

*The wise took flasks of oil
with their lamps.*

- Matthew 25:4



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

Myra Hanenkratt-Council President

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

March 19, 2023
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Refreshment Sunday

Worship Leaders

Ministers
Rev. Becky Erb Strang
Katie Brautigam
Elyssa Mullins
Bryan Trego
Jim Strang

The Congregation
Senior Pastor
Pianist
Liturgist
Sr. Elder
Music Director

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF CANDLES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*WELCOME SONG

No Matter

♩=120

F Dm Gm⁷ C F F⁷

No mat-ter who, — no mat-ter what — no mat-ter where you are on the

B^b G⁷ F Dm G⁷ Gm⁷ C⁷

jour-ney of life; you're wel- come, wel- come in this place. — No mat-ter

F Dm Gm⁷ C F F⁷

who, — no mat-ter what, — no mat-ter where you are on the

B^b G⁷ F Dm Gm⁷ C⁷ C F F

jour-ney of life: ac - cept - ed, wel - comed by God's grace. grace.

To verses Last time, Fine

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Keep your lamps trimmed and burning.

People: Jesus Christ will soon be among us.

Leader: We do not know the day or the hour.

People: We will watch and be ready.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

No.96
(all verses)

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing 96

N.C. $\frac{G}{B}$ G D G D7 Em D G $\frac{D7}{F\#}$ G D

1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
3 Je-sus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sor-rows cease,
4 He breaks the power of can-celled sin, he sets the pris-oner free;
5 To God all glo-ry, praise, and love be now and ev-er given

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

the glo-ries of my God and King, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread thro' all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
'tis mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
his blood can make the foul-est clean, his blood a-vailed for me.
by saints be-low and saints a-bove, the Church in earth and heaven.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/2 time signature. The first system includes a bass clef staff. Chords are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The second system also includes a bass clef staff and continues the lyrics.

WORDS: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.
MUSIC: Carl G. Gläser (1784-1829); arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

AZMON
C.M.

***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.**

*HALLELUJAH!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jahl

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jahl

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jahl Hal - le -

lu - jahl Hal - le - lu - jahl

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Keeping our Lamps Burning!!

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Jay Waterman, Tavi Haastrup, Rob Paul, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Jerry Newman, 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: Holy God, you have challenged us to be ready for your triumphant return. Fill us with the oil of your fervent love, that we might burn brightly until that glorious day. Merciful God,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Nothing on this planet exists in a vacuum. All things are connected and reliant upon one another. Make us careful stewards of land, water, and air, and of every living thing that inhabits this earth. 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 been foolish in our refusal to see the

signs of your presence. Give us wisdom, that we might prepare a place in our hearts for you. Merciful God,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Heal hearts, minds, bodies, and spirits of all who suffer from any affliction. Merciful God,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Let all people in every corner of the earth recognize our interdependence, that all might work toward equity and justice for our collective survival. Merciful God,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: We remember with gratitude all the saints who lived and died in you. May we one day follow them with thanksgiving to your eternal banquet. 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.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

Behold the Shepherd

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Matthew 25:1-13

(NRSV)

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women^[a] took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.^[b] ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'⁷ Then all those young women^[c] got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'⁹ But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy

some for yourselves.’¹⁰ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut.¹¹ Later the other young women^[d] came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’¹² But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’¹³ Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

RESPONSIVE LITANY

Leader: Jesus is coming! His reign is near!

People: We’ve waited so long and suffered so much disappointment.

Leader: Have faith and be ready. God’s promise is sure.

People: The world is in turmoil. We do not see justice.

Leader: Do not lose heart. Your God is with you.

People: How can we be prepared? There is so much still to do.

Leader: Keep your hearts kindled. Work for justice even when you don’t see the results.

People: We are tired of waiting. The fire in our hearts is running out of oil.

Leader: Don’t look to the world to refill your lamps, but seek your God who sustains you in all things.

People: With God’s help, we will be ready. Come, Lord Jesus.

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. The first system includes an introduction and the lyrics: "Pre - pare us, Lord. Give us a hum - ble heart, an". The second system includes an introduction and the lyrics: "o - pen heart that's read - y for your love." The third system includes the lyrics: "3/19 Ten brides-maids took their lamps and slept un - til the groom ar - rived. "Our". The fourth system includes the lyrics: "lamps are dry!" five maid - ens cried and then were locked out - side." The score includes various musical notations such as chords (Am, Em, F, C, Dm, E), dynamics (with pedal), and performance instructions (introduction, Fine, D.C. al Fine).

Composer's note: Because the verses are a little difficult to sing, you may wish to have them sung by a soloist 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 the lyrics: "Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;". The second system has the lyrics: "praise him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost." Above the treble staff, various chords are indicated, such as G, D, Em, Bm, Em, D, G, D, Em, C, G, D, Em, D/F#, G, D, G/B, C, F#dim/A, G, Em, D, Am, G/B, D7, and G.

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

OLD 100th
 L.M.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison): **God, you have showered us with abundance. Keep us ever mindful of the needs of others, that we might be inspired to share what we have. We offer now these gifts to your good work in the world. Accept them for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Friend. Amen.**

*HYMN OF SENDING

Here I Am, Lord

No. 559

Here I Am, Lord

Unison

G Am D7 C
G G G

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my
2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my
3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the

peo - ple cry. All who dwell in dark and sin
peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them,
poor and lame. I will set a feast for them,

Am D7 D D G Am D7
G G F# C G G G

my hand will save. I who made the stars of night,
they turn a - way. I will break their hearts of stone,
my hand will save. Fin-est bread I will pro - vide

C G D G Em
G G G G Em

I will make their dark - ness bright. Who will bear my
give them hearts for love a - lone. I will speak my
till their hearts be sat - is - fied. I will give my

WORDS: Daniel L. Schutte (1947-); para. Isaiah 6:8

MUSIC: Daniel L. Schutte (1947-); arr. Michael Pope (20th c.), Daniel L. Schutte (1947-), John Weissrock (20th c.)

