

# 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> or <u>stpaulnb@gmail.com</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. Becky Senior Pastor Pastor Dee Associate Pastor Jeff Quellhorst-Council President

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

This is the house of the Lord, and all are welcome to enter and praise our loving Creator. May God's love fill you with kindness, mercy and joy.

**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. On July 23 Governor DeWine mandated mask wearing in public, including houses of worship. Masks are essential to help keep those around us safe. Thank You for cooperating.

# 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" Password: Godlovesyou

The \* indicates all who are able may stand

## August 23, 2020 Twelfth 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.

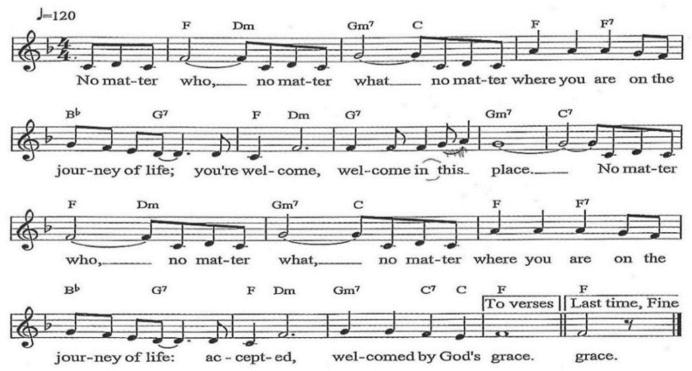
RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*WELCOME SONG No I

No Matter

#### No Matter



\*CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from <u>Chalice Worship</u>; Chalice Press, 1997)

Leader: Rejoice, people of God! Celebrate the life within you, and Christ's presence in your midst!

People: Our eyes shall be opened! The present will have new meaning, and the future will be bright with hope.

Leader: Rejoice, people of God! Bow your heads before the One who is our wisdom and our strength.

People: We place ourselves before our God, that we may be touched and cleansed by the power of God's Spirit.

Leader: Let us worship God!

\*HYMN OF PRAISE Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee Verses 1 & 3



WORDS: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933) MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) \*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

Spirit God, in the beginning you gave life and movement, color and harmony to the universe. Everything moves by your power and is one through you. But most of all, you move in the minds and spirits of women and men. You give vision and insight, speaking spirit to spirit. You stir the sleeping conscience, rouse the dormant mind, seek justice, express beauty, declare truth.

Most of all you come in the power of Jesus, bringing love and joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. So move us now in mind and conscience; stir and quicken us with beauty and truth; and give us all your harvest, now and always. Amen.



lu-jaht Hal-le-lu-jaht

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Last week during the Children's Moment, we began our four-week series on prayer. We shared the CHAT Model of prayer:

Confession Honor Ask

Thank

But for some children (and some adults!), CHAT is too cumbersome. So today, I will share with you short phrases or words that are also a prayer.

Last month, I shared with you "wow" in sign language as a prayer of joy and wonder.

Other words and phrases for prayer include:

I'm sorry Please I love you Thank you

Prayer does not need to be complicated. It is simply time with Godof speaking and listening, of growing with God. This week I encourage you to keep your prayers simple. Distill down what could be a wordy prayer into a short word or phrase. Then, let the silence surround you, allowing space for God to speak to you.

PRAYER HYMN Jesus, You Once Called Disciples

Biblical References: Matthew 4:18-22, 10:1-41; Luke 8:1-3, 10:38-42; John 3:1-17, 4:1-42, 6:9, 19:25-27, 11:17-27; Acts 9:1-22; 2 Timothy 1:5 Tune: Traditional Dutch melody ("There's a Wideness in God's Mercy") Text: Copyright © 2002 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Copied from "Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor" by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Upper Room Books).

The lists of disciples found in the gospels are slightly different from each other. This hymn begins with the listing of twelve disciples which is found in Matthew. The four gospels together give a complete picture of Jesus calling not only the twelve, but also women, other men, and children. The line "some are brought up in your way" is a reference to 2 Timothy 1:5 where Timothy is described as one raised in the faith by his grandmother Lois and mother Eunice who are the ones who pass on the faith to their family.



PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE **Joys:** Worshipping together!

