

September 14, 2020

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

Grace and peace to you!

Yesterday afternoon St. Paul UCC hosted the Rev. Katie Jackson's Service of Ordination. Wearing the stole covered with your handprints, the ordination prayer called upon the Holy Spirit to fill Katie for ordained ministry as pastor, shepherd, and teacher. Thank you for attending her celebration via Zoom and in person. Today Katie moves to Ephrata, Pennsylvania where she will serve as Pastor at Bethany United Church of Christ.

We continue to thank God for your ongoing financial support of St. Paul Church in the midst of Covid19. The giving envelope included in this mailing serves as an invitation and reminder for your continuing support of the many ministries and missions of our congregation as we seek to serve Jesus by loving our neighbors both near and far.

One of the missions of St. Paul Church that has increased exponentially during the pandemic is the Blessing Pantry. Daily we welcome guests into our space to obtain food, toiletries, diapers, and cleaning supplies. Your generous donations combine with the donations of our wider community in keeping the Pantry stocked and ready for our guests.

Confirmation classes begin Wednesday September 16 at 6:30 via Zoom. If you or your student needs the login information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

On Thursday September 17 Bible Study via Zoom will begin. This is open to all ages—our conversations are lively, nourishing us for the days ahead. Again, if you need the login information, please contact us.

We plan to begin Sunday School on Sunday October 4. Youth programming will begin on Wednesday, October 7. Stay tuned for details!


The education building remains closed to groups through September. Beginning in October, the Blessing Pantry will move back to its original room off the north hallway of the education building.

Our sanctuary air conditioning Project of the Year is complete and fully funded. Thank you for your generosity! Any funds given to the Project of the Year for the rest of 2020 will go toward repairing

the steeple roof and repairing the gutters on the education building. Council will determine the order of these projects depending on the funds donated.

Again, we thank you for your faithfulness to the Living Christ who is often disguised as a neighbor in need.

Grace and Peace,


Jeff Quellhorst Roland Dicke Becky Erb Strang Dee Schroer
Council President Council VP Senior Pastor Associate Pastor

Financial Information as of September 14, 2020

Operating Fund

Beg. Balance (\$2,974.14)

Giving Income \$11,714.04 (2weeks)

Endowment Transfers \$26,357.19(ytd)

Income \$213,175.78 (YTD)

Expenses \$209,023.63 (YTD)

Balance \$1,178.01

Building Maint & Property Care

Beg. Balance \$83,428.04

Income \$11,156.00 (YTD)

Endowment Income \$2,627.44 (YTD)

Expenses \$22,581.97(YTD)

Balance \$74,629.51

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$9,934.05

Income \$13,174.00(YTD)

Bless Pantry Inc. \$10,615.55

Expenses \$16,240.07(YTD)

Bless Pantry Ex.\$8,579.32

Balance \$8,904.21

Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$30,000.00

Income \$1,065.00(2weeks)

Income \$17,814.00 (YTD)

Project of the Year

Income \$199.00(2weeks)

Balance \$1,601.00

Happy Birthday!!!! To all the September Babies-My writing is limited due to a broken finger on my right hand. May all have a Wonderful Day! Anna L Hoelscher

Birth Candle welcomes Louise Anna Dicke. Louise was born Thursday, September 10, 2020 to Austin & Casey Dicke. She is the granddaughter of Kirk Dicke and great granddaughter of Sally & Dan Dicke. Welcome Louise.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2020
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



God is gracious and merciful.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sunday | Matthew 20:1-16 | Parable of the vineyard workers |
| Monday | Jonah 3:10–4:11 | Jonah goes to Nineveh |
| Tuesday | Philippians 1:21-30 | What life means to Paul |
| Wednesday | Exodus 16:2-15 | Bread from heaven |
| Thursday | Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45 | God's faithfulness to Israel |
| Friday | Titus 2:11-15 | God's kindness |
| Saturday | Psalms 145:1-8 | The Lord is kind and merciful |
| Sunday | Matthew 21:23-32 | Parable of the two sons |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. **Psalm 145:8 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, we thank you that you care for all, especially those who feel left behind, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of grace and mercy, we thank you for your care for us that gives us food from your fruitful creation. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the undeserved kindness of God bless you with faith and good courage now and always.



© 2019 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*God Created
Heaven and Earth*

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Think about or tell a story of how someone was kind to you.
- Has it ever been difficult for you to be kind to someone? What made it difficult?
- Is God's kindness to you a surprise or not? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Jonah 3:10–4:11.

