



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. As Governor DeWine reminded us on July 15, masks are essential to halting the spread of the virus.

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 26, 2020
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Leaders

Ministers
Rev. Becky Erb Strang
Pastor Dee Schroer
Cheyenne Olt

The Congregation
Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Accompanist/Vocalist

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

WELCOME SONG

No Matter

No Matter

No Matter

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**

(adapted from Chalice Worship; Chalice Press, 1997)

Leader: Come along with me as a sojourner in faith. Bring along a sense of expectancy, a vision of high hopes, a glimpse of future possibility, a vivid imagination. For God's creation is not done.

People: We are called to pioneer a future yet unnamed. As we venture forward, we leave behind our desires for a no-risk life, worldly accumulations, certainty.

Leader: Let us travel light in the spirit of faith and expectation, toward the God of our hopes and dreams.

People: May we be witnesses to God's future breaking in.

Leader: Come along with me as sojourners in faith, secure in the knowledge that we never travel alone.

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

Morning Has Broken

35

Morning Has Broken

Unison

1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing,
 2 Sweet the rain's new - ken fall sun - lit from heav - en,
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing

black - bird has spo - ken like the first bird.
 like the first dew - fall on the first grass.
 born of the one light E - den saw play!

Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
 Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
 Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,

Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass.
 God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)**

God of the faithful in every time, today you have called us into your church to be one body in Jesus Christ. You have bestowed upon us the gifts we need for your service. Grant that we may willingly take our part, that we may support one another, and that we may seek the greatest gift, which is love. Knead us together into one loaf with all your people throughout the world, through your Spirit of unity. Amen.

***HALLELUJAH!**

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht Hal - le -

lu - jaht Hal - le - lu - jaht

CHILDREN'S MOMENT:

This is our fourth week we have searched for beauty during the Children's Moments. Today in your pews and in your worship packets you should have found stars.

Have you ever gone outside on a clear night and looked up? The moon, clouds and stars—millions and millions of stars.

When I was in third grade, one of the third grade teachers (who I didn't have as a teacher) invited all the third graders to come to the driveway of her house one evening where her husband had a telescope set up. I remember looking into that telescope for the first time and thinking, "Wow!!"

I didn't know sign language at the time, but if I did, I would have signed it: Wow! Sometimes life is so beautiful, so amazing, that we can't help but say, "Wow!" to the beauty around us. And here's the wonderful thing about the word WOW: every time we say it, we are offering a prayer to God who created the beauty all around us.

This week I invite you to take some of the stars in your pew home and hang them on your ceiling. Your worship packet also has a printout of stars you can color any way you choose, cut out and hang. And, if the weather is nice, go outside and check out the night sky—soaking in the beauty.

Let us pray. God of goodness, thank you for amazing things. Thank you for wonder. Help us to praise you with our "wow's" for the beauty of the earth. Amen.

PRAYER HYMN

Softly and Tenderly

348

Softly and Tenderly

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me; see, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

watch - ing for you and for me. Come home, come home,
 mer - cies for you and for me? Come home, come home,
 par - don for you and for me.

ye who are wea - ry, come home; ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,
 Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, O sin - ner, come home!

Refrain
 N.C.

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Worshipping together!

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for those who need our prayers.

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

Loving God, in Jesus Christ you teach us to pray and to present our petitions in his name. Guide us by your Holy Spirit, that our prayers for others may serve your will and show your steadfast love for all. SILENCE

Gracious God, you have called together people to be the church of Jesus Christ. May your people be one in faith and discipleship, breaking bread together, telling good news so that the world may believe that you are love, turn to your ways, and live in the light of your truth. SILENCE

Creator God, you made all things and called them good. May your planet Earth be held in reverence by all people. May its resources be used wisely and its fragile balance between life and death respected. SILENCE

Eternal Ruler, in your mighty realm the nations rise and fall. Hear our prayers for those who rule the nations, that they may learn wisdom and truth, establish justice and mercy, and seek the ways of peace. SILENCE

Healing God, we pray for the many in our world who are sick, who are recuperating, who are injured, who are filled with hopelessness. Infuse all who are hurting with your gracious presence. Hear our prayers as we pray for those whose names we know and those whose names we will never know. SILENCE

Holy God, we pray for ourselves—even though we often do not have words for prayer. You know our need. You know our brokenness. You know our joys. And you love us beyond measure. Continue to abide well with us in the days, weeks, months and years to come. SILENCE

Eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will.

