



St. Paul United Church of Christ

119 North Franklin Street

New Bremen, Ohio 45869

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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

April 23, 2023
Third Sunday of Easter

Worship Leaders

Ministers
Rev. Becky Erb Strang
Rev. Daniel Busch
Alexis Bratsakis
Michelle Voress
June Oaks

The Congregation
Senior Pastor
Worship Leader
Organist
Liturgist
Sr. Deacon

PRELUDE

GREETING & LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*WELCOME SONG

No Matter

Musical score for the song "No Matter". The score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 120. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The lyrics are: "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." The score includes chord symbols: F, Dm, Gm7, C, Bb, G7, F, Dm, G7, Gm7, C7, F, Dm, Gm7, C, F, F7, Bb, G7, F, Dm, Gm7, C7, C, F, F. The score ends with a double bar line and the instruction "To verses" and "Last time, Fine".

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Our hearts are ready, O Lord, our hearts are ready!

People: **We will sing and make melody! We will awaken the dawn!**

Leader: We will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples. We will sing praises to you among the nations.

People: For your steadfast love is great above the heavens, and your faithfulness reaches to the crowds.

Leader: Gathered or scattered, O God, we worship you with joy!

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Good Christians All, Rejoice

No. 307
(verses 1 & 4)

Good Christians All, Rejoice

307

C G Am Em C F Dm G C F G7 D C Am C

1 Good Chris-tians all, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph
 2 The Lord of life is risen to - day; death's might - y stone is
 3 We praise in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life, which
 4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with

G/B Am C D G C F Em Dm C/E Dm F G C

of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:
 rolled a - way: let ev - ery tongue re - joice and say:
 can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
 one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored:

Refrain
 C G Am F G D G/B G7 Am Dm F C/G G C

"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!"

WORDS: Cyril A. Alington (1872-1955)
 MUSIC: Melchior Vulpius (1560-1615)
 Words © 1958, Ren. 1986 Hope Publishing Company

GELOBT SEI GOTT
 8.8.8. Alleluias

*SERVICE OF CONFESSION

Leader: We know that nothing is able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. Let us, in freedom, confess the wrong we have done.

People: Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and turn them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us. Heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: Hear the good news: This saying is sure and worthy of acceptance—that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross that we might all be dead to sin and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ: you are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God!

***HALLELUJAH!**

The musical score for 'HALLELUJAH!' consists of four staves of music. The first staff has the lyrics 'Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht' with a 'C' time signature and 'Am7' and 'D7' chord markings. The second staff has the lyrics 'Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht' with 'C', 'D', 'G', and 'D' chord markings. The third staff has the lyrics 'Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht Hal - le -' with 'C', 'D', 'G', 'D', and 'Em' chord markings. The fourth staff has the lyrics 'lu - jaht Hal - le - lu - jaht'.

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Filled with the Holy Spirit

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Jay Waterman, Tavi Haastrup, Rob Paul, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Jerry Newman, Karen Vornholt,

Molly Borkowski, Terri Mullins, Bev Poppe, Julia Paul (Joint Township), Janice Howell, and Dee Schroer.

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray. Standing in awe of your unfathomable grace, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

SILENT PRAYER

Leader: God, who sees what others cannot see, teach us to look at the world through your eyes. Help us let go of our old ideas of who is in and who is out. Teach us to love all your children as you love us. God of life,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Make us tender stewards of your awesome creation. Give us eyes to see the needs of this earth and hearts to make necessary changes. God of life,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Call our leaders to set aside preconceived ideas and to be open to the contributions of people from all backgrounds. God of life,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: We ask your healing for all who suffer afflictions of body, mind, or spirit. Lift them up and bring them to wholeness. God of life,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Let peace ring out upon the earth. Still the hate within our hearts and strengthen our hands and our voices to work for justice and peace. God of life,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: We lift up all the saints who have gone before us, who have taught us to see the world in new and marvelous ways. God of life,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Confident of the promise of resurrection, we lift all these prayers to you, O God, in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together, **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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver**

us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 10:1-17, 34-48 (NRSV)

In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian Cohort, as it was called. ² He was a devout man who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God. ³ One afternoon at about three o'clock he had a vision in which he clearly saw an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius." ⁴ He stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" He answered, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. ⁵ Now send men to Joppa for a certain Simon who is called Peter; ⁶ he is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside." ⁷ When the angel who spoke to him had left, he called two of his slaves and a devout soldier from the ranks of those who served him, ⁸ and after telling them everything he sent them to Joppa.

⁹ About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while it was being prepared he fell into a trance. ¹¹ He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. ¹² In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. ¹³ Then he heard a voice saying, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." ¹⁴ But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean." ¹⁵ The voice said to him again, a second time, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." ¹⁶ This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven.

¹⁷ Now while Peter was greatly puzzled about what to make of the vision that he had seen, suddenly the men sent by Cornelius appeared. They were asking for Simon's house and were standing by the gate.

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness^[a] is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus

Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the gentiles, ⁴⁶ for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸ So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

RESPONSE

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: God is still speaking! Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Visions and Voice

Rev. Daniel Busch

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION

*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 a doxology. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system of music has the following 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: 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, 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): **Living God, you have given us so much in Jesus Christ: hope, joy, and peace. Above all, you have given us life! What can we give in return? If the whole world were ours, it would not be enough. What little we have we humbly offer to you. Amen.**

*HYMN

Christ Is Alive

No. 312
(verses 1, 3, 5)

Christ Is Alive!

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - ery age; till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE: Pass the Love

Pass the Love

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.

Chords: F, Gm7, F, Gm7, F/A, F/Bb, Gm9, C7, F, Gm7, F, Gm7, F/A, F/Bb, Gm9, G7, C, Fmaj7, Dm, F/G, F/C, Am7, Dm7, Gm7, F/C, C7, F.

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pass the peace of Christ 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 Erin Rammel by Kathy Manbeck, Cody and Katie Manbeck, and Family.

Circle of Friends Cards for you to sign are for Elsie Ahlers (North door), Karl Mesloh (South door), and Jerry Newman (East door). Recipients appreciate the cards you sign.

Participants- April 16| Sunday School-28, Teachers-6; Worship Online-105, In-Person-129

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

Disaster Relief Buckets- It's time once again to collect disaster relief items! At the front of the church there are clean up buckets you can use to put your collected items in. The lists of items needed are in the buckets. There is always a continuous need for these buckets which go to the Church World Service. Please set them in the front of the church by April 28th. Thank you for your help!

Cottage Meetings- all are welcome to join for the opportunity to say good-bye to Rev. Becky Erb Strang in a small group setting. Snacks will be provided.

These will be held in the Chapel:

Wednesday April 26. 10:00-Noon

Thursday April 27. 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Also Planned:

Pastor Porch Party. Sunday May 7. 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Volunteers for 60th Northwest Ohio Association Annual Meeting- The Northwest Ohio Association Heartland Conference UCC is looking for breakfast food contributions and volunteers to assist with parking, set up, or clean up on April 29th in Wapakoneta. Please call 419-303-0325 if you would like to help.

May Book Club- We will be reading *Little Princes: One Man's Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal* by Conor Grennan. Books are available to pick up from the table outside Pastor Becky's office. This event will be offered via Zoom and in-person on Sunday, May 7, following worship in the Zoom Room.

Senior Recognition- Please mark your calendars for May 14th to honor the Seniors' accomplishments during the 10:15am worship. Seniors-please RSVP to the church office if you are able to attend.

Brain Longevity Class- A class on how to prevent or slow Alzheimer's Disease. Class will be held on Saturday April 29th from 9am-noon in the theater room. The cost per participant is \$30 a person/\$45 a couple. Register by calling Kimberly Oen at 419-500-4935.

April Monthly Mission: Temple Hills

The Hills are Alive!! Nestled in the rolling landscape of Central Ohio, Temple Hills offers a sacred space beloved by generations, a place for spiritual growth and fun. Stewarded by the churches of the Heartland Conference, Temple Hills is a place for people of all ages to be able to connect with God in nature. As our April mission project for the month, we would like you to prayerfully consider donating to "The Hills are Alive" campaign to give our current and future generations a special place to learn and grow.

Thank you, The Mission Team

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: 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.

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- Kleenex, Women's Body Wash, Shampoo, Razors, Shaving Cream, Garbage Bags, Bandages, Cotton Balls, Vaseline, Sunscreen, Baby Wipes, Baby Shampoo, 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. 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 April 23, 2023

Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School
	10:15am	Worship In Person & via Facebook Live
	11:15am	Mission Team Meeting
Monday	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop-NB Coffee Shop
Tuesday	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Wednesday	10:00am-Noon	Cottage Meeting
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Thursday	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	6:30pm-8:00pm	Cottage Meeting
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 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

Cottage Meetings with Pastor Becky

All are welcome to join Pastor Becky in the chapel
for a special time set aside for fellowship,
Bible readings, prayers, a time to say good-bye
and look to the future .

Monday, April 17, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Wednesday, April 19, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Thursday, April 20, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Wednesday, April 26, 10:00 am - 12 noon

Thursday, April 27, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Family Fun Night with Pastor Becky

Saturday, April 15, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

