

St. Paul United Church of Christ

119 North Franklin Street New Bremen, Ohio 45869

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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

Roland Dicke-Council President

Bryan Trego- Supply Pastor

Rev. Becky Erb Strang-Senior Pastor

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 26, 2022 Third Sunday After Pentecost

Worship Leaders

Ministers	The Congregation
Rev. Becky Erb Strang	Senior Pastor
Bryan Trego	Supply Pastor
Elyssa Mullins	SALT Intern
Eli Schmitmeyer	SALT Intern
Julia Mullins	Liturgist
Becky Quellhorst	Organist
Tracy Oldiges	Sr. Deacon
Jim Strang	Music Director

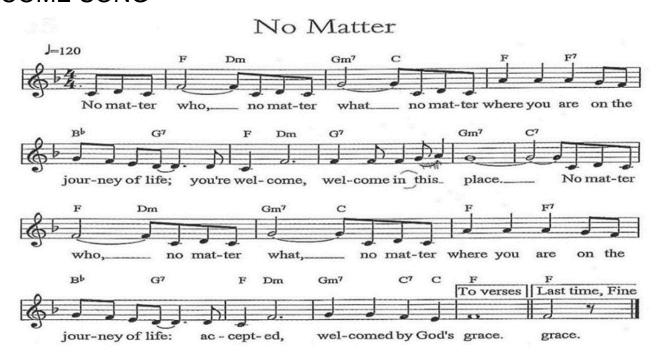
PRELUDE

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RAIN COME DOWN: BAPTISM As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. (Galatians 3:27) Baptism is the second of the two Protestant sacraments. In the United Church of Christ, we baptize infants and children to mark their acceptance into the church. In these instances, the parent/s make baptismal promises on behalf of their child until the child is of confirmation age. We also baptize adults in a "believer's baptism." While Christians throughout the world typically use a Trinitarian formula to baptize (Father, Son, Holy Spirit), the language we use at St. Paul Church is: I baptize you in the name of God the Father, and our Creator; Christ the Son and our Savior; and the Holy Spirit, the Mother of us all. By the sign of Christ's cross, may you be one of his faithful followers.

WELCOME SONG



CALL TO WORSHIP (Copyright 2007 Local Church Ministries, Worship and Education Team, United Church of Christ)

Leader: For the beauty of your creation,

People: We praise you, O God.

Leader: For your loving kindness,

People: We praise you, O God.

Leader: For the freedom with which you created us,

People: We praise you, O God.

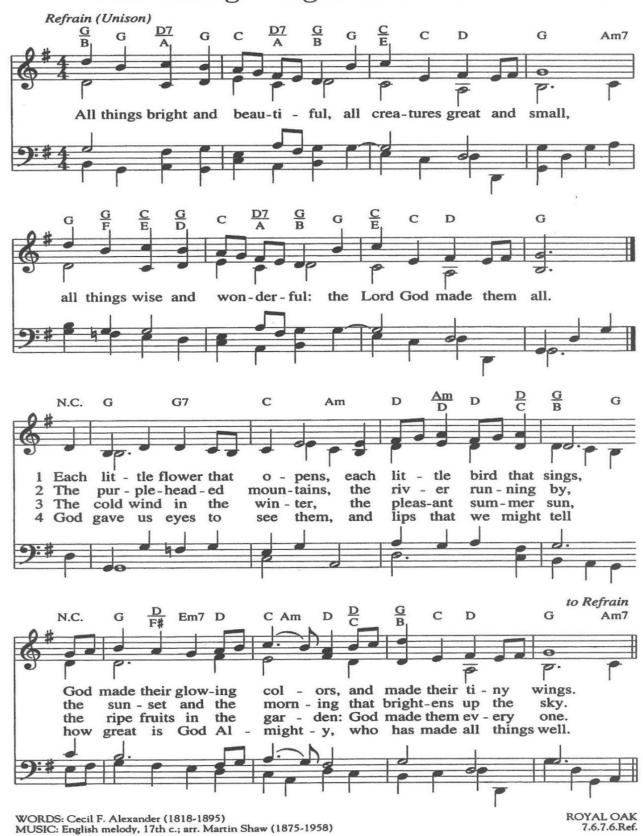
Leader: For the opportunity to praise and adore you,

People: We bless you and give you thanks, O God, today and forever. Amen.