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

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

Holy and Gracious God, we pray today for the household of faith, the church, charged with proclaiming the word, feeding the hungry and loving its enemies. May we all, as members and ministers, be faithful to our baptismal vows as we follow your will in our lives. SILENCE

We pray for our nation and the family of nations who suffering mightily under this global pandemic, wars and violence, distrust and division. Guide those who lead us in their concern for justice and peace. SILENCE

We pray, O God, for all parents, grandparents, the married and single, widowed, separated or divorced. Help them to share their faith and show their trust as they listen to, affirm, and support their children. SILENCE

We lift up to you, Gentle Jesus, infants and children, especially those who are abused and those without parents. Let them know your love through the tenderness of all who care for them. SILENCE

We pray today, O Holy Spirit, for young women and men as they approach life's decisions. Give them a full and happy youth, and open their hearts to your world's goodness and beauty. SILENCE

We lift up to you, Healing God, all who are sick from the coronavirus or other illnesses. We pray for those who are facing surgeries and those who are recuperating from surgeries. We pray for those whose mental health has been deeply affected by this pandemic. Pour your light and love and grace upon all in need. SILENCE

We come to you, Listening One, just as we are. We come with our hurts and our joys. We come with our burdens and our laughter. We bring to you our tears and our love. Hear us now as we lift up to you our prayers. SILENCE

Gracious God, give us all a share of joy and happiness, that we may constantly discover your love that we might praise and glorify you in our daily lives. May we arrive at the perfect joy, which is to live with you forever and ever. 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.

ANTHEM I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy (YouTube Search: I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy (Down in My Heart)— Heritage Kids (Lyrics))

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy Down in my heart (where?) Down in my heart (where?) Down in my heart I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy Down in my heart (where?) Down in my heart to stay

Chorus:

And I'm so happy, so very happy: I've got the love of Jesus in my heart. And I'm so happy, so very happy: I've got the love of Jesus in my heart!

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus Down in my heart (where?) Down in my heart (where?) Down in my heart I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus Down in my heart (where?) Down in my heart to stay

Chorus: And I'm so happy, so very happy: I've got the love of Jesus in my heart. And I'm so happy, so very happy: I've got the love of Jesus in my heart!

I've got the peace that passes understanding Down in my heart (where?) Down in my heart (where?) Down in my heart I've got the peace that passes understanding Down in my heart (where?) Down in my heart to stay

Chorus: And I'm so happy, so very happy: I've got the love of Jesus in my heart. And I'm so happy, so very happy: I've got the love of Jesus in my heart! And I'm so happy, so very happy: I've got the love of Jesus in my heart. And I'm so happy, so very happy: I've got the love of Jesus in my heart!

## NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Luke 11:5-8 (NRSV)

And Jesus said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; <sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' <sup>7</sup> And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' <sup>8</sup> I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. 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 squeaky wheel gets the grease. My guess is you have either heard (or said) this phrase numerous times throughout your lifetime. In

week two of our four-week series on prayer, today's scripture focuses on persistence. Many of us are reticent about being too pushy with our prayers. We have been taught that, through prayer, we need to place our needs in God's hands and allow the Holy Spirit to take charge.

And yet, today's scripture lesson that follows immediately after Jesus taught his disciples what we now call The Lord's Prayer, is a story of persistence in prayer. It is an account of someone in need who keeps banging on a neighbor's door in the dark of the night until the neighbor finally, FINALLY gets out of bed and provides what is needed.

Prayer can look like the friend knocking at our door at midnight. Prayer calls us to be persistent and consistent. Prayer invites us to deepen our relationship with God so much that we are unafraid to be bold in our prayers, bold in our requests, bold in how we live prayerful lives.

Last week's scripture lesson began with Jesus' disciples asking for instructions on how best to pray. Jesus answered them with what will be three week's worth of lessons: last week's Lord's Prayer, today's lesson about persistence and next week about God's answering our prayers of intercession. The fourth week in our prayer series will shift us to Romans 8 and the power of the Holy Spirit in our prayers.

I'm delighted we have these weeks to focus on prayer because so many of us find ourselves feeling like Jesus' disciples did: unsure of the best way to pray, unsure of how to even begin to approach God and deepen our relationship with him.

Here is the good news: there are as many ways to pray as there are people on earth. No one can dictate to you how best to grow with God. How you pray, how you find delight in time with the Holy One, depends on you: your gifts, skills, doubts and desires. Prayer can be as simple as getting on your knees before crawling into bed or as complicated taking a weeklong retreat at a monastery to everything in between.

Today I'm going to share with you ways to pray, walk you through a prayer exercise and talk about the science behind prayer.

