July 11, 2022

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

We greet you in the name of the Holy Spirit who blows wind and fire and joy into our lives!

Summer is humming along at St. Paul Church. Worship services are Spirit-filled. This past week's meditation from our SALT Interns, Elyssa Mullins and Eli Schmitmeyer is included in this mailing. Bryan Trego finishes his part time status this week as Pastor Becky returns from foot surgery on Friday. Thank you Bryan for everything!

We thank you for volunteering in so many ways: Art Camp Festival, youth programming and Sunday School teaching, music ministries. and serving as Champions for a variety of ministry opportunities. We still need Champions in these areas:

Funeral Lunches Nursery Coordinator Daily Devotions Community Meal Coordinating Team If you feel led by God to volunteer in any of these areas, please contact the church office.

We thank you for your faithfulness. We thank you for your generosity. We thank you for your love for God and neighbor.

Blessings,

Roland Dicke

Rosend Decker Mysa Hannkutt Myra Hanenkratt

Council President Council VP

Financial Information as of July 11, 2022

Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00

Giving Income \$2,848.00 (weekly) Income \$16,796.20(ytd)

Income \$163,638.54(vtd) Expenses \$167,155.00(ytd)

Balance (\$3,516,46)(ytd)

Building Maint & Property

Beg. Balance \$36,648.59 Income \$34,772.50(ytd)

Endowment Inc. (\$6,220.54)(ytd)

Expenses \$13,407.30(ytd)

Balance \$51,793.25(ytd)

Project of the Year

Income \$5,859.00

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$12,218.82

Endowment Trans \$12,100.00(vtd) Expenses \$13,110.37(vtd)

Balance \$15,904.65(vtd)

Blessing Pantry

Beg. Balance \$29,161.12 Income \$8,150.00(ytd)

Expenses \$7,346.06(ytd) Balance \$29,965.06(vtd)

Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00

Income \$150.50(weekly)

Income \$11,979.00(vtd)

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 space gl (hit send)
- > For building & property fund giving: Send 25 space bp (hit send)
 - > For Blessing Pantry: Send 25 space pantry (hit send)
- > For project of the year giving: Send 25 space 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.

Please keep the families of Timothy Smith and Jeanette Quellhorst in your prayers. Tim passed away Thursday, June 30, 2022. Service to celebrate his life were held Thursday, July 7, 2022.

Jeanette passed away Sunday, July 3, 2022. Private family services to celebrate her life were held Thursday, July 7, 2022.



Jesus cares about us very much.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	Mark 6:30-34,53-56	Jesus teaches and heals
Monday	Jeremiah 50:6-7	God the true pasture
Tuesday	Zechariah 9:14-17	God will save the flock
Wednesday	Luke 15:1-7	Parable of the lost sheep
Thursday	2 Samuel 5:1-12	David is to shepherd Israel
Friday	Acts 20:16,25-38	Paul teaches the elder shepherds
Saturday	Psalm 100	We are God's sheep
Sunday	John 6:1-21	Jesus feeds the five thousand

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

When Jesus arrived, he saw a great crowd waiting. He felt sorry for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began to teach them many things. Mark 6:34 (NCV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, lead us today to quiet places where we can rest with you. Amen. (Mark 6:31)

Mealtime Prayer:

Our Good Shepherd feeds us. Our Good Shepherd leads us. Thanks be to God! Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord touch you with love, show you kindness and bring you healing. Amen. (Mark 6:34,55-56)



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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you felt sorry for someone. When did you need someone to feel sorry for you?
- Mark 6:34 tells us that Jesus cared very much about the people who came to see him and listen to him. In what ways has Jesus shown his care for you?
- In what ways do you need Jesus' care right now?

DEVOTIONS

Jesus took his disciples away with him to a quiet place (Mark 6:31-32). Spend some time together in silence during your household devotional times this week. Light a candle to represent the presence of Jesus with you. Focus together on the candle in your silence. Then, share with each other the thoughts that came to you during this time.

SERVICE

Many people looked to Jesus for teaching, healing and guidance. His ministry was very busy and demanding. Those in helping professions (e.g. teachers, doctors, pastors, nurses, firefighters, police officers and others) have many demands placed on them. Their work can be very tiring and sometimes stressful. Think of a way you can show your appreciation and support to someone in such a profession and plan to do so.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Ephesians 2:21-22 tells us God is at work joining people together and building them up so that they are like a "holy temple for the Lord," a place for God's own Spirit to live. As a symbol of God's construction work in your lives, have fun together making a tent in your home out of blankets, chairs and other furniture. Fill it with cushions and pillows. Gather inside to read and hear favorite Bible stories or to play a board game or card game.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org



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 or stpaulnb@gmail.com

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

Roland Dicke-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.