We pray this in the name of your son and our savior, Jesus Christ, 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.**

ANTHEM

Amazing Grace

(YouTube Search: Kenny Rogers Amazing Grace)

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.*

*I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*

It was Grace that taught my heart to fear.

And Grace, my fears relieved.

How precious did that Grace appear

The hour I first believed.

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,

That saved a wretch like me.

I once was lost but now am found,

Was blind, but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils and snares

That we've have already come;

'Tis Grace that brought us safe so far

And Grace will lead us home.

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,

That saved a wretch like me.

I once was lost but now am found,

Was blind, but now I see.

I was blind, but now I see.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Psalm 135:1-3, 13-21

(Eugene Peterson's The Message)

¹⁻⁴ Hallelujah!

Praise the name of God,

praise the works of God.

All you priests on duty in God's temple,

servicing in the sacred halls of our God,

Shout "Hallelujah!" because God's so good,

*sing anthems to his beautiful name.
And why? Because God chose Jacob,
embraced Israel as a prize possession.
God, your name is eternal,
God, you'll never be out-of-date.
God stands up for his people,
God holds the hands of his people.
The gods of the godless nations are mere trinkets,
made for quick sale in the markets:
Chiseled mouths that can't talk,
painted eyes that can't see,
Carved ears that can't hear—
dead wood! cold metal!
Those who make and trust them
become like them.
¹⁹⁻²¹ Family of Israel, bless God!
Family of Aaron, bless God!
Family of Levi, bless God!
You who fear God, bless God!
Oh, blessed be God of Zion,
First Citizen of Jerusalem!
Hallelujah!*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 2 Corinthians 4:1-18 (NRSV)

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. ³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts

to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷ But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. ¹¹ For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. ¹² So death is at work in us, but life in you.

¹³ But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"—we also believe, and so we speak, ¹⁴ because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵ Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸ because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

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

The past few weeks our children's moments have centered around finding beauty in our midst. Four weeks ago, I brought an apple tree to worship (truthfully, not much of a tree: I ordered her online and she arrived dormant—so what you all saw that week was a stick planted in dirt. I'm happy to report the tree has come to life and is starting to bloom with green leaves! A thing of beauty!) Three weeks ago, Pastor Dee brought

the blanket she is crocheting—a huge, thick monstrosity that envelops her with beautiful love and warmth even as she completes the project.

Our children's moment last week focused on the Japanese word wabi-sabi—the idea that everything is beautiful—even imperfect things, broken things, things made in unusual ways. We also explored the art of kintsugi—the Japanese art form that repairs broken porcelain and pottery with gold. The repaired piece LOOKS repaired, but the added gold makes what was broken a thing of beauty.

Today's children's moment focused our attention on the stars—the beauty of the night sky, the majesty of the constellations.

In our third week of sermons centered around 2 Corinthians, we are given yet at least two more images of beauty: the glory, magnificent glory of God AND the image of keeping God's treasures in clay jars.

We'll begin with God's glory. Paul, whose letters over the course of years make up 1 and 2 Corinthians, had some definite ideas about God's glory and how we can see/experience it. Do you remember the story of Moses and God talking in Exodus 33 and 34? Moses wanted to see/experience God's glory. God, knowing that no human can see the face of God and live, offered to Moses an alternative: God would pass by Moses, shielding Moses' eyes until God had passed: THEN and only then would Moses be able to see God's glory (which was really the backside of God!)

Moses' reaction? He was so overcome with awe at seeing only the teeny, tiniest part of God, that he fell down to worship him.

Writing to the Corinthian believers, Paul must have had that story in mind when he assured the Corinthians that they could experience the glory of God—not directly, but through the knowledge of the glory of God—in other words, how God's glory is reflected in life around us.

You probably have experienced this. God surprises us with backside glimpses of glory whenever we receive a phone call or letter from a long lost friend or relative. God's glory is revealed when we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the imprisoned. God's glory is revealed in the birth of a child, a grandchild and even in a babe placed in a manger some two thousand years ago.

And we know this to be true: these glimpses of God's glory typically surprise us out of our complacency. What might have started as a routine,

daily task might suddenly shine bright with God's glory—knocking off our socks and knocking us to our knees in worship.

And that is important. Worship, at its very best, is not a show, is not entertainment, and goes way beyond the gathering of believers on a Sunday—whether online or in-person. Worship, at its very best, is a rehearsal for the upcoming week: the rehearsing of how we can best look for God's glory in the days to come. In worship, we experience God's glory in the broken bread, in the ringing of the bells and lighting of candles. We experience God's glory whether gathered or scattered—because just the act of logging on or tuning in shifts our focus away from ourselves and upon the face of God that we see and experience and know best in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. For Christians, Jesus is the best reflection of God's glory we could have. And for that, we thank God for what he has done for us and with us in Christ Jesus.

