

December 12, 2022

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

Grace and peace to you as we journey toward Bethlehem!

This past Sunday our children and youth led worship with their Christmas Posada play. The service reminded us that we need to make room in the inns of our hearts for the Christ Child.

Our Advent/Christmas schedule includes:

Sunday December 18. Christmas Caroling Worship at 10:15 in the Sanctuary and via Facebook Live.

Wednesday December 21. Community Blue Christmas Worship at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and via Facebook Live.

Saturday December 24. Christmas Eve Open House 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion at 11:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and via Facebook Live.

Sunday December 25. Christmas Morning Worship at 10:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary and via Facebook Live.


Pastor Becky's office email has been working only sporadically. If you need to reach her, please email her at stpaulpastor@nktelco.net.

We will not send out a worship packet the week of December 26. The church office will be closed December 26-27 and again on January 2.

As a gentle reminder, our primary tasks as Christians is to love God and love our neighbors. This includes keeping one another safe and healthy. **If you have tested positive for Covid19, we kindly ask you to stay home until your five-day waiting period is over and you are symptom free, as prescribed by the CDC.** Thank you for your attention to this detail.

May you experience the hope of the coming Christ!

Blessings,

Roland Dicke
Council President

Myra Hanenkratt
Council VP



Becky Erb Strang
Senior Pastor

Financial Information as of December 12, 2022

Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00

Giving Income \$9,800.49(weekly)

Endowment Trans \$22,770.00(ytd)

Income \$297,763.57(ytd)

Expenses \$304,924.48(ytd)

Balance **(\$7,160.91)**(ytd)

Building Maint & Property

Beg. Balance \$36,648.59

Income \$48,765.00(ytd)

Endowment Inc. **(\$3,946.34)**(ytd)

Expenses \$26,388.30(ytd)

Balance \$55,078.95(ytd)

Project of the Year

Income \$15,524.00

Expenses \$14,107.53

Balance \$1,416.47

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$12,218.82

Income \$22,626.20(ytd)

Expenses \$25,421.22(ytd)

Balance \$9,423.80(ytd)

Blessing Pantry

Beg. Balance \$29,161.12

Income \$18,399.00(ytd)

Expenses \$14,428.89(ytd)

Balance \$33,131.23(ytd)

Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00

Income \$139.00 (weekly)

Income \$23,144.50(ytd)

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



December 18, 2022, Advent IV: Jesus as Immanuel

Matthew 1:18-25

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



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

God of grace and mercy, with Joseph, we live in fear of being humiliated or cast out. As we wait for your promised savior, give us hope that all will be made right in you. Amen.



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

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife. (Matthew 1:24)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Joseph had a difficult choice in front of him: to make a public spectacle of Mary's unexpected pregnancy or divorce her quietly. God had other plans.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- How does God work through the marginalized in your community? Is their message or service received differently because they are different?
- How does Immanuel show up in your life?
- For the littles: What's been the greatest surprise of this Christmas season so far? God loves surprises!



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God surprise you with joy! Amen.



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

Do some internet research to find a local organization that supports teenaged, single mothers. Make arrangements to donate needed supplies.



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

Monday, Genesis 15:1-21, *God's Covenant with Abram*

Tuesday, Isaiah 7:10-17, *A Sign of Immanuel*

Wednesday, Isaiah 7:18-25, *A Sign of Immanuel*

Thursday, Isaiah 9:6-7, *A Child Has been Born to Us*

Friday, Acts 13:38-39, *Jesus Frees*

Saturday, Luke 2:1-14, [15-20], *Birth of Jesus*



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, welcome to this time of worship. We are blessed to have you with us today.

December 18, 2022

Advent Four: Love

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Connie O'Neill

Ava Huber

Julia Mullins

Mimi Messick

Jeff Quellhorst

Josie Bornhorst

Jim Mullins Family & Tim Nevels

Tracy Oldiges

Jim Strang

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Organist

Worship Leader

Worship Leader

Worship Leader

Worship Leader

Worship Leader

Advent Candle Lighters

Sr. Deacon

Bell 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

HARVEST: ART CAMP *Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. (Isaiah 64:8)*

In June 2017, St. Paul Church hosted its first community-wide Art Camp. We offered three nights of art classes for children of all ages. On the fourth night, we held an Art Camp Festival for participants and their families. By 2019, we had 250 Art Camp students and 100 volunteers. We did not hold Art Camp in 2020 due to Covid19. However, in 2021 and 2022, we hosted a one-night Festival—serving a free meal to hundreds of community members, offering music and crafts, a petting zoo and games. This coming summer, our Art Camp Festival is scheduled for Thursday June 8. If you would like to volunteer, please see Kathy Manbeck or Katie Dietrich.