HYMN

All Things Bright and Beautiful

All Things Bright and Beautiful 30



CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: God has given us freedom in Christ Jesus, but often we live as if that makes no difference. Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

UNISON CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty God, you know our hearts and you know our daily actions. At this moment, we enter your presence with humility to ask your forgiveness. Forgive us, dear Lord, for those things that offend you with our actions, and for those things we have left undone. Forgive us, dear God: for not living as you have taught us to live; for surrendering to cheap passions and empty desires; for our kneejerk reactions and our insensitivity to our own sisters and brothers; for our silence against injustice in the world. We ask your forgiveness, your divine direction, and your help that our faith in you might be renewed and that our love for our neighbor might be awakened. We pray this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Friend. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Beloved brothers and sisters, our God assures us in the Word that if we confess our sins, God—who is faithful and just—will forgive us our faults and deliver us from evil. We trust in God's promises.

People: We rejoice that our sins have been forgiven!

HALLELUJAH!



PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: 55th Ordination Anniversary of Rev. John Tostrick on June 25. Birth Candles welcome Dallas Matthew Edwards and Quinton Ryan Springer II. Dallas was born June 9, 2022. He is the son of Amanda (Quellhorst) & Tau Edwards, brother to Jackson and grandson of Becky & Tom Quellhorst. Quinton was born June 10, 2022. He is the son of Sydney Dicke & Quinton Springer, grandson of Keith & Betsy Dicke and great grandson of Roland Dicke.

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Rev. Becky, Joe Lesher, Rob Paul, Jeff Scheer, Tim Smith, Ethel Mesloh, Donald Mohrman, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Jan Dammeyer, Shannon Shupp, and Dee Schroer.

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (Adapted from a prayer written by the Rev. John Wesley Oldham from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada on behalf of the World Council of Churches)

Holy God, we come before you this day acknowledging that your love, your power, your grace, your forgiveness are greater than we can imagine. We celebrate that you are the Mystery behind all mysteries. We rest easily in the knowledge that your love guides us through uncertainty and fear.

We thank you and praise you for your ongoing presence in our lives. And yet, we confess to you this day that we hold on to our need to be in control of those around us. We exert our will on those we love. We harden our hearts to you and to others, failing to let our lives be controlled by your amazing grace and unconditional love.

Forgive us, we pray. Heal us. Love us. Remind us that no matter how far we wander from your light, you meet us in the darkness and invite us to your table of grace.

When in the midst of anxiety, may we know serenity.

When in the midst of stress, may we know calm.

When in the midst of fear, may we know trust.

When in the midst of bewilderment, may we know assurance.

When in the midst of confusion, may we know confidence.

In the midst of illness and injury, may we know healing.

In the midst of violence, may we know peace.

In the midst of all that life tries to throw at us, may we know love.

We humbly ask you to hear us now as we share with you from the deepest recesses of our hearts. SILENCE

Gentle and Mighty One, we thank you for calling us your beloved children. Send us into this community and into the world unafraid: for we know that our future is in your hands. All of this we pray 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: Luke 16:1-13

(NRSV)

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. 2 So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.'3 Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. 4 I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' 5 So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' 6 He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' 8 And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. 9 And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another,

who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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.

MEDITATION Bryan Trego

Good Morning. My name if Bryan Trego and I will be giving the sermon this morning. I would like to thank Pastor Becky for asking me to give the sermon and I would also like to thank the congregation for allowing me to speak today. I am also filling in for Becky while she is out, so feel free to stop in for a visit. I am usually in the office in the mornings.

