October 10, 2022

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus!

October is off to a busy start. Youth and music ministries are thriving. Sunday School is well attended each week: our preschool class is packed! Worship is offered three ways: through this packet, streamed online, and in-person. We thank you for your participation and support!

Speaking of support, this coming Sunday starts our five-week stewardship series. This week's theme is Planting Seeds. In this mailing you will find a seed packet—a reminder that God calls us to plant seeds of hope and love each day.

This Sunday the Auglaize County Crisis Center will have a Quilt of Hope displayed in the sanctuary.

Amy Opperman is organizing a Women's Bible Study for Thursday evenings beginning October 27. Stay tuned for more details!

Church Council is beginning to look toward 2023. We are seeking volunteers to serve next year as:

#### Council Vice President Trustee

Please see Roland Dicke or Myra Hanenkratt if you would like to serve on Council in 2023.

At the August Church Council meeting, Council voted to replace the parsonage upstairs air conditioning unit and furnace. The cost for these items is \$9940.00. We need to raise approximately \$7200.00 yet for this project. Council invites you to give generously to the Project of the Year to complete this project. Thank you! May you experience the joy of Christ!

Blessings,

Myra Hanenkratt Roland Dicke Council President Council VP

Roland Dectar Mysa Hanenkeath

Rev. Becky Erb Strang Senior Pastor

Bely ab

Financial Information as of October 10, 2022 **Operating Fund** 

Beg. Balance \$0.00

Giving Income \$9,855.00 (weekly) Income \$19,849.70(ytd) Endowment Trans \$18,190.00(ytd) Expenses \$21,956.57(ytd)

Income \$249,038.29(vtd) Expenses \$254,136.79(ytd)

Balance (\$5,098,50)(ytd)

**Building Maint & Property** 

Beg. Balance \$36,648.59 Income \$39,540.50(ytd)

Endowment Inc. (\$3,862.68)(ytd)

Expenses \$25,710.91(ytd)

Balance \$46,615.50(ytd)

Project of the Year

Income \$7,201.00 Expenses \$14,440.00

Balance (\$7,239.00)

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$12,218.82 Balance \$10,111.95(vtd)

**Blessing Pantry** 

Beg. Balance \$29,161.12 Income \$10,256.00(ytd) Expenses \$13,068.43(ytd) Balance \$26,348.69(vtd)

**Our Church Wider Mission** 

Pledge \$25,000.00 Income \$817.50 (weekly)

Income \$18,658.50(vtd)

Please keep the family of Jerilyn Weir in your prayers. Jerilyn passed away September 29, 2022. If you would like to send Delza a card, please call the church office for her address.

Please remember the family of Betty Quellhorst in your prayers. Betty passed away Friday, October 9, 2022. Service to celebrate her life was held Wednesday, October 12, 2022.





# October 16, 2022, Joshua Renews the Covenant Joshua 24:1-15, [16-26]

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



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

Faithful God, your servant, Joshua, challenged the people to renew their commitment to you. In the same way, challenge us each day to declare with our actions that we love and serve only you. Amen.



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

"Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

God's people had been prospering under God's care for a long time, even as they continued to worship the gods of Egypt and surrounding lands. God wanted their full loyalty in return. It was time to choose: worship God or walk away.



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

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- How are leaders in your community chosen? What might it look like to trust in God rather than trusting in people?
- What covenants or agreements have you made with God? Are these healthy (commitment to follow) or unhealthy (bargaining) agreements?
- For the littles: Would you rather help find homes for puppies or help preserve the rainforests? Why? It's good to stand for something!



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God grant you wisdom to choose the things that draw you closer to God.



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

Decide what you stand for and find a way to publicly stand for it.



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

Monday, 1 Samuel 1:1-28, Samuel's Birth and Dedication Tuesday, 1 Samuel 3:1-18, Samuel's Calling and Prophecies Wednesday, 1 Samuel 7:3-15, Samuel as Judge Thursday, 1 Samuel 8:1-22, Israel Demands a King Friday, 1 Samuel 9:27—10:8, Saul Anointed as King Saturday, 1 Samuel 16:1-13, David Anointed as King







#### 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, blessing and greetings to one and all. In the name of Christ, you are welcome today and every day.