Words and Music © 1981 Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music

Refrain
D7
F#

Am7 C Am G/B C6 *slowing* D

light to them? Whom shall I send?
Word to them. Whom shall I send?
life to them. Whom shall I send? Here I

a tempo
G Gsus G D7/A C/E D7 G

am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have

Cmaj7 G Am G/B C6 D D/F# D

heard you call - ing in the night. I will

G Gsus G C/G G C/E D7 G

go, Lord, if you lead me. I will

Am7 C/D D G C/G G

hold your peo - ple in my heart.

*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

J=95

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as *J=95*. The score consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. Chords are indicated above the notes.

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

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

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

Bless the Ho - ly Name. Praise our— God.

*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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"Halle 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 Johann Klein by Mary Klein.

Circle of Friends Cards for you to sign are for Jean Schroer (East door), JoAnn Freeman (North door), and Tavi Haastrup (South door). Recipients appreciate the cards you sign.

Participants- March 12| Sunday School-16, Teachers-5; Worship Online-167, In-Person-61. March 15| Splash-4, Teacher-1; Jr/Sr High-17, Teacher-1

Sundays in March-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.

Easter Flower Order Form- We have a limited quantity of Single Stem Easter Lilies this year- there are still 23 available. Please return your order form and payment no later than March 20th. Once we receive 25 orders, we will return any extra orders/payments.

Lucky Strike- All are welcome for fellowship and bowling Sunday March 19th from 11:30am-1:30pm at Speedway Lanes. Please RSVP by calling 419-629-2502.

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 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!

Confirmands' Faith Statements- During worship on March 26, 2023 at 10:15am in the Sanctuary, our confirmands will read their faith statements for all to hear. Please join us in-person or online via Facebook Live. All are welcome!

Rite of Confirmation & Palm Sunday- Please join us April 2, 2023 at 10:15am for Palm Sunday worship and witness/celebrate our confirmands being confirmed in their faith.

March Book Club-We will be reading *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. Books can be picked up on the table outside Pastor Becky's office. This event will be offered via Zoom and in-person on Sunday, March 26 following worship in the Zoom Room.

Brain Longevity Class- A 3 week series on Brain Longevity- how to prevent or slow Alzheimer's Disease. Classes will be held on Saturday April 15th, 22nd, and 29th from 9am-noon in the theater room. The cost per participant is \$90 or \$120 a couple (or Caregiver plus AD client/spouse/partner). Register by calling Kimberly Oen at 419-500-4935.

2023 Altar Flower Chart has open dates: July 2, 30, August 27. 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, and Chancel Choir Director. 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 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.

March Monthly Mission: One Great Hour of Sharing

Deadly wildfires, hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, and wars have left people homeless, families grieving loss of loved ones, and entire communities awaiting assistance for long term disaster recovery.

Refugees and asylum seekers are left in limbo, languishing at borders, awaiting welcome. Many have been displaced by economic conditions, war, and climate change. Among the millions of refugees are families looking for safe places that they can call home.

In the midst of these despairing moments, the United Church of Christ is able to offer hope as we stand in solidarity and mutuality with communities suffering and in need. Through Wider Church Ministries, the United Church of Christ fulfills its commitment to respond to a variety of global and local concerns by providing advocacy, sustainable development resources, long term disaster recovery support, and assistance for refugee and asylum seekers, working in collaboration with our partners locally and globally.

With your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, we are able to be present for the long term in disaster recovery, as we partner with churches and

organizations around the world to walk with families as they rebuild their homes and lives.

Thank you for your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, as together we build a just world for all.

With Gratitude and Hope, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, AGM, Wider Church Ministries and Co-Executive Global Ministries

Thank you, 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, Shampoo, Conditioner, Women’s and Men’s Body Wash, Kleenex, Paper Towels, Deodorant, Adult Toothpaste, Diapers (sizes N-2), Baby Wipes, Baby Shampoo, Razors, Shaving Cream, Laundry Detergent, Softener Sheets, Diaper Cream/Desitan. Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

St. Paul Church Nursery Announcement. 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.

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 March 19, 2023

Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School
	10:15am	Worship- Refreshment Sunday In Person & via Facebook Live
	11:15am-2:15pm	Drive-Thru Donation Day for Rummage Sale
Monday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop-NB Coffee Shop
Tuesday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Donation Drop-Offs for Rummage Sale
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
Thursday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Friday	Noon	Office Closed
	4:00pm-8:00pm	Rummage Sale
Saturday	8:30am-2:30pm	Rummage Sale

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



Easter Flower Order Form

We will be decorating our Sanctuary with
6.5" Single Stem Easter Lilies.

We have a limited quantity of 25 available.
Flowers may be picked up after the
Last Easter Service, April 9, 2023.

Please return your order form and payment no
later than Monday, March 20, 2023.

Checks should be payable to St. Paul

_____(quantity) Flowers, foiled, drip pan-\$18.34 each

In Memory of _____

A gift for _____

By _____ Total \$ _____

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