I'll begin with the science. Lynne McTaggert has written a fascinating study on the science of prayer entitled <u>The Intention Experiment: Using</u> <u>Your Thoughts to Change Your Life and the World</u>. In this volume, she cites scientific study after scientific study about prayer, intentionality, and healing. After demonstrating how our physical bodies are changed by

intention/by prayer, she says, "Intention (or prayer) is the perfect manifestation of love. Two bodies become one." In other words, when we pray for and with others, we are offering to God AND to one another our very best—our love.

McTaggert also wrote about an Australian scientist who spoke of the importance of being anchored in the midst of life's many stresses. Dr. John Diamond discovered that people who are most able to handle stress are those who have a "homing thought" or anchor in the midst of trial and tribulation. He continued by saying that this anchor in prayer is tied intimately to our own gifts and talents—and that finding—and relying—on one's anchor in the midst of turmoil "gives (us) not only a sense of joy, but also union with (God)."

In my own life, when life seems to toss me to-and-fro, I find myself moving (in my spirit/in my mind) to one of three places: to the hammock I once had in my backyard—looking straight up at the tall trees, a rocky beach on the Island of Iona in Scotland—a beach called the Machair, and the perimeter walk along Grand Lake in the neighborhood where Jim and I have a tiny cottage. Looking up at trees OR across a body of water always seems to bring me to a place of peace. Even if I cannot travel great distances, prayer and meditation take me there.

Prayer, that deepening of time with God, that set-aside time to rest in the Holy, changes lives—both those for whom we pray AND ourselves. According to theologian Lyn Klug, prayer can include journaling, singing hymns or songs, walking a labyrinth, communing with nature, praying in worship, reading devotional books or books that inspire us, coloring pages, guided prayer, praying with a friend, praying as you walk, run or swim. Prayer can take place in the morning when we awaken or at night before bedtime. It can happen while we are driving to work or while we are exercising.

In my last parish there was a woman named Traude. Traude was a woman of deep prayer who survived terminal cancer before I arrived 22 years ago. Every morning Traude would leap out of bed. She knew the importance of exercise so she would make her bed using large arm motions while saying aloud: This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Before her death, author Madeleine L'Engle would swim laps each day while reciting/praying 26 prayers—one for every letter in the alphabet. A few weeks ago I told you that for me, one of the most powerful ways I pray happens while sitting at a pottery wheel: for I need to give the clay complete focus—letting go of my own agenda—in order to keep the clay from flying off the wheel.

One concrete way to pray is by praying through scripture. Its formal name is *lectio divina* (pronounced lek' tsee oh dah vee'nah) and has been a form of Christian prayer for centuries. Lectio divina has five steps:

- 1. Reading. Reading a scripture passage slowly and carefully.
- 2. Pondering. Having a deep and loving conversation with God. Tell God why you find this passage meaningful. How does this passage relate to your life?
- 3. Praying the Word. Become aware of what God is saying to you in this passage. This step won't necessarily involve words—God may speak to you in an image, a brief though, a feeling, an insight, a sense of God's presence or love.
- 4. Resting in the Word. Be silent for awhile. Rest in God's presence in and around you. Then express (in words or in writing) what you experienced and how you feel.
- 5. Living the Word. If the passage prods you to do something, what is it? True prayer ultimately rests in action. How will you put this passage to work in your life? And conversely, how do you see God's grace working in your life?

These five steps can take up to thirty minutes—but it is time incredibly well-spent because you've carved out time to dive deeply into the waters of scripture and what God is saying to you in the passage. Last summer I attended a workshop in Minnesota hosted by a Lutheran seminary. When the leaders of the workshop talked about this form of prayer, they even encouraged us to stay with the same passage for days or weeks at a time in order to discover what new word God is speaking to us over the course of time.

As I said at the beginning, there are as many ways to pray as there are people on earth. It is our task, our responsibility, our sacred calling to figure out how we can best spend time with God. It is YOUR sacred calling

this week to spend time with God. It is St. Paul Church's sacred calling as the Body of Christ to put our prayer into action, to put love into action, to put grace into action. As theologian Karl Barth once said, "To clasp our hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world."

In these times of global upheaval, prayer can change the world. May your prayer weave with my prayer and our prayers weave together with the prayers of people of faith the world over that a tapestry of love and peace might prevail. Amen

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: Our ancestors in faith gathered together long ago to remember, to be restored, to be renewed. They shared their story, prayed together, and made an offering to God as they prepared to set out on the long journey to freedom in the Promised Land. Today we gather to remember and to pray together, to be restored and renewed, and we bring our own offerings so the ministry of this church will continue to participate in the saving works of God.

