

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

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 Hanenkratt- Council President 419-305-3652



Cover Art by Allie and Josie Bornhorst

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. 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 31st, 2023
First Sunday of Christmas

Worship Leaders

Ministers
Interim Pastor
Accompanist
Sr. Deacon

The Congregation
Rev. Ken Locke
Arianna Henry
June Oaks

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF CANDLES

We Gather Together

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*OPENING SONG

Joy to the World!

No. 179 v. 1

Joy to the World!

D Em
G D
A 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,
poy; 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: This is the beginning of the good news.

People: We receive the good news with joy.

Leader: Come and follow where Jesus leads.

People: We prepare our hearts for the coming journey. Together, we journey into the joy of worship.

***HYMN**

Be Thou My Vision

No. 502

Be Thou My Vision

502

Eb
 $\frac{Eb}{G}$
Ab
Bb
Ab
 $\frac{Eb}{G}$
Cm
Bb
Eb

1 Be thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my Wis - dom, and thou my true Word,
 3 High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Bb
 $\frac{F7}{C}$
 $\frac{Bb}{D}$
Eb
 $\frac{Eb}{G}$
Ab
 $\frac{Eb}{G}$
Cm
Bb

naught I be ev - all else to me, save that thou art—
 I may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

Ab
 $\frac{Ab}{C}$
 $\frac{Ab}{Eb}$
Eb
 $\frac{Gm7}{D}$
Cm7
Cm
Gm7
Ab
Bb

thou my and best thought, by day or by night,
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Eb
 $\frac{Bb}{D}$
Cm
 $\frac{Eb}{Bb}$
 $\frac{Eb}{G}$
 $\frac{Fm}{Ab}$
Ab
Fm7
Eb

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 high King of heav - en, my Treas - ure thou art.
 still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

WORDS: Irish hymn, 8th c.; tr. Mary E. Byrne (1880-1931); versed Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935)
 MUSIC: Irish melody; arr. Jack Schrader (1942-)

Music Arr. © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

SLANE
10.10.10.10.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: As fellow travelers of the way of the cross, we lighten our loads by confessing our sins to God and one another.

***CONFESSION**

Leader: Ever-present God, a calendar year is ending, and a new year is dawning.

People: We confess we prefer measuring time by the calendar of the world than the movement of your Spirit.

We are more concerned with growing wealthy than growing spiritually.

We are looking to the future with thoughts of family and vacations more than thoughts of ministry.

Leader: Forgive us, ever-present God, and draw us back into right relationship with you, our neighbors, and your creation.

People: God, forgive us. Lord, hear our prayer!

(TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION)

***PARDON**

Leader: Believe the good news of the Gospel: Christ is among us, and in Christ we are forgiven for all our sins.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

*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

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Mark 1:1-20

(NT) pg. 34

¹The 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. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." ⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." ¹²And the Spirit

immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” ¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

*HYMN

Blessed Assurance

No. 426

D G/D D A/E

1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! O what a fore-taste of
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest, I in my Sav-ior am

E7 A D G/D D

glo-ry di-vine! Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God,
 burst on my sight; an-gels de-scend-ing, bring from a-bove,
 hap-py and blest, watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove,

D G Em/G D/A A7 D Refrain

born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
 ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love. This is my sto-ry,
 filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

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

this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long; this is my

D G/D D D7 Em/G D/A A7 D

sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

We Respond to God's Word

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: With confidence in your promises kept, we pray for the church, world, and all in need.

Holy God, you called Jesus into ministry through baptism and wilderness. Strengthen us by our own baptism, that we might overcome challenges and live fully into your call to follow Jesus.

People: God of promise, in mercy hear our prayer.

Leader: Your beautiful creation is inseparable from the stories of Jesus: from the Jordan River, to the wilderness spaces, to the Sea of Galilee. Make us appreciate our own interdependence with the natural world.

People: God of creation, in mercy hear our prayer.

Leader: Give wisdom and discernment to those who lead and those who follow, that they might choose the path of justice for the good of all.

People: God of all wisdom, in mercy hear our prayer.

Leader: Hold all who are living with illness of body, mind, or spirit in your loving care, and give them the peace only your presence can bring. Today we especially lift up to your mercy, Tavi Haastrup, Rob Paul, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Karen Vornholt, Terri Mullins, Denise Joyce, Bev Poppe, Ann Hudson, Dee Schroer, and Anna Hoelscher. Grant to these and so many others your healing grace.

People: God of true healing, in mercy hear our prayer.

