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



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, Communion, 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

November 4 and 5, 2023 31st Sunday of Ordinary Time

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Interim Pastor

Pianist (Saturday)

Pianist (Sunday)

Liturgist (Saturday)

Liturgist (Sunday)

Sr. Deacon

Sr. Elder

The Congregation
Rev. Ken Locke
Arianne Henry
Katie Brautigam
Adelle Bretz
Cresta Ritter
June Oaks
Bryan Trego

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF CANDLES

We Gather Together

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP

MOMENT FOR MISSION

*WELCOME SONG

No Matter



*CALL TO WORSHIP

<u>Leader</u>: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

<u>Leader</u>: Let us lift up our hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Our God, indeed, is God alone!

People: Our God, indeed, is God alone!

Leader: Let us put nothing before our God!

People: We will worship only God. Always and only, we will worship

our God.

*HYMN

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

No. 507

507 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



*CALL TO CONFESSION

<u>Leader</u>: Alone and together, in silence and aloud, we confess our sins to God and one another.

*CONFESSION

Leader: God, whose reign is just,

<u>People</u>: We acknowledge that our actions and inactions have led to the oppressions of our neighbors. We have willingly benefitted from privileges that cause harm to others. We have failed to heed your call to lead from a place of humility, and to care for our communities in a way that makes it possible for all to flourish. Forgive us our fear of scarcity and love of power, and keep us ever mindful of the needs of others. God, forgive us. Lord, hear our prayer.

(TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION)

*PARDON

<u>Leader</u>: The Kingdom of God has come near to us! In Christ Jesus, we are reconciled to God, and therefore God forgives all our sins. Let God guide us to work for God's justice.

<u>People</u>: As forgiven people in Jesus Christ, we will work for God's justice. Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Amen!

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

Glory Be to the Father





God's Word Is Proclaimed

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 Kings 18:17-39 (OT) pg. 325 ¹⁷When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is it you, you troubler of Israel?"

¹⁸He answered, "I have not troubled Israel; but you have, and your father's house, because you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and followed the Baals. ¹⁹Now therefore have all Israel assemble for me at Mount Carmel, with the four hundred fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

²⁰So Ahab sent to all the Israelites, and assembled the prophets at Mount Carmel.

²¹Elijah then came near to all the people, and said, "How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." The people did not answer him a word. ²²Then Elijah said to the people, "I, even I only, am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets number four hundred fifty. ²³Let two bulls be given to us; let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it; I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. ²⁴Then you call on the name of your god and I will call on the name of the LORD; the god who answers by fire is indeed God."

All the people answered, "Well spoken!"

²⁵Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many; then call on the name of your god, but put no fire to it."

²⁶So they took the bull that was given them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, crying, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no voice, and no answer. They limped about the altar that they had made.

²⁷At noon Elijah mocked them, saying, "Cry aloud! Surely he is a god; either he is meditating, or he has wandered away, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened."

²⁸Then they cried aloud and, as was their custom, they cut themselves with swords and lances until the blood gushed out over them. ²⁹As midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice, no answer, and no response.

³⁰Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come closer to me"; and all the people came closer to him. First he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been thrown down; ³¹Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD came, saying, "Israel shall be your name"; ³²with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD. Then he made a trench around the altar, large enough to contain two measures of seed. ³³Next he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood. "Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood."

³⁴Then he said, "Do it a second time"; and they did it a second time. Again he said, "Do it a third time"; and they did it a third time, ³⁵so that the water ran all around the altar, and filled the trench also with water. ³⁶At the time of the offering of the oblation, the prophet Elijah came near and said, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your bidding.

³⁷Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back." ³⁸Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and even licked up the water that was in the trench.

³⁹When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The LORD indeed is God; the LORD indeed is God."

TIME WITH CHILDREN

(Our youngest disciples are invited to come to the chancel steps for a special word. Afterwards, they are invited to take a worship bag and return to their seats.)

SERMON

Where's Your Loyalty?

Rev. Ken Locke

We Respond to God's Word

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

In the United Church of Christ, we practice an Open Table. You need not be a church member to commune; you need only a sincere desire to draw near to Christ and seek peace with your neighbor. Saturday and Sunday communion elements are offered by coming forward or are available on the bulletin/offering table. Grape juice is in the center circle of the tray and wine fills the cups around it.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE SACRAMENT

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION AND LORD'S PRAYER

Tavi Haastrup, Rob Paul, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Karen Vornholt, Terri Mullins, Denise Joyce, Bev Poppe, Ann Hudson, Nancy Moots, and Dee Schroer

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.

592 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



*OFFERTORY PRAYER: Holy God, as you used Elijah's offering as a sign of your power, so employ these gifts we bring in service to our neighbors and the whole of creation, that all might proclaim your goodness and mercy throughout the world. Amen.

*HYMN OF SENDING

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

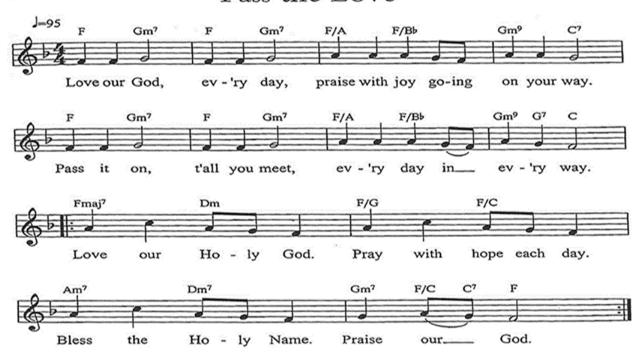
No. 719

719 Go, My Children, with My Blessing



*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.

<u>Leader</u>: Let us share Christ's peace with one another!

*POSTLUDE

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[&]quot;Pass the Love" Words and Music by Doris Ketner Copyright ©2000. All rights reserved. This arrangement by Rodney Milton, Copyright ©2000. All rights reserved. Used by Permission. CCLI License #3095528

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are in memory of Andrew Wray by John and Gin Voress. 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 Rev. John Tostrick (East door), Rob Paul (South door), and Mary Klein (North door). Recipients appreciate the cards you sign.

Participants- October 29 | Sunday School Youth-21, Teachers-6, Worship In-Person-89, Online-35

Veteran's Recognition- Military veterans and active duty personnel will be honored at the beginning of the worship service on Sunday, November 12th. Since, we plan to list the names of veterans and active duty folk from St. Paul UCC in the bulletin that Sunday, please call or email the church office to give us your name and branch served/serving by November 7th.

2024 Offering Envelopes- 2024 Offering Envelope Boxes have been placed in the South West Corner of the sanctuary, in front of the pews. Only those members who are currently using their offering envelopes and/or who have indicated wishing to continue to have an offering box have been assigned an offering envelope box for 2024.

All other members who are giving online or giving without using envelopes have been assigned a "giving" number that is not linked to an envelope box. If you are not on the list of "Envelope Box Numbers" – and you wish to receive an "Envelope Box" – Please contact the church office (419-629-2502) or Janet Eilerman (419-733-7161). I will then assign an Envelope Box number for you and you will be able to pick the box up in the church office.

Thank you! Janet Eilerman - Financial Secretary

November Monthly Mission: Gifts to the Manger

Our November mission once again is Christmas gifts for the children of Washington UCC and surrounding families in Cincinnati. Our donations will be going towards their program called "Gifts to the Manger" in which parents

come to the church to pick out clothes and toys so they can give their children gifts at Christmas. This program will provide gifts to approximately 350 children of the neighborhoods surrounding Washington UCC.

There is a Christmas tree in the Narthex of the sanctuary with ornaments. Each ornament will have gift ideas for a specific age of boy or girl. We ask that you shop for that child and bring your gifts back to church unwrapped and place them under the tree by Sunday, December 3rd. No violent toys or games, please. We are also accepting monetary donations as well which will also go to the "Gifts to the Manger" event. Last year we gave over \$1,000 along with all the gifts to the children. The gifts and money will then be delivered to Washington UCC for their scheduled "Gifts to the Manger" event. Thank you for your generous gifts to this mission!

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Today | **Mission Team Meeting-** will be held in the assembly room following worship.

November 9th | **Women's Service Group-** will meet at church at 10:45am and carpool to Do Good restaurant. We will have lunch at Do Good and a brief meeting. Then we will pack school bags in St. Paul's assembly room after lunch. Please call Phyllis Fledderjohann if you're able to join 419-953-7651.

November 9th | **Deadline for Council Report Submissions-** Please email your reports for the council meeting to the church office by Thursday, November 9. Thank you!

November 11th | Blessing Pantry Event- at Gel's IGA in St. Henry from 8am to 4pm. Gel's IGA will be hosting a food drive for our pantry. Gel's has been one of the biggest donators of our pantry through the years.

They plan to make up bags of groceries that can be purchased for \$10. The buyer is then given a ticket to be drawn for a chance to win some nice prizes. Folks also have the option to buy other groceries to donate.

St. Henry is also having their Holiday Open House that weekend. This event will be a good opportunity to support the pantry, perhaps win a prize, and experience what St. Henry has to offer for the upcoming holiday season.

