



St. Paul United Church of Christ

119 North Franklin Street

New Bremen, Ohio 45869

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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 3 and 4, 2022

Advent Two: Peace

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Arianne Henry

Roland Dicke

The Neal Voress Family

Tracy Oldiges

Diane Gilberg

Jim Strang

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Accompanist/Organist

Liturgist

Advent Candle Lighters

Sr. Deacon

Sr. Elder

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

MOMENT FOR MISSION: UCC Christmas Fund Connie Friemering

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.

WELCOME SONG

No Matter

J=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 (adapted from Kneeling in Bethlehem by Ann Weems. The Westminster Press. 1980)

Leader: Our God is the One who comes to us in a burning bush, in an angel's song, in a newborn child.

People: Our God is the One who cannot be found locked in the church, not even in the sanctuary.

Leader: Our God will be where God will be with no constraints, no predictability.

People: Our God lives where our God lives, and destruction has no power and even death cannot stop the living.

Leader: Our God will be born where our God will be born, but there is no place to look for the One who comes to us.

People: When God is ready, God will come: even to a place like a stable in Bethlehem.

Leader: Watch: for you know not when God comes.

People: Watch: that you might be found whenever, wherever God comes. Let us worship God!

ADVENT CAROL *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Verses 1 & 4

ADVENT

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel 154

Unison Em Bm D G B G Am C Am G B D G D Bm G B C G B

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
 3 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
 4 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Am Em B Bm Em Am C Am Em G B7 F# Em Bm C D Em

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, and
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill

D Bm G G B Am C Am G B D G *Refrain (Harmony)* D Em Bm G

til the Son of God ap - pear.
 death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 cause us in her ways to go. Re - jice! Re - jice! Em -
 the whole world with heav - en's peace.

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

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

INVOCATION (in unison)

Creating and sustaining God, in your presence there is life. Living water springs up and deserts bloom where you pass. Seeking the life that comes from you, we have gathered before you. Our hearts are ready, O God, our hearts are ready. Delight us with your presence, and prepare us for your service in the world: through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (refrain)

Refrain (Harmony)

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

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: PEACE

Leader: We gather around the Advent wreath today knowing that we are not perfect—that we all make mistakes and do bad things. Only Jesus obeyed God fully. Jesus helps us to live as God wants us to live. Jesus gives us peace.

Leader: A reading from Isaiah 9:6-7. *For a child has been born for us, a son given to us. Authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.*

Leader: We light the candle of hope and the candle of peace to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light, there is peace, for Christ is called the Prince of Peace. Christ's

name is also Emmanuel: God With Us. The presence of Christ with us gives us peace today and all days. Let us pray.

People: Eternal God, we thank you that through all the years you have given peace to your people. Help us to have your peace in our lives. We pray that, in this Advent season, we may, by what we do, show your presence to the sick, to the hungry, and to the lonely, so that they too may have peace. Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING CAROL *When God Is a Child* verse 2

ADVENT

165

When God Is a Child

Refrain
C

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

weak shall be strong, and none shall be a -

fraid. Peace is a rib - bon that

cir - cles the earth, giv - ing a prom - ise of safe - ty and worth. When

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

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Joy of Communing together!

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

PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYER

Holy God, on this second Sunday of Advent, it seems as if this year things are different from year's past. And yet, we are awed by your presence in our lives—especially when we realize we already possess all the gifts we need. We've already received our presents: ears to hear music, eyes to behold lights, hands to build true peace on earth and to reach out to each other in love.

When our faith is rooted deeply in you, O God, our lives reflect your kingdom values of justice and righteousness, but sometimes our lives become so entangled with the values of the world, that your values take second place. Forgive us, O God, and reconnect us to the Holy Spirit, the source of power and life. When our faith is rooted deeply in you, O God, we turn towards you as flowers turn towards the sun and we produce fruit shaped by this attitude of our hearts and our lives.

Yet we can be so driven by seasonal busy-ness that our fruitfulness suffers. Forgive us, O God, and reconnect us to the Holy Spirit. Merciful God, strip our hearts and minds of all that prevents our lives being firmly rooted in you. May our lives bear fruit worthy of our faith in you, as we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once more, in the person of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

On this day when we celebrate the Peace found in Christ, we place our trust in you. Shed us of our wandering ways. Remind us that we cannot purchase our way into happiness or purchase your love. Fill us with hope beyond anything we can purchase or place under a tree. Spark us with the hope found in the coming birth of the Christ Child.

In this season of anticipating, of waiting, of expectation, we lift up in prayer all those who are awaiting the return of loved ones: particularly those who are deployed overseas. We ask that you be with all who are separated from one another—offering them hope and grace.

In this season of healing carols, we lift up to you all who are hurting this season: physically, mentally, spiritually. Pour your healing light on each, O God. And fill us with your courage to offer your light into the dark corners of our world.

Holy One, hear us now as we lift up to you our prayers.

SILENCE

God of Peace, we thank you for this day. We thank you for the gift of Christ. We thank you for gathering us as a community of peace and grace. 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!