July 17, 2022 Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Worship Leaders

Ministers	The Congregation
Rev. Becky Erb Strang	Senior Pastor
Elyssa Mullins	SALT Intern
Eli Schmitmeyer	SALT Intern
Arianne Henry	Accompanist
Tracy Oldiges	Sr. Deacon
Jim Strang	Music Director

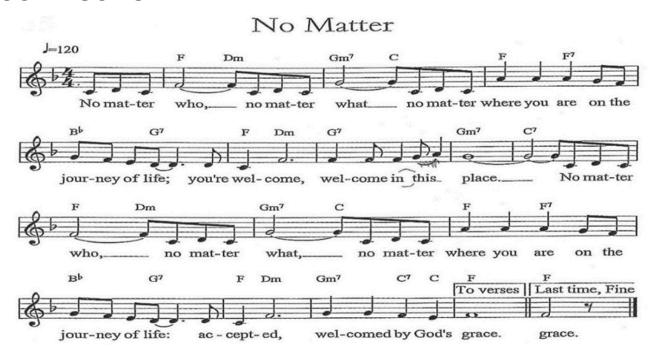
PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF CANDLES: You are invited to light a candle or candles at home in preparation for worship.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RAIN COME DOWN: Bell Choir They also made bells of pure gold, and put the bells between the pomegranates on the lower hem of the robe all around, between the pomegranates; ²⁶ a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate all around on the lower hem of the robe for ministering; as the LORD had commanded Moses. (Exodus 39:25-26) St. Paul Church's Bell Choir makes beautiful music during worship on the first Sundays of each month or on a Sunday that works best for the group. If you would like to become a bell ringer, please see Bell Director, Jim Strang

WELCOME SONG



CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 98:1-6)

Leader: Sing a new song to the Lord, who has worked wonders, whose right hand and holy arm have brought salvation.

People: The Lord has made known salvation; has shown justice to the nations; has remembered truth and love for the house of Israel.

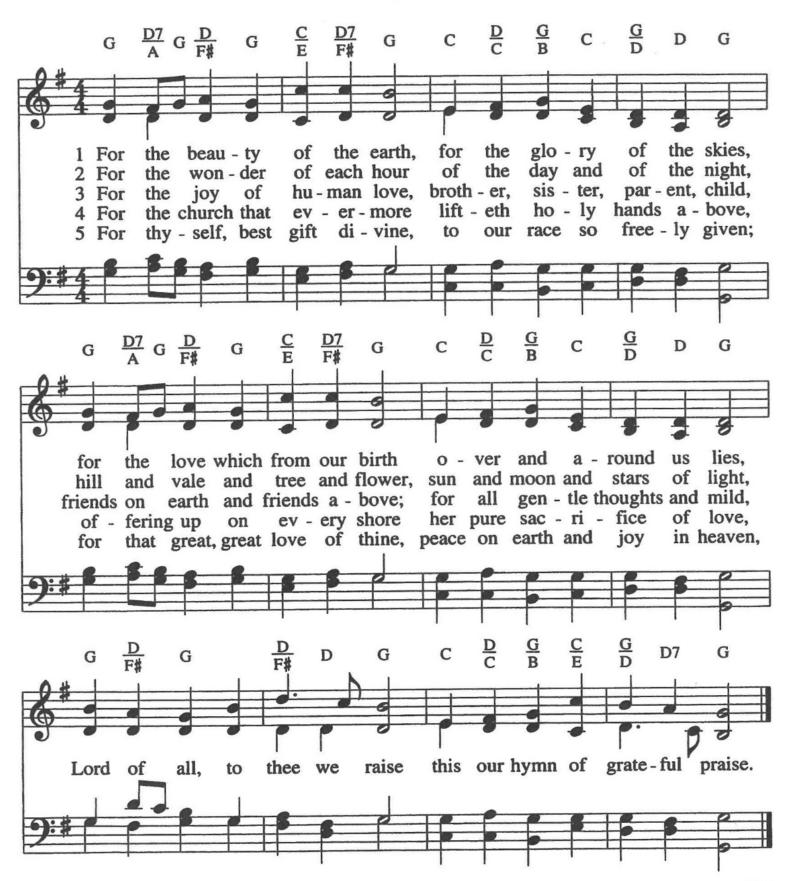
Leader: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

People: Shout to the Lord, all the earth, sing out your joy.

Leader: Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music.

People: With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord.

For the Beauty of the Earth



CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith, let us confess our sins to God.

UNISON CONFESSION OF SIN

O gracious and gentle and condescending God, God of peace, Father of mercy, God of all comfort; we confess before you the evil of our hearts; we acknowledge that we are too inclined toward anger, jealousy, and revenge, to ambition and pride, which often give rise to discord and bitter feelings between others and us. Forgive us this sin and permit us to partake of the blessing you have promised the peacemakers, who shall be called the children of God. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord; though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow, though they are like crimson, they shall become like wool.

People: Amen!



PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Birth Candle-Welcomes Braxton Thomas Barlage born July 2, 2022 to Jeff & Mandy Barlage. He is the brother to Anthony, Adalyn & Macie and grandson of Cheryl & Roger Barlage.

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Lois Dicke, Rob Paul, Ethel Mesloh, Donald Mohrman, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Jan Dammeyer, Shannon Shupp, and Dee Schroer.

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

Holy one, to you forever, let all thanks be sung! Father, may we be glad when it is said to us, "Let us go into the house of the Lord!" Let it be our delight as well as our responsibility to worship you in the fellowship of your church. Prepare us in mind and spirit for our worship, and tune our hearts to sing and speak your praise. May we receive all that you have to give to us, and offer all that you require from us. May our lives as well as our lips glorify you.

Right now, we come to you in silence, yet shouting for joy. Amidst this silence we are overwhelmed by the thoughts of your love for us; for you love us so much that you gave your only son to suffer and die for us. Yet to think that you love us like that, makes us long to break our silence - to shout for joy and sing your praise.

SILENCE

Holy God, You have given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. In him we are loved, ransomed, healed, restored and forgiven. This morning, give us a heart to praise you, our God and father. Accept our worship and praise both silent, spoken and sung to the glory of your holy name. All of this we pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray...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.

(NRSV)

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ 'Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

SUNG RESPONSE

Jesus Loves Me

Music: William B. Bradbury

Words: Anna B. Warner, Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Jesus loves me, this I know:
For his stories tell me so.
Parables to him belong
Turned upside down, he can't go wrong.
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes Jesus loves me: his stories tell me so.

SERMON

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Two men were called on, in a large classroom, to recite the Twenty-third Psalm. One was a published orator trained in speech technique and drama. He repeated the Psalm in a powerful way. When he finished, the audience cheered and even asked for an encore so that they might hear his wonderful voice again. "Then the other man, who was much older, repeated the same words--'The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want...' But when he finished, no sound came from the large class. Instead, people sat in a deep mood of devotion and prayer.

Then the first man, the orator, stood to his feet. "I have a confession to make," he said. "The difference between what you have just heard from

my old friend, and what you heard from me is this: I know the Psalm, my friend knows the Shepherd."

The questions I have for each of us today are: How well do you know the Shepherd??? Do you allow Jesus to be the Shepherd of your life?

Theologian, author, and UCC pastor Flora Slosson Wuellner writes about the picture of Jesus that hung in her bedroom when she was a child. It was a picture of a shepherd climbing down a rugged Cliffside; with one hand he gripped a rock and with another he reached down to a sheep that had fallen on the ledge below. Its face looked up in terror and trust. A bird of prey circled overhead. Rev. Wuellner writes that she couldn't see the shepherd's face as he strained down to the sheep, but she could see the knotted muscles, the bleeding hands and arms gashed by thorns, the twisted garment torn in the steep descent.

Young Flora's parents could tell her, "That is Jesus. That is the Good Shepherd."

Flora was amazed by this. All the pictures she saw in Sunday School of Jesus as the Good Shepherd were of Jesus in a spotless white robe walking calmly in a green field, carrying an equally spotless lamb.

But if we really think about it, Flora's childhood picture of Jesus is more accurate. Jesus called himself the good shepherd—a fitting description this Easter season. Translated from the Greek, "good" means "model"—Jesus is the model shepherd, the true shepherd. As a shepherd, Christ cares for us always. The shepherd does not sleep and will sacrifice all to protect the flock.

At this point in the summer, we are about halfway through our series on the Jesus' parables. And if you haven't figured this out yet, let me be clear: Jesus used everyday objects, everyday scenarios to paint pictures with words. His listeners would have THOUGHT they knew where Jesus was heading with his parable, but time and time again, Jesus turned the story upside down—reaching a completely unexpected conclusion.