WELCOME SONG

No Matter

♩=120

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.

To verses Last time, Fine

CALL TO WORSHIP

(From *Kneeling in Bethlehem* by Ann Weems. The Westminster Press.)

Leader: When the Holy Child is born into our hearts

People: There is a rain of stars...

Leader: A rushing of angels...

People: A blaze of candles...

Leader: This God burst into our lives.

People: Love is running through the streets.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

G Am G D F# G D F# G C G D D Em

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

A7 E D A D G B D F# G D A A7 D

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove;
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

G B Am G D7 A G D F# G Em Am C D

come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain

G D G D7 G D G D7 G D

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

G D7 A G D F# A7 E D G B C G D D G

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Let us confess the places we need to grow to prepare the way for Christ to enter our lives.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

O God, we confess that we probably would not recognize an angel if you sent one. We confess that we would prefer not to listen to any angels we might recognize. We confess that we would prefer that you not ask us to commit our lives to your service. We confess that we would prefer to say no after we have heard your request. We confess that we are more frightened than we ever imagined. Forgive us our fear and give us courage to see, to hear, to realize, and to accept that you love us enough to trust us in spite of our fearful ways. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: This is the good news of Jesus Christ. We can stand before God, not through our own goodness, but through God's great kindness to us. Rejoice and be glad. God promises the gift of new life!

People: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (refrain)

Refrain (Harmony)

The musical score is written for a piano accompaniment. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with a bass line providing harmonic support. The lyrics are: "Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!". Above the treble staff, a series of chords are indicated: D, Em, Bm, G, Am/C, Am, G/B, D, Em, D/F#, G, G/B, C, G/B, Am, Em/G, D/F#, Em.

WORDS: Latin, 9th c.; tr. John M. Neale (1818-1866); vss. 3 and 4 tr. Henry S. Coffin (1877-1954)
MUSIC: French melody, 15th c.; harm. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

VENI EMMANUEL
L.M.Ref.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: LOVE

Leader: As we gather around the Advent wreath today, we rejoice that Christmas is a time of prayer and of open hearts as we sing songs of love and joy. Christmas is a time of worship—the moment when the busiest of us pause in wonder. Christmas happens when God comes to us in love through Jesus Christ and fills us with love for all humankind.

Leader: Let us hear from 1 John 4:9-11. *God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.*

Leader: We light these four candles: Hope, Peace, Joy and now Love to proclaim the coming of the light of Christ into the world. With the coming of this light, there is love. Such great love helps us to love God and love one another. Let us pray,

People: O God, we thank you that Jesus showed your love for every person—babies and children, old people and young, sick people and those who are strong, rich people and those who are poor. Come to us in this Advent season, and give us love in our hearts for all people. Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING CAROL

When God Is a Child

verse 4

When God Is a Child

Refrain

C G7 C C Em7 Am G

When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be first and the

C Am7 D7 G C/E Am Dm7 G7

weak shall be strong, and none shall be a -

Am E

fraid. Love is a flame that

Am G7/B C C#dim7 G/D Em Am rit. D7 G *to Refrain*

burns in our heart, Je - sus has come and will nev - er de - part. When

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Raising our voices in song!

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Larry Kuhn, Hannah Shellabarger, Monica Bushman, Betty Bushman, Rob Paul, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Karen Vornholt, Shannon Shupp, and Dee Schroer.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, we open ourselves to your dream for our world. We allow ourselves this day to let go of expectations and cultivate instead a radical openness to where you would lead us. We are so used to this Christmas Story—we've heard it so many times that we sometimes wonder what new word you have for us this season. But today we shake off what we think we know, what we think we've heard, even what we think you want, so that we can listen anew, unprotected, like Joseph: asleep and yet aware. We are open, O God. Speak, that we might hear and respond.

Speak to us, Gracious God, a word of love this day: love within families, love among neighbors, and love between nations. Make us bearers of your love as we share the light of Christ this season and beyond.

In this season of love incarnate, we offer prayers for the people of the world: those displaced, those who are homeless, those who seek lodging with as much determination as did Mary and Joseph on Christmas Eve.

Healing God, we also lift up in prayer those within our family of faith who are sick, those who are recuperating, and those in need of your healing touch. We pray for those who are lost and alone. We pray for those for whom Christmastime is painful and lonely.

Hear us now as we lift up our prayers to you.

SILENCE

God of love, we thank you for hearing our prayers and for loving us as your children. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung to the tune of *Away in a Manger*)

Creator in heaven, all praise to your name!

Your kingdom among us, your will done the same.

By mortals and angels, come, Lord, reign alone!

O hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.

The bread that we yearn for, provide it each day

As we forgive others, our sins take away.

In times of temptation, to lead us be near.

From evil deliver your children most dear.

For yours is the kingdom; o'er all things you reign;

And yours is the glory, all things you maintain

To you be the glory, resounding again

From all of creation, forever! Amen!

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM

ADVENT LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25

(NRSV)

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit.¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly.²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

THANKFUL HEART

Words and Music by
PAUL WILLIAMS



f With a

thank - ful heart that is wide a - wake I do make this pro - mise: Ev - 'ry

breath I take will be used now to sing your praise (used now to

sing your praise) and to beg you to share my days. (Beg you to

share my days.) With a lov - ing guar - an - tee that ev - en if we

part I will hold you close in a thank - ful heart.

MEDITATION

Instead of the traditional Lessons & Carols service, today, we will sing Christmas carols and learn their history. Christmas carols anchor us in the Advent and Christmas seasons.

We begin with *Angels We Have Heard on High*. The words to this carol come from a traditional French Carol that literally translated means "Angels in our Countryside" written by an unknown author in Languedoc, France. There is also a Scottish Gaelic translation of the carol which literally translates to what we know: *Angels We Have Heard on High*.

Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High

CHRISTMAS

188 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

F Am Gm7 C7 F C F $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 F

1 An - gels we have heard on high sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem, and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

F Am Dm7 $\frac{C7}{E}$ F C F $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 F

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Say, what may the ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain
F Dm Gm7 C Fmaj7 Bb $\frac{C}{E}$ C

Glo - - - - - ri - a

$\frac{F}{A}$ C F Bb $\frac{F}{C}$ C F Dm Gm7 C

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - - - - -

Fmaj7 Bb C/E C F/A C F Bb F/C C7 F
 ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Silent Night. Silent Night, perhaps one of the most beloved Christmas Carols of all, was first heard on December 24, 1818 at the Midnight Mass in St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria.

There have been many stories told about the writing of this carol—how mice ate the bellows of the organ, creating the necessity of a carol using a guitar, how the organ was non-functional and the carol was hastily written. Other accounts tell of evil railroad barons, double-dealing priests, and the fire that engulfed the city of Salzburg.

But here is what we know. Father Joseph Mohr was the assistant priest at St. Nicholas Church. A guitar player, he wrote the words to the carol with the intent that his musician friend, Franz Gruber could write a melody that included guitar. Later that same night, both men played guitar and sang Silent Night for the first time with the choir accompanying them.

Carol

Silent Night! Holy Night!

Silent Night! Holy Night!

186

B \flat F7 B \flat

1 Si - lent night! ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight,
 3 Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light,

E \flat B \flat E \flat B \flat

'round you vir - gin moth-er and child; ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing al - le - lu -
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing

F7 B \flat $\frac{B\flat}{F}$ F F7 B \flat

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 ia; Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

WORDS: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John F. Young (1820-1885)
 MUSIC: Franz Gruber (1787-1863)

STILLE NACHT
 Irregular

Joy to the World. Joy to the World was written by hymn writer Isaac Watts and is based on Psalm 98 and was first published in 1719. Watts wrote the words of Joy to the World as a hymn glorifying Christ's triumphant return at the end of the age rather than as a Christmas Carol. Today, only the second half of Watt's lyrics are used today.

The music was adapted and arranged to Watt's lyrics by Lowell Mason in 1839 from an older melody that was believed to have originated from Handel's Messiah.

As of the late 20th century, Joy to the World was the most published Christian hymn in North America.

Carol

Joy to the World!

Verses 1 & 4

CHRISTMAS
179

Joy to the World!

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; let all their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

Chords: D, Em/G, D/A, A7, D, D/F#, G, A

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 play; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,

Chords: D, G/D, D, G/D, D

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 (1) and heaven and na - ture sing,

Chords: D, A

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Chords: A7, D, G/D, D, Em/G, D/A, A7, D

WE RESPOND WITH GIFTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCES: Let us give as we are able—seeking the love of Christ with our acts of generosity. Amen.

DOXOLOGY/CAROL *In the Bleak Midwinter*

What can I offer poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what can I offer: all of my heart.

