



The God of all
Comfort

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-11

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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Rev. Becky Senior Pastor

Pastor Dee Associate Pastor

Jeff Quellhorst-Council President

Welcome to St. Paul UCC today, we are glad you are here!!

Welcome, one and all, to this time of worship. We are blessed to have you with us today.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the Church-Covid-19 is a respiratory illness that causes flu-like symptoms including fever, vomiting and difficulty breathing. Good hygiene helps prevent the spread not only of coronavirus but also of colds and flu! **Stay home if you are sick.** Sneeze/cough into the crook of your elbow or a tissue, not your hand. **Wash immediately or use hand sanitizer after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.** Avoid touching your face, mouth, nose and eyes.

IN PERSON WORSHIP NOTES:

Masks, Bulletins and Offering Plates are available on round tables.

Please fill out worship cards located in the pews and place in offering plate as you exit. It is very important these cards are filled out by everyone who is here in case we need to contact you. Thank you!!!!

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 Packets containing children's bulletins and other activities are available on the tables. Please take the whole packet home with you. Thank you!

WIFI Connection-connect via "St Paul – Guest"

The * indicates all who are able may stand

July 12, 2020
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Leaders

Ministers
Rev. Becky Erb Strang
Pastor Dee Schroer
Cheyenne Olt
Dick Hudson

The Congregation
Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Accompanist/Vocalist
Organist

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES: As we light the altar and Christ candles, you are invited to light a candle or candles at home in preparation for worship.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: If worshiping at home, please have a blanket nearby.

WELCOME SONG

No Matter

No Matter

Musical score for the song "No Matter". The score is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 120. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics and guitar chords. The lyrics are: "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." The chords are: F, Dm, Gm7, C, F, F7, Bb, G7, F, Dm, G7, Gm7, C7, F, F7, Bb, G7, F, Dm, Gm7, C7, C, F, F.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from Chalice Worship; Chalice Press, 1997)

Leader: We come to worship God, not to boast in ourselves.

People: Our wisdom, our might, our wealth—all these are gifts from God.

Leader: If we must boast, then let us boast in this:

People: We come, to understand and know God, to honor God's majesty.

Leader: God acts with steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth.

People: In these things God takes delight.

Leader: Come, let us worship God!

*HYMN OF PRAISE *Praise the Lord! O Heavens, Adore Him*

GOD

Praise the Lord! O Heavens, Adore Him 17

E \flat B \flat B \flat 7/D E \flat B \flat 7 E \flat A \flat E \flat B \flat 7/D E \flat F \flat m/A \flat Am7(b5) B \flat

1 Praise the Lord! O heavens, a - dore him; praise him, an - gels in the height;
2 Praise the Lord, for he is gra - cious; nev - er shall his prom - ise fail;

E \flat B \flat B \flat 7/D E \flat B \flat 7 E \flat A \flat E \flat B \flat 7/D E \flat F \flat m/A \flat Am7(b5) B \flat

sun and moon, bow down be - fore him; praise him, shin - ing stars of light.
God has made his saints vic - to - rious; sin and death shall not pre - vail.

B \flat E \flat /B \flat B \flat B \flat 7/D E \flat B \flat G \flat m A \flat C \flat m F7 B \flat

Praise the Lord, for he hath spo - ken; worlds his might - y voice o - beyed;
Praise the God of our sal - va - tion; hosts on high, his power pro - claim;

E \flat /G A \flat E \flat A \flat E \flat /G B \flat 7/D E \flat B \flat B \flat /A \flat E \flat /G F \flat m/A \flat E \flat /B \flat B \flat 7 E \flat

laws which nev - er shall be bro - ken for their guid - ance he has made.
heaven and earth, and all cre - a - tion, laud and mag - ni - fy his name.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Most merciful God, through Jesus Christ you have set us free from bondage to sin that we might become your children; help us in this our service of praise, to sing of our freedom with joy, to long for it in our prayers, and to be assured of it in the proclamation of your word; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT:

We are in the second week of talking about how beautiful the world is and everything and everyone in it. In today's "search for beauty" we are going to remember how lovely and warm God's love is!

Psalm 16 reminds us that we find our safety in God. God is the One who loves us even more than the people who love us the most. So today, I brought a blanket as a symbol of God's love. If you are at home, take a moment to wrap yourself up in the blanket. Whenever we are feeling scared, sometimes the best thing we can do is wrap ourselves up in a blanket so we can remember God's love for us. This week I want you to think about who in your life is afraid or lonely. Then, in your prayers, wrap that person up in God's love.

Let us pray. God of goodness, thank you for your love that we can feel all around us. Help us to give your love and your warmth to all for the beauty of the earth. Amen.

PRAYER HYMN

Kum Ba Yah

The first system of musical notation for 'Kum Ba Yah' is in 3/4 time, key of D major. It features a treble and bass staff. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. Chords are indicated above the treble staff: D, G, D, Em/D, D. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

1 *Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah! Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba
 2 Some-one's cry-ing, Lord, kum ba yah! Some-one's cry-ing, Lord, kum ba
 3 Some-one's sing-ing, Lord, kum ba yah! Some-one's sing-ing, Lord, kum ba
 4 Some-one's pray-ing, Lord, kum ba yah! Some-one's pray-ing, Lord, kum ba

*Come by here

WORDS and MUSIC: African-American spiritual

KUM BA YAH
 o o o c

The second system of musical notation for 'Kum Ba Yah' continues the melody and bass line. Chords are indicated above the treble staff: A7, D, G, D, G, D, A7, D. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

yah! Kum ba yah, my Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!
 yah! Some-one's cry-ing, Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!
 yah! Some-one's sing-ing, Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!
 yah! Some-one's pray-ing, Lord, kum ba yah! O Lord, kum ba yah!

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys:

Concerns:

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

O God, we pray today for all people, for all nations, and for the church, offering silent prayers as we are bidden. SILENCE

We lift up to you prayers for your church: for churches throughout the world, for churches in this community and for this particular Body of Christ. SILENCE

We lift up to you the earth, and pray that all people may respect its resources, preserve its future, and enjoy its fruits in their season. We pray for the soil and the sea. SILENCE

We lift up to you prayers for the leaders of the nations, that they may act with deliberation and compassion, for the good of all. We pray for those who govern. SILENCE

We pray today, O God, for peace—that the peoples of the world may live in safety and without fear. May your peace be upon us and all of creation. SILENCE

We lift up to you in prayer those who are wealthy, the free and the healthy, that they may use their possessions to aid those in need. We pray for compassion in ourselves and others. SILENCE

We pray, O God, for the sick, the grieving, and those who are alone. We pray for those in need and those in trouble. SILENCE

We pray, O God, for ourselves. Calm us. Love us. Challenge us. Send us into the community to serve you by serving others. SILENCE

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC: Dick Hudson

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Psalm 16

(Eugene Peterson's The Message)

*Keep me safe, O God,
I've run for dear life to you.
I say to God, "Be my Lord!"
Without you, nothing makes sense.
³ And these God-chosen lives all around—
what splendid friends they make!
⁴ Don't just go shopping for a god.
Gods are not for sale.
I swear I'll never treat god-names
like brand-names.
⁵⁻⁶ My choice is you, God, first and only.
And now I find I'm your choice!
You set me up with a house and yard.
And then you made me your heir!*

*7-8 The wise counsel God gives when I'm awake
is confirmed by my sleeping heart.*

Day and night I'll stick with God;

I've got a good thing going and I'm not letting go.

9-10 I'm happy from the inside out,

and from the outside in, I'm firmly formed.

You canceled my ticket to hell—

that's not my destination!

*11 Now you've got my feet on the life path,
all radiant from the shining of your face.*

Ever since you took my hand,

I'm on the right way.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: 2 Corinthians 1:1-11 (NRSV)

*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our
brother,*

*To the church of God that is in Corinth, including all the saints
throughout Achaia:*

*2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ.*

*3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of
mercies and the God of all consolation, 4 who consoles us in all our
affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any
affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by
God. 5 For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also
our consolation is abundant through Christ. 6 If we are being afflicted, it
is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for
your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the
same sufferings that we are also suffering. 7 Our hope for you is
unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you
share in our consolation.*

*8 We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters of the
affliction we experienced in Asia; for we were so utterly, unbearably
crushed that we despaired of life itself. 9 Indeed, we felt that we had
received the sentence of death so that we would rely not on ourselves
but on God who raises the dead. 10 He who rescued us from so deadly a*

peril will continue to rescue us; on him we have set our hope that he will rescue us again, ¹¹ as you also join in helping us by your prayers, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

RESPONSE

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

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

SERMON

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

After five weeks of focusing on the Book of Job, the narrative lectionary picks up today with five weeks of 2 Corinthians. At first, I was a little skeptical: I knew almost nothing about 2 Corinthians as a letter and was not convinced that we could pull five weeks of preaching and worship from this letter.

