

St. Paul United Church of Christ

119 North Franklin Street

New Bremen, Ohio 45869

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Email stpaulnb@nktelco.net

Visit our website at <https://stpaulnb.org>

Like and follow our page

St. Paul United Church of Christ – New Bremen, Ohio on Facebook

Rev. Ken Locke- Interim Pastor stpaulpastor@nktelco.net

Myra Hanenkraat- 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

December 10, 2023
2nd Sunday of Advent

Worship Leaders

Ministers
Interim Pastor
Worship Leaders
Organist
Liturgist
Sr. Deacon

The Congregation
Rev. Ken Locke
St. Paul Youth
Connie O'Neill
St. Paul Youth
June Oaks

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF CANDLES

We Gather Together

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

190TH ANNIVERSARY-DID YOU KNOW?

LIGHTING THE 2nd ADVENT CANDLE:

Leader: Isaiah speaks of our God as a shepherd. God will feed us and gather us in God's arms. (*Light 1st Advent Candle*) This is the candle of hope, and it illuminates God's promise. (*Light 2nd Advent Candle*) This is the candle of love, and its light leads us in God's way. Lord Jesus, light of the world, come quickly.

People: **Lord Jesus, light of the world, come quickly.**

***WELCOME SONG**

Joy to the World!

No. 179 verse 1

Joy to the World!

D Em G D A7 D D F# G A

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; let all their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

D G D D G D D

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,

D A

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 (1) and heaven and na - ture sing,

A7 D G D D Em G D A A7 D

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heaven and na - ture sing,

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also, with you.

Leader: Let us lift up our hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: We are waiting for the coming of Christ,

People: At his birth and at the end of time.

Leader: We are waiting for the coming of Christ,

People: With hope in our hearts, we are waiting.

*HYMN

The First Noel

No. 229

The First Noel

229

D Bm A A7/G D F# F#m G D G D F# Dmaj7 A7/E

1 The first No - el, the an - gel did say, was to cer - tain poor
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the
 3 And by the light of that same star three wise men
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west, o'er Beth - le -
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three, full rev - erent -
 6 Then let us all with one ac - cord sing prais - es

D F# G A7/E D F# D A A7 D A7 D Bm Asus A A7/G D F# G

shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keep - ing their
 east, be - yond them far, and to the earth it gave great
came from coun - try far, to seek for a king was their in -
 hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop and
 ly up - on their knee, and of - fered there in his pres -
 to our heav - en - ly Lord, who hath made heaven and earth of

D G D F# Dmaj7 A7/E D F# G A7 D A7 D *Refrain* A7 D Bm

sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No -
 stay, right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 sence their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.
 naught, and with his blood our life hath bought.

F#m D G D A/C# Bm F#m G D A7/E D F# D A A7 D

el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: With an eye to our sinful past and our glorious future, let us confess our sins to our patiently waiting God.

***CONFESSION**

Leader: Eternal God, we come before you in need of grace.

People: Too often our thoughts are judgmental or condemning, tearing down rather than building up.

Too often our words are sarcastic or harsh, as harmful as weapons.

Too often our actions are motivated by selfishness, and we do not recognize the hurt or need in others.

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, and draw us back into right relationship with you, our neighbors, and your creation.

(TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION)

***PARDON**

Leader: The promise is sure: Christ's advent is near, and in Christ we are forgiven all our sin. Know that you are a beloved child of God, and be strengthened in all goodness.

People: In the strength of God's goodness, we proclaim the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

F Bb F C7 F C7 F

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and the Son and the Ho - ly Ghost. As it

5 Gm C7 F Dm Gm C7 F

was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be, world with - out end, A - men. As it

9 Gm C7 F Dm Gm C7 F

was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be, world with - out end, A - men.

13 Am Dm Gm C7 Am Dm Gm C7 Am Dm Gm C7 F Bb

A - men. A - men. A - men. A - men. A - men. A - men. A - men.

God's Word Is Proclaimed

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 40: 1-11

(OT) pg. 667

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will

feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Mark 1: 1- 4

(NT) pg. 34

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

SERMON

Let's Go Caroling

St. Paul Youth

We Respond to God's Word

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Eternal God, as you led your people in ages past, you direct our journey into the future. We give you thanks that you came to us in Jesus Christ, and we eagerly await his coming again that his rule may be complete and your righteousness reign over all the world.

