



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 419-953-1152

Myra Hanenkratt-Council President 419-305-3652

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.

IN PERSON WORSHIP NOTES:

Bulletins, Offering Plates, and Masks are available on tables.

Listening devices are available in the Narthex/front entrance, for those who need them. Please return your device to an Usher following worship. Thank you!

Children's Activity Bags containing children's bulletins and other activities are available on the tables. Thank you!

Restrooms are located in the Narthex/front entrance of the church and in the south hallway of the educational building.

WIFI Connection-connect via "St Paul – Guest"

Password: godlovesyou

The * indicates all who are able may stand

February 26, 2023
First Sunday in Lent
Congregational Meeting

Worship Leaders

Ministers
Rev. Becky Erb Strang
Bryan Trego
Connie O'Neill
Ava Huber
June Oaks
Jim Strang

The Congregation
Senior Pastor
Worship Leader
Organist
Liturgist
Sr. Deacon
Music Director

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF CANDLES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*WELCOME SONG

No Matter

$\text{♩} = 120$

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**

Leader: As we begin our Lenten journey, we acknowledge that all have sinned and fallen short.

People: And God has mercy on us all.

Leader: Therefore, we should have mercy on others.

People: And forgive as we are forgiven.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* No. 61

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy 61

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The first system contains the first four lines of lyrics, and the second system contains the remaining four lines. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line, and the bass line provides a harmonic accompaniment.

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 There is wel-come for the sin-ner and more grac-es for the good;
3 For the love of God is broad-er than the meas-ure of our mind;
4 If our love were but more sim-ple, we would take him at his word,

there's a kind-ness in his jus-tice which is more than lib-er-ty.
there is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; there is heal-ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
and our lives would be il-lu-mined by the pres-ence of our Lord.

WORDS: Frederick W. Faber (1814-1863)
MUSIC: Lizzie S. Tourjée (1858-1913)

WELLESLEY
8.7.8.7.

***INVOCATION (in unison): Gracious God, you have forgiven us often more than we deserve. Make us equally forgiving to all those in our lives, that we may live together in harmony for the sake of Jesus, your Son. Amen.**

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 guitar 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 guitar chords are indicated, such as Eb, Bb7sus, Bb7, Eb, Bb, Bb, Eb, Bb, Eb6, Bb, F7, Bb, Bb7, Eb, Ab, Eb, Eb, Bb, Bb7, Bb7, Eb, Bb, Ab, Eb, G, Fm7, Ab, Eb, Bb, Gm, Bb, Bb7, and Eb.

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

GREATOREX
 Irregular

TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXP6VqPygQE>

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: The Birth Candle on the alter is for Lynden Mae Dietrich, born on 2/16/23 to parents Katie and Matt Dietrich. Her siblings are Leif, Layla, and Lena; Grandparents are Bob and Betty Dietrich.

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Jay Waterman, Tavi Haastrup, Rob Paul, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Jerry Newman (St. Rita's), Karen Vornholt, and Dee Schroer.

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray. Trusting in the promise of Jesus Christ's unending love, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

SILENT PRAYER

Leader: Loving God, you have taught us to walk in your way of mercy and peace. Teach us to forgive, that we might better serve our brothers and sisters in Christ. Merciful God,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Make us intentional stewards of your awesome creation. Heal this planet, so that it might bring forth abundant life for generations to come. Merciful God,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: As we walk together on this journey of Lent, give us the humility to see where we have harmed others. Free us from shame, that we might put right our wrongs and know that, no matter what, your love for us is sure. Merciful God,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Pour your healing upon all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Heal the hurts of our sin and brokenness. Restore us all to wholeness. Merciful God,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Give us a heart for grace toward peoples the world over. Help us to forgive hostile actions, real or perceived, and reach out in reconciliation to the whole human family. Merciful God,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: With gratitude we remember all the saints who have taught us to forgive as we have been forgiven. Merciful God,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: We lift these prayers to you, Gracious God, in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray as one family... **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.**

ANTHEM

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Matthew 18:15-35 (The Message)

Jesus said, “If a fellow believer hurts you, go and tell him—work it out between the two of you. If he listens, you’ve made a friend. If he won’t listen, take one or two others along so that the presence of witnesses will keep things honest, and try again. If he still won’t listen, tell the church. If he won’t listen to the church, you’ll have to start over from scratch, confront him with the need for repentance, and offer again God’s forgiving love.