Most of us are more familiar with 1 Corinthians. In fact, I would venture to guess that as mainline Protestant Christians, what we know of 1 Corinthians is found in chapters 12 and 13. Chapter 12 of 1 Corinthians gives us Paul's essay on the Body of Christ and how, in our diversity of gifts, we come together to BE the Body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12 ends with verse 31: *But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.*

That more excellent way is outlined in probably the most familiar of all of Paul's essays: 1 Corinthians 13, known as the Love Chapter. In those 13 verses, Paul outlines what IS loving and what IS NOT. He ends that chapter by saying that love is the greatest of all gifts: even greater than faith and hope.

Indeed, we are familiar with 1 Corinthians, but very few of us know 2 Corinthians well—myself included. The first part of today's sermon will be spent setting the stage of Paul's second letter (it isn't really his second letter—I'll get to that in a minute) so we can understand why Paul says what he says.

Let's begin. Paul, who was first known as Saul, probably became a Jesus follower about three years after Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension. Saul, before he met Jesus, actively persecuted Christians. In

fact, he met the risen Christ on his way to Damascus to persecute more Jesus believers.

After his conversion, Paul went NOT to his own Jewish brothers and sisters to preach about Jesus, but to the Gentiles/the Romans throughout the Roman Empire. Paul became a traveling evangelist and church planter (to use modern-day terms), planting new Jesus communities throughout the area around the Mediterranean Sea.

One of these “church plants” was in the city of Corinth, located near the Bay of Corinth in Greece. Scholars’ best guess is that Paul landed in Corinth about 14 years after his conversion: around 50 CE (Common Era) after he had already established churches in Philippi and Thessalonica.

So what do we know about the city of Corinth? In Paul’s time it was a commercial and religious hub due to its seaside proximity. It was tucked behind two towns that were closer to the water, which kept it better protected from invaders. The region around Corinth had an abundance of freshwater springs making it an ideal location for a growing city. The city itself was incredibly diverse because of the shipping industry: sailors brought in new ideas, new religions and new cultural norms to the city. In fact, Corinth had been granted the status of a Roman colony—a big deal at the time—so Roman laws were in operation and Latin was the official language of the city, though most people spoke Greek.

While the Roman Emperor was the god expected to be worshiped, because of its cultural diversity, Corinth in Paul’s day also had Greek and Egyptian religious shrines. Archaeologists and historians have noted that there was even a “temple for all the gods.”

Julius Caesar reestablished Corinth in 44 BCE (Before Common Era), populating it with immigrants from other parts of the Empire who had recently been freed from slavery. Corinth was known throughout the Roman Empire as Sin City because its freewheeling culture and the transitory nature of much of the population.

Paul showed up in Corinth less than a 100 years from its official restart. While most of Paul’s ministry was centered on Gentiles, he always started in the synagogue or Temple of any new city he traveled to. This is what scholars know about those earliest Corinthian Christians. They were known for fighting amongst themselves—mostly seen in struggles between the wealthy Christians and the poorer Christians. The wealthier

folk were the ones who owned houses in which they could host church services and, most importantly, the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

This is what was happening: wealthy Christians would arrive at the host home long before the poorer ones "got off work" (again, to use a modern-day term). The rich would begin eating and drinking long before the others arrived. By the time the poor showed up, the good food was already eaten and their church mates were drunk. (For more details about that: check out what Paul had to say in 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.)

One final piece of background information. 1 and 2 Corinthians are actually NOT the first and second letters Paul sent to the Corinthian Christians. Both Corinthian letters in our New Testament are portions of letters that Paul wrote to the believers over a number of years. Historians and scholars have found references to five letters and the texts of at least three letters Paul wrote to the Corinthians and evidence of one letter the Corinthians wrote back to Paul. For 2 Corinthians specifically, scholars are still arguing over how many letters or fragments of letters make up this particular book.

But this is one thing we do know: it is through the mish-mosh of letters pieced into the two letters in our canon that show Paul's long-term relationship with these, at times, cantankerous Christians.