I began this morning by talking about the glory of God as a thing of beauty. The second piece of art the Apostle Paul spoke of in today's reading is the treasure in clay jars. Paul's message is clear: that God's love, God's grace, God's mercy is given to us as treasures placed in clay jars (or vessels, depending on your translation). Our vessels/our lives/our bodies are fragile and temporary, and yet God places his greatest treasures within us as a reminder that these treasures are of God, not of humankind.

So I ask you this morning: have you ever made your own clay pot, clay jar, clay vessel? Perhaps you made it in school or in scouts or 4H. Perhaps you've dabbled in pottery as a teenager or adult. If you ever get the opportunity to get your hands around a lump of clay—do it. It is both awe-inspiring (the creation side of the art form) and humbling (again: the creation side of the art form: clay rarely does what you want it to do. 😊)

When we lived in Kettering, for several years I took wheel pottery classes at the city's art center. And this is what I quickly learned: throwing clay on a wheel is an act of prayer. Yes. Really.

When throwing clay, you begin with a ball of clay—not too big, but big enough to set your imagination in flight. The next step is the motion of the wheel. Never try to make changes to the clay without the wheel turning first. Oh! And did I mention the water? While the wheel turns and the clay spins, you need to begin by centering the clay with hands that

are wet. Dry hands create too much friction and the clay doesn't want to move at all.

The only way clay can be centered is with steady hands and strong arms. If you let the clay wiggle your hands, the clay won't change easily and your creation will come out lop-sided. But if you give it your full concentration, what began as a lump of clay will become a bowl or a vase or a mug.

Prayer is like throwing clay and working a potter's wheel. If we come to the wheel cocky or distracted, the clay will fly off the wheel and hit a nearby wall. If we approach our prayer life with arrogance or distraction, we lose our center—a center that is found only in the love, light and peace of God.

It is not coincidence that one of the first things you must do to clay on a wheel is **center** it. When the clay is centered, it is ready for change. When we are centered, when we are grounded in prayer and living within the heart of God's love, we are ready for a future that belongs to God.

And, as creatures made in the likeness of God, we are called to be creators—to join with God in creating new life and new hope in the midst of brokenness, prejudice and global pandemics. Like a potter at a wheel, we are called to take the elements at hand and begin to imagine a new creation and a new way of living. Like the Apostle Paul, we are called to place God's treasures in the clay jars of our hearts.

Paul is very clear in today's reading: that through faith/through belief, we are shaped into new people/new creations. In these troubled times, that is good news, indeed. Our sweet, puny human brains cannot even begin to imagine what the next few months or years will bring for our world, but God's got this. And we've got this because we've got God.

Now hear me well: that doesn't mean we can ride out this pandemic, ride out the cultural storms around us, in passive autopilot. Despite our rapidly changing world, we still have to show up at the potter's wheel. We still have to show up in prayer. We still have to show up as we discover new ways to love our neighbors AND our enemies.

Whenever I begin with a lump of clay I may have an **idea** of what I might want it to become. But, I'm always surprised about how clay has a mind of its own. What begins as a mug (in my mind) might end as a cereal bowl. What begins as a goblet (in my imagination) might end as a

candlestick. And that doesn't even take into account bubbles in the clay, collapsed walls, and uneven sides.

As co-creators, as Spirit People, as the gathered Body of Christ, we are called to take part in the shaping and repair of the world, but we cannot control the final product. If we look to the future, holding tightly to outworn ideas, prejudices or ways of living, our clay is guaranteed to collapse. If we try to force a specific outcome, our clay will fly off the wheel—that is guaranteed.

The good news is that we are called to be faithful—to put our faith into action & to encourage one another with steady hands and hearts for prayer. God, our loving Creator, our Mother, our Father, our All-in-All, will work with us side-by-side, calling us to envision new ways of living, new ways of being, new ways of being God's children. Our clay jars are fragile, but the treasures God pours into those jars are of infinite beauty and grace.

All this brings us back to the glory of God. When we show up at the potter's wheel/when we show up in prayer, we are putting our faith in Jesus into action. The clay jars we make may be lopsided and fragile, but they contain the glory of God—glory beyond our imagining.