People: Until that glorious time, we pray for the world and all who are in it. We ask your peace in lands of war and oppression. We ask your wisdom for both national and community leaders. We ask your Spirit to reside in our communities, our churches, our families, and ourselves.

Leader: We ask your healing mercy in the bodies, minds, and spirits of all who are suffering. Especially we lift to your ears Tavi, Rob, Greg, Bart, Karen, Terri, Denise, Bev, Ann, Nancy, Dee, and Virginia.

Leader: Gracious Lord with firm confidence we look beyond this world to the next and to that glorious time when we will feast at Christ' royal banquet, and sing his praises with the choirs of heaven.

People: **By your Spirit, open our eyes to the generosity of your hand, and nurture our souls in all spiritual gifts.**

Leader: Eternal God, fill us with gratitude overflowing that we may share life and love in praise to you, God of all the ages, in the gracious name of Jesus Christ, your Son, by the power of your Holy Spirit, who taught us to pray by saying, . . . **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.**

WE RESPOND WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

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

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Praise God, in Jesus fully known.

Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Amen.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER: **Holy God, you have given us all we need, material and immaterial, even to the gift of your own Son. Receive now our gifts as a sign of our gratitude and faithfulness, and use them for your good work in the world. Amen.**

*HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

No. 180

O Little Town of Bethlehem 180

F Fdim7 F $\frac{F\#dim7}{Bb}$ $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 F

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

F $\frac{F}{Eb}$ D D7 Gsus Gm $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ $\frac{Am}{C}$ C7 F

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love,
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

F $\frac{Edim}{G}$ G#dim7 A N.C. $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ A

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

F Fdim7 F Bb+ $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ $\frac{G7}{D}$ $\frac{Am}{C}$ C7 F

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

*BENEDICTION:

Leader: Let all God's people say:

Alleluia, Amen!

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

No. 154 v. 1 & 2

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel 154

Unison

Em Bm G Am Am G D G D Bm C G

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
 3 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
 4 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Am Em Bm Em Am Am Em B7 Em Bm C D Em

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, and
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill

Refrain (Harmony)

D Bm G G Am Am G D G D Em Bm G

til the Son of God ap - pear.
 death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 cause us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
 the whole world with heav - en's peace.

Am Am G D Em D G G C G Am Em D Em

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

*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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are in memory of Raymon, Anna, and Eugene Plattner by Bev Plattner. After Sunday's worship, please take home your altar flowers. They will be kept in the church office after Sunday.

Circle of Friends Cards for you to sign are for Elsie Ahlers (South door), Ken and Regina Sudman (North door), and Cathy Maurer (East door). Recipients appreciate the cards you sign.

<p>Participants- December 3rd Sunday School Youth-21 , Teachers-5, Worship In-Person-81, Online-28 Youth Group Youth-32, Adults-9</p>

New Office Hours- Please welcome Jenn Snider as our new administrator! Starting December 4th, the new office hours will be M-F, 9:00am–Noon. We are looking for volunteers to answer the phones and do light office work M-W, 9:00am–Noon. Anyone who would like to regularly volunteer their time and talent should please contact the office or Myra. Thank you!

Church Nursery Champion- We are looking for a nursery champion. If you feel called to be that person, please contact the church office. In the meantime, if you would like to volunteer on a Communion Sunday (First Sunday of each month) to help in the nursery, please contact the church office until a champion is found.

December Monthly Mission: UCC Christmas Fund

"GRACE UPON GRACE": the December Mission is the United Church of Christ's Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross. Our gifts help retired

clergy, church staff and their surviving spouses to pay bills, maintain their health insurance and meet emergency needs. These servants of the church have spent lifetimes baptizing and blessing, teaching and preaching, marrying and burying, comforting and empowering us. Now through the Christmas Fund we have the opportunity to sustain and empower them. "And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace John 1:16

The Mission Team thanks you for your continued generosity!!

DECEMBER EVENTS

December 10th | Mission Team Meeting- will be held in the assembly room following worship.

December 12th | Church Council Meeting- will be held in the assembly room following the staff and council Christmas dinner at 6pm.

December 13th | Youth Group Christmas Caroling- Please arrive at church at 6:15pm. After caroling, we will end up at DQ with a pick up time of 8:45-9pm at DQ.

December 14th | Women's Service Group- will meet for lunch at 11:00am at the Coffee Shop. Following lunch, we will go to the church to prepare gift bags for our homebound members. Members are asked to bring two dozen cookies. All are welcome. Call Sally Dicke 419-629-2720 for more information.

