



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

May 21, 2023
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Pastor Becky's Retirement Service

Worship Leaders

Ministers
Rev. Becky Erb Strang
Connie O'Neill
June Oaks

The Congregation
Senior Pastor
Organist
Sr. Deacon

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF CANDLES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barb Holdren

Video Tribute from the Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins

*WELCOME SONG: No Matter

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 (from Chalice Worship)

Keith May

Leader: Out of the fullness of the lives God has given us, we have come to worship and to praise.

People: With thanks we offer to God the creativity of our minds, the warmth of our hearts, and the joy of our spirits.

Leader: We love because God has first loved us, freeing us from the power of sin and death.

People: With glad hearts, let us join together in singing praise to God: Creator, Word, and Holy Spirit!

**How would
you live if
you knew
there was
enough
LOVE
to go around?**

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Every Morning Is Easter Morning
 Every Morning Is Easter Morning

Words and Music by
 Richard Kinsey Avery
 and Donald Stuart Marsh

B \flat F 7 B \flat

Ev - 'ry morn - ing is Eas - ter morn - ing from now on!

5 Cm F 7 Last time to Coda \diamond

Ev - 'ry day's res - ur - rec - tion day, the past is o - ver and gone!

9 E \flat maj 7 Dm Cm 7 F 7

1. Good - bye guilt, good-bye fear, good rid-dance! Hel - lo Lord, hel - lo sun!
 2. Dai - ly news is so bad it seems the Good News sel - dom gets heard.
 3. Yes - ter - day I was bored and lone - ly; But to - day look and see!

13 B \flat Gm 7

I am one of the Eas - ter peo - ple!
 Get it straight from the Eas - ter peo - ple!
 I be - long to the Eas - ter peo - ple!

15 1, 2. F⁷ | 3. F⁷

My new life has be - gun! me!
 God's in charge! Spread the word!
 Life's ex - cit - ing to

D.C. al Coda

18 Coda

B^b F⁷ B^b F⁷

Ev - 'ry morn - ing is Eas - ter morn - ing, ev - 'ry morn - ing is Eas - ter morn - ing,

22 B^b F⁷

ev - 'ry morn - ing is Eas - ter morn - ing,

24 C^m F⁷ B^b

from now on!

Living God, we seek your presence now.

Our minds cannot understand you, yet our hearts cry out for a living relationship with you.

Our eyes cannot see you, yet without you there would be nothing to see.

Our faith cannot grasp you, yet in you we live and move and have our being.

Our way ahead into this week is hidden from us, but we trust that you have prepared a way through for us.

Renew our vision of the eternal truth in the light of which our day-to-day lives must be lived.

Open our eyes to see your presence in the simple glories of everyday things.

Light up our relationships with other people by the living love of Jesus.

Help us so to see where we went wrong in the past, that we shall be able to begin anew for the way ahead.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

***HALLELUJAH!**

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht Hal - le -

lu - jaht Hal - le - lu - jaht

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. It consists of four staves. The first three staves are vocal lines with lyrics underneath. The fourth staff is a piano accompaniment. Chord markings are placed below the piano staff: C, Am7, D7, D, G, D, Em.

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Jean Erb

Joys: Worshiping as The Body of Christ

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, Denise Joyce, Bev Poppe, Julia Paul (St. Rita's), Ann Hudson, Nancy Moots, and Dee Schroer.

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 58:6-9 (NRSV)

Mimi Messick

Is not this the fast that I choose:

*to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?*

*⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?*

*⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.*

*⁹ Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."*

EPISTLE LESSON: Romans 12:3-21 (The Message)

Bryan Trego

I'm speaking to you out of deep gratitude for all that God has given me, and especially as I have responsibilities in relation to you. Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace, it's important that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God.

No, God brings it all to you. The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him.

⁴⁻⁶ In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around. The body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn't amount to much, would we? So since we find ourselves fashioned into all these excellently formed and marvelously functioning parts in Christ's body, let's just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't.

⁶⁻⁸ If you preach, just preach God's Message, nothing else; if you help, just help, don't take over; if you teach, stick to your teaching; if you give encouraging guidance, be careful that you don't get bossy; if you're put in charge, don't manipulate; if you're called to give aid to people in distress, keep your eyes open and be quick to respond; if you work with the disadvantaged, don't let yourself get irritated with them or depressed by them. Keep a smile on your face.

⁹⁻¹⁰ Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle.

¹¹⁻¹³ Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality.

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody.

¹⁷⁻¹⁹ Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it."

²⁰⁻²¹ Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness. Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 25:31-40 (The Message) Corrie Reed

Jesus said, "When he finally arrives, blazing in beauty and all his angels with him, the Son of Man will take his place on his glorious throne. Then all the nations will be arranged before him and he will sort the people out, much as a shepherd sorts out sheep and goats, putting sheep to his right and goats to his left.

³⁴⁻³⁶ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what's coming to you in this kingdom. It's been ready for you since the world's foundation. And here's why:

*I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,
I was homeless and you gave me a room,
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
I was sick and you stopped to visit,
I was in prison and you came to me.'*

³⁷⁻⁴⁰ "Then those 'sheep' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'"

SERMON *On Earth As It Is In Heaven* Rev. Becky Erb Strang

ORDER FOR TIMES OF PASSAGE: Farewell Rev. Daniel Busch
GREETING

Leader: Our church family is constantly changing.
People come and go.
Babies are born. Children grow up.
People commit themselves to one another.
Loved ones and friends among us
come to the end of their lives.
Individuals move into our community and church life.
Others leave us, moving away to new places,
new experiences, and new opportunities.