# October 16, 2022 Stewardship Week One: Planting Seeds

## **Worship Leaders**

Ministers
Rev. Becky Erb Strang
Sunday School/Youth
Arianne Henry
Tracy Oldiges
Jim Strang
The Congregation
Senior Pastor
Worship Leaders
Organist/Accompanist
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

We are displaying Auglaize County Crisis Center's Quilt of Hope today. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. To honor domestic violence victims and survivors and to bring awareness, the Auglaize County Crisis Center's Quilt of Hope is traveling amongst churches throughout Auglaize County. Each quilt square was designed by a survivor of domestic violence and/or their children to represent what hope means to them. Should any individual feel afraid at home and need to discuss safety options, please call the Auglaize County Crisis Center at (419) 738-5511 or 911 in an emergency.

## A Quilt of Hope

The Auglaize County Crisis Center, Inc. is a coordinated family intervention service providing comprehensive strategies for dealing with the dynamics and long term effects of family violence.

We recognize and believe:

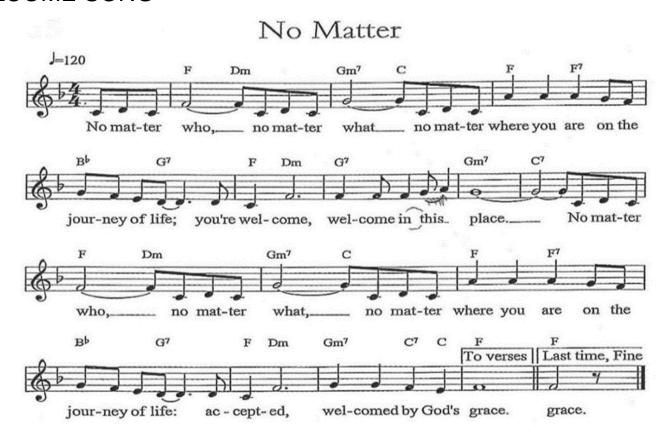
- That domestic violence is symptomatic of a broader issue confronting society, that of the perception of violence as an unavoidable solution
- That such violence erodes the very essence of family life, is cyclical in nature and that the long term cost of abuse is incalculable upon future generations
  - That all people have an inherent right to live free from violence or the threat of such violence
  - In the intrinsic value, dignity and uniqueness of each person and genuine respect for that dignity
  - That each person has the right to and responsibility toward selfdirection and self-development
  - That each child has the inherent right to an environment free from the fear of abuse, neglect or any other violent act committed under the guide of family privacy
    - That family violence will no longer be an acceptable or tolerated means to an end

Family violence is a societal problem and demands a community response.

Please walk with us in hope.

THRIVING: STEWARDSHIP TEAM Jesus said, "No one 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 money." (Matthew 6:24) St. Paul's Stewardship Team has been a fairly small operation the past few years. The goal of the Stewardship Team is to nurture Christian generosity at St. Paul Church. If you would like to join the Stewardship Team, you may contact Roland Dicke.

#### WELCOME SONG



#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We come to worship.

People: We drop our masks at the door.

Leader: The mask of self-sufficiency and sainthood,

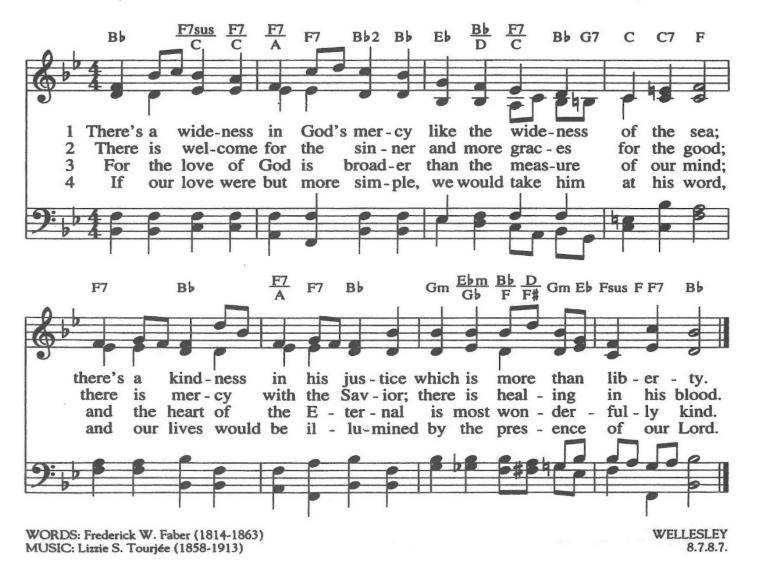
People: The mask of perfectionism.

Leader: We come to worship God just as we are.

People: God loves us just as we are. God alone makes us into what we were meant to be.

Leader: Let us worship God!

# There's a Wideness in God's Mercy 61



LITANY OF INVOCATION (adapted from <u>lona Abbey Worship Book</u> by Wild Goose Publications)

Leader: Creator of the world, eternal God,

People: We have come from many places to this place of worship.

Leader: Redeemer of humanity, God-with-us,

People: We have come with all our differences, seeking common ground.

Leader: Spirit of unity, go-between God,

People: We have come on journeys of our own that we might worship together.

Leader: So here in this sanctuary, let us take time together. We celebrate your presence in our lives.

# People: In your name, Three-in-One God, Pattern of Community: Amen!





#### PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Planting seeds of faith.

**Concerns:** We are continuing to pray for Betty Bushman, Terri Goodwin, Terri Mullins, Kay Makley, Rob Paul, Ethel Mesloh, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Shannon Shupp, and Dee Schroer.

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

Leader: Let us pray. Holy and Covenant-Keeping God, we thank you and praise you this day for your presence in our lives. We lift up to you in prayer the church, the world, and all those in need.

#### SILENT PRAYER

Leader: Faithful God, throughout history you delivered your people to your Promised Land and you invited them to live in you. We celebrate today that you invite us to work toward your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. We celebrate that you invite us to live in your love. God of promise,

# People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: We confess to you, O God, that we often try to wander away from your love. We do not seek your kingdom for ourselves or for others. We forget to plant the seeds of grace and hope in this community. God of promise,

# People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Forgive us, Holy One, and remind us that, no matter how far we wander, you are always with us. Remind us that our lives are tied intimately with the lives of others—even with our enemies. Forgive our hardened hearts and spark us with your joy. God of promise,

# People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: We thank you today for planting within us your seeds of grace and hope. We thank you that, no matter the condition of our hearts, you see us as rich and fertile soil upon which you plant your love. Encourage us to continue to nurture your love in our congregation, our community, our nation and in our world. God of promise,

# People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Today we thank you for farmers and ranchers. We thank you for 4H and FFA students. We thank you for all who have dedicated their lives to caring for your creation. God of promise,

# People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Grant healing and wholeness to all who suffer illness, injury, addiction, imprisonment, abuse, isolation, neglect or despair. Fill each with your Holy Spirit that they might find healing in your love. God of promise,

### People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Today, Gentle God, we pray for peace. Peace in our homes, peace in our neighborhoods, peace between nations. God of promise,

## People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Trusting in your grace and mercy, we lift these prayers to you, in the name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray together...Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

# And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

#### **GROWN-UP MOMENT**

Instead of a Children's Moment, today we are having a Grown-Up Moment. In your worship packets at home and here in the sanctuary, you received a pack of seeds.

Today's Bible story talks about a farmer planting seeds. Some of the seeds landed on bad soil and did not grow or died quickly. But, the seeds planted in good soil grew and grew and grew.