This week, I encourage you to intentionally show up at the metaphorical potter's wheel of your life. Open your eyes and hearts to see God's glory reflected all around. Open your hands to the poor, the hurting, the lost—that you might see God's glory in their eyes and in their lives. Treat everyone you encounter this week as a precious clay jar filled with the light-filled glory of God. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: Jesus draws a picture of the good green earth and the seeds that rise up in a rich abundant harvest when he speaks about God's Word of grace and generosity. God's Word finds fertile ground each time we share the gifts we've received, in every moment and every place of our lives. The gifts we offer will feed those who come to this church hungry for food and hungry for God's love. We offer a warm welcome that spills over into the world that God loves, reaching far beyond these walls, to our homes, our community, our nation and our world. Let us give generously as we are able! 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)

All things come from you, O God and with gratitude we return to you what is yours. You created all that is, and with love formed us in your image. When our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You gave your only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. All that we are, and all that we have, is a trust from you. And so, in gratitude for all your gifts, we offer you ourselves, and all that we have, in union with Christ. By your Holy Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*HYMN OF SENDING *All of Life Is Filled with Wonder* verses 1, 3, 5

All of Life Is Filled with Wonder

1. All of life is filled with wonder, so we thank you, God of love,
 2. For the joy of dai - ly wak - ing, for the gift of each new day,
 3. For the ways we're blessed with plen - ty, love and laugh - ter, neigh - bors, friends,
 4. For your love in times of troub - le, for your peace when things are tough,
 5. For the ba - by in the man - ger, for the cross and emp - ty tomb,

for the crash of eve - ning thun - der, clear - ing clouds, then stars a - bove;
 for the smell of fresh bread bak - ing, for the sound of chil - dren's play,
 na - ture's won - ders, sea - sons' boun - ty, life in you that nev - er ends,
 for your help when hard - ships dou - ble, for your grace that is e - nough,
 for each time a search - ing strang - er finds at church a wel - come home,

for the night that turns to glow - ing as we feel the morn - ing mist,
 for the ways we seek to serve you as we work and vol - un - teer,
 for the ones who've gone be - fore us, giv - ing wit - ness to your way,
 for a strang - er's gen - tle kind - ness, for a doc - tor's heal - ing skill,
 for your king - dom's great sur - pris - es, poor ones lift - ed, lost ones found,

God, we praise and thank you, know - ing eve - ry day we're tru - ly blessed.
 God, we hum - bly praise and thank you for your pres - ence with us here.
 we re - joice in all you give us eve - ry mo - ment, eve - ry day.
 God, we thank you that you bless us, and you bless your world as well.
 God, we thank you! Hope still ris - es, for your gifts of grace a - bound.

WORDS: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2011
 MUSIC: John Zundel, 1870

BEECHER
 S7.87 D

Alternate tunes: IN BABILONE and HYMN TO JOY.

*BENEDICTION: And now the God of justice who calls us to account for our lives, and the God of compassion who forgives us and grants us the joy of grace, be and remain with us this day, this week, and forevermore. Amen.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Pass the Love*

Pass the Love

J=95

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.

*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

"No Matter" Words and music by Roger P. Miller ©2007 All rights reserved.

"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

Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of Peg Chamberlin by Dan Chamberlin

THANK YOU! I'd like to thank everyone for their cards, phone calls and prayers during my recovery from surgery. I know they were a big help in my recovery. Ginny Braun

Attendance-Online-Daily Devotions Avg.-81, July 12-Sunday Worship Online-425, In Person-44

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

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 and August

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

Coffee with Pastor Becky-Monday's from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. at NB Coffee Co. 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=NEswVE5tZGhOd3YzS3ZJV25TeVh1dz09> Once you are logged on, you will need the following:

Meeting ID: 896 9516 1435 Password: 407351

*If you would like an email version of this to make logging on easier, simply email Pastor Becky: berbstrang@stpaulnb.org

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.

August Communion Distribution-will be held Thursday, July 30 from 5:30pm-6:30pm on the Herman Street side of the Educational Building.

August Book Club is August 23 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. We will discuss Kate DiCamillo's amazing children's novel The Magician's Elephant. Copies of the book can be picked up at the church office or you can contact the church office if you need a copy sent or delivered to you. All are welcome. Join Zoom Meeting by clicking on or logging onto:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81502752298?pwd=MlVqR3oxNmQ4NC9ZajI4cXRKUWpldz09> Once you are logged on, you will need the following:

Meeting ID: 815 0275 2298

Password: 359234

*If you would like an email version of this to make logging on easier, simply email Pastor Becky: berbstrang@stpaulnb.org

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.