WORDS: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)
MUSIC: Gustav T. Holst (1874-1934)

CRANHAM
Irregular

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Today, O God, on this day, we seek your love in our lives. May the offerings we give to you enable you to plant seeds of love in our congregation, our community, our nation and our world. Challenge us to be bearers of your love this coming week. Amen.

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM

BENEDICTION (from Liturgy Link; *Submitted by Rev. Susannah DeBenedetto, Christ Congregational Church & Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, Takoma Park MD*)

Be people of love.

Let love live in your heart and share the love of Christ with all you meet.

Share love by loving those you see regularly. Start by loving your community.

Share love by loving those you do not know. How do your actions

affect the rest of God's creation?

Share love by praying for our world.

In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share love.

As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share love, joy, peace, and hope with those you meet. Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Bless Us All*

BLESS US ALL

Words and Music by
PAUL WILLIAMS

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It begins with a piano introduction marked 'Simply' and 'mp' in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piano part features a simple, rhythmic accompaniment. The vocal line starts with the lyrics: 'Life is full of sweet sur-pris - es, ev -'ry day's — a gift. The sun comes up and I can feel it lift my spir - it. Fills me up — with laugh-ter, fills me up with song. I look in - to — the eyes — of love and know that I — be - long. Bless us all with play - ful years, with nois - y games and joy - ful tears. We reach for you, and we stand tall. And in our'. The score includes various musical notations such as rests, slurs, and dynamic markings. A section marked 'To Coda' with a circled cross symbol is indicated at the end of the vocal line.

CODA

prayers and dreams we ask you, bless us all. We reach for

Slower

you, and we stand tall. And in our prayers and dreams we ask you, bless us

Tempo I

all.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: With hope in our hearts and joy on our lips, let us pass the peace of Christ to one another.

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are in loving memory of Ronda Broerman by Gin and John Voress.

Participants-December 3 Worship In Person-16, December 4-Sunday School-24, Teachers-5, Worship Online-233, In Person-69. December 7-Splash-13, Jr/Sr High Youth Group-14, Confirmation-3, Leaders-10.

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

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.

2023 Offering Envelopes-are available in the Southwest corner of the sanctuary in front of the pews. Only members who are currently using their offering envelopes and/or who have indicated they wish to continue to have an offering box have been assigned an offering envelope box for 2023. All other members who are giving online or giving without using envelopes have been assigned a "Giving" number that is not linked to an envelope box. If you do not receive an "Envelope Box" but wish to, please contact the church office 419-629-2502, stpaulnb@nktelco.net or Janet Eilerman. A box number will be assigned and you may pick up your envelopes in the church office. Thank you, Janet Eilerman Financial Secretary.

Blue Christmas Service-The Advent and Christmas seasons are often very difficult for folk who are mourning the loss of loved ones. To acknowledge these losses and our grief, St. Paul UCC, Immanuel Church, and Gilberg & Hartwig Funeral Home are hosting a Blue Christmas Worship Service on Wednesday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul. The Blue Christmas service will include scripture readings, music, a message and the opportunity for you to light candles in memory of loved ones. Each year, this service has provided comfort and hope for people in our community and beyond. All are welcome.

Christmas Eve at St. Paul Church-Christmas Eve Open House 5:00-7:00 p.m. Open House will include Christmas music, Christmas scriptures, prayer and quiet communion. You are invited to come and stay for as long as you'd like or as short as you need. All are welcome.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service. 11:00 p.m. Christmas carols, scripture, message, lighting of candles, dedication of the Light, Sacrament of Holy Communion. All are welcome.

December Monthly Mission-UCC Christmas Fund

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas thank you gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Your continued support and generosity is greatly appreciated.

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, Kleenex, Dish Soap, Laundry Detergent, Softener Sheets, Deodorant, Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Toothpaste, Razors, Shaving Cream, Diapers (sizes N, 5 & 6), Baby Wipes, Tampons, Food Storage Bags, Garbage Bags, Bleach, All Purpose Cleaner, Disinfectants. Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

St. Paul Church Nursery-is 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.

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 to \$40.00. 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.

January/February 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 December 18, 2022

Sunday	9:00am	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	9:00am	Sunday School
	9:30am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	10:15am	Worship-In Person & via Facebook Live
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
	7:00pm	Blue Christmas Worship Service
Thursday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Friday	Noon	Office Closed
Saturday	5:00pm-7:00pm	Christmas Eve Open House
	11:00pm	Christmas Eve Candle Light Service