December 14th | Year End Finance Meeting- will be held at 6:00pm in the assembly room.

December 15th | Deadline for Monthly Mailer Submissions- Please submit any information you would like included in the January mailer to the church office email stpaulnb@nktelco.net by Monday, December 15th. Thank you!

December 17th | Sunday School's Christmas Party- Join us for a Christmas Party at 9am! We look forward to celebrating the holiday season with you during Sunday School.

December 17th | Worship Team Meeting- will be held following worship in the assembly room.

December 17th | Christmas Caroling- at 1:30pm. Come and join us in spreading holiday cheer through the gift of songs! Please see the insert in the back of the bulletin for more details.

December 20th | Youth Group Dinner- Please meet at church at 6pm and we will carpool to Do Good Restaurant. If you would like to contribute to the “tip of the month” at Do Good, please bring money with you. Pick-up time will be around 8:45-9pm at the church.

December 21st | Community Candlelight Remembrance Service- This ecumenical service of hope for the holidays will be held from 7:00-8pm at The Church of The Holy Redeemer. All are welcome.

December 24th | No Sunday School- for Christmas Break; Dec. 24th- Dec. 31st. Sunday School will start back up on January 7th at 9am.

December 24th | Christmas Services- This Sunday, we have three worship services lined up. Join us at our regular 10:15am service, then from 5 to 7pm for drop-in communion at 5:30, 6:00, 6:30, & 7:00pm. Finally, a Candlelight Service at 11:00pm. Please see the insert in the back of the bulletin for more details. We look forward to sharing these meaningful moments with you.

December 27th | No Youth Activities- for Christmas Break; Dec. 27th-Jan. 3rd. Wednesday youth activities will start back up on January 10th.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

2024 Council Candidates- We are looking for a council candidate to fill the Jr. Deacon position. If you feel God is laying this on your heart or you would like to nominate someone, please reach out to the church office or Myra Hanenkratt.

2024 Altar Flower Chart is posted. Please sign up for the date(s) you would like. You may also call the church office to sign up. 2024 altar flower price will be \$40.00. Thank you.

St Paul UCC Job Openings-The following positions are available: 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 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 open 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- Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Laundry Soap, Body Wash-Adult, Toothpaste-Adult, Shaving Cream, Shampoo, Conditioner, Cotton Balls, Baby Lotion. Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

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 December 10, 2023

Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School
	10:15am	Children's Christmas Worship In Person & via Facebook Live
	11:30am	Mission Team Meeting
Monday	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop-NB Coffee Shop
Tuesday	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	7:00pm-8:00pm	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	5:30pm	Splash
	6:30pm	Youth Dinner
	7:00pm	Confirmation
	7:00pm	Youth Group
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.



JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS CAROLING!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th

@ 1:30 PM

Come as individuals or families. All ages are invited to join a group from our church for Christmas Caroling to members that may be shut-in or could use an uplifting spirit during the Christmas Season.

We will meet in the Assembly Room and will divide in groups to carol to members close or in New Bremen. Carpooling will be available.

After caroling (at approximately 3pm), we will meet in the Assembly Room for refreshments.

COME AND JOIN THE FUN!



Christmas Eve Worship

December 24th, **5:00 – 7:00 pm**

Our 5:00 – 7:00 pm Christmas Eve worship will be a modified service of lessons and carols. It is **designed for individuals and families, who may be running to any number of events, to have a few minutes of calm and relaxation.** A few minutes to remember the reason we celebrate and receive spiritual nurture.

Communion will be offered at 5:30, 6:00, 6:30 and 7:00!

Before each communion there will be a short time of Scripture and favorite Christmas Carols.

Come when you can, stay as long as you like.



Christmas Eve Worship

December 24th, **11:00 pm**

Our 11:00 pm Christmas Eve worship will be **our more formal, traditional worship service with the added joy of candlelight.**

We'll hear the old, yet always new, story of Jesus' birth and affirm again its importance for our lives. We will again sing "Silent Night", in both German and English, and give thanks for Jesus' life on earth as we look forward to Christ's return in glory. Please join us for this service of solemnity and joy!



Merry CHRISTMAS

YOUTH FAMILIES!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 [AT] 9 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK: DEC. 24 & DEC. 31

YOUTH CHRISTMAS BREAK: DEC. 27 & JAN. 3

**JOIN US FOR
CHRISTMAS EVE**

10:15 AM WORSHIP

**5 PM - 7 PM OPEN HOUSE
11 PM SERVICE**