Frankly, we don't really like God's justice. It's too supportive of people unlike us! Like Jonah, we don't want a God who is slow to anger and full of steadfast love for people we don't think deserve it, especially those we would consider our enemies. That's why Jonah ran away from God (v. 4:2). Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrians who had destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel in 722 BC. Now God told Jonah to preach repentance to the Ninevites. Jonah was afraid to do this because he knew of God's love and mercy, something he did not want showered upon his enemies. And Jonah was right; it happened, and it angered him. It's just like in Jesus' parable of the generous landowner (Matthew 20:1-16) where it seems so wrong for people who worked in the fields all day only to get the same wage as those who started at the end of the day. Is it easy or hard for you to accept God's justice where "the undeserving" receive the same generosity you receive? Explain.

Pray: Gracious and merciful God, give me faith to love your generosity for all people, especially those who are different from me. In Jesus' name, amen.

SERVICE

The story of the vineyard in Matthew 20:1-16 is about a generous owner who paid the laborers the same amount at the end of the day even if some worked harder and longer than others. Some of the laborers grumbled. The owner asked, "Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" (Matthew 20:15). In what ways are you generous to others with what belongs to you?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Exodus 16:2-15 bread was provided from heaven. Prepare a meal that includes bread. Think or talk about Moses and the Israelites and how they had to learn to be patient and have faith in God to feed them daily as they traveled to the Promised Land. What does this mean for you? Before you eat, pray: Lord, thank you for this bread you have given us to eat. Help us to never forget how you provide for us just as you did for the Israelites. Amen.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org



Covenant

Love is the spirit
of this church,
and service its law.

This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace,
To seek the truth in love,
And to help one another.

James Vasa Blake

St. Paul United Church of Christ

119 North Franklin Street

New Bremen, Ohio 45869

Phone (419-629-2502), Fax (419-629-3207)

Email stpaulnb@nktelco.net or stpaulnb@gmail.com

Visit our website at <https://stpaulnb.org>

Like and follow our page St. Paul United Church of Christ – New

Bremen, Ohio on Facebook

Rev. Becky's cell phone 419-953-1152

Pastor Dee's cell phone 419-733-8760

Jeff Quellhorst-Council President 937-689-9517

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

Blessing and greetings to one and all. In the name of Christ, you are welcome today and every day.

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

September 20, 2020
Sixteenth 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

$\text{♩} = 120$

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.

To verses | Last time, Fine

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(from Flames of the Spirit, Ruth C. Duck, Editor, 1985)

Leader: Surely the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

People: All creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.

Leader: We groan inwardly as we wait;

People: And as we wait, we hope for what we do not see.

Unison: As we wait and hope, let us worship together.

*HYMN OF PRAISE *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* verses 1 & 4

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty 71

F Dm $\frac{C}{E}$ F C Dm Am B \flat F B \flat $\frac{C7}{G}$ Dm B \flat 6 C7

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre-a
 2 Praise to the Lord, a-bove all things so won-drous-ly reign
 3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros-per your work and de-fend
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a-dore

F Dm $\frac{C}{E}$ F C Dm Am B \flat F B \flat $\frac{C7}{G}$ Dm

tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal-
 ing; shel-tering you un-der his wings, and so gent-ly sus-
 you: sure-ly his good-ness and mer-cy shall dai-ly at-
 him! All that has life and breath, come now with prais-es be-

B \flat 6 C7 F $\frac{C}{E}$ F B \flat F B \flat $\frac{C}{E}$

va- tion! Come, all who hear; now to his
 tain- ing! Have you not seen all that is
 tend you. Pon-der a-new what the Al-
 fore him. Let the A-men sound from his

F $\frac{C7}{G}$ $\frac{F}{A}$ C Am B \flat $\frac{C7}{G}$ Dm $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ A $\frac{Gm7}{Bb}$ C7 F

tem-ple draw near, join me in glad ad-o-ra-tion!
 need-ful has been sent by his gra-cious or-dain-ing?
 might-y can do, if with his love he be-friends you.
 peo-ple a-gain; glad-ly for-ev-er a-dore him.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Desiring to be rich in the things of this world, we fall into temptation. Our craving for more and more things distorts our priorities. How can we aim at righteousness, godliness, faith, love, and gentleness when we are worried about possessions? Let us dare to examine ourselves before God, from whom comes everything we enjoy.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Everflowing God, whether gathered or scattered, we are in need of your love now. We have let the dividing walls of ignorance, war, virus and greed come between us and our sisters and brothers. Like Martha, we have often only concentrated on our own tasks, and then complained when we see others serve you differently. Like Mary, we truly seek to hear your call to us, but find ourselves limited by expectations of our family, friends, and even our churches have for us. Free us, O God, so we might arise, reach out, and touch the world with your hope and grace. Amen.

*SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Here is the good news: when we recognize our need and seek God's help we can count on God's gifts. God deals wondrously with all of us, pouring out spiritual blessings. Relationships with God and our sisters and brothers become more important when we welcome Jesus Christ into our lives. Let us be the church, the Body of Christ, in our world!

People: Thanks be to God!

*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

PRAYER HYMN

There Is a Balm in Gilead

verses 1 & 3

631 There Is a Balm in Gilead

Refrain (Unison)

C13 F B \flat /F F C7

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole,

C13 F B \flat /D F/C C13 F

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

N.C. F F \sharp_2 F C7 F F/A C

1 Some-times I feel dis-cour-aged, and think my work's in vain,
 2 If you can-not preach like Pe-ter, if you can-not pray like Paul,
 3 Don't ev-er feel dis-cour-aged, for Je-sus is your friend;

B \flat /C F F \sharp_2 /G F \sharp_7 /A B \flat F/C C13 Dm B \flat

to Refrain

but then the Ho-ly Spir-it re-vives my soul a-gain.
 you can tell the love of Je-sus, and say, "He died for all."
 and if you lack for knowl-edge he'll ne'er re-fuse to lend.

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Worshipping together! **Birth Candle** welcomes Louise Anna Dicke. Louise was born Thursday, September 10, 2020 to Austin & Casey Dicke. She is the granddaughter of Kirk Dicke and great granddaughter of Sally & Dan Dicke. Welcome Louise.

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Rosie Heitkamp (JTDMH), Zelta Fogt, Deb Lear, Erin Rammel, Ethel Mesloh, Julie Vogel, Jan Dammeyer, Drew Wray, Cindy Newman, and Pastor Dee Schroer.

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

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 *Love Lifted Me* by Kenny Rogers
(YouTube.com; search Kenny Rogers Muppets *Love Lifted Me*)

*Love lifted me! Love lifted me!
When nothing else would do,
Love lifted me.*

*I write myself a simple song,
The whole world to sing along.
Call it a love song for you.
Who knows I'm libel to take a song from the Bible,
Than when I'm blue, I'll just sing*

*Love lifted me! Love lifted me!
When nothing else would do,
Love lifted me.*

*Love lifted me! Love lifted me!
When nothing else would do,
Love lifted me.*

*Love lifted me! Love lifted me!
When nothing else would do,
Love lifted me.
Love lifted me! Love lifted me!
When nothing else would do,
Love lifted me.*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 15:1-6

(Eugene Peterson's The Message)

*After all these things, this word of God came to Abram in a vision:
“Don’t be afraid, Abram. I’m your shield. Your reward will be grand!”*

*Abram said, “God, Master, what use are your gifts as long as I’m
childless and Eliezer of Damascus is going to inherit everything?”
Abram continued, “See, you’ve given me no children, and now a mere
house servant is going to get it all.”*

*Then God’s Message came: “Don’t worry, he won’t be your heir; a
son from your body will be your heir.”*

*Then he took him outside and said, “Look at the sky. Count the
stars. Can you do it? Count your descendants! You’re going to have a
big family, Abram!”*

*And he believed! Believed God! God declared him “Set-Right-with-
God.”*

RESPONSE

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

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

SERMON

A New Covenant

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION

*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 give you, O God, the whole of our lives, not just the portion that we think we can do without. Every day that we live, every breath taken, is a result of your blessing. Nothing can be taken for granted and so we gather to encourage one another to actively and urgently pursue your presence. We are facing you. We are your people and long to be used by you to bring about the kingdom as you intend. Amen.

*HYMN

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

verses 1 & 4

Take My Life and Let It Be

466

1 Take my life and let it be con - se - crat - ed,
 2 Take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti -
 3 Take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sa -
 4 Take my love, my God, I pour at thy feet its

Lord, to thee; take my hands and let them move
 ful for thee; take my voice and let me sing
 ges for thee; take my sil - ver and my gold,
 treas - ure store; take my - self and I will be

at the im - pulse of thy love, at the im - pulse of thy love.
 al - ways, on - ly, for my King, al - ways, on - ly, for my King.
 not a mite would I with - hold, not a mite would I with - hold.
 ev - er, on - ly, all for thee, ev - er, on - ly, all for thee.

*BENEDICTION

*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.

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 each other.

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.

"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 Angela Lynne Bushman by the Dennis and Gert Bushman and Family.

Meetings-Mission Team-Sunday, