

St. Paul United Church of Christ

119 North Franklin Street
New Bremen, Ohio 45869
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Email stpaulnb@nktelco.net or 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, Communion, 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 4 and 5, 2023 Second Weekend in Lent Sacrament of Holy Communion

Worship Leaders

Ministers
Rev. Becky Erb Strang
Bev Plattner
Katie Brautigam
Jayden Felver
June Oaks
Bryan Trego
Jim Strang

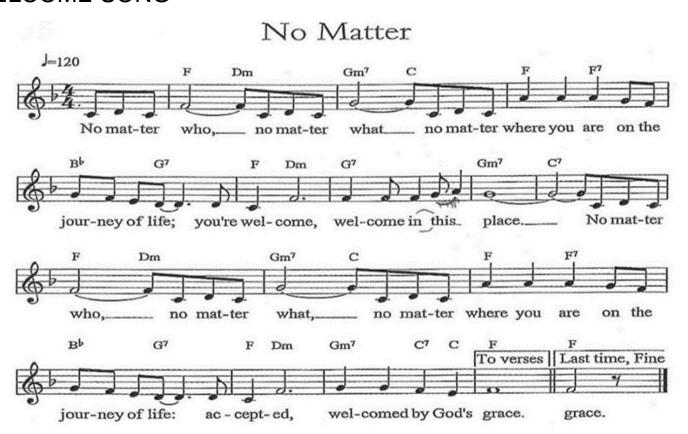
The Congregation
Senior Pastor
Accompanist
Accompanist (Saturday)
Liturgist (Sunday)
Sr. Deacon
Sr. Elder
Music Director

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF CANDLES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION

*WELCOME SONG



*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God calls us into the vineyard,

People: For there is much work to be done.

Leader: No matter when we get there,

People: God rewards us with generosity.

*HYMN OF PRAISE A

As We Gather at Your Table

No. 695

As We Gather at Your Table



WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (1944-) MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White (1800-1879), *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; arr. Jack Schrader (1942-) Words ♥ 1989 Hope Publishing Company Music Arr. ♥ 1992 Hope Publishing Company BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7.D.

*SERVICE OF CONFESSION

Leader: We confess our sins before God and one another.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: God of mercy

People: We admit to you, to ourselves, and to this community that we have caused harm to others through our actions and through our failure to act. Give us the humility to accept our failings and make things right where we can. Forgive us and help us to forgive ourselves. Amen.

Leader: Hear the good news: Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. In that love, God forgives you all your sin, for the sake of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA PATRI 734 Glory Be to the Father

No. 734



JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Gathering at the Table

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 AND THE 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, Jesus taught us of the love you so generously give us, though we cannot earn it. Receive our humble gratitude for your abundant blessings. Merciful God,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Teach us to lavish extravagant care on all that you have made. Make this planet whole for the benefit of all who call it home. 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 desired more than our due. Free us from greed, that we might respond with generosity toward all people. Merciful God,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Heal all who are in need of your care and attention. We pray for those who hurt in body, mind, or spirit. Merciful God,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: As we reflect on the ways we desire to change, help us also to see the ways we show up just the way we are. Help us to live contentedly with ourselves and with all people. Merciful God,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: We thank you for all the saints who have labored in your vineyard for the sake of the gospel. Give us that same commitment until we all taste the fruits of your sacred vine together. 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 (Sunday)

Communion Hymn

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Matthew 20:1-16 (The Message)

Jesus said, "God's kingdom is like an estate manager who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. They agreed on a wage of a dollar a day, and went to work.

3-5 "Later, about nine o'clock, the manager saw some other men hanging around the town square unemployed. He told them to go to work in his vineyard and he would pay them a fair wage. They went.

⁵⁻⁶ "He did the same thing at noon, and again at three o'clock. At five o'clock he went back and found still others standing around. He said, 'Why are you standing around all day doing nothing?'

⁷ "They said, 'Because no one hired us.'

"He told them to go to work in his vineyard.

⁸ "When the day's work was over, the owner of the vineyard instructed his foreman, 'Call the workers in and pay them their wages. Start with the last hired and go on to the first.'

9-12 "Those hired at five o'clock came up and were each given a dollar. When those who were hired first saw that, they assumed they would get far more. But they got the same, each of them one dollar. Taking the dollar, they groused angrily to the manager, 'These last workers put in only one easy hour, and you just made them equal to us, who slaved all day under a scorching sun.'

13-15 "He replied to the one speaking for the rest, 'Friend, I haven't been unfair. We agreed on the wage of a dollar, didn't we? So take it and go. I decided to give to the one who came last the same as you. Can't I do what I want with my own money? Are you going to get stingy because I am generous?'

¹⁶ "Here it is again, the Great Reversal: many of the first ending up last, and the last first."

LITANY OF RESPONSE

Left Side: We have labored long in the vineyard.

Right Side: We have only just arrived.

Left Side: We have lived our whole lives in the faith.

Right Side: We are new to everything, open to learning. Left Side: We have sweated and toiled for this community.

Right Side: We have not yet done much service.

Left Side: We have built everything you see here. Right Side: We have new ideas for changes.

Left Side: Surely we are of more value, our opinions carry more weight.

Right Side: Don't we have a say in how we do God's work in the world?

Left Side: God has given us all an equal wage, no matter when we arrived in the vineyard.

Right Side: We are grateful for God's great generosity.

Left Side: We, too, can be grateful for it, and live generously in response.

Right Side: Thanks be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE: Prepare Us, Lord

Prepare Us, Lord

A Song for Lent

February 26 through March 26, 2023

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



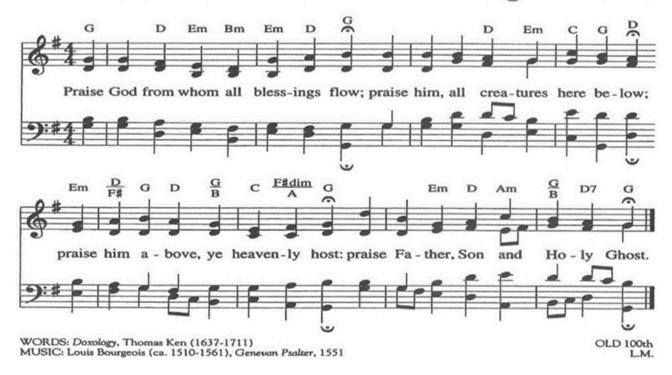
Composer's note: Because the verses are a little difficult to sing, you may wish to have them sung by a solist or a group

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



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison): O God, do not let us think we can decide what others deserve to have. Give us hearts as generous as yours, that we might offer our gifts in service to your children with no strings attached. Bless what we bring before you today, for your work of compassion and justice in the world. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN

One Bread, One Body

No. 689





CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

In the United Church of Christ, we practice an Open Table. You need not be a church member to commune; you need only a sincere desire to draw near to Christ and seek peace with your neighbor. Saturday, communion elements will be offered by coming forward or are available on the bulletin/offering table. Sunday, communion elements are available on the bulletin/offering tables. Sunday, we hold the elements and commune together.

Leader: Brothers and sisters in Christ, the gospels tell us that on the first day of the week, the day on which our Lord rose from the dead, he appeared to some of his disciples and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

People: We come to celebrate the joyful feast of our Lord.

Leader: Let us pray.

People: Holy God, you are mighty in power, yet abounding in mercy. While our world was marred with sin and brokenness, you made a covenant with your people. You promised to renew your creation. You promised to give hope amid the sorrow, healing in place of sickness, wholeness in place of emptiness.

Leader: You stepped into our darkness in the person of Jesus Christ. He came quietly to a young, unwed mother through the power of your Holy Spirit. He experienced our human joys and sorrows.

People: Then the King of kings showed us how to live. He healed the sick, cared for the least of society, and took time for children. He forgave sins and performed miracles. He loved and he served. He gave up his very life for his friends. He died the disgraceful death of a criminal for us. Yet, you raised him out of the tomb. He triumphed over death that we, too, may live.

Leader: On the night before our Lord died, he ate with his disciples. As we so often do, Jesus began with prayer. He took the bread and cup, and shared them with his friends, saying, "This is my body given for you. This cup is poured out for you. My body and my blood are given for the forgiveness of your sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

People: So, loving God, we do, in obedience to your command, eat and drink from the cup. As we do, we remember with awe and gratitude the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Leader: We rejoice that your great love through Christ's sacrifice has set us free and given us hope for a future with you.

People: Until our Lord Jesus returns to establish his kingdom without end, we will joyfully proclaim his death and resurrection. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader: It is through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ. It is through the cup we participate in the forgiveness offered to us by Jesus. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. All things are now ready.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

The Body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven: Take and eat!

The Cup of the New Covenant, the Blood of Christ: Take and drink! Leader: Let us pray together.

All: We bless you, O God, for the gifts of bread and cup, for sustaining us in hope every day of our lives. We pray for your strength to prepare us now for your service in the world as we offer to you lives of witness and worship in the world that you have made. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Friend, Amen.

