



## **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, welcome, one and all, to this time of worship. We are blessed to have you with us today.

**July 3, 2022**

**Fifth Sunday After Pentecost**

### **Worship Leaders**

#### Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Bryan Trego

Rev. Jeanette Tangeman

Elyssa Mullins

Eli Schmitmeyer

Arianne Henry

Tracy Oldiges

Diane Gilberg

Jim Strang

#### The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Supply Pastor

Guest Pastor

SALT Intern

SALT Intern

Accompanist

Sr. Deacon

Sr. Elder

Music Director

## PRELUDE

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

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MOMENT FOR MISSION

Morgan Felver

Community Backpack+ and Washington UCC Back to School Ministry

We are continuing to help the disadvantaged children served by Washington UCC by supporting their *Back to School* ministry program. With the funds, they are able to send many of their low-income children back to school, each in a uniform, if required, or new school clothes, underwear and socks, along with a backpack of school supplies and a personal hygiene kit. Our donations last year helped them to provide school uniforms for nearly 25 students in the Camp Washington community.

Continually, in the month of July we will also be helping the New Bremen based Community Backpack+ Program. The Community Backpack+ Programs have come together each year to ensure that all students in our community have the supplies needed to start each school year. In addition, they donate toward school fees for those who cannot afford them, and fund the local “No-Shame Lunch Fund.” The, “No-shame Lunch fund,” guarantees that every student in the New Bremen, New Knoxville, and Minster school districts, receives a complete daily lunch, regardless of the balance in their lunch account.

On average for both organizations it is estimated that each student’s average annual needs are \$75.00 per student. So, throughout the month we will be equally sharing the gifts that are donated to provide uniforms and hygiene kits to the children at Camp Washington and school supplies for the students in our community. Gifts at any level are welcomed, and will make a great impact on the children in these communities. Thank you, the Mission Team.

# WELCOME SONG

## No Matter

*J=120*

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 120 beats per minute. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are: "No mat-ter who, no mat-ter what no mat-ter where you are on the". The second staff continues: "jour-ney of life; you're wel-come, wel-come in this place. No mat-ter". The third staff continues: "who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the". The fourth staff concludes with: "jour-ney of life: ac-cept-ed, wel-comed by God's grace. grace." The score includes various chords such as F, Dm, Gm7, C, Bb, G7, and F7. The final measure of the fourth staff is marked "To verses" and "Last time, Fine".

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.

# CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God's greatness is wondrous to behold.

**People: Everywhere we look, we can see the imprint of God.**

Leader: From the loftiest mountains to the crashing waters of the sea,

**People: There God's greatness stands majestically.**

Leader: God's greatness can be within the human heart.

**People: Let us honor and praise God with acts of loving kindness and compassion. AMEN.**

# OPENING HYMN

*God of the Ages*

## God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand 728

*Trumpets*  
*before each stanza*

1 God of the a - ges, whose al - might - y  
2 Your love di - vine has led us in the  
3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti -  
4 Re - fresh your peo - ple on their toil - some

hand leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry  
past, in this free land by you our lot is  
lence, be your strong arm our ev - er sure de -  
way, lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing

band of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the  
cast; be now our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and  
fense; your true re - li - gion in our hearts in -  
day; fill all our lives with heaven-born love and

skies, our grate - ful songs be - fore your throne a - rise.  
stay, your Word our law, your paths our cho - sen way.  
crease, your boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.  
grace, and songs of praise we'll lift be - fore your face!

# A LITANY FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

By Rick Morley-used with permission

Leader: As we remember the birth of our nation, and the gifts of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, let us offer our thanks and prayers to God, the giver of all good gifts. For the women and men who braved the long journey by sea to come to this new world,

**People: We thank you Lord.**

Leader: For the tribes and nations who inhabited this land for generation upon generation,

**People: We thank you Lord.**

Leader: For patriots who dreamed of, and fought for, a free nation,

**People: We thank you Lord.**

Leader: For the men and women who laid the foundation of our democracy, and who pledged liberty and justice for all,

**People: We thank you Lord.**

Leader: For those who built this country brick by brick, road by road, and town by town,

**People: We thank you Lord.**

Leader: For the brave soldiers who have fought for our country, for all who paid for our freedom by their service, and those who paid by their sacrifice,

**People: We thank you Lord.**

Leader: For the innovators and artists, poets and teachers, farmers and factory workers; for all who labor and provide for the common good,

**People: We thank you Lord.**

Leader: For this land, with its peaks and valleys, coasts and deserts, fields and meadows,

**People: We thank you Lord.**

Leader: For our own community, for those who came before us in this place, and for our neighbors near and far,

**People: We thank you Lord.**

Leader: Lord, we pray for The United States, that we might always be a nation which defends and promotes liberty and freedom, truth and justice.

**People: We pray to you Lord.**

Leader: That we might always be a nation where all are free to worship and pray,

**People: We pray to you Lord.**

Leader: That we might be a beacon of freedom to all those who live under the shadow of terror and hopelessness,

**People: We pray to you Lord.**

Leader: That those who are elected to govern and lead, would be guided by you, and be ever aware of the trust that has been given them,

**People: We pray to you Lord.**

Leader: That we would be a people who repent from our sins, and who always return to you and to your grace,

**People: We pray to you Lord.**

Leader: Gracious God, Father of all nations, bless and defend us and our land; prosper the work of our hands, and increase in us your grace and compassion, and our offerings of thanks to you, our rock and our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Let us confess our sin against God and one another

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**Merciful God, You created us in Your image with minds to know You, hearts to love You, and wills to serve You. You call us to be Your holy people, but we rebel against Your plan. Our knowledge falters, our love wavers, and our obedience resists. Day by day, we fail to grow into Your likeness. Through Your gracious love, forgive us. Renew us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Enable us to live in the power of Your Spirit. In His name we pray. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: There is no greater joy in the heart of God than this moment now! For in this moment, we have called upon God to grant us new life in the center of our wounded hearts. It is with great joy that God grants us new life and forgiveness of our sin. In the name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven by grace. Thanks be to God, Amen

# GLORIA PATRI

## Glory Be to the Father

734

### Glory Be to the Father

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men." Above the vocal line, various chords are indicated, such as Eb, Bb7sus/F, Bb7/F, Eb, Bb/D, Bb, Eb, Bb/D, Eb6, Bb/F, F7, Bb, Bb7, Eb, Ab/Eb, Eb, Bb, Bb7, Bb7, Eb, Eb, Ab, Eb, Bb, Bb7, Eb, Fm7/Ab, Eb, Gm/Bb, Bb7, and Eb.

WORDS: *Gloria Patri*, 2nd c.  
MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex (1813-1858)

GREATOREX  
Irregular

## PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

**Joys:** Communioning Together!

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

## PASTORAL PRAYER, PERSONAL PRAYER, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of love, hear the silent prayers too deep for words...God of all generations, we praise you and honor you with our hearts, our minds, and our voices. Thank you for all the ways in which you show your abundant love, grace and faithfulness to our nation and to all the nations of the world. We bask in the freedoms which have been won for us by generations past. Help us to never lose sight of the responsibility which is ours for continuing the struggle for justice and peace that all generations may know freedom. Thank you for sending us your Son that we might know the freedom of fullness of life, that we might be assured of rest when we are weary and shared burdens when our load seems too heavy to bear. We share each other's burdens in our faith family, dear God and ask you to comfort and heal those whose names have been



brought to this place. Even as we share each other's burdens, we also share each other's joys. In genuine love and concern, we also lift our prayers for all those who are serving in mission fields near and far, for the leaders of the churches throughout the world and for the faithful people who worship there, for the leaders of our nation and all nations that one day we may all know the freedom of peace. And now with the confidence of the children of God we lift our voices in the prayer Jesus taught to his disciples and to us...**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.**

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 20:1-16

*<sup>20</sup> 'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> After agreeing with the laborer for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup> and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. <sup>5</sup> When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup> And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" <sup>7</sup> They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." <sup>8</sup> When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." <sup>9</sup> When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup> Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup> And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup> saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." <sup>13</sup> But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this*

last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" <sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

## 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.***

## SERMON

*"No Fair, No Fair!"*

Rev. Jeanette Tangeman

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: God has abundantly blessed us and called us to be a community that blesses others through the sharing of our love, our talents, and our material possessions. Let us rejoice now in what we have been given and in what is ours to give as we receive our morning offering.

## DOXOLOGY

### Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 34

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The first system contains the lyrics: "Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;". The second system contains the lyrics: "praise him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost." Above the vocal line, various chords are indicated: G, D, Em, Bm, Em, D, G, D, Em, C, G, D, Em, D/F#, G, D, G/B, C, F#dim/A, G, Em, D, Am, G/B, D7, G.

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

OLD 100th  
L.M.

# PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Holy One whose heart abounds with gifts, receive this offering as sign of our intention to live surrounded by your mercy, inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, hospitable to one another, and generous toward your world. Amen

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION INVITATION: Christ invites us to this table where all are welcome and the last become first.

### COMMUNION HYMN *As We Gather At Your Table* verse 1

#### HOLY COMMUNION *As We Gather at Your Table* 695

Unison  
N.C. F Bb Bb/C F

1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast

N.C. F Bb Bb/C F

help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.  
where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.

N.C. Am7 Dm Am7 Dm Am/C Bb2 Bb

Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

C7/G F Fmaj7 Bb Bb/C F

teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.  
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

## COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: God's Spirit is with you

**People: And also with you**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts

**People: We lift them up to God**

Pastor: Let us give thanks and praise to God

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise**

Pastor: Holy One, you speak to us in silence, yet all languages interpret you. Because you call us to be in community, we are able to become gift to one another. We call now your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that in sharing them, we may discern your presence which becomes our life. We remember and give you thanks for those called out with a vision of possibility and promise: for Abraham and Sarah, for Isaac and Rebecca, for Jacob with Leah and Rachel, for Moses and Miriam. We thank you for your people who followed Moses through the birthing waters of the Red Sea into the wilderness of tempering search, until they became a people ready to enter the promised land. We thank you for the openness of Mary who dared to accept the call to be the bearer and nurturer of your Anointed One, Jesus. We bless you, O God, for Jesus who through his life, crucifixion, death, and resurrection fully lived the promise of redemptive wholeness available for all who would be obedient to your creating will. Therefore, we rejoice to proclaim:

**All: Christ has died; Christ has risen: Christ will come again**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: We remember that Jesus sat and dined with his disciples, taking the bread and blessing it and giving it to them and said, this is my body broken for you. After supper he took the cup of fruit of the vine and said, this cup is the new covenant in my blood. Send your Spirit upon us gathered here and on these elements filling us and them with your presence. All praise and thanks, glory and honor is yours, now and forever. Amen

Come for all things are now ready

## SHARING THE MEAL

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

**Since, dear God, in this place at this table, we have touched, we have tasted and we have heard the signs of your love for us, grant**

that we may go away from this house filled with our love for you and overflowing with your love for those who are around us and who share our lives. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior Amen.

HYMN OF SENDING

*Amazing Grace*

Amazing Grace!

422

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

1    A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!  
 2    'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re-lieved;  
 3    The Lord has prom-ised good to me, his word my hope se-ures;  
 4    Through man - y dan - gers, toils and snares I have al - read - y come;  
 5    When we've been there ten thou-sand years, bright shin - ing as the sun,

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

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.  
 how pre - cious did that grace ap - pear the hour I first be-lieved!  
 he will my shield and por - tion be as long as life en-dures.  
 'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

## BENEDICTION

## BENEDICTION RESPONSE

## *Pass the Love*

### Pass the Love

Musical score for "Pass the Love" in G major, 4/4 time, tempo J=95. The score consists of four staves of music with lyrics and chords. The lyrics are: "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." The chords are: F, Gm7, F, Gm7, F/A, F/Bb, Gm9, C7; F, Gm7, F, Gm7, F/A, F/Bb, Gm9, G7, C; Fmaj7, Dm, F/G, F/C; Am7, Dm7, Gm7, F/C, C7, F.

## PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

## POSTLUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Altar Flowers** are in memory of Loved Ones by Deb and Don Klein.

**Participants-Daily Devotions-**, June 19-Sunday Worship Online-, In Person-.

**Sundays in 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.

**Elmwood Worship**-Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 2:00pm. All are welcome to assist Bryan Trego, Elyssa Mullins and Eli Schmitmeyer with this wonderful service. Please meet them by 1:45pm at Elmwood.

