

Joy does not simply
happen to us. We
have to choose joy
and keep choosing it
every day.

Henri J.M. Nouwen



St. Paul United Church of Christ

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Rev. Becky Senior Pastor

Pastor Dee Associate Pastor

Jeff Quellhorst-Council President

May 24, 2020

Seventh Sunday of Easter

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES (please light a candle(s) at home in preparation of worship)

WELCOME

Each week our worship begins with the lighting of our altar candles and the Christ candle. At home, you are invited to also light a candle or candles in preparation for worship.

WELCOME SONG

No Matter

No Matter

J=120

No mat-ter who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the
jour-ney of life; you're wel-come, wel-come in this place. No mat-ter
who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the
jour-ney of life: ac-cept-ed, wel-comed by God's grace. grace.

CALL TO WORSHIP

(from Refreshing Rains of the Living Word by Lavon Bayler)

Leader: Come, celebrate the wisdom God created before the stars were born and set in place.

People: Before the planets cooled around our starlet, wisdom ruled with God beyond all space.

Leader: Rejoice that God created earth in glorious grandeur, towering mountain, and the depth of seas.

People: Give thanks for fertile fields and flowing waters, designed with wisdom, that we might be pleased.

Leader: The majesty of the earth is all around us, and infants sing the glory of the skies.

People: We tremble at the thought that human beings have dominion over all that God supplies.

Leader: Let us worship God!

HYMN OF PRAISE

Christ Is Alive!

Christ Is Alive!

C G7/D C/E F G7/D C G/D C/E

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live and comes to bring good news to

G7/D C G7/F C/E G7/D C G G/B D G G/B

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers, still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, yet
 this and ev - ery age; till earth and sky and

C G/D D7 G G/F C/E C Dm7/F Dm6 C/E Dm/F C/G G7 C

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

SERVICE OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us confession our sin, our brokenness, before God and one another.

UNISON CONFESSION OF SIN: Almighty and most merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. Have mercy upon us. Spare us, O God, as we confess to you. Restore us according to the promises given to us in Jesus the Risen Messiah. All of this we pray in his holy name. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: When we are truly sorry for the brokenness we have caused, God offers healing and forgiveness. We are justified by faith and have peace with God through Jesus Christ. The Spirit of truth will guide us into all the truth. Thanks be to God!

People: Amen!

HALLELUJAH!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jahl

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jahl

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jahl Hal - le -

lu - jahl Hal - le - lu - jahl

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

This Sunday is the last Sunday of the Easter Season. Next week we will celebrate Pentecost—the coming of the Holy Spirit—into our lives.

Today in worship we will celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead—just like we have for the past six weeks. We've used different household items to symbolize Jesus' resurrection, but the most common symbol is that of an egg.

Why an egg? An egg has been a symbol of Easter from the very beginning—the egg itself symbolizes the empty tomb. But let's think about it: if I were to take this egg and crack it open, what would I find? That's right! The egg white and egg yolk. But, if I were to take an egg I had played with and cracked it open, we'd find that it is empty! As empty as Jesus' tomb.

It seems like we can make this empty egg more exciting—more of a celebration of Jesus no longer in the tomb. So this egg, I not only took out the egg parts, I also added confetti! Turning this tomb, this egg, into a celebration.

This week, I encourage you to make your own Easter Celebration Egg—confetti and all at home. Then, before next Sunday's worship, read John 20:1-18, breaking open your confetti egg at the end of the reading.

Let us pray: God, we thank you so much for Jesus who heals us, loves us, forgives us and calls us his own. We thank you that, through your love, Jesus conquered death by being raised to new life. May we celebrate that new life in the days and weeks to come. Amen.