My theme for today's sermon is based on today's New Testament reading from the book of Luke, and how we can relate it to our daily life and our faith. In this chapter it discusses the dishonest manager who was going to be fired by his master for not handling his accounts well. The dishonest manger devises a plan to cheat his master by lowering the accounts of his customers. His hope was that these customers would reward him with their generosity when he is removed from his position. The master discovered his plan and commended the manager for his shrewdness.

The last part of the story discusses how no slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

So, what does this mean? Should we all just quit our jobs and have faith that God will provide what we need? I am not sure most of us are willing to take that leap of faith. In the 1990's I did meet a pastor, Will

Stewart, who had taken this literal. This young man was not the typical pastor I was accustomed to meeting. He was a young man, he had long hair, and multiple tattoo's. Most pastors I knew were middle age and clean cut. He was a pastor at a church in a very poor urban area of Toledo that he and his wife had started. He explained that they offered a food pantry for the local people and even had a meal for them after their Sunday church service. He explained that at first this was the only way they could get people to attend their services. So, he was accomplishing two goals. He was feeding the people in his neighborhood and spreading the word of God. His wife explained that the only income their family had came from the offerings given after the services. She explained that some weeks were pretty close but her husband told her to have faith and the Lord would provide for them what they needed. This is a true example of putting your faith in God to provide for you.

For most us I believe that we can find a balance in serving God and using our wealth for his benefit. Many people in this area have a German background. One of the things that I have heard often said is that we have a strong German work ethic. You can probably tell from my last name, "Trego", that I am not of German descent. I was raised in this area an even though I may not be genetically German I feel that growing up here has instilled that work ethic. In our society you are often defined by your financial status. Our classes, high, middle, and lower are determined by income. As a young person we are taught to study hard, get good grades, and then eventually you will get a good paying job. We are taught to save our money, invest wisely, and be financially secure. We plan financially for our children's college funds and eventually for our retirement. Financial security is the goal.

What does financial security even mean? Throughout history, and even our recent times we have seen that our financial situations can change very rapidly. For those of you who remember the stock market crash of 2008. The market dropped almost 50%. If you had saved your entire life and were ready to retire you may have seen your retirement dwindle to half of what you expected. This was no fault of your own. You had done what you had been taught, work hard, save, invest wisely and everything will be great. In the recent pandemic many people not only lost their lives but were affected financially. People were laid off,

businesses were shut down, and there was a sense of uncertainty in most areas of our lives. Now we are faced with rising prices and inflation. There are plenty or jobs, and good paying jobs, but because of inflation our buying power has diminished.

So how can we find this balance between God and wealth? I believe that many of you have already found it and may just not realize it. We can work hard try to achieve wealth but using it for building strong relationships will give you more security than a large savings account. The manager was commended by the master for his shrewdness. This was confusing for me to understand at first. Why would you commend someone for cheating you out of your accounts? Then I realized that he was commending him for using wealth, even though not his own, to build relationships with others.

When you build good relationships with other people and are generous to the poor you build a stronger relationship with God. Throughout the Bible it talks about helping the poor and making a difference with what you have been blessed with. True riches are found in good relationships with people and our mutual adoption as God's children and a good relationship with God is realized in generosity to the poor. We see that here at St. Paul and in our community on a daily basis. The blessing pantry is a great example of this. It benefits so many people in our community and the surrounding area. You also see an example of this when someone in our area becomes ill. Immediately we set up a meal train and get donations for gas cards and other essential items. Our community truly has built strong relationships with one another and have shown time after time that we are willing to use our wealth for the benefit of others.

