St. Paul United Church of Christ 119 North Franklin Street New Bremen, Ohio 45869 Phone (419-629-2502), Fax (419-629-3207) Email <u>stpaulnb@nktelco.net</u> Visit our website at <u>https://stpaulnb.org</u> 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, 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 26, 2023 Christ the King Sunday

Worship Leaders

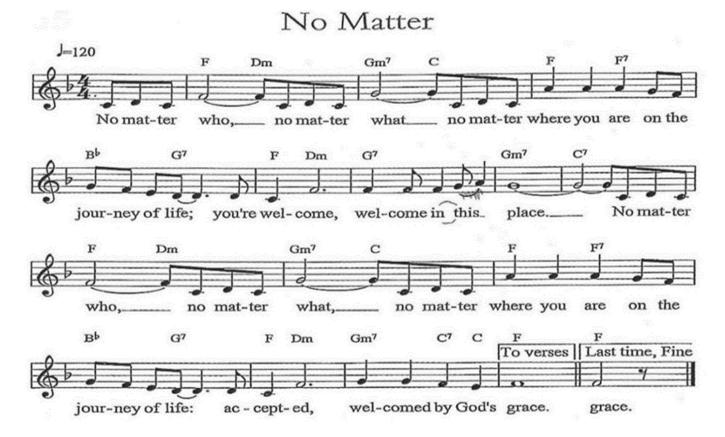
Ministers Interim Pastor Pianist Liturgist Sr. Deacon The Congregation Rev. Ken Locke Arianne Henry Staci Jones June Oaks

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF CANDLES

We Gather Together

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*WELCOME SONG



*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us lift up our hearts.

<u>People</u>: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Come, and hear the Word of God!

<u>People</u>: We gather in this place to listen and learn.

Leader: God reveals God's promise to us in sacred text.

<u>People</u>: We respond by promising faithfulness to God.

Together, we worship God faithfully and well!

*HYMN

Great Is the Lord

No. 50

GOD OF MAJESTY & POWER

50

Great Is the Lord



WORDS and MUSIC: Michael W. Smith (1957-) and Deborah D. Smith (1958-) Words and Music © 1982 Meadowgreen Music (Admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing)

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: With honest faithfulness, we confess our sins before God and one another.

*CONFESSION

Leader: God, whose reign is just,

<u>People</u>: We confess that by our actions and inactions we have wandered from your kingdom. We have forgotten that you are our God. We have neglected to maintain loving relationships with you and your children.

<u>Leader</u>: God, whose reign is just, inspire by your just word to follow in your way. In the name of Jesus we pray,

<u>People</u>: God, forgive us. Lord, hear our prayer.

(TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION)

*PARDON

<u>Leader</u>: Beloved, hear how much God loves us. God's justice is not the harsh, unforgiving justice of the world. God's justice is the justice of loving mercy found only in Jesus Christ. Believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

<u>People</u>: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Amen!

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

SERVICE MUSIC



Music: Copyright © 1967 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



(OT) pg. 355

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: 2 Kings 22:1-20

Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign; he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jedidah daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath. ²He did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the way of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right or to the left. ³In the eighteenth year of King Josiah, the king sent Shaphan son of Azaliah, son of Meshullam, the secretary, to the house of the Lord, saying, ⁴"Go up to the high priest Hilkiah, and have him count the entire sum of the money that has been brought into the house of the Lord, which the keepers of the threshold have collected from the people; ⁵let it be given into the hand of the workers who have the oversight of the house of the Lord; let them give it to the workers who are at the house of the Lord, repairing the house, ⁶that is, to the carpenters, to the builders, to the masons; and let them use it to buy timber and quarried stone to repair the house. ⁷But no accounting shall be asked from them for the money that is delivered into their hand, for they deal honestly." ⁸The high priest Hilkiah said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the book of the law in the house of the Lord." When Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, he read it. ⁹Then Shaphan the secretary came to the king, and reported to the king, "Your servants have emptied out the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of the workers who have oversight of the house of the Lord." ¹⁰Shaphan the secretary informed the king, "The priest Hilkiah has given me a book." Shaphan then read it aloud to the king.

¹¹When the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes. ¹²Then the king commanded the priest Hilkiah, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Achbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan the secretary, and the king's servant Asaiah, saying, ¹³"Go, inquire of the Lord for me, for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found; for great is the wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us, because our ancestors did not obey the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us." ¹⁴So the priest Hilkiah, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to the prophetess Huldah the wife of Shallum son of Tikvah, son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe; she resided in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter, where they consulted her. ¹⁵She declared to them, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Tell the man who sent you to me, ¹⁶Thus says the Lord, I will indeed bring disaster on this place and on its inhabitants—all the words of the book that the king of Judah has read. ¹⁷Because they have abandoned me and have made offerings to other gods, so that they have provoked me to anger with all the work of their hands, therefore my wrath will be kindled against this place, and it will not be quenched. ¹⁸But as to the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the Lord, thus shall you say to him, Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Regarding the words that you have heard, ¹⁹because your heart was penitent, and you humbled yourself before the Lord, when you heard how I spoke against this place, and against its inhabitants, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and because you have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, says the Lord. ²⁰Therefore, I will gather you to your ancestors, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace; your eyes shall not see all the disaster that I will bring on this place." They took the message back to the king.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Luke 24:30-32 (NT) pg. 90 ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

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.)

*HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

No. 72

GOD OF PROVIDENCE & CARE

72

Great Is Thy Faithfulness



WORDS: Thomas O. Chisholm (1866-1960) MUSIC: William M. Runyan (1870-1957) Words and Music © 1923, Ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10.Ref.



SERMON

Good News – After the Fact!

Rev. Ken Locke

We Respond to God's Word

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

<u>Leader</u>: With confidence that God's justice is sure, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of the covenant, let us read your word with the same surprise and wonder as King Josiah, each time as if we are reading it for the first time. Guide us through your letters of love into lives of love, grace, and mercy for all people.

<u>People</u>: God of justice, hear our prayer.

<u>Leader</u>: God of eternity, in the very beginning of scripture you called us to tend to your natural world. Hold us to that call, that we might work diligently to reverse the damage we have done and restore your creation to wholeness.

<u>People</u>: God of good creation, hear our prayer.

<u>Leader</u>: God of life-in-community, inspire all who participate in guiding our lives together, at any level, so that our laws may be just guidelines for the flourishing of all our communities, nations, and the world. <u>People</u>: Three-in-One God of community, hear our prayer.

<u>Leader</u>: God of unbridled joy, we thank you for those who bring laughter into our living. There is so much sorrow – some brought on by others, some we have brought on ourselves. Constantly remind us that you are a

God of joy and laughter. Help us see your sense of humor in the world around us.

<u>People</u>: God of holy joy, hear our prayer.

Leader: God of our days, we remember the saints who have honored your commandments with all they said and did. Keep us in steadfast memory of their examples of holy living. Bless those who even now suffer hardship in mind or body. May their living reflect the glowing warmth of your presence. Today, we lift up for your special watch care – Tavi Haastrup, Rob Paul, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Karen Vornholt, Terri Mullins, Denise Joyce, Bev Poppe, Ann Hudson, Nancy Moots, Dee Schroer, and Virginia Voress.

Leader: God of mercy, we turn all things over to your tender care, trusting that you hear and answer all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, through Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us how to live when he 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.



592 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*OFFERTORY PRAYER: Generous God, you fulfill your promise to care for us each day. We respond by fulfilling our promise to be your people. As a sign of your faithfulness, receive these gifts and use them for the care and keeping of every beloved child of God. Amen.

*HYMN OF SENDING

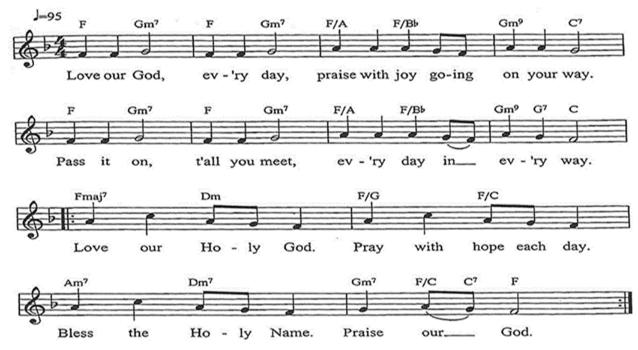
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms No. 496

PILGRIMAGE & PERSEVERANCE

496 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE: Pass the Love Pass the Love



*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

<u>Leader</u>: The peace of Christ be with you <u>People</u>: And also with you. <u>Leader</u>: Let us share Christ's peace with one another!

*POSTLUDE

"No Matter" Words and music by Roger P. Miller ©2007 All rights reserved. "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 Butch and Marge Felver by Morgan Felver & Family.

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 Lowell Quellhorst (South door), Martha Plattner (North door), and Joyce & John Gilberg (East door). Recipients appreciate the cards you sign.

Participants- November 19th | Sunday School Youth-21, Teachers-7, Worship In-Person-68, Online-40

Congregational Meeting- will take place during worship on Sunday,

December 3, 2023. Agenda items include approval of incoming 2024 council members, 2024 Operating Budget and the following **Constitutional Changes under By-Laws. Article II Administration, Section 1. Congregational Business Meetings.**

3. A congregational meeting shall be held on the second first Sunday in Advent for the purpose of electing approving new Church Council members. At this meeting, also, a vote shall be taken on the proposed budget for the next year.

Section 2. Church Council – Election

2. The Church Council shall nominate one candidate from the above list of names for each expiring office and present this slate of candidates at the congregational meeting held the second first Sunday in Advent.

Section 4. Duties of the Officers of Church Council

7. Upon approval of the budget by Council, the budget shall be presented to the Congregation the second first Sunday of Advent.

Section 5. Standing Committees of the Church Council

Add the following standing committee of the Church Council:

9. Personnel Team—The Personnel Team will consist of the Senior Pastor, Council President (or their appointee), and two members of the congregation. The congregational members of the team will serve a two-year term and one will chair the team. They are responsible to handle all personnel issues as they arise. This includes finding substitute staff to cover vacations, illness or other leave of absences. They will also conduct staff reviews and renew staff contracts at the beginning of each year as well as interview and hire any staff replacements.

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.

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!

DECEMBER EVENTS

December 2nd | **Men's Club-** will be meeting at 8am for breakfast at Speedway Lanes. You are welcome to join for conversation and fellowship!

December 2nd | **Saturday Worship-** will be in the chapel at 5:00pm with Holy Communion.

December 3rd | First Sunday of Advent- Experience the anticipation of the birth of Jesus Christ with us during worship as we come together to celebrate this sacred season.

December 3rd | Congregational Meeting- will be held during worship.

December 5th | 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.

December 7th | Deadline for Council Report Submissions- Please email your reports for the council meeting to the church office by Thursday, December 7th. Thank you!

December 10th | Children's Christmas Program- We hope you can join us for a special Christmas program put on by the youth at the 10:15am service!

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 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 | Christmas Caroling- 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 18th | 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 18th. Thank you!

December 20th | Youth Group Dinner- Please meet at church at 6pm and we will carpool to Do Good Restaurant. If you would 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 24th | No Sunday School- for Christmas Break from 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 from Dec. 27th-Jan. 3rd. Wednesday youth activities will start back up on January 10th.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY INFORMATION

School Kit Bags- In April of this year, the Women's Service Group was able to send fifty school kit bags to the Church World Service. Shortly after sending these kits, they received word that they were awarded a grant of \$250 from the Heartland Conference to send fifty more. With the aid of members of our congregation volunteering to sew, we are happy to announce that 50 more School Kit Bags will arrive at a CWS warehouse before the end of this year. A video of our packing for this project was recorded and sent to the Heartland Conference where it was shown on a big screen at their meeting in September. We have been blessed!

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.

Volunteers Needed– Looking for volunteers to be in the office to answer the phone. If interested, please contact the office.

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- Paper Towels, Kleenex, Laundry Soap, Toothpaste-Adult, Deodorant (Men's and Cream, Vaseline, Shaving Softener Sheets, Shampoo, Women's), Soap, Sanitary Napkins/Tampons, Conditioner, Dish 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.

Calendar-Week of November 26, 2023		
Sunday	10:15am	Worship
		In Person & via Facebook Live
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	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Friday	Noon	Office Closed
Saturday	8:00am	Men's Club-Speedway Lanes
	5:00pm	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.



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 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!



<u>Christmas Eve Worship</u> 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.



<u>Christmas Eve Worship</u> 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!