*HYMN OF SENDING

We All Are One in Mission

No.552 v.1&4

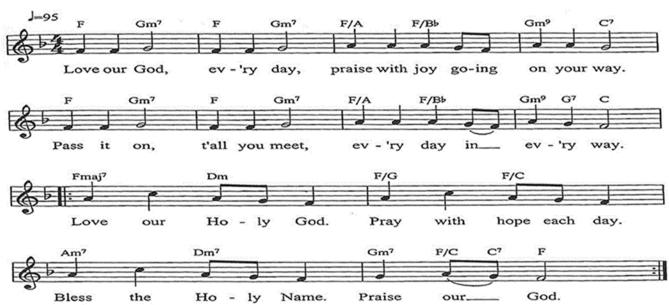
We All Are One in Mission



WORDS: Rusty Edwards (1955-) MUSIC: Samuel S. Wesley (1810-1876) Words © 1986 Hope Publishing Company *BENEDICTION: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Go in peace. Amen.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE: Pass the Love

Pass the Love



*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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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are in memory of Jesse, Verona, and Don R. Miller by Bev Plattner.

Circle of Friends Cards for you to sign are for Jerry Newman (East door), the family of Betty Bushman (North door), and Dorothy Schneider (South door). Recipients appreciate the cards you sign.

Participants- February 26| Sunday School-16, Teachers-6; Worship Online-212, In-Person-78.

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.

Elmwood Worship-Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 2:00pm. All are welcome to assist Rev. Becky with this wonderful service. Please meet her by 1:45pm at Elmwood.

Women's Service Group-will meet Thursday, March 9th, 11:00am in the Assembly Room to wrap nursing home gifts, fill school bags, and deliver gifts to nursing homes. Please bring 2 dozen cookies. Lunch at Bolly's. Please contact Bev Plattner for more information. All are welcome!

Widow and Widower Luncheon-The next Widow, Widower Luncheon will be at 11:30 am on Wednesday, March 8th. All are welcome to come for a time of eating, sharing and laughter. Immanuel Church Fellowship Hall, Kettlersville.

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!

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 in-person and via Zoom.

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.

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, 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. 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 irpaul@nktelco.net or 419-305-0584. The St. Paul Prayer Chain has two formats: texting and email. All are welcome.

Calendar-Week of March 5, 2023

Sunday School

Confirmation

Office Closed

Devotions via Facebook Live

Blessing Pantry Open

9:00am

7:00pm

Noon

1:00pm-3:00pm

Sunday

Thursday

Friday

Curiday	J.OGaili	Odriday Odridoi
•	10:15am	Worship w/ Holy Communion-
		In Person & via Facebook Live
Monday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00-4:00pm	Coffee Shop-NB Coffee Shop
Tuesday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00pm	Worship at Elmwood
	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

E-Giving @ St. Paul

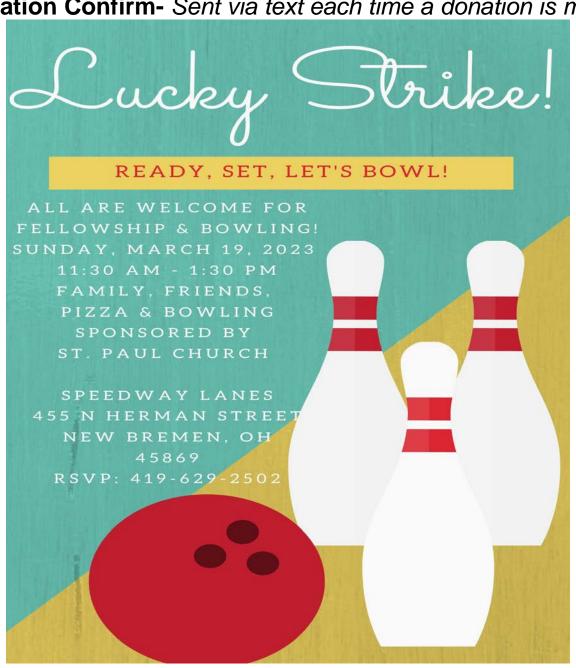
Online - Make a donation on our website: stpaulnb.org **Text** – Make a donation to our Number: 833-308-0048 How To Give by Text (Example - my amount for the example is \$25 (minimum amount is \$5.00))

- > 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



St. Paul UCC's

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

RUMNAGE 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

March 24th:
4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

March 25th:
8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.