PRAYER HYMN

Because He Lives

Because He Lives

Ab Ab⁴ Ab $\frac{Db}{Ab}$ Ab Ab⁷ Db

1 God sent his Son, they called him Je - sus; he came to
 2 How sweet to hold a new-born ba - by, and feel the
 3 And then one day I'll cross the riv - er; I'll fight life's

$\frac{Ab}{C}$ $\frac{Eb}{Db}$ Ab $\frac{Ab}{C}$ Bdim⁷ Bbm⁷ Eb⁷ Ab $\frac{Db2}{Ab}$ Ab Ab⁷

love, heal, and for - give; he lived and died to buy my
 pride and joy he gives; but great-er still the calm as -
 fi - nal war with pain; and then as death gives way to

Db $\frac{Db}{F}$ $\frac{Dbm6}{Fb}$ $\frac{Ab}{Eb}$ Eb⁷ Ab $\frac{Db}{Ab}$ Ab

par - don, an emp - ty grave is there to prove my Sav - ior lives.
 sur - ance: this child can face un - cer - tain days be - cause he lives.
 vic - tory, I'll see the lights of glo - ry and I'll know he lives.

Refrain
 N.C. $\frac{Ab}{C}$ $\frac{Eb}{Bb}$ Ab Ab⁷ Db $\frac{Ab}{Eb}$ $\frac{Eb}{Db}$

Be - cause he lives I can face to - mor - row; be - cause he lives

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Resurrection". It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a guitar accompaniment line. The lyrics are written below the vocal lines. Above the guitar lines, various chords are indicated, including Ab/C, Ab, Bbm7, Eb7, Ab/C, Eb7/Bb, Ab, Ab4, Ab, Ab7, Db, Db/F, Dbm6/Fb, Ab/Eb, Eb7, Ab, Db/Fb, and Ab.

all fear is gone; be-cause I know he holds the fu - ture,
 and life is worth the liv - ing just be-cause he lives.

WORDS: Gloria Gaither (1942-) and William J. Gaither (1936-)

MUSIC: William J. Gaither (1936-)

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RESURRECTION

Irregular

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Holy God, you have always been our protection and strength. In you, O LORD, we seek refuge. You are indeed our rock and our mighty fortress. Incline your ear to us today. Help us take our stones and not throw them at each other out of anger and frustration and bitterness, but build upon your cornerstone, your son Jesus Christ. Be a rock of refuge for us, a strong fortress to save us. Our lives and times are in your hands. Let your face shine upon us; preserve us in your steadfast love. SILENCE

God of Grace, fill us with Your Holy Spirit, let us gaze into heaven and glimpse your glory. Help us to help bring heaven on earth for those who have known very little heaven. SILENCE

We confess, Lord, we have not been your faithful people. We have used our words, throwing them at each other to hurt. We have used our words to tear down and not to build up. Forgive us. Help us build up the

Body of Christ in this world today. Help us find a home, a dwelling place in your Word. SILENCE

On this Memorial Day weekend, we remember those who have died that we might live in freedom. We remember those who continue to serve in the armed forces both here and overseas. We remember the sacrifices made for us by those whose names we will never know. SILENCE

Healing God, we pray today for those who are suffering in body and in spirit. We pray for those with cancer, for those with broken bones, for those with broken bodies, for those with broken minds. We pray for those imprisoned, both in the body, but also for those imprisoned in their soul. SILENCE

Wondrous God, Gentle Jesus, Blowing Spirit, hear us now as we lift up to you our prayers. SILENCE

Loving God, we thank you. We thank you for loving us, for forgiving us, for accepting us and for calling us your own. Free us for joyful obedience. Help us continue Your work here on earth.

This we pray with the prayer your son taught us praying,

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.

ANTHEM

If Not Now

Carrie Newcomer

(YouTube.com; search Carrie Newcomer *If Not Now*)

If not now, tell me when

If not now, tell me when.

We may never see this moment

Or place in time again

If not now, if not now, tell me when.

I see sorrow and trouble in this land

I see sorrow and trouble in this land

Although there will be struggle we'll make the change we can.

If not now, tell me when.