Next to Paul himself: what was his theological and world-view? First, Paul believed firmly that God is in control and through what God has done in Christ, God's plan was nearing completion. Paul viewed the life of faith as one that was always transforming and growing. He believed that believers needed to take care of each other. Paul was well aware that the good news of Jesus—the good news he traveled years to proclaim—was incredibly counter-cultural. Following Jesus means a vastly different life from the one lifted up by the Roman Empire.

While Paul's theology leaned heavily on grace over works: we can't earn our way into God's love, he still emphasized how believers were to behave. One of these behaviors expected of Christians was reconciliation—restoring relationships that had been severed or broken. This is important: Paul needed to convey to the Corinthians that getting drunk and excluding poorer believers from the food tables needed to end. Immediately.

All of this background brings us to today's reading—the opening of 2 Corinthians. Paul began his letter with a greeting from himself and Timothy, a believer who traveled with Paul and whom Paul mentored. And how does Paul begin? With words of compassion, comfort and consolation. In verses 3-7, Paul says “console” or “consolation” eight times! Paul reminded the Corinthians that God comes to the aid of those who are afflicted, those who have reached rock-bottom.

I cannot think of a better passage in the Bible to have read in worship the week following our series on the Book of Job. Job, who lost his children, his riches and his health, found consolation through trusting God Almighty/Yahweh/Creator of the Universe. Paul, too, began his letter reminding the believers of Corinth that in the midst of trouble, God is ever-present and merciful.

This is good news for us today. At times we see our own troubles and struggles as something God has given to us, as something we deserve. However, that is not God's nature. God's love and compassion and grace and mercy are bigger, greater, and more awesome than any troubles we might be experiencing. By placing our trust in God, we know that we are never alone, never abandoned, and always within the loving embrace of Jesus.

The second half of today's reading is Paul relaying to the Corinthians his own troubles and afflictions while traveling through Asia (probably modern-day Turkey). We are not told what nearly crushed Paul, but the opening of this letter reads as if the Corinthians were already aware of his troubles. Paul reiterates that, as believers, we share in one another's suffering.

Again: looking back to Job as we begin our exploration of 2 Corinthians, Paul reminded the believers (as God reminded Job's friends) that God is in charge. Terrible things will happen in our lives, but they are not God-given. God is with us through those terrible times, loving us, offering mercy and consolation.

In these days of a global pandemic that seems to be getting worse rather than better, in these days of racial protests and unrest, in these hot and steamy days of summer, the opening of 2 Corinthians reminds us that we belong together. We are called by God to bear each other's suffering. We are called by God to offer consolation and mercy. Because

of what God has done through Jesus—offering us extravagant love and amazing grace—we cannot pick and choose who is worthy of our shared suffering or consolation.

When our neighbors are hungry, as Christians we are challenged to feed them. When our neighbors are treated as less worthy due to the color of their skin or the balance of their bank accounts, we are challenged to see each person as a beloved child, created in the image of God. When we despair of wearing masks and not singing aloud in worship, we are challenged to remember that what we do today will keep those around us safe from a deadly virus in the days and weeks to come.

2 Corinthians serves as a reminder that we do not live on separate islands or even separate social bubbles. We belong together: feeding each other, loving each other, consoling each other. Just as Jesus welcomed the children, Paul reminded the believers of Corinth that we share this life together—even when we are separated by miles, ideologies, politics and theologies. Indeed, to quote 1 Corinthians, WE (all of us!!!) are the Body of Christ.

This week, I encourage you to reach out to someone you have hardened your heart against. Reach out to someone who is hurting. Reach out to someone who is grieving. Reach out to someone whose worldview is vastly different from your own. Make that phone call. Write a letter. Invite someone to your porch for a visit. It will not be easy, but it is essential.

Because of Jesus, we belong together. And that, my dear ones, is the best good news of all! Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: Hospitality: a warm welcome—is generosity. When we welcome each child of God into the life of this church, we extend God's own generous hospitality. Our gifts help this graceful ministry flourish, grow, and give glory to God. Let us be joyfully generous in all we do! Amen.

*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)**

Accept our lives, O God, as well as our gifts. Let the spirit in which we give them be your Spirit. Let the use that is made of them be your use. Amen.

