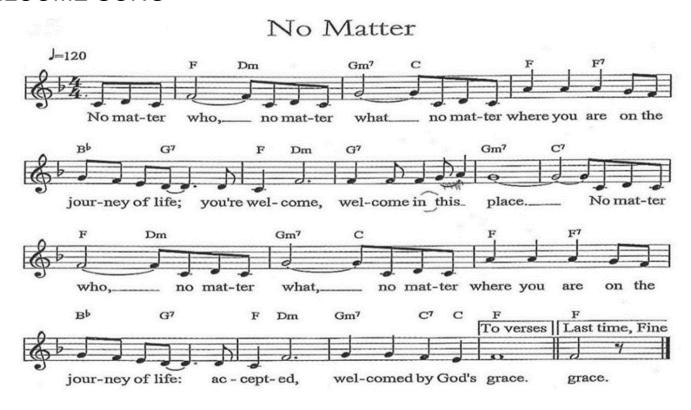
PRELUDE

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RAIN COME DOWN: WORSHIP TEAM Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he! (Psalm 99:5) St. Paul's Worship Team meets approximately quarterly to plan upcoming worship services. Comprised of music and worship staff, Deacons, Elders and other layfolk, the Worship Team seeks to make worship as accessible and meaningful as possible. At the beginning of the pandemic, the Worship Team worked together to create new ways to worship. If you would like to join this engaged and lively team, please see Pastor Becky.

WELCOME SONG



CALL TO WORSHIP

(Adapted from Psalm 146 from <u>The Message</u> by Eugene Peterson) Leader: Hallelujah! All our lives long we will praise God, singing songs to our God as long as we live.

People: We look to the God of Jacob for our help. We place our hope in God and know real blessing!

Leader: God made the sky and soil, sea and all the fish.

People: God feeds the hungry and frees the prisoners.

Leader: We worship today because God is in charge: always!

People: Hallelujah!

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets 24



CALL TO CONFESSION

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

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(from The Worship Sourcebook; Faith Alive Christian Resources; 2013)

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to break bonds between us and you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: People of God: leap up! Dance! The Spirit is here in healing power. Your sins are forgiven. Rise up in the new life of the Spirit.

People: Amen!

HALLELUJAH!



PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Celebrating God's Presence as Creator, Son, Spirit.

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Jeff Scheer, Tim Smith, Mia Schmitmeyer, Ethel Mesloh, Donald Mohrman, Carol Mohrman, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Jan Dammeyer, Shannon Shupp, and Dee Schroer.

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

Almighty and Holy God, we come before you this day as your precious children. In the presence of your love, your forgiveness, your bounty, keep us humble. In the presence of the needs of your children, make us compassionate and caring.

Give us faith in our praying and love in our serving, knowing that by your power all may find a new balance in living and hope in adversity.

We pray today for all unhappy lives: those who are bitter and resentful, feeling life has given them a raw deal, those who are sensitive to criticism and quick to take offense, those who desire their own way, whatever the inconvenience or cost to others. May your healing love become a soothing balm.

We pray for those who are lonely, who are shy and self-conscious, who find it hard to make friends; those who are nervous and timid, who ever feel themselves strangers in a world they can scarcely understand. May your presence inspire confidence and ensure companionship.

We pray for those who live with regrets, for loving relationships brought to ruin, for opportunities freely given and woefully abused, for bitterness of defeat or betrayal at another's hand, or for a failure in personal integrity. May your grace give new hope to find victory in the very scene of failure.

We pray for all in illness and pain, weary of the day and fearful of the night. Grant healing to all who seek your gentle touch in body, mind and spirit. Offer your gift of the peace that surpasses all understanding.

We pray for all who seek to follow you in all their days. Continue to challenge them and comfort them. Continue to guide them and guard them. Remind each of your children that they are beloved by you.

We pray for our planet which is crying out in pain: spoiled waterways, melting glaciers, droughts leading to hunger and death, catastrophic weather events of our own making. Open our eyes, O God, that we might work together to heal our earthly home.

Bless the company of Christians, the church in every land. Make her eager in worship, fearless in proclamation of the gospel, and passionate for caring.

Holy One, we humbly ask that you quiet our busy hearts and minds that we might hear your still-speaking voice in our daily lives. SILENCE Bless us, each one, in the communion of saints, and keep us ever mindful of the great cloud of witnesses that, following in their steps, as they did in the steps of the Master, we may with them at the last, join them at the Banquet you have prepared for all.

All of this we pray in the name of Jesus, your Son, 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.

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Luke 13:18-21

(NRSV)

Jesus said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? 19 It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches."