ADVENT LESSON: Luke 1:26-56

(NRSV)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God

will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

⁴⁶ And Mary said,
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;
⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and then
returned to her home.

SUNG RESPONSE

Thankful Heart

Paul Williams

52

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.

SERMON

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Throughout Advent and Christmas this year, we are layering the Christmas stories with *The Muppets Christmas Carol* musical. It is an adaptation of Charles Dickens' novella of the same name. Today's scripture lesson lends itself to this well.

On this Advent weekend when we focus on the Peace of Christ, we know this: Ebenezer Scrooge did not know peace. In fact, he went out of his way to spread discord and anger in all of his interactions. It wasn't until he was visited by the ghosts of Christmases past, present, and future that he realized that he needed to change his ways. He woke up on Christmas morning intent on spreading hope, peace, love, and joy to family and friends.

Today's scripture lesson is also one of hope, peace, love, and joy. But it didn't start out that way. Young Mary, engaged to Joseph, was visited not by a ghost, but by the angel Gabriel who told her that she had found favor with God and that she had been chosen to bear God's son. She must initially have been afraid, because the angel told her she need not be afraid.

Mary then asked of the angel an important question: *How can this be, since I am a virgin?* Once Gabriel explained how she would carry the Son of God, Mary was willing and ready to do what was asked of her.

But today's story doesn't end there. Mary, filled with joy and the Holy Spirit, burst into song: *My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.*

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

We call this song the Magnificat, but we rarely take time to pay close attention to Mary's song. After praising God for his presence in her life, she sang of God who humbles the powerful and lifts up the lowly. She sang of the hungry being filled and the filled going empty. In other words, Mary's song of joy is one of holy reversals. Our God favors the poor and the hungry and the lost and the lonely. Jesus, throughout his ministry (especially as recorded in the Gospel of Luke) embodied this.

Likewise, on Christmas Eve, Ebenezer Scrooge experienced first-hand God's good news found in humility, peace, and love. Mr. Scrooge learned that love of money and power is not love at all. He learned that treating his family and employees poorly was not the way of peace. He learned that caring for the lowly—like Tiny Tim—is what life is all about.

And what of us? Our western culture has turned Christmas into a commercial enterprise. We find ourselves pressured to spend our time and money on the trimmings and trappings of the holiday rather than on the Peace that comes to us in the newborn Babe. Perhaps we need a visit from the angel Gabriel or the ghosts of Christmases past, present, and future to remind us why Christmas is not a holiday, but a holy-day.

This I do believe: we are challenged this season to sing the Magnificat as if it were our own. And then, when the singing has ended, to spend our lives creating holy reversals of the world order—seeking peace by feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, and comforting the grieving. On this weekend when our worship focuses on peace, Mary's song reminds us that peace cannot be fully realized until stomachs are full and survival anxieties are addressed.

We do all of this in honor of the newborn Babe. Then, we will be like Ebenezer Scrooge on Christmas morning—filled with joy to bring justice and peace to all.

So, let us begin. Amen.

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM (Sunday)

I've Got Peace Like a River

Anna Laura Page

WE RESPOND WITH GIFTS (Sunday)

OFFERTORY SENTENCES: Let us give as we are able—seeking the peace 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, our prayers are for peace. May the offerings we give to you bring justice and peace to those whose lives are disrupted by war, violence, terror, and disease. Challenge us to be bearers of your peace in this community. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(litany from Chalice Worship, Disciples of Christ)

INVITATION: Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst." In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray. God of light, in whom there is no shadow, your gifts to us are from the very beginning of time.

People: They begin with creation, when your Spirit gave form to the chaos of energy and matter, and when your Word brought forth light on the face of the earth.

Leader: They continued with our ancient ancestors, like Noah, whom you blessed with the colorful promise of the rainbow.

People: And like Sarah and Abraham, whom you blessed with a child whose descendants, as many as the stars of the sky, were to be a light to the nations.

Leader: In the desert, you gave the gifts of manna and of living water to the weary pilgrims whom you led by a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

People: At last, you sent your light into the world in the form of a tiny child, fragile and vulnerable, who grew to be the very Light of Light, full of grace and truth.

Leader: We thank you, O God, that you have sent us Jesus Christ to bring life and immortality to light. Help us to receive your gifts with joy and humility: as we receive this bread and wine, may we open our hearts to receive your love and grace in Jesus Christ, and receive the love and support of one another.

People: Be born among us, that we may give Christ's love to the world, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION: Even at Advent, we look to the night when Jesus was betrayed, denied, and arrested. We look to that Passover meal when Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it saying, "This is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me. We also remember that he took the cup after supper saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." The gifts of God for the people of God. All things are now ready.

SHARING OF GIFTS

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: **We give you thanks, O God, that you have come to us in Jesus, both in the midst of time**

and history in the city of Bethlehem, and in the timeless presence of Christ's Spirit as we receive the gifts of bread and wine. Send us out into the world rejoicing, ready to share your love with the people we meet; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ADVENT CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Verses 1 & 4

CHRISTMAS

O Little Town of Bethlehem

180

F Fdim7 F F#dim7 Bb Gm Bb F C C7 F

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

F F Eb D D7 Gsus Gm Gm Bb F C Am C7 F

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love,
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

F Edim G G#dim7 A N.C. Gm Bb A

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

F Fdim7 F Bb+ Gm Bb F C G7 D Am C7 F

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

CONGREGATION MEETING (Sunday)

2023 Council Members

Myra Hanenkratt	President
Open	Vice President
Mimi Messick	Recording Secretary
Lynda Ranly	Treasurer
Bryan Trego	Sr. Elder
Shelly Zeller	Jr. Elder
June Oaks	Sr. Deacon
Elyssa Mullins	Jr. Deacon
Tom Brandewie	Trustee
Lindsay Quellhorst	Trustee
Tim Nevels	Trustee

Constitutional changes under Article V. Administration:

6. Council members and officers shall be ~~elected~~ **approved** at the Congregational Meeting held in December and installed on the first Sunday in January.

7. The terms of the offices shall be three years for the Trustees. ~~and two years for all the others.~~ **Two years for Recording Secretary and Treasurer. Elders and Deacons-one year as junior and one year as senior. Vice President (one year and) will assume the duties of President for the second year of their term.** ~~Elections shall be held each year in order to fill vacancies.~~

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

Be people of peace.

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

Share peace by acting out of compassion and not fear.

Share peace by listening to all sides of the story.

Share peace by praying for our world.

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

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

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Bless Us All*

BLESS US ALL

Words and Music by
PAUL WILLIAMS

Simply
mp

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

To Coda ⊕

CODA

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

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

Tempo I

all.

The musical score consists of three systems. The first system is the CODA, with a treble clef and a common time signature. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The second system is marked 'Slower' and continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The third system is marked 'Tempo I' and features a piano accompaniment with a melodic line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the vocal lines.

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 honor of Dorothy Schneider's 92nd Birthday! By Myra Hanenkratt. Happy Birthday Dorothy!!!!

Participants-November 20-Sunday School-23, Teachers-3, Worship Online-271, In Person-79.

Sundays in December-Worship will be in person and via Facebook Live at 10:15am. **Saturday, December 3-Worship** will be in the chapel at 5:00pm with Holy Communion.

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.

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.

NOVEMBER MONTHLY MISSION: Camp Washington

Reminder please have **your gifts back to church unwrapped and place them under the tree by Sunday, December 4th.**

December Book Club-will meet Sunday, December 4, after worship. We will be reading *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom. Pick up your copy on the table outside the offices. Hope to see you there. If you do not feel comfortable meeting in person, we will also be on Zoom. To join Zoom Meeting follow this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84261145734?pwd=Q1UyYTdUNUN2VHhYYTdJVEpmY05TQT09>

Meeting ID: 842 6114 5734

Passcode: 877965

Mission Team-will meet Sunday, December 4 following worship in the Assembly room. Any questions? Please contact June Oaks.

Women's Service Group-will meet for lunch at Speedway Lanes on December 8th at 11:30. Following lunch we will meet at the church to pack and deliver gift bags for our homebound church members. Each member is asked to bring two dozen cookies. Guests are welcome. Please RSVP to Julia Paul by December 5th.

Widow and Widower Luncheon-The next Widow, Widower Luncheon will be at 11:30 am on Wednesday, December 7. All are welcome to come for a time of eating, sharing and laughter. Immanuel Church Fellowship Hall, Kettlersville.

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.

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.

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.

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 4, 2022

Sunday	9:00am	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	9:00am	Sunday School
	10:15am	Worship w/Holy Communion & Congregational Meeting-In Person & via Facebook Live
	11:30am	Book Club
	11:30am	Mission Team
Monday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop @ NB Coffee
Tuesday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00pm	Elmwood Worship
	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
	7:00pm-8:00pm	Confirmation
	7:00pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	11:30am	Women's Service Group
	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



It is time to place your orders for the poinsettia plants that grace our sanctuary during the Christmas season. The poinsettias are 8-inch wrapped in foil with a drip pan. We are offering the choice of Red or White and the cost per plant will be \$15.00.

The plants may be picked up **after the 10:15am Christmas Day** worship service.

(Please be sure to pick up the color you ordered so that everyone will be able to enjoy the color of the plant that each chose.)

Poinsettia color choice and quantity:

Red _____ Qty White _____ Qty

In memory/honor of _____

A gift for _____

By _____

I wish to contribute \$_____ to the Christmas Decorating Fund.

Please place payment along with the order form in the offering plate or drop off in the church office. Checks should be payable to St. Paul UCC.

Please have poinsettia order in by December 10.

Every year at this time we also ask for and accept donations to the Decorating Fund. This money will be used toward decorations for the Church and Educational Building.

Please include payment with this order form.

Thank you for helping make our sanctuary even more beautiful as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.



YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR




Children's Christmas Worship



**DEC
11**

You and those you love are invited
for special music and an inspiring
message from our blessed children.

AT 10:15 AM

MUSIC | LAUGHTER | CHILDREN'