**Summer Volleyball League** for ages 11-17 will play again Wednesday July 13 & 20. Feel free to join us for all or any of the remaining dates.

**Widow and Widower Luncheon**-The next Widow, Widower Luncheon will be at 11:30 am on Wednesday, July 13. All are welcome to come for a time of eating, sharing and laughter. Immanuel Church Fellowship Hall, Kettlersville.

**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.

**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**-Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap, Diapers, Pull Ups, Baby Wipes, Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Razors, Shaving Cream, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Feminine Hygiene Products, Manicure Items, Paper Plates, Storage Bags, Garbage Bags.

**Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

**Pastor Becky is away for recuperation from foot surgery on June 14<sup>th</sup>. 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 July 3, 2022**

Sunday	10:15am	Worship-w/ Holy Communion In Person & via Facebook Live
Monday	All Day	Office Closed
Tuesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Wednesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	11:30am-1:30pm	Youth Activity-6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Grades Bowling & Pizza-Speedway Lanes
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Thursday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Friday	Noon	Office Closed
Saturday	5:00pm-8:00pm	Parent Date Night



## 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 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.



**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



*God is gracious and merciful.*

## **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 20:1-16</b>	<b>Parable of the vineyard workers</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Jonah 3:10–4:11</b>	<b>Jonah goes to Nineveh</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Philippians 1:21-30</b>	<b>What life means to Paul</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Exodus 16:2-15</b>	<b>Bread from heaven</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45</b>	<b>God's faithfulness to Israel</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Titus 2:11-15</b>	<b>God's kindness</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalm 145:1-8</b>	<b>The Lord is kind and merciful</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 21:23-32</b>	<b>Parable of the two sons</b>

## **SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. **Psalm 145:8 (NRSV)**

## **PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Gracious God, we thank you that you care for all, especially those who feel left behind, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Mealtime Prayer:**

God of grace and mercy, we thank you for your care for us that gives us food from your fruitful creation. Amen.

### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the undeserved kindness of God bless you with faith and good courage now and always.



# taking<sup>+</sup> 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:

- Think about or tell a story of how someone was kind to you.
- Has it ever been difficult for you to be kind to someone? What made it difficult?
- Is God's kindness to you a surprise or not? Explain.

## DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Jonah 3:10–4:11.

Frankly, we don't really like God's justice. It's too supportive of people unlike us! Like Jonah, we don't want a God who is slow to anger and full of steadfast love for people we don't think deserve it, especially those we would consider our enemies. That's why Jonah ran away from God (v. 4:2). Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrians who had destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel in 722 BC. Now God told Jonah to preach repentance to the Ninevites. Jonah was afraid to do this because he knew of God's love and mercy, something he did not want showered upon his enemies. And Jonah was right; it happened, and it angered him. It's just like in Jesus' parable of the generous landowner (Matthew 20:1-16) where it seems so wrong for people who worked in the fields all day only to get the same wage as those who started at the end of the day. Is it easy or hard for you to accept God's justice where "the undeserving" receive the same generosity you receive? Explain.

*Pray:* **Gracious and merciful God, give me faith to love your generosity for all people, especially those who are different from me. In Jesus' name, amen.**

## SERVICE

The story of the vineyard in Matthew 20:1-16 is about a generous owner who paid the laborers the same amount at the end of the day even if some worked harder and longer than others. Some of the laborers grumbled. The owner asked, "Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" (Matthew 20:15). In what ways are you generous to others with what belongs to you?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Exodus 16:2-15 bread was provided from heaven. Prepare a meal that includes bread. Think or talk about Moses and the Israelites and how they had to learn to be patient and have faith in God to feed them daily as they traveled to the Promised Land. What does this mean for you? Before you eat, pray: **Lord, thank you for this bread you have given us to eat. Help us to never forget how you provide for us just as you did for the Israelites. Amen.**

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!

JOIN ST. PAUL CHURCH  
THURSDAY JULY 21ST

# FISHING WITH FRIENDS

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!  
HOSTED BY JOHN & NANCY KNOTS  
1585 CARDO ROAD  
FORT LORAMIE, OH 45845

9 am Fishing with Friends

Bring: Bait & Fishing Pole

11 am – Swimming & Splashing

Bring: Sunscreen & Smiles!

Lunch will be provided

RSVP to the Church Office 419-629-2502