November 11th | Fall Mom to Mom Sale- Please see graphic for more info.

November 12th | **Adult Sunday School-** The landscape for ministry has changed recently, but how long has it been changing? What are the causes? Is there anything we can do about the larger picture? How can we continue to proclaim the message when it seems like the language itself has changed? There are no easy answers. There are no silver bullets. But there are many, many silver pellets. Together, they can make a difference. Class will meet in the chapel at 9:00am.

November 12th | **Veteran's Recognition**- Military veterans and active duty personnel will be honored at the worship service November 12th. Since, we plan to list the names of veterans and active duty folk from St. Paul UCC in the bulletin that Sunday, please call or email the church office to give us your name and branch served/serving by November 7th.

November 12th | Worship Team Meeting- will meet in the assembly room following worship.

November 14th | **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.

November 14th | **Church Council Meeting-** will be held in the assembly room at 7pm.

November 18th | Christmas Market- all are welcome to shop during this festive time from 9am-1pm.

November 20th | Deadline for Monthly Mailer Submissions- Please submit any information you would like included in the December mailer to the church office email stpaulnb@nktelco.net by Monday, November 20. Thank you!

November 21st | **Stewardship Meeting-** will be held in the assembly room at 6:30pm.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

2024 Council Candidates- We are looking for council candidates to fill these positions: Vice President, Jr. Elder, Jr. Deacon, Treasurer, and a Youth Representative. 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 (January-June). 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 or will be available in the near future: Office Administrator, 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 Office Administrator is a part-time position which includes bulletin creation, keeper of vital church records, and phone answering among other tasks.

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.

St. Paul Church Nursery Announcement-The St. Paul Church Nursery is open on Communion Sunday (First Sunday of each month). If you would like to volunteer, please contact Justine Homan, Nursery Champion, at 937-658-1770.

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- Paper Towels, Kleenex, Laundry Soap, Toothpaste-Adult, Deodorant (Men's and Women's), Shaving Cream, Vaseline, Softener Sheets, Shampoo, Conditioner, Dish Soap, Sanitary Napkins/Tampons, Diaper Cream/Desitan, Baby Wipes, Baby Shampoo, Diapers (Sizes: Newborn and 1-6). 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.

Fall Mom to Mom Sale

Saturday, November 11, 2023 8:00 AM - 12 PM

\$5 Early Bird Entrance 8am - 9 am Shopping \$2 General Admission 9 am - 12 pm Kids are free! Strollers welcome!

> Enter west double doors on Herman Street St. Paul Church 119 N. Franklin Street New Bremen, Ohio 45869

> > 2502

Interested in being a seller? Call 419-629-2502
Proceeds benefit St. Paul Youth Ministries

SELL-SHOP-SAVE

Baby, Kids & Junior Clothing Toys - Games - Books -Baby Gear Halloween Costumes - Holiday Outfits



Calendar-Week of November 5, 2023

Calchaal Week of 100 chibel 2, 2022							
Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School					
	9:00am	Adult Sunday School					
	10:15am	Worship w/ Holy Communion					
		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					
Wednesday	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open					
	5:30pm	Splash					
	6:30pm	Youth Dinner					
	7:00pm	Confirmation					
	7:00pm	Youth Group					
Thursday	10:45am	Women's Service Group-Do Good					
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open					
Friday	10:00am	Office Closed					
Saturday	8:00am-12:00pm	Mom to Mom Sale					

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	g1	(hit send))
\Box	I	Scholar	Iuliu	51 11115.		∽ ⁺ '	(III bolla	,

☐ 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.*





It is time to place your orders for the poinsettia plants that grace our sanctuary during the Christmas season. The poinsettias are 8-inch wrapped in foil with a drip pan. We are offering the choice of Red or White and the cost per plant will be \$17.50. The plants may be picked up <u>after the 11pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</u>.

(<u>Please</u> be sure to pick up the color you ordered so that everyone will be able to enjoy the color of the plant that each chose.)

Poinsettia color choice and quantity:

Red _	Qty	White	Qty
In memory/ho	nor of		
A gift for			
Ву			
I wish to contribute \$	to the C	Christmas Dec	corating Fund.

Please place payment along with the order form in the offering plate or drop off in the church office. Checks should be payable to St. Paul UCC.

Please have poinsettia order in by December 10th.

Every year at this time we also ask for and accept donations to the Decorating Fund. This money will be used toward decorations for the Church and Educational Building.

Please include payment with this order form.

Thank you for helping make our sanctuary even more beautiful as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.