***HYMN OF SENDING** *I have Decided to Follow Jesus* verses 1 & 4

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus 344

Unison C

1 I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de -
2 The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be -
3 Though none go with me, I still will fol - low, though none go
4 Will you de - cide now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de -

cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de - cid - ed to fol - low
hind me, the cross be - fore me, the world be - hind me, the cross be -
with me, I still will fol - low, though none go with me, I still will
cide now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de - cide now to fol - low

Je - sus— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
fore me— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
fol - low— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.
Je - sus?— no turn - ing back, no turn - ing back.

C D7 G7 C
G A B

WORDS: Anonymous
MUSIC: Indian folk tune

ASSAM
10.10.10.8.

***BENEDICTION:** Friends, go forth as ones convinced that life is worth living and as ones committed to extravagant hospitality. Let us be light, salt and bread in a dark, tasteless and hungry world. Hallelujah! 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

Let us share in the joy of the Lord by passing the Peace of Christ with one another.

As the ushers are dismissing you, let us pass the peace of Christ with each other, while maintaining our 6 ft physical distance. Direct eye contact, loving words, and a warm smile are as meaningful as a traditional handshake or hug.

RECESSIONAL

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of Duane Hartwig and Loved Ones by Alice Hartwig.

Attendance-Online-Daily Devotions Avg. 101, June 28-Sunday Worship Online 541, In Person 52

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.

Ushers Needed-Myra Hanenkratt, our Senior Deacon, is still seeking ushers for in-person worship. If this is something you are willing to do, please contact her at 419-305-3652.

July/August Upper Rooms-have arrived! They are available at the East entrance to the education building and on Sunday's in the Sanctuary. Or please call the church office if you would like one and we will gladly mail one to you.

Worship Schedule for July

Sunday's in July-we will be worshipping via Facebook Live and in person in our sanctuary at 10:15.

Meetings-Mission Team will meet Sunday, July 12 after worship in the Sanctuary. **Church Council** will meet Tuesday, July 14 in the Assembly Room. **Worship Team** will meet Sunday, July 19 after worship in the Sanctuary.

Coffee with Pastor Becky-To keep social distancing guidelines, Pastor Becky plans to be at the St. Paul Playground Shelter House on **Mondays July 13, 20, 27** from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Becky will provide coffee, water (and possibly) homemade snacks. All are welcome!

Thursday Evening Vespers-Thursday's at 6:30pm, Pastors Dee and Becky will host Thursday Evening Vespers. Vespers are traditionally an evening prayer service. We gather via the online site called Zoom. **Now through August 6**, to join the Zoom meeting, you can click on or log onto this website:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89695161435?pwd=NEswVE5tZGhOd3YzS3ZJV25TeVk1dz09>

*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: 896 9516 1435 Password: 407351

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

July Monthly Mission-Community Backpack + Program

The Community Backpack + Program is a group of community volunteers who come together each year to ensure that all students in our community have the supplies needed to start the school year. In addition, they donate toward school fees for those who cannot afford to, and fund the local "No-Shame Lunch Fund." In 2019 this program supplied backpacks/supplies to 44 students, paid \$769 in school fees as well as fund/facilitate the, "No shame Lunch Fund," in New Bremen, Minster, and New Knoxville schools.

They are currently preparing for the 2020-21 school year and your donations are greatly appreciated. They believe that, in fact, it does take a village to raise a child, and they are so grateful to live in such a generous community. Thank you for your compassion. The Mission Team.

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.



Preschool/ Kindergarten Class Come Play With Us!

*You are invited to the St. Paul Community playground
for a Preschool/ Kindergarten class play date!*

*Tuesday July 14 from 10:00 – 11:30 A.M. Snacks and
crafts will be provided. Family, friends and neighbors
are always welcome to join us!*

Hope to see you there!

Pastor Dee



Our Expanded Blessing Pantry

Ever since Covid19 lockdown in March, St. Paul's Blessing Pantry has moved from its small space to the auditorium. Volunteers staff the pantry during the week to meet our guests and provide for their needs.

Generous donations from St. Paul people, area folk and the West Ohio Food Bank have kept us incredibly well stocked.

Recently we added a chest freezer to accommodate all the frozen food donations.

Despite our growth, we are still a small operation. During a typical week we provide food, cleaning supplies, toiletries and diapers for around 12 area households.

If you would like to volunteer at the Blessing Pantry, please contact Pastor Becky