*I may never see the promised land.
I may never see the promised land.
And yet we'll take the journey
And walk it hand in hand
If not now, tell me when.*

*If not now, tell me when
If not now, tell me when.
We may never see this moment
Or place in time again
If not now, if not now, tell me when.*

*So we'll work it 'til it's done
Every daughter every son,
Every soul that ever longed for something better,
Something brighter.*

*It will take a change of heart for this to mend.
It will take a change of heart for this to mend.
But miracles do happen every shining now and then
If not now, tell me when?*

*If not now,
Tell me when.
But miracles do happen every shining now and then.
If not now tell me when.
If not now tell me when.
If not now tell me when.*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-57
(from Eugene Peterson's The Message)

Friends, let me go over the Message with you one final time— this Message that I proclaimed and that you made your own; this Message on which you took your stand and by which your life has been saved. (I'm assuming, now, that your belief was the real thing and not a passing fancy, that you're in this for good and holding fast.)

³⁻⁹ The first thing I did was place before you what was placed so emphatically before me: that the Messiah died for our sins, exactly as Scripture tells it; that he was buried; that he was raised from death on the third day, again exactly as Scripture says; that he presented himself alive to Peter, then to his closest followers, and later to more than five hundred of his followers all at the same time, most of them still around (although a few have since died); that he then spent time with James and the rest of those he commissioned to represent him; and that he finally presented himself alive to *me*. It was fitting that I bring up the rear. I don't deserve to be included in that inner circle, as you well know, having spent all those early years trying my best to stamp God's church right out of existence.

¹⁰⁻¹¹ But because God was so gracious, so very generous, here I am. And I'm not about to let his grace go to waste. Haven't I worked hard trying to do more than any of the others? Even then, my work didn't amount to all that much. It was God giving me the work to do, God giving me the energy to do it. So whether you heard it from me or from those others, it's all the same: We spoke God's truth and you entrusted your lives.

¹²⁻¹⁵ Now, let me ask you something profound yet troubling. If you became believers because you trusted the proclamation that Christ is alive, risen from the dead, how can you let people say that there is no such thing as a resurrection? If there's no resurrection, there's no living Christ. And face it—if there's no resurrection for Christ, everything we've told you is smoke and mirrors, and everything you've staked your life on is smoke and mirrors. Not only that, but we would be guilty of telling a string of barefaced lies about God, all these affidavits we passed on to you verifying that God raised up Christ—sheer fabrications, if there's no resurrection.

¹⁶⁻²⁰ If corpses can't be raised, then Christ wasn't, because he was indeed dead. And if Christ weren't raised, then all you're doing is wandering about in the dark, as lost as ever. It's even worse for those who died hoping in Christ and resurrection, because they're already in their graves. If all we get out of Christ is a little inspiration for a few short years, we're a pretty sorry lot. But the truth is that Christ *has* been raised up, the first in a long legacy of those who are going to leave the cemeteries.

²¹⁻²⁸ There is a nice symmetry in this: Death initially came by a man, and resurrection from death came by a man. Everybody dies in Adam;

everybody comes alive in Christ. But we have to wait our turn: Christ is first, then those with him at his Coming, the grand consummation when, after crushing the opposition, he hands over his kingdom to God the Father. He won't let up until the last enemy is down—and the very last enemy is death! As the psalmist said, "He laid them low, one and all; he walked all over them." When Scripture says that "he walked all over them," it's obvious that he couldn't at the same time be walked on. When everything and everyone is finally under God's rule, the Son will step down, taking his place with everyone else, showing that God's rule is absolutely comprehensive—a perfect ending!

But let me tell you something wonderful, a mystery I'll probably never fully understand. We're not all going to die—*but* we are all going to be changed. You hear a blast to end all blasts from a trumpet, and in the time that you look up and blink your eyes—it's over. On signal from that trumpet from heaven, the dead will be up and out of their graves, beyond the reach of death, never to die again. At the same moment and in the same way, we'll all be changed. In the resurrection scheme of things, this has to happen: everything perishable taken off the shelves and replaced by the imperishable, this mortal replaced by the immortal. Then the saying will come true:

Death swallowed by triumphant Life!

Who got the last word, oh, Death?

Oh, Death, who's afraid of you now?

It was sin that made death so frightening and law-code guilt that gave sin its leverage, its destructive power. But now in a single victorious stroke of Life, all three—sin, guilt, death—are gone, the gift of our Master, Jesus Christ. Thank God!

RESPONSE:

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: God is still speaking. Thanks be to God!

QUESTIONS FOR THE NEW TESTAMENT READING:

- 1. What words or phrases captured your imagination in this text?**
- 2. What might God be saying to you in this passage?**
- 3. What might God be saying to our community in this passage?**

4. What is the good news of 1 Corinthians 15?

SERMON

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Born and raised in South Africa, Martin Pistorius was 12 years old when he began to lose motor control and fell into a coma. The doctors, who were unable to trace his symptoms to a specific illness, gave Martin's parents very little room for hope. When Martin emerged from the coma about three years later, he was completely paralyzed and didn't appear to have much brain function.

But his parents did not give up on him. They took their son home and cared for him—with no real expectation that he would emerge from whatever was holding him prisoner.

Around the time Martin turned 16, still completely paralyzed, he began to be more aware of his surroundings—but he couldn't remember anything that had happened to him. And, he couldn't call out for help. By age 19 Martin's mind was fully back, but his body didn't give any clue to his parents that he had returned.

Finally, one astute caregiver noticed that Martin was following her with his eyes and that he seemed to be absorbing everything she was saying. Martin was taken to a nearby university for neurological testing where he passed every cognitive test with flying colors.

That caregiver saved Martin's life. His family provided Martin with a computer with speech software—and for the first time since he was 12, he could talk—something that completely transformed his world.

When I first read Martin's story in his autobiography, *Ghost Boy*—his account of the transformation from being comatose to being trapped in his body to coming into his own, I was struck by this man's courage and faith against seemingly impossible odds. AND, I was struck by how Martin Pistorius' life can be a metaphor for each of us at Easter.

For here is the truth of the human condition: more often than not, we find ourselves trapped by life, trapped by addictions, trapped by poverty, trapped by our own fears of failure AND success. We are afraid to fully engage in the new life Jesus offers to us in the Easter Season. We are afraid of taking that first step out of the tomb and into life abundant.

In short: we fail to recognize Jesus presence in our lives. We fail to place our trust in the risen Christ.

This Easter Season has been fairly disjointed in terms of scripture lessons. On Easter Sunday, we heard and read the Easter story from the Gospel of Mark—the story that ends with the women running away in fear from the empty tomb and telling no one what they saw. The week after we skipped completely over the resurrection stories and went straight to Jesus' ascension into heaven. The following week we read part of Paul's letter to the Thessalonian Christians. The last two weeks we heard more from Paul's first letter to the believers in Corinth.

So, after all these weeks of NOT looking at resurrection stories, today's lesson in 1 Corinthians takes us straight back to Easter—Paul recounting to the believers about the impact of Jesus on the lives of believers—that through his resurrection we might all experience new life.

I have to say, I'm pretty glad, on this last Sunday of the Easter Season, our narrative lectionary has swung us back TO EASTER. In fact, 1 Corinthians goes further in its resurrection theology by expanding on what will come next for believers. That everyone will be part of the resurrection. That death is not the final word. That new life happens on this side of the grave AND the other side of the grave.

But here is the incredible part about the Easter stories in the gospels. In many of the stories (especially in Luke and John), Jesus appears to the believers, but they do not recognize him! Really! Much of the Easter narrative in other years' lectionary texts are the telling and retelling of stories in which Jesus appears to people who should know EXACTLY WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE, and yet, they fail to recognize Jesus for who he is: the Messiah, the Christ, risen from the grave.

These stories make me wonder: What did the risen Jesus look like that he was not recognized? Or, was it like Martin Pistorius when he was trapped in his body unable to communicate—that people really never saw Jesus for who he was??

The good news is this: Jesus WANTS to be recognized by us. He rose from the grave to offer us new life, new ways of living, new ways of

seeing. If only we would open our eyes. If only we would break free of our spiritual paralysis to fully engage with Jesus.