\*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)

We offer to you, O God, the gift of our hands and the loyalty of our hearts. Accept us with our gifts, we pray, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

\*HYMN OF SENDING O Come to Me, the Master Said verses 1 & 3

# O Come to Me, the Master Said 346



C.M.D.

WORDS: I mothy Dudley-Smith (1926-) MUSIC: English melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) Words © 1988 Hope Publishing Company \*BENEDICTION: May the power of the love of Christ work in the hearts of all who hear. May the power of the love of Christ fire-up many to go and tell the good news. May the power of the love of Christ uphold all who serve, that by the same power the peoples of the earth may be blessed to be at peace with each other. Amen.



\*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. This arrangement by Rodney Milton, Copyright ©2000. All rights reserved. Used by Permission. CCLI License #3095528

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of Gerald Gibson by Deb Gibson.

Meetings-Confirmation-Sunday, August 30, 11:15am, Sanctuary.

Attendance-Online-Daily Devotions Avg.-113, Aug 9-Sunday Worship Online-363, In Person-33

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.

**Coffee with Pastor Becky**-Monday's from 1:30pm to 3:00pm. at NB Coffee Co. All are Welcome!!!!

**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.

**September/October 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 August**

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

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: <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81502752298?pwd=MIVqR3oxNmQ4NC9Zaj</u> <u>I4cXRKUWpldz09</u> 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: <u>berbstrang@stpauInb.org</u>

**2020 Northwest Ohio Association annual meeting** was held on August 1, virtually, from the Tiffin office with 85 present. The COVID-19 pandemic made it necessary to compact what use to be an entire day of meeting and activity into an hour and a half necessary business meeting. Many talented individuals from many of our churches put in hours of preparation to make this meeting happen. To learn about our association's budget, reports from our leaders, ordination candidate information, mission partners and much more, please ask for a book in the office waiting to be read. Working together, our churches are making a positive difference in this world.

**Camp Washington-August Mission** Camp Washington council member Laurel Hume informed the mission team by email that the summer program at Camp Washington was cancelled this year due to the pandemic. Because of this, our mission of providing gifts of school clothes will not take place due to the inability to get sizes for the children. The Mission Team has chosen instead to make a financial contribution that will be used by Camp Washington for back-to-school needs for the students. Please help us support this worthy cause and enable these students to return to school with the necessary supplies that contribute to a successful school year. Your continued support of the Monthly Missions is greatly appreciated. Thank you! The Mission Team

Agape Ministries School Supply Drive-Some suggested supplies are:

Spiral Notebooks (wide ruled) Bottles (4 oz.) of Washable Glue

24 Count box of Crayons Binders 1", 1-1/2" & 2" (No Trapper Keepers) Glue Sticks Black, Blue, & Red Pens

Wide Ruled Loose Leaf Paper Playdoh

Scissors 5 Fiskars(pointed) Expo Dry Erase Markers(other brands stain) 5 pack color tab dividers Colored Hi-lighters

3 Ring Zipper Pencil Pouch 12 Count Colored Pencils

Washable Markers #2 Yellow Pencils(no mechanical pencils please) Boxes of Tissues Ticonderoga Pencils

Gallon Size Ziploc Bags

Mr. Clean Magic Erasers

Sandwich Size Ziploc Bags

School supplies can be dropped off at Agape Ministries Client Services Building,1220 E. Spring Street, St. Marys. We will be accepting donations Monday through Friday during the hours of 9 am to 4:30 pm.

\*\* If you drop off at Agape Thrift Store, be sure to tell them it is for the School Supplies Drive. All school supplies collected will be distributed to schools prior to school starting. If you are uncomfortable going out to shop, another option would be to place an order at one of your favorite stores and have the items delivered to Agape Ministries. Our address is 1220 E. Spring Street, St. Marys, OH 45885 Thank you for your continued support. Together, we can make a difference!

**Disaster Relief Buckets-**Northwest Ohio Association collects and stores Disaster Relief Buckets that are ready to go when disaster strikes a community. The Mission Team encourages you to pick up an empty bucket following worship or during weekday office hours. If you would like to have an empty bucket delivered to your house, please contact John Gilberg. Filled buckets need to be returned to church by mid-August.

## E-Giving @ St. Paul <u>3 Different Ways to Give</u>

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)

Profiproject 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.