We also must be willing to accept help when it is offered. This is probably more challenging than giving and donating our time and money. Ten years ago, my wife was going to have brain surgery at the Cleveland Clinic. She was expected to be there for about a week. One of my staff members at school, without my knowledge, collected donations and purchased gift cards to help with the expenses of the surgery. When they presented me these gifts, I felt overwhelmed by their generosity. I also felt that it was unnecessary. My wife and I both had good jobs and even though we weren't wealthy we didn't need these donations. I told the

teacher that gave them to me to take them and give them to somebody truly in need. She explained, "Bryan we cannot make Jodi stop having seizures and we can't help with surgery but we can do this. Let us help and be a part in her healing." Well, during surgery my mom who was staying with us called to tell me that the water heater had gone out. Not a huge expense but unexpected. Then my wife's one week stay turned into a forty-day stay. Spending forty days away from home, eating out every meal, parking fees, to say the least the gift cards were a huge help and relieved a little of the stress of the procedure. So, we must always be willing to accept help when it is offered.

So, when you feel that you are doing all the right things and still do not have enough savings to feel secure, the answer may not be to save more. Instead spend a little on others that are less fortunate. Other people's responses to your generosity may bring you more security than saving a little extra money. Needless to say this should be done wisely, in ways that truly benefit others, and not merely to satisfy your conscience or flatter people targeted as benefactors. In any case, your ultimate security is in God's generosity and hospitality. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: So often, we try to control our own lives and the lives of those around us. And yet, God calls us to place him at the center of our lives—allowing his love and grace to live through us. When we place our lives in God's hands, we cannot help thanking God in all circumstances—offering our very best to God. Today, we symbolically offer our lives by the giving of our tithes and our offerings. Let us give generously. Let us give joyfully. Let us give with great love. Amen.

DOXOLOGY



PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

O God, the Fountain of all good: we offer to you our gifts given in love for the building up of your kingdom on earth. Enable us to serve you more fully in the days and weeks to come. May your grace and your loving-kindness overflow in our hearts that we might share our blessings with others. Amen.



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



BENEDICTION: May the grace, mercy and peace from God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you from this day forward and forevermore. Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Pass the Love

Pass the Love



PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pass the Peace of Christ to one another!

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are in memory of Loved Ones by Katie Blumhorst and Daniel Sok.

Participants-Daily Devotions-78, June 12-Sunday Worship Online-288, In Person-72.

Sundays in June and July-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.

Book Club-Today!!! Our discussion on C.S. Lewis' book *The Screwtape Letters* will meet Sunday June 26 right after worship at approximately 11:15am. For more information, please contact Cami Flenar.

Summer Volleyball League for ages 11-17 plays again Wednesday June 29. We then take a short hiatus and meet again on July 13 & 20. Feel free to join us for all or any of the remaining dates.

Lost???? Did you lose a dish? There are many unclaimed dishes in the kitchen with no names on them! Why not stop by and see if one (or more) might be yours. If they are not claimed by the end of July, they will be included in the next Rummage Sale! Thanks, Kitchen Team.

School Bags-The Women's Service Group of St. Paul have, for many years, been able to send at least 50 school bags filled with school supplies to Church World Service to be given to those throughout the world who had recently suffered disasters in their lives caused by wars, floods, tornadoes, fires, etc. Our ability to make fifty school bags is harder because our members are less able due to the age of our bodies and the age of some of our sewing machines. We are asking if there are women and yes, men, who enjoy sewing and would like to help us fill our goal of sending another 50 bags for next year? If you can help, please notify Joyce Gilberg.

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- Dish Soap, Diapers (size n, 5 & 6), Baby Wipes, Diaper Cream, Baby Shampoo, Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Razors, Shaving Cream, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Lotion, Sunscreen, Manicure Items, Storage Bags, Garbage Bags, 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.

June Monthly Mission-Strengthen the Church

The sound of rushing wind. A fire spreading with all-consuming speed. A forceful energy that envelopes a crowd. Like a rock concert, a sporting event or even ... a worship service?