And how do we do that? That one is easy: by serving others. Throughout the gospels, Jesus reminds his disciples, the crowds AND us that following him means loving the unlikely ones: the homeless, the poor, the infirmed, foreigners, and yes, even our enemies.

Following Jesus is a day-in-day-out commitment to love and serve everyone without wondering if someone is worthy of our love. In the midst of this pandemic, when we are having to rethink work and church and home and security, one thing has never changed: the love Jesus has for each of us, giving us reasons to love everyone (!!) around us.

And we begin by looking for and recognizing the risen Jesus in our lives when we see him at work in ourselves and others.

Once Martin Pistorius began to communicate through the computer, he did not slow down. He went to college. He became a software developer. He married the love of his life. He became a father. He travels the world sharing his story, a powerful reminder that we can ALL be freed of that which traps us and paralyzes us.

Martin has a faith to match his life. Even when trapped in his own body, wondering if anyone would ever see him for who he was, this is what Martin said about God:

“God and I didn’t talk about the big things in life—we didn’t engage in philosophical debates or argue about religion—but I talked to Him endlessly because I knew we shared something important. I didn’t have proof that He existed, but I believed in Him anyway because I knew He was real. God did the same for me. Unlike people, He didn’t need proof that I existed—He knew I did.”

If you want to read and hear more about Martin’s extraordinary life, I invite you to visit: www.ted.com/speakers/martin_pistorius

The good news for us today is that Jesus recognizes each of us as his precious children. And because of what God has done in Jesus, we are called to live the resurrection life—freed from our tombs, freed from

all that paralyzes us—that we might see and recognize Jesus: who offers us new life with every breath we take. Amen!

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: The psalmist said, “Behold, God is my helper; God is the upholder of my life. With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, O God, for it is good. For you have delivered me from every trouble.” Friends: with thanksgiving in our hearts, let us worship God with our tithes and offerings.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

God who makes a way when there is no way, take our lives and this offering. Use them to carve a path of hope, justice and love in our world. Amen.

HYMN

God, With Joy We Look Around Us

Tune: REGENT SQUARE 87.87.87 (“Angels from the Realms of Glory”), Henry Thomas Smart, 1867

Text: Copyright 2000 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

B \flat B \flat / \overline{D} B \flat B \flat / \overline{F} \overline{F} / $\overline{E\mathbf{b}}$ B \flat / \overline{D} E \mathbf{b} B \flat / \overline{D} G \mathbf{m} \overline{F} / \overline{A} F7 B \flat

1 God, with joy we look a - round us At your world's di - ver - si - ty.
 2 In the times we've hurt each oth - er Lord. We've hurt the ones you bless.
 3 God, you sent a Sav - ior to us, Break - ing walls that would di - vide.

B \flat / \overline{F} B \flat / \overline{D} B \flat $\overline{F7}$ / \overline{C} \overline{Gm} / \overline{D} D G \mathbf{m} D \overline{Gm} / $\overline{B\mathbf{b}}$ G \mathbf{m} \overline{F} / \overline{C} C7 F

Folk of every kind sur - rou - nd us And you call your church to see:
 Hat - ing sis - ter, cur - ing bro - ther, We've de - nied what you ex - press:
 By your Spirit, now work thr - ough us As we wit - ness side by side:

F B \flat E \mathbf{b} Cm B \flat / \overline{D} \overline{Cm} / $\overline{E\mathbf{b}}$ G \mathbf{m} F \mathbf{sus} F7 B \flat

All are made in your own im - age! All are peo - ple whom you love!

BENEDICTION

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of Jesus Christ and the blessing of God Almighty remain with you always. Amen.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Pass the Love*

Pass the Love

Love our God, ev - 'ry day, praise with joy go-ing on your way.

Pass it on, t'all you meet, ev - 'ry day in___ ev - 'ry way.

Love our Ho - ly God. Pray with hope each day.

Bless the Ho - ly Name. Praise our___ God.