Leader: Sustain those who are working for climate justice around the world, and soften the hearts of those who would sacrifice the health of the world and its people for their own gain.

People: God of good creation, in mercy hear our prayer.

Leader: God of our journey, we lift all our prayers, spoken aloud and whispered in our hearts, into your loving presence, trusting in your love and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us travel the journey of life when he taught us how to pray, 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: Generous God, out of your abundance you provide all that we need. We return now our gifts, from what you have given us. Use them for the sake of the one who gave all of himself for the good of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.**

***HYMN**

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

No. 505

505 All the Way My Savior Leads Me

G G $\frac{7}{4}$ G D $\frac{D}{C}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{D}{A}$ G

1 All the way my Sav-ior leads me; what have I to ask be-side?
 2 All the way my Sav-ior leads me, cheers each wind-ing path I tread,
 3 All the way my Sav-ior leads me; O the full-ness of his love!

$\frac{C}{G}$ G D7 Em $\frac{G}{D}$ D A $\frac{D}{A}$ A7 D

Can I doubt his ten-der mer-cy, who through life has been my guide?
 gives me grace for ev-ery tri-al, feeds me with the liv-ing bread;
 Per-fect rest to me is prom-ised in my Fa-ther's house a-bove;

$\frac{C}{D}$ D7 G G $\frac{7}{4}$ G $\frac{C}{G}$ G $\frac{G}{B}$ D G $\frac{C}{G}$ G D

Heaven-ly peace, di-vin-est com-fort, here by faith in him to dwell,
 though my wea-ry steps may fal-ter, and my soul a-thirst may be,
 when my spir-it, clothed im-mor-tal, wings its flight to realms of day,

G G $\frac{7}{4}$ G $\frac{D}{A}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{Am}{C}$ C C($\frac{7}{4}$) C $\frac{G}{D}$ D G

for I know, what-e'er be-fall me, Je-sus do-eth all things well;
 gush-ing from the rock be-fore me, lo! a spring of joy I see;
 this my song through end-less a-ges, Je-sus led me all the way;

for I know, what-e'er be - fall me, Je - sus do - eth all things well.
 gush-ing from the rock be - fore me, lo! a spring of joy I see.
 this my song through end-less a - ges, Je - sus led me all the way.

***BENEDICTION:**

Leader: Let all God's people say:

Alleluia, Amen!

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

No. 218 v. 1

218 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain (Unison)

F B \flat F Dm Gm B \flat / $\overset{\text{C}}$ C F B \flat / $\overset{\text{C}}$

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - ery-where;

F B \flat F Dm B \flat 6 B \flat / $\overset{\text{C}}$ C7 F

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.

Parts

F C7/G F A F A Gm B \flat / $\overset{\text{C}}$ C7 F

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

F Am7/E Dm7 G G7 C C7/E

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

*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 honor of Dorothy Herenstein's birthday by June Oaks. 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 Kendra Bonifas (South door), Pam Simon (North door), and John Voress (East door). Recipients appreciate the cards you sign.

New Office Hours- Please welcome Jenn Snider as our new administrator! As of December 4th, the new office hours are 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!!

JANUARY EVENTS

January 2nd | Elmwood Worship- starts at 2:00pm. All are welcome to assist Rev. Locke with this wonderful service. Please meet him by 1:45pm at Elmwood.

Women's Service Group will meet on January 11th at 1p.m. for a soup lunch in the Assembly Room. Following lunch, the group will view the film Philomena. All are welcome to join us. Contact Sally Dicke for more information.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

On behalf of the family of Vernon Paul- We would like to express our thanks to all of those who assisted in the services at our father's funeral. Our gratitude goes out to Rev. Locke for the lovely scripture and delivering the homily and Connie O'Neill for the beautiful music at the service and anyone else assisting at the service that we may be missing. We would also like to thank the funeral luncheon committee for organizing the luncheon and anyone who may have brought food. Also thank you to anyone who may have given memorials and for all of the thoughts and prayers during this difficult time for our family.

The Vernon Paul Family

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, Body Wash-Adult, Shampoo, Conditioner. 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 31, 2023

Sunday	10:15am	Worship Service In Person & via Facebook Live
Monday		Office Closed – Happy New Year!
Tuesday	2:00pm	Elmwood Worship
	5:30-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Wednesday	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Thursday	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Friday	Noon	Office Closed
Saturday	8:00am	Men’s Club at Speedway Lanes
	5:00-6:00pm	Worship w/ Holy Communion

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.