It is important and right
that we recognize these times of passage,
of endings and beginnings.
Today we share the time of farewell
with a friend who is leaving.

REMEMBRANCE AND RECOGNITION

GIVING AND SHARING SYMBOLS

ENDING AN AUTHORIZED MINISTRY RECOGNITION OF THE END

Leader: On August 1, 2009, St. Paul United Church of Christ called the Reverend Rebecca Erb Strang to serve as Senior Pastor.

Pastor Becky: I thank St Paul UCC, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last 13 years. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

People: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave for retirement. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

Pastor Becky: I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

VOWS OF RELEASE

Leader: Do you, the members and friends of St Paul United Church of Christ release Rev. Becky Erb Strang from the duties of Senior Pastor?

People: We do, with the help of God.

Leader: Do you offer your encouragement for her life as it unfolds in new ways?

People: We do with the help of God.

Leader: Do you, Becky Erb Strang, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you?

Pastor Becky: I do, with the help of God.

Leader: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here and on the relationship with another who will come to serve?

Pastor Becky: I do, with the help of God.

WITNESS OF THE ASSOCIATION/CONFERENCE

Representative: On behalf of the Northwest Ohio Association, Heartland Conference and the United Church of Christ, I witness to words spoken: words of thankfulness, forgiveness, and release. The member churches of our Association and Conference hold each of you in prayer. We pledge our support in the transitions signified in this service.

Officers: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray,

All: God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we were together in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

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 musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef staff with lyrics 'Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;' and a bass clef staff. The second system has a treble clef staff with lyrics 'praise him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.' and a bass clef staff. Chord symbols are placed above the treble clef staves.

Chord symbols for the first system: G, D, Em, Bm, Em, D, G, D, Em, C, G, D.

Chord symbols for the second system: 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)

Jim Strang

Holy God, take these signs of our labor and love and turn them into hope for others. Take us, your beloved children, and fill us with your love that knows no end, your faith that can do all things, your service that spares no cost, and your patient endurance that hopes to the last. Amen.

*HYMN OF SENDING

I Love to Tell the Story

No. 560

I Love to Tell the Story

G G/B C G

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove, of
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry, 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat what
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best seem

D7 D7/G G D D7

Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love. I love to tell the
 seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet. I love to tell the
 hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest. And when in scenes of

D7/G G Em B C C/G G

sto - ry be - cause I know 'tis true; it sat - is - fies my long - ings as
 sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from
 glo - ry I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old sto - ry that

D7 G/D D7 G *Refrain* D D7 D7/G G G/B C

noth - ing else can do.
 God's own Ho - ly Word. I love to tell the sto - ry, 'twill be my theme in
 I have loved so long.

glo - ry, to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

*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.

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us joyfully 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 Katie Lynn Utz by Marlene Hittepole.

Circle of Friends Cards for you to sign are for John Koeper (North door), Karen Fox (South door), and Alice Hartwig (East door). Recipients appreciate the cards you sign.

Participants- May 14| Sunday School Youth-24, Teachers-7; Worship Online-159, In-Person-165

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

September Book Club- We will be reading *Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Books are available to pick up from the table outside the pastor's office. This event will be offered via Zoom and in-person on Sunday, September 24 following worship in the Zoom Room.

Rev. Becky Erb Strang's Last Day- Please join us for Becky's retirement celebration following worship on May 21st.

Becky, thank you for going above and beyond with everything you have done for our church and congregation over the past 13 years. You will surely be missed, but we are excited for your next chapter. It is well deserved!

Your family,
St Paul UCC

Rev. Dan Busch Preaching- All are welcome on Pentecost Sunday, May 28th at 10:15am worship to hear Rev. Dan Busch's message.

Art Camp Festival 2023- will be Thursday, June 8th from 5-8pm. Mark your calendars! Theme: Happy Birthday, St. Paul!

2023 Altar Flower Chart has open dates: July 2 and July 30. 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.

May Monthly Mission: Crossroad Child & Family Services

Many children - either because of who they are or what has happened to them - have emotional and behavioral difficulties. Crossroad is where they get help, healing, and hope.

Children who come to Crossroad learn to value themselves and others. Values provide the solid ground the children need as they learn, change, and become “valuable” adults.

Thank you for your generous donations to Crossroad Child & Family Services.

-The Mission Team

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- Body Wash (Men’s and Women’s), Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant (Men’s and Women’s), Razors, Softener**

Sheets, Bandages, Cotton Balls, Vaseline, Dish Soap, Kleenex, Baby Wipes, Baby Lotion, Safety Q-tips, Diaper Cream/Desitan. Thank you! There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

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.

May/June 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.

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.

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 May 21, 2023

Sunday	10:15am	Worship In Person & via Facebook Live
	11:30am	Becky's Retirement Celebration
Monday	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop-NB Coffee Shop
Tuesday	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Wednesday	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Thursday	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 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

190th
BIRTHDAY
Celebration!

Art Camp Festival

St. Paul Community Playground
ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, NEW BREMEN

Thursday, June 8th
5:00pm. - 8:00pm.

Hamburgers & Hotdogs
provided by the NB/NK Rotary Club

Bouncy House • Petting Zoo • Mini Golf
K-9 Officer • & More!

FREE EVENT!