Chords: F, Gm7, F, Gm7, F/A, F/Bb, Gm9, C7, F, Gm7, F, Gm7, F/A, F/Bb, Gm9, G7, C, Fmaj7, Dm, F/G, F/C, Am7, Dm7, Gm7, F/C, C7, F.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: In Christ, we are a new creation. Let us pass the peace of Christ with joy!

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"Halle Halle Halle" Words and music by Hal H. Hobson ©1998 Hope Publishing Company

"Pass the Love" Words and Music by Doris Ketner Copyright ©2000. All rights reserved.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's altar flowers were to be given in loving memory of John Ahlers by Marlene Ahlers.

Blessing Pantry-is open 10am-noon and 1pm-3pm Monday-Friday and 5:30pm-7:30pm Tuesday's. All Donations Welcome-Thank you!

We have placed a metal can outside the East Educational Building door for donations.

Building Entrance-St. Paul is accessible by the East Educational Building door, Monday-Friday 10:00am-Noon and 1:00pm-3:00pm. Please ring the doorbell, wait outside the doors so staff may assist you. We are currently taking everyone's temperature asking you to sanitize hands and shoes. Thank you!

Mailbox-We have installed a mailbox outside of the East Educational Building door for any correspondence you may have for the church and would like to drop off. Please lift the flap and drop through the slot on the top. The box is locked and will be checked often. Thank you!

Daily Devotions-Please join Rev Becky or Pastor Dee Monday-Friday at 11:30am, online via Facebook Live. These will be airing on our Facebook page St. Paul United Church of Christ-New Bremen, OH.

May/June Upper Rooms-have arrived! Please call the church office if you would like one and we will gladly mail one to you.

Thursday Evening Vespers-One of the most difficult parts of the Covid19 pandemic is our inability to gather as a congregation. Yes, many of us log onto Facebook for weekly worship and daily devotions, but the interactions with each other is limited. Thursday's at 6:30pm, Pastors Dee and Becky will host Thursday Evening Vespers. Vespers are traditionally an evening prayer service. We plan to gather via the online site called Zoom. To join the Zoom meeting, you can click on or log onto this website: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78283243697?pwd=cTFzYVIPWjZRZ0dEQUFDT015TlljUT09> *If you would like an email version of this to make logging on easier, simply email Pastor Becky: berbstrang@stpaulnb.org Once you are logged on, you will need the following:

Meeting ID: 782 8324 3697 Password: 2mSAg1

The plan is for us to check in with one another, hear scripture, and pray together each week. Any questions? Contact Pastor Becky

Jigsaw Puzzle Swap-At home doing jigsaw puzzles? Wanting some new puzzles for the coming weeks? Pastors Dee and Becky are willing to coordinate a jigsaw puzzle swap. If you have used puzzles you'd like to

loan out OR if you would like to borrow a puzzle, please contact Pastor Becky: Phone:419-629-2502 Email:berbstrang@stpaulnb.org

United Church Of Christ Disaster Relief-May's Monthly Mission

Throughout the month of May, our designated monthly mission will go toward disaster relief efforts within our denomination. In 2005, immediately following Hurricane Katrina, the UCC Disaster Relief Team sent Pastor Becky to Houston, Texas to coordinate relief efforts among the area UCC churches as busloads of folk from New Orleans were arriving daily. After three weeks in Houston, Becky wrote a rough draft job description for the person who would ultimately be hired fulltime to coordinate relief efforts in Houston and New Orleans. Wherever natural disaster strikes, the United Church of Christ is present—offering immediate assistance as well as the long term work of rebuilding. Your generous giving to May's monthly mission will ensure that those whose lives are impacted by disasters will have shelter, food, and hope.

E-Giving @ St. Paul **3 Different Ways to Give**

Online – Make a donation on our website: stpaulnb.org

Give+ App – Search “Give Plus Church” in your App store and find St. Paul to Get Started!

Text – Make a donation to our Number: 833-308-0048
St. Paul New “Text to Give” #(# changed as of 10/9/19)

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 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.

Thank you for donating \$ (amount)! Text repeat to make this recurring or refund to cancel this donation.