Today's parable is a perfect example. What shepherd would abandon 99 sheep to go look for the one who was lost? That doesn't even make sense. What if, while the shepherd went in search for the lost, the other 99 got lost also. Can you imagine the chaos that could ensue?

But the logical way, the practical way, the expedient way is NOT the way of Jesus. Jesus was completely unconcerned with doing things "the

way we've always done them." Instead, he was intent on ushering in the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth. He was focused on showing those in his orbit what it meant to be loved extravagantly.

Indeed, how can we speak of the Kingdom of Heaven if we do not include everyone? How can we hope to bring about the Kingdom of Heaven if the lost and rejected and forgotten are not welcomed and included?

There was a meme on Facebook in the springtime of Jesus holding a sheep around his neck. The sheep was in the colors of the LGBTQ+community. The other sheep, seeing Jesus with the one sheep said, "Whoa! She wasn't lost! We kicked her out." We kicked her out. We kicked him out.

The 99 sheep/the majority do not get to decide who is in and who is out. Jesus decides. And what does Jesus do? Jesus always and forever will go in search of that one sheep who has been excluded and reviled and bullied and told they are without worth. Jesus will always and forever seek out that which is lost and welcome her home/welcome him home. Always.

Catholic theologian Richard Rohr writes this about parables: A parable is not God-as-information. Rather, it is God-as-invitation-and-challenge. A parable calls us to insight and decision...It calls us more to decision and a change of perspective.

A change of perspective. God calls us to see the world through the eyes of Jesus. To view our situation in a new way. To regard others not as "other" but as intimately connected to us.

We, at St. Paul Church, seek to understand, seek new ways of connection, new ways of inclusion. One of the ways we put our faith into action is through service—serving within this family of faith, serving within the wider community and serving the world.

In the coming weeks, you will have the opportunity to offer your gifts, skills and talents to God in service through St. Paul Church. In the past, we have tied this time to financial stewardship—giving of our time as well as our dollars.

During the month of August, you are invited to complete a Time and Talent form—a physical copy or one you can complete online. This way

we can match your passions and dreams with ministry and mission opportunities.

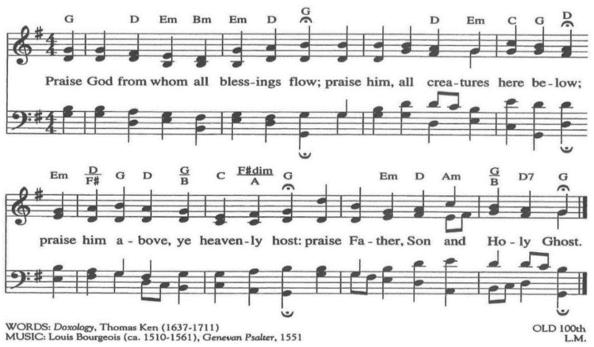
This week, I encourage you to think about how you can serve God through St. Paul Church. I also challenge you to seek the lost sheep in your family, your neighborhood, your workplace, your church, your town. Seek them out and invite them home. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: We live in an "already-but-not-yet" time. We look around and see the healthy green crops of justice and peace struggling to grow, mixed in with the weeds of violence and suffering and fear. We wait like the farmer for the bountiful harvest of God's reign, and in the meantime, we are working hard to nurture every little green shoot of hope. These gifts today are one way we tend the garden, this beautiful green garden of God, staking our hope on the future yield promised by God. Let us give generously for the building up of God's kingdom.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 34



PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

For the wondrous gift of life, we are thankful, O God. Your generous outpouring of grace reminds us of the fruitful life we are called to bear. May these gifts of time and labor, therefore, embody

our desire to share and contribute to your coming reign among us. Amen.

HYMN OF SENDING 515

Hymn of Promise Hymn of Promise



BENEDICTION: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. 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 pass the Peace of Christ to one another!

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are in loving memory of Duane and Doug Hartwig by Alice Hartwig.

Participants-Daily Devotions-58, July 3-Sunday Worship Online-268, In Person-54.

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

Daily Devotions-Please join us, Monday-Thursday at 11:30am, online via Facebook Live. These will air on our Facebook page: St. Paul United

Church of Christ-New Bremen, OH. They will be saved to our Facebook & Instagram page.

Summer Volleyball League for ages 11-17 will play again Wednesday July 20. Feel free to join us.