¹⁸⁻²⁰ “Take this most seriously: A yes on earth is yes in heaven; a no on earth is no in heaven. What you say to one another is eternal. I mean this. When two of you get together on anything at all on earth and make a prayer of it, my Father in heaven goes into action. And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I’ll be there.”

²¹ At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, “Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?”

²² Jesus replied, “Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven.

²³⁻²⁵ “The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants. As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He couldn’t pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market.

²⁶⁻²⁷ “The poor wretch threw himself at the king’s feet and begged, ‘Give me a chance and I’ll pay it all back.’ Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt.

²⁸ “The servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, ‘Pay up. Now!’

²⁹⁻³¹ “The poor wretch threw himself down and begged, ‘Give me a chance and I’ll pay it all back.’ But he wouldn’t do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid. When the other servants

saw this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king.

³²⁻³⁵ “The king summoned the man and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn’t you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?’ The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that’s exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn’t forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy.”

RESPONSIVE LITANY

Leader: It is not always easy to forgive.

People: Our feelings are easily hurt.

Leader: We may not even realize why.

People: Underneath our hurt is fear.

Leader: Fear of not having enough.

People: Fear of not being enough.

Leader: We feel threatened, and so we are angry.

People: But Jesus calls us to forgive.

Leader: Not even seven times, but seventy-seven times.

People: Forgiveness means being free of resentment.

Leader: Forgiveness is as much a gift to ourselves as to others.

People: Let us err on the side of compassion.

Leader: Let us give the benefit of the doubt.

People: Let us remember that God has forgiven us,

Leader: Even when we have not deserved it.

People: Let us forgive as God forgives, and live in peace with our community.

SUNG RESPONSE: *Prepare Us, Lord*

Piano/Organ

Prepare Us, Lord

A Song for Lent

February 26 through March 26, 2023

Word and Music by
J. L. Salt(er)

The musical score is written for piano/organ in 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The first system includes a 'with pedal' instruction for the piano part. The second system includes a 'with pedal' instruction for the piano part and a 'Fine' marking at the end. The third system includes a '2/26' marking above the first measure. The fourth system includes a 'D.C. al Fine' marking at the end. The lyrics are: 'Pre - pare us, Lord. Give us a hum - ble heart, an o - pen heart that's read - y for your love. Said Pe - ter, "Lord, when I for - give, is sev - en times e - nough?" Said Je - sus, "Pe - ter, don't keep count! For - give like God a - bove!"

Am Em F C introduction
Pre - pare us, Lord. Give us a hum - ble heart, an

with pedal

introduction Fine
o - pen heart that's read - y for your love.

F Am F Am
2/26 Said Pe - ter, "Lord, when I for - give, is sev - en times e - nough?" Said

Dm Am Dm E D.C. al Fine
Je - sus, "Pe - ter, don't keep count! For - give like God a - bove!"

Composer's note: Because the verses are a little difficult to sing, you may wish to have them sung by a solist or a group

WE RESPOND WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY SENTENCES: In this season of repentance, reflection, and forgiveness, let us give as we are able—generously and joyfully.

*DOXOLOGY *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* No. 34

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 34

The image shows a musical score for the doxology. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff: G, D, Em, Bm, Em, D, G, D, Em, C, G, D. The lyrics are: "Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;". The second system continues the melody and bass line. Chord symbols include: Em, D/F#, G, D, G/B, C, F#dim/A, G, Em, D, Am, G/B, D7, G. The lyrics are: "praise him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost."

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

OLD 100th
 L.M.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison) **Gracious God, we cannot possibly repay the debt we owe to you for all that you have given us. We return now what we can for the life of your church, that all might be richly blessed through these gifts. Accept them for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*HYMN OF SENDING

I Then Shall Live

No. 372

I Then Shall Live

372

E_b Bb E_b $Bb7$ E_b Bb E_b A_b $Bb7$ E_b
 A_b G F A_b G F

1 I then shall live as one who's been for - giv - en;
 2 I then shall live as one who's learned com - pas - sion;
 3 Your king - dom come a - round and through and in me,

Bb E_b $Bb7$ E_b Bb E_b A_b $Bb7$ E_b E_b
 A_b G F A_b G F D

I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid. I know my
 I've been so loved that I'll risk lov - ing, too. I know how
 your power and glo - ry, let them shine through me; your hal - lowed

C_m E_b Bb F_m $C7$ F_m E_b
 G A_b Bb

name is clear be - fore my Fa - ther; I am his child, and
 fear builds walls in - stead of bridg - es; I dare to see an -
 name, oh, may I bear with hon - or, and may your liv - ing

A_b $Dm7(b5)$ G E_b C_m E_b Bb
 A_b G

I am not a - fraid. So great - ly par - doned, I'll for - give an -
 oth - er's point of view. And when re - la - tion - ships de - mand com -
 king - dom come in me. The Bread of Life, oh, may I share with

F_m $C7$ F_m E_b $Bb7sus$ $Bb7$ E_b
 G A_b Bb

oth - er; the law of love I glad - ly will o - bey.
 mit - ment, then I'll be there to care and fol - low through.
 hon - or, and may you feed a hun - gry world through me.

WORDS: Gloria Gaither (1942-)
 MUSIC: Jean Sibelius (1865-1957); arr. Hymnal 1933

Words © 1981 Gaither Music Company (Admin. Gaither Copyright Mgmt.)
 Music Arr. © 1933, Ren. 1961 Presbyterian Board of Education (Admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

FINLANDIA
 11.10.11.10.11.10.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*BENEDICTION: Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted. Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Honor all people. Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Pass the Love*

Pass the Love

♩=95

F Gm7 F Gm7 F/A F/Bb Gm9 C7

Love our God, ev - 'ry day, praise with joy go - ing on your way.

F Gm7 F Gm7 F/A F/Bb Gm9 G7 C

Pass it on, t'all you meet, ev - 'ry day in - ev - 'ry way.

Fmaj7 Dm F/G F/C

Love our Ho - ly God. Pray with hope each day.

Am7 Dm7 Gm7 F/C C7 F

Bless the Ho - ly Name. Praise our God.

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us share Christ's peace with one another!

*POSTLUDE

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"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 Greg Bushman by the Allen Bushman family.

Circle of Friends Cards for you to sign are for Katie Dietrich (East door), Linda Rempe (North door), and Joyce Ruedebusch (South door). Recipients appreciate the cards you sign.

Participants- February 19| Sunday School-21, Teachers-4; Worship Online-250, In-Person-unavailable.

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

Daily Devotions-Please join us, Monday-Thursday, online. Devotions will air and saved on our Facebook page: St. Paul United Church of Christ-New Bremen, OH.

Confirmation and their Mentors- will meet Wednesday, March 1st, 7:00pm.

Congregational Meeting-will take place Sunday February 26, 2023 during the 10:15am worship service.

February Book Club-We will be reading *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini. Books can be picked up on the table outside Pastor Becky's office. This event will be offered in-person and via Zoom. There will be a book club meeting in the Zoom Room Feb. 26 at 11:30am.

2023 Altar Flower Chart has open dates: July 2, 30, August 27, December 31. 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 be \$40.00. Thank you.

St Paul UCC Job Openings-The following positions are or will be available in the near future: Technology Director, Worship Organist, Music Director, Bell Choir Director, Chancel Choir Director, and Bookkeeper. Interested applicants are asked to submit a resume and cover letter, indicating position applying for, to the church office, attention Myra Hanenkratt, Council President.

The Bookkeeper position is part-time. It includes accounts payable, payroll and preparing reports for council.

The Worship Organist is responsible for playing organ/piano during worship services, accompanies the choirs and works closely with the Worship Team.

The Music Director/Bell Choir Director/Chancel Choir Director serves part time to recruit, rehearse and perform bell and chancel choir music. The Music Director works closely with the Worship Team.

The Technology Director serves part time at St. Paul Church to maintain and update all computer, networking and worship technologies. The Technology Director works closely with the Worship Tech Team and the Worship Team.

February Monthly Mission: Back Bay Mission

Back Bay Mission has been located in Biloxi Mississippi since 1922 and has just celebrated its 100th anniversary. It was founded by the Evangelical Reformed Church which is one of the four founding denominations of the United Church of Christ.

Back Bay Mission has been a mission partner of the UCC for 100 years and volunteers have given their time, money and help to the people of this area of Southern Mississippi. Many members of St Paul have been on mission trips to Back Bay over the years and have learned about the poverty and homelessness of Southern Mississippi. Mississippi is still the poorest state in the Union and Back Bay Mission is doing more than its share to help the people of this area.

Back Bay has a Day Care Center where people can go for a shower, a place to use a computer to look for job opportunities, a food pantry, a washing machine, as well as mental and physical professional help if needed. Other ways the mission helps, is with offering clothing donations and finding suitable housing for people.

Our St Paul UCC Church has supported this Mission financially and with work groups for many years. Over the past number of years Back Bay has gained the support of some of the Casinos, The Air Force Base which is located near Biloxi, some businesses, and the local Chamber of Commerce, as well as individuals.

St Paul members have been on many trips to Back Bay and they have seen the ongoing needs of the very poor people of Southern Mississippi. They have helped with cleaning out homes that have been damaged by hurricanes and flooded by some terrible storms and have helped with the rebuilding of these homes. The people that are helped are always so gracious and thankful for any help that they receive

The Motto for Back Bay Mission is taken from the Book of Micah and says “To do Justice, Love kindness, and Walk humbly with God” Remember- God loves a Cheerful Giver!

Thank you, John Gilberg, The Mission Team

Blessing Pantry-is accessible during these hours - **Tuesdays 5:30pm-7:30pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays 1:00pm-3:00pm.** The Pantry will be closed Mondays and Fridays. **All Donations Welcome—Blessing Pantry Needs-Dish Soap, Dryer Sheets, Body Wash, Bar Soap, Kleenex, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Tampons, Diapers (sizes N-6), Baby Wipes, Baby Lotion, Baby Shampoo, Bandages, Manicure Items, Napkins, Food Storage Bags, Garbage Bags. Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

St. Paul Church Nursery Announcement. Effective immediately the St. Paul Church Nursery will be open on Communion Sundays and on Children’s Worship Sundays. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Justine Homan, Nursery Champion, at 937-658-1770.

St. Paul UCC Rummage Sale- will be March 24th and 25th. Donations will be accepted during the month of March, please see below for the donation/sale dates.

March 7th Donation Evening 5:30 - 7:30pm

March 14th Donation Evening 5:30-7:30pm

March 19th Drive-Thru Donation Day 11:15am - 2:15pm

March 21st Donation Evening 5:30-7:30pm

March 24th Rummage Sale Day 4:00pm - 8:00pm

March 25th Rummage Sale Day 8:30am - 2:30pm

You can also drop off donations any day during church hours on the auditorium stage.

We will be accepting gently used donations: Clothes and Shoes: Mens/Womens/Plus Size/Kids/Toddler/Baby; Decorations: Home/Seasonal; Furniture: Lamps/Tables/Chairs/Desks/Baby Furniture/Etc.; Toys and Games; Books; Housewares: Dishes/Cups/Utensils/Tablewares/Small Appliances/etc.; Bedding

Thank you for donating!

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.

March/April 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.

Want to be part of the Prayer Chain? Please contact Prayer Chain Champion, Jeff Paul at jrpaul@nktelco.net or 419-305-0584. The St. Paul Prayer Chain has two formats: texting and email. All are welcome.

Calendar-Week of February 26, 2023

Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School
	10:15am	Worship- In Person & via Facebook Live
	11:30am	Book Club Meeting
Monday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00-4:00pm	Coffee Shop-NB Coffee Shop
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	Splash
	6:30pm	Youth Dinner
	7:00pm	Jr/Sr High Youth Group
	7:00pm	Confirmation with Mentors
Thursday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Friday	Noon	Office Closed
Saturday	8:00am	Men's Club- Speedway Lanes
	5:00pm	Worship w/ Holy Communion

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

Lucky Strike!

READY, SET, LET'S BOWL!

ALL ARE WELCOME FOR
FELLOWSHIP & BOWLING!
SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

FAMILY, FRIENDS,
PIZZA & BOWLING

SPONSORED BY
ST. PAUL CHURCH

SPEEDWAY LANES
455 N HERMAN STREET
NEW BREMEN, OH
45869

RSVP: 419-629-2502



St. Paul UCC's

St. Paul UCC Auditorium; enter through Herman Street entrance.

RUMMAGE SALE

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT ST. PAUL UCC LOCAL AID FUND

DONATION DROP-OFF OPTIONS

- ⇒ **Any Day** - *Drop off during church hours on the auditorium stage.
- ⇒ ****March 7th; March 14th; and March 21st @ 5:30-7:30 p.m.**
- ⇒ ****March 19th @ 11:15 a.m. – 2:15 p.m. DRIVE-THRU DONATION DAY**
**Youth/Adults available to unload and carry.

GENTLY USED DONATIONS: Clothes and Shoes: Mens/Womens/Plus Size/Kids/Toddler/Baby; Decorations: Home/Seasonal; Furniture: Lamps/Tables/Chairs/Desks/Baby Furniture/Etc.; Toys and Games; Books; Housewares: Dishes/Cups/Utensils/Tablewares/Small Appliances/etc.; Bedding

SALE DAYS