Do you remember what a "full house" on Sunday morning felt like? The electric experience of a gathered crowd, close together, both giving and receiving as all share in the presence of something larger than themselves? We celebrate Pentecost each year and recall the birthday of the Church, when the message caught fire and spread beyond a small group of people and began to literally transform the world. That's a worthy celebration, but what might happen if we acknowledge, this Pentecost Season, that the holy fire still burns in, through, and around us?

We crave interaction with others. Gathering in community makes that happen. With the great realignment well underway -- people moving to new communities and new jobs during the pandemic - congregations everywhere have a chance to re-form, to re-imagine, and re-create community, welcoming new folks into their midst like never before! Just like the first Pentecost, our neighbors are eager, so we must engage! In the South Central Conference that looks like a church plant with the mission to revitalize an urban neighborhood and fight gentrification by offering micro-loans to local entrepreneurs. It looks like a church leveraging

technology to spread the gospel on a schedule that meets young families at convenient times in busy lives. And another congregation stands as a beacon of hope and the lone progressive Christian voice in a growing community where new folks are connecting with them weekly.

These are a few examples of what can happen when we're all together in one place. As you give to Strengthen the Church this Pentecost Season, may you receive the Spirit's fire and share it with boldness and innovation, too! All Together, our offerings will empower leaders, engage communities, and shape spaces that will change lives.

Rev. Phil Hodson Conference Minister
South Central Conference, United Church of Christ

Pastor Becky is away for recuperation from foot surgery on June 14th. She will not respond to any emails, text or Facebook messages or phone calls until she is back in the office. Thank you for your understanding! 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!

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 26, 2022

Caleffical-Week of Juffe 20, 2022		
Sunday	10:15am Worship-In Person & via Facebook Live	
Monday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop @ NB Coffee
Tuesday	10:30am-11:00am Youth Activity NB Library	
	Mindful Movement	
	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	Noon	Retiree/Senior Luncheon
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Wednesday	10:00am	Youth Activity-Story Hour
•		w/Jesus-Splash Pad
		Do Good Restaurant-Osgood
	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	6:00pm-8:00pm	Volleyball-Ages 11-17
Thursday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Friday	Noon	Office Closed
Saturday	8:00am	Men's Club-Speedway Lanes

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))

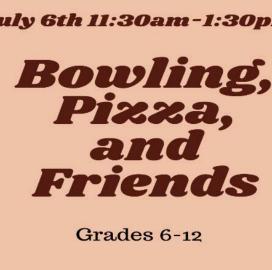
- > For general fund giving: Send 25 space gl (hit send)
- > For building & property fund giving: Send 25 space bp (hit send)
 - > For Blessing Pantry: Send 25 space pantry (hit send)
 - > For project of the year giving: Send 25 space poy (hit send)

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.





Speedway Lanes, New Bremen

Contact Mimi Messick or Kim Hemmelgarn with any questions Dinner and activities are provided!

PARENT DATE NIGHT!

JULY 9, 2022 5-8PM

CHILDREN MAY BE DROPPED OFF AT 5PM AT ST. PAUL CHURCH IN NEW BREMEN AND PICKED UP AT 8PM TO ALLOW PARENTS TO HAVE A DATE NIGHT

RSVP by Wednesday July 6th at 419-629-2502 or stpaulnbenktelco.net

JULY 16TH 6-8PM

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

St. Paul UCC New Bremen

JOIN US FOR FOOD,

GAMES, AND ACTIVITIES!

Call 419-629-2502 with any questions!



SUMMER PLAYGROUND/ PORCH PARTY

Hosted by Lisa & Jeff Weigandt and Family

SUNDAY JULY 17TH
6-9PM
ST PAUL COMMUNITY
PLAYGROUND
NEW BREMEN

HAMBURGERS,
HOTDOGS, AND
DRINKS PROVIDED. IF
ATTENDING PLEASE
BRING A SIDE DISH OR
DESSERT TO SHARE