God wants us to grow like those seeds. Today, take home your seed packets and plant them. As you water your seeds and take care of your plants, ask yourself, "What can I do to grow in God's love?"

Let us pray. Dear God, we thank you for planting us in the good soil of your love. Help us to grow in your love and your joy. Amen.

# NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Mark 41:1-20 (NRSV)

Again Jesus began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. <sup>2</sup> He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: <sup>3</sup> "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seed fell on a path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup> And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root it withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. <sup>8</sup> Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold." <sup>9</sup> And he said, "If you have ears to hear, then hear!"

<sup>10</sup> When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. <sup>11</sup> And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything comes in parables, <sup>12</sup> in order that

'they may indeed look but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.' "

13 And he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? 14 The sower sows the word. 15 These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. 16 And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. 17 But they have no root and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. 18 And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, 19 but the cares of the age and the lure of wealth and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. 20 And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold."

#### SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Leader: The word of God for the people of God!

People: God is still speaking! Thanks be to God!

# SERMON Planting Seeds

Today at St. Paul Church, we begin the first of a five-part stewardship series. To be a steward is to care for what God has given to us. As Christians, as followers of Jesus, we care for the earth, for one another, and for ourselves because we are loved and precious in God's sight.

Today and in the weeks to come, we will focus on how God is planting seeds in our lives that we might help us grow in God, grow in love, grow in how we care for one another. In the coming weeks, we will watch our seeds of faith grow as we tend the garden God has given to us.

In today's parable, Jesus tells the story of a farmer who planted seeds. Some of the seeds fell on rocky ground. Some fell on hard ground. Some of the seeds fell into thorn bushes. Some were planted in good, rich soil. Let's watch what happens when seeds are planted in good soil: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECibetK2EYI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECibetK2EYI</a> (Show video here)

As you can see, with the right conditions, seeds take root AND shoot above the soil, creating the plants God intends for them to be.

In Sunday School, we have talked about what it means to be planted in good soil. We will now share some of our ideas about what helps us grow physically and spiritually and what it means to be planted in good soil.

You have heard our ideas. Now we ask you: What helps you grow? What is part of the good soil God has planted you in?

Or maybe, you do not feel like you are growing in God at this time. What can you do to make your soil rich and healthy for God to plant the seeds of faith?

God wants us to plant our faith seeds in his good soil. Then, when our seeds sprout and grow, we offer to God thanks for the rain and sun, for his love and joy.

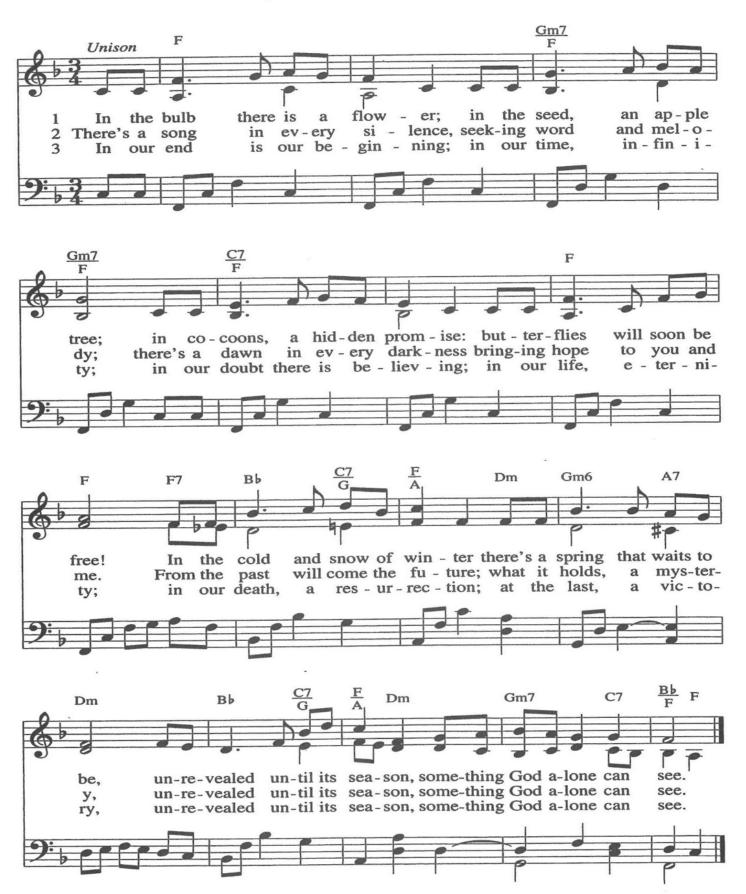
As caretakers, as stewards, of all that God has given to us, it is our job as Christians to allow ourselves to be planted that we might grow into a beautiful plant/a faithful Christian. Then, in response to all God has given us, we give back to God: our time, our talent, our treasure.