St. Paul History Exploration-Attention new members, history lover and people wanting to know more about the church! SALT Interns Elyssa Mullins and Eli Schmitmeyer will be offering a history walk/tour of St. Paul Church! This tour will include information about the formation of our congregation, our prior locations/buildings, as well as the stain glass windows in our sanctuary. The tour will begin on July 26 at 7 PM. Please meet in the Theater. We hope to see you there!

Book Club Announcement!-For July, we will be reading *The Wedding Gift* by Marlene Suyapa Bodden. This book was recommended for the club by our own Ann Kuhn!

In 1852, when prestigious Alabama plantation owner Cornelius Allen gives his daughter Clarissa's hand in marriage, she takes with her a gift: Sarah—her slave and her half-sister. Raised by an educated mother, Clarissa is not the proper Southern belle she appears to be, with ambitions of loving whom she chooses. Sarah equally hides behind the façade of being a docile house slave as she plots to escape. Both women bring these tumultuous secrets and desires with them to their new home, igniting events that spiral into a tale beyond what you ever imagined possible.

I hope you will join us for this July read! Pick up your copy of the book from the table outside the church office! Contact Cami Flenar with any questions!

Lost???? Did you lose a dish? There are many unclaimed dishes in the kitchen with no names on them! Why not stop by and see if one (or more) might be yours. If they are not claimed by the end of July, they will be included in the next Rummage Sale! Thanks, Kitchen Team.

School Bags-The Women's Service Group of St. Paul have, for many years, been able to send at least 50 school bags filled with school

supplies to Church World Service to be given to those throughout the world who had recently suffered disasters in their lives caused by wars, floods, tornadoes, fires, etc. Our ability to make fifty school bags is harder because our members are less able due to the age of our bodies and the age of some of our sewing machines. We are asking if there are women and yes, men, who enjoy sewing and would like to help us fill our goal of sending another 50 bags for next year? If you can help, please notify Joyce Gilberg.

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-Toilet Paper, Laundry Detergent, Dryer Sheets, Dish Soap, Diapers (size N, 5, 6), Baby Wipes, Diaper Cream, Shampoo, Conditioner, Bar Soap, Body Wash, Razors, Shaving Cream, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Feminine Hygiene Products, Manicure Items, Bandages, Body/Hand Lotion, Sunscreen, Paper Plates, Napkins, Storage Bags, Garbage Bags, Paper Towels, Pull Ups. Thank you! There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

July Monthly Mission-Community Backpack+ and Washington UCC Back to School Ministry

We are continuing to help the disadvantaged children served by Washington UCC by supporting their *Back to School* ministry program. With the funds, they are able to send many of their low-income children back to school, each in a uniform, if required, or new school clothes, underwear and socks, along with a backpack of school supplies and a personal hygiene kit. Continually, in the month of July we will also be helping the New Bremen based Community Backpack+ Program. The Community Backpack+ Programs have come together each year to ensure that all students in our community have the supplies needed to start each school year. In addition, they donate toward school fees for those who cannot afford them, and fund the local "No-Shame Lunch Fund." The, "No-shame Lunch fund," guarantees that every student in the

New Bremen, New Knoxville, and Minster school districts, receives a complete daily lunch, regardless of the balance in their lunch account.

On average for both organizations it is estimated that each student's average annual needs are \$75.00 per student. So, throughout the month we will be equally sharing the gifts that are donated to provide uniforms and hygiene kits to the children at Camp Washington and school supplies for the students in our community. Gifts at any level are welcomed, and will make a great impact on the children in these communities. Thank you, the Mission Team.

July/August 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.

Calendar-Week of July 17, 2022		
Sunday	10:15am Worship-In Person & via Facebook Live	
	6:00pm-9:00pm	Porch/Playground Party
		St Paul Community Playground
	Hosted by Lisa/Jeff Weigandt Family	
Monday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop @ NB Coffee
Tuesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	6:30pm	Discipleship Team
Wednesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	6:00pm-8:00pm	Volleyball-Ages 11-17
Thursday	9:00am Y	outh Activity-Fishing w/Friends
		John/Nancy Knost Residence
	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Fridav	Noon	Office Closed

JULY 16TH 6-8PM

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

St. Paul UCC New Bremen

JOIN US FOR FOOD,

GAMES, AND ACTIVITIES!

Call 419-629-2502 with any questions!



SUNDAY JULY 17TH
6-9PM
ST PAUL COMMUNITY
PLAYGROUND
NEW BREMEN

HAMBURGERS.
HOTDOGS, AND
DRINKS PROVIDED. IF
ATTENDING PLEASE
BRING A SIDE DISH OR
DESSERT TO SHARE