²⁰ And again he said, "To what should I compare the kingdom of God? ²¹ It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

SUNG RESPONSE

Jesus Loves Me

Music: William B. Bradbury

Words: Anna B. Warner, Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Jesus loves me, this I know:
For his stories tell me so.
Parables to him belong
Turned upside down, he can't go wrong.
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes Jesus loves me: his stories tell me so.

Rev. Dr. Deborah Krause

Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread; on the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses, for whoever eats leavened bread on the first day until the seventh day shall be cut off from Israel.

Exodus 12:15

Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch, as you really are unleavened.

1 Corinthians 5:7a

Jesus' agricultural parables and the chance to drive from Eastern Missouri to New Bremen, Ohio have me ruminating on one of my favorite farming films – Babe. It's the story of a pig who thought he was a sheep dog. You know the film? In it a sheep farmer comes by chance to own a suckling pig. He really has no use for a pig. His barnyard is full and thoroughly constructed on a tight hierarchy of sheep farming. The sheep, who are at the bottom take up much room, there are a few horses to pull wagons, a cow to give milk and chickens for eggs. At the top of the hierarchy – of course – reside the farmer (known by the animals as "the boss") and his wife, but just below them are the sheep dogs. One in particular is named Rex – in case you missed it, he's the top dog and he rules over all.

You get the picture, there is no use for a pig in this story, unless he is on the menu for Christmas dinner.

But this out of place, no account pig, the story goes, makes a way for himself. In fact, he wheedles himself into the farmers heart by making himself surprisingly useful. Each time he surprises the farmer he will say "that'll do pig, that'll do."

"That'll do pig," when Babe keeps the farmer good company when he is lonely.

"That'll do pig," when Babe rescues the sheep from a wolf attack.

"That'll do pig," when Babe miraculously wins the annual sheep dog trials.

This humble, out of place pig on a sheep farm finds a way and makes a sanctuary for himself and all the other animals – winning the respect of

sheep and sheep dogs alike, as well as the farmer. "That'll do pig!" That'll do, indeed!

Jesus told a story to his followers about what God's eternal realm (the Kingdom of God) is like. He did this in a world not unlike our own in that it was full of hierarchy, oppression, and danger. He told this story to encourage a people who had been occupied, colonized, dominated, and humiliated. That story – we call it the parable of the mustard seed – likened God's eternal realm not to a pretty palace or a mighty castle, but a scrubby old shrub. The mustard plant.

To add drama to the story, Jesus traced this plant to its humble origin as the tiniest of seeds – no bigger than a flake of black pepper. So – from this tiniest of seeds arose not a powerful cedar tree, but in fact a massive and mighty shrub.

This shrub, Jesus said, is like the eternal realm and purpose of God – it starts out small – so small you might not even notice it. And when it grows up and takes over half the yard, it's still not much to look at. But oh my – if you look more closely – in its twisted and varied branches – you will find ALL the birds of the air making their safe sanctuary – their home. There you have it. Farmer Jesus lifts up the lowly mustard bush, notices its surprising capacity to make a home for all, and he says: "that'll do, shrub, that'll do."

Typically, we think of Jesus' teaching on the mustard seed as one that offers wisdom about faith. From a tiny speck of faith, a mighty plant can grow. But this way of hearing the text misses the humble nature of the mustard plant – from a tiny seed? Yes. Scrubby? Yes. But also surprisingly resilient and teeming with life. That aspect of the story has me wondering if the mustard seed and plant that Jesus likens to the Kingdom of God is less a story about faith and more a story about the church. And I will tell you, after two years of Covid 19 and all the challenges it has thrown our way, I am truly hearing this connection these days!

In our contemporary culture – full of violence, intolerance, trauma, and danger -- our churches – once bastions of cultural relevance – are now facing decline – many in membership, and some in social power. Where our calendar once dominated activities in towns and cities, we find ourselves having to retrofit out schedules to sports teams, after school

activities, clubs, and social organizations. We worry: How do we attract young families? How do we keep youth involved? It is easy to get discouraged. COVID 19 only exacerbated these challenges. Sure, we adapted well to Zoom and Facebook Live, but now that many of us are re-gathering in person – some are noticing – not everyone is returning. It is easy to become discouraged.

Today, in the parable of the Mustard Seed, I hear Jesus assuring us – "that'll do, church, that'll do." Don't get me wrong. I am not suggesting we should be complacent. But the parable offers us a vision that God's eternal purposes are not expressed necessarily in perfect physical plants and overflowing youth groups. It's not that those things are bad. But the church is called to aspire more to the shape and role of the mustard shrub. To be a place not of cultural power and prestige, but a place of sanctuary and a home for all.

In conversation with your Pastor Becky and in reading your church newsletter and Congregational Meeting Report I am so impressed at how St. Paul, New Bremen is following the call to spread God's sanctuary and love for all in this community and in the world. Through your generous giving the church's wider mission, and your expanding – a now four-county wide – Blessing Pantry – feeding families and extending God's sanctuary and safety across this region. I hope you have been able to breathe enough in these hectic days to hear Jesus say, "that'll do St. Paul Church, that'll do!"

In the months and years ahead may we be assured by our Lord as we follow his mission – be it in congregations, schools, or other ministries of the church -- to extend his love, his grace, his healing, his hope for all that we may look less like the top dog, and more like the humble pig – and in this we will be freed to live into our true calling as a place of sanctuary and a home for all. That'll do church, that'll do!

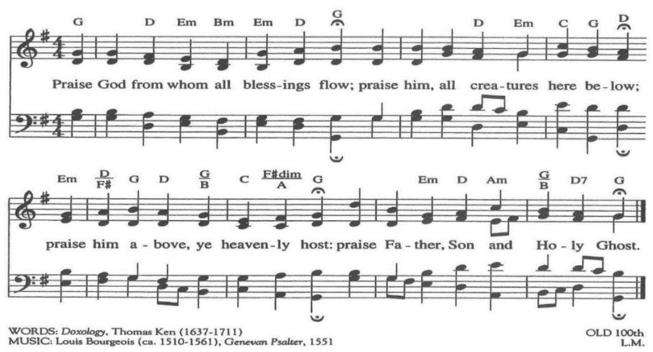
Thanks be to God, Amen!

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: Let us give as we are able—joyfully returning to God a portion of all that has been given to us in the name of love. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 34



PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Receive these gifts, O God, by this your people. Use these offerings and use us in the service of Christ Jesus: shedding light into darkened places, seeking justice in oppressive situations, proclaiming your good news where its gift and freedom are in short supply, tending to the needs in this community for ministry and mission. Amen.

HYMN OF SENDING

I Love to Tell the Story

I Love to Tell the Story

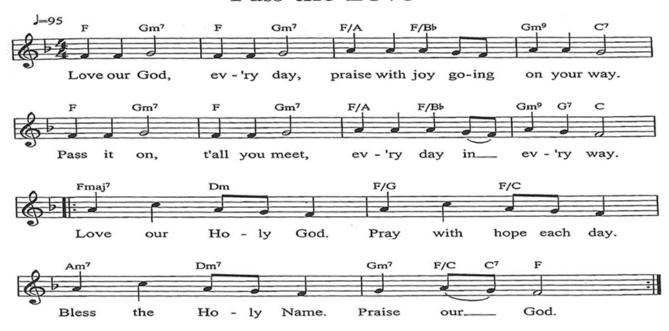


BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Pass the Love

Pass the Love



PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: In Christ, we are a new creation. Let us pass the peace of Christ with each other.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are in loving memory of Stan & Dorothy Hertenstein by June Oaks.

Participants-Daily Devotions-83, May 29-Sunday Worship Online-243, In Person-55.

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

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. They will be saved to our Facebook & Instagram page.

Senior/Retiree Luncheon-Tuesday, June 21 at Noon. Please join our Salt Interns, Eli and Elyssa for a delicious meal and a wonderful time of fellowship. Let them know you will be joining them by RSVP'ing to the church office (419-629-2502) by June 15th. All are welcome.



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- Diapers (size n, 5 & 6), Baby Wipes, Razors, Shaving Cream, Toothpaste, Manicure Sets, Sunscreen, Dish Soap, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Laundry Detergent, and Pull Ups (size 2-6). Thank you! There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

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, Elyssa Mullins, Eli Schmitmeyer, Deb Klein, Abby Bushman and Barb Holdren will be available. Plan to call the church office (419-629-2502) if you have a pastoral need or emergency. Our staff will be happy to minister to and with you! Also as a reminder, Becky's time away is for recuperation, not pleasure. She will not respond to any emails, text or Facebook messages or phone calls until she is back in the office on Friday, July 15. Thank you for your understanding!

July/August 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 June 12, 2022

10:15am Worship-In Person & via Facebook Live	
11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop @ NB Coffee
11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
7:00pm	Church Council
11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
9:00am	Fishing-John/Nancy Knost
11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Noon	Office Closed
	11:30am 2:00pm-4:00pm 11:30am 5:30pm-7:30pm 7:00pm 11:30am 1:00pm-3:00pm 9:00am 11:30am 1:00pm-3:00pm