God has much to give us. We have much to give in return. In the weeks to come, allow yourself to grow in God's love. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

Hymn of Promise

# Hymn of Promise

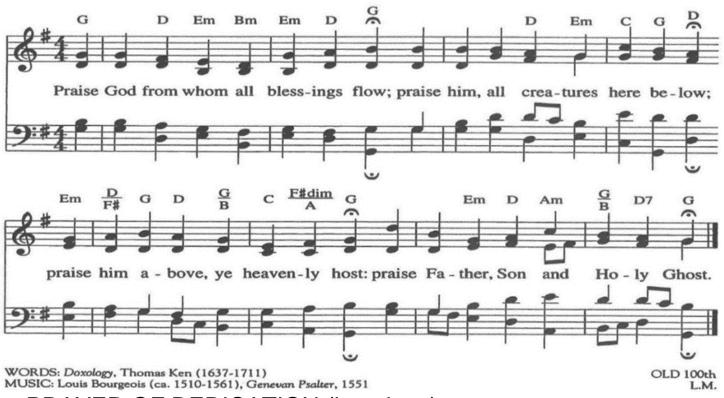


#### WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: Each week as you write your check, put cash in your offering envelope, or give online, you are offering a spiritual act of thanksgiving for all of God's gifts. It is an act of graciousness and of appreciation for God's work throughout our daily lives. Please be generous as we return to God a portion of what he has given us.

**DOXOLOGY** 

# Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 34



PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

We give of our abundance, Holy One—the abundance you have so generously poured out for us. Use our gifts to increase your justice and righteousness in our hurting and dying world. Bring us into right relationship with each other and with you through Christ. Amen.

HYMN OF SENDING

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian Verses 1 & 4

# 457 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian



Irregular

BENEDICTION: May our Lord Jesus Christ, the one who came with grace and truth, also fill your hearts with grace and truth, as you serve him in the days ahead. And may the joy of the Lord be your strength. Amen.

#### 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**

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"Halle Halle" Words and music by Hal H. Hobson ©1998 Hope Publishing Company

"Pass the Love" Words and Music by Doris Ketner Copyright ©2000. All rights reserved.

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#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Altar Flowers** are in memory of Loved Ones by Myra and Mike Hanenkratt.

**Participants-**October 1 Worship In Person-25, October 2-Sunday School-20, Teachers-4, Worship Online-160, In Person-58, Wednesday October 5, Splash-6, Jr/Sr High Youth Group-12, Confirmation-2, Leaders-5.

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

**St. Paul Church Nursery-**is once again fully staffed during the entire Sunday worship service. Please spread the word to let young parents know this is available. If you would like to volunteer in the nursery, please contact Justine Homan, Nursery Champion.

**Daily Devotions-**Please join us, Monday-Thursday, 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 page.

Mission Team-will meet Sunday, October 16, 2022 following worship at 11:15am in the Assembly room. Questions? Please call June Oaks.

**BookClub-** Do you love to read? If so, please feel called to join the St. Paul Book Club! We select a book each month or so, read it on our own at our own pace, and then meet for about an hour to discuss the book. It's fun and casual and sometimes there are snacks!

Our next book will be "The Time Keeper" by Mitch Albom. Please pick up your copy on the table outside the church office if you are interested. We will have our book discussion on Sunday, October 30th, immediately following church service. (Approximately 11:15am.) If you do not feel comfortable meeting in person, we will also be on Zoom. Hope to see you there! To join Zoom Meeting follow this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82958591523?pwd=L29ZZUVsTkVVWIVRNT VHbVYweDVTdz09 Meeting ID: 829 5859 1523 Passcode: 950189 All Saints Worship-During worship service on October 30, we will celebrate the saints in our lives: those who have gone before us to the Church Triumphant. Candles will be lit in memory of loved ones during the worship services. All are welcome to this meaningful service.

**Veteran's Recognition November 5 and 6-** Military veterans and active duty personnel will be honored at the beginning of the worship services November 5 and 6. Since, we plan to list the names of veterans and active duty folk from St. Paul UCC in the bulletin that weekend, please call or email the church office to give us your name and branch served/serving.

**2023 Altar Flower Chart** has been posted in the Narthex. Please sign up for the date(s) you would like. You may also call the church office Monday-Thursday to sign up. 2023 altar flower price will increase. Thank you.

**Bulletin Availability-weekly bulletins** are available for download on our website **stpaulnb.org**. Just click the yellow **BULLETINS** box in the upper right hand corner.

Want to be part of the Prayer Chain? Please contact Prayer Chain Champion, Jeff Paul. The St. Paul Prayer Chain has two formats: texting and email. All are welcome.

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-Deodorant, Dish Soap, Bar Soap, Manicure Items, Toothpaste, Razors, Shaving Cream, Baby Wipes, Diaper Cream, Vaseline, Bandages, Cotton Balls, Napkins, Paper Plates, Food Storage Bags, Garbage Bags. We can always use Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Kleenex, Laundry Detergent, Diapers (all sizes), Shampoo, Conditioner, Bleach, All Purpose Cleaner, Disinfectants, Pull Ups. Thank you! There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

## October Monthly Mission-Neighbors in Need

In 2022, the Neighbors in Need "Behold" offering focuses on an economic justice. With inflation impacting all of our households, we wanted to provide a way to discuss this through a faith lens. Please join us by promoting this year's NIN "Behold!" campaign at our church. As you may recall, one-third of the offering supports **Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM)**. Two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. We have received grants in the past from this mission. We will be collecting for NIN throughout the month of October, so please give generously. Thank you for your contributions. The Mission Team.

**November/December 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.



Coats/hats/gloves can also be placed on coat rack in Educational Building inside East Door or in the barrel located in the Narthex.

# Fall Mom to Mom Sale

Saturday, October 15, 2022 8:00 AM - 12 PM

\$5 Early Bird Entrance 8am - 9 am Shopping \$2 General Admission 9 am - 12 pm Kids are free! Strollers welcome!

> Enter west double doors on Herman Street St. Paul Church 119 N. Franklin Street New Bremen, Ohio 45869



Deadline to rent a booth or table, Mon. Oct. 10th Email: stpaulnbyouth@gmail.com Call 419-629-2502

Proceeds benefit St. Paul Youth Ministries

# SELL-SHOP-SAVE

Baby, Kids & Junior Clothing

Toys - Games - Books -Baby Gear

Halloween Costumes - Holiday Outfits



Calendar-Week of October 16, 2022

Caleffidat-Week of October 10, 2022		
Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School
•	10:15am Worship-In Person & via Facebook Live	
	11:15am	Mission Team
Monday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop @ NB Coffee
Tuesday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Wednesday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	5:30pm-6:30pm	Splash
	6:30pm	Youth Dinner
	7:00pm-8:00pm	Jr/Sr High Youth Group
Thursday		Devotions via Facebook Live
-	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Friday	Noon	Office Closed

# E-Giving @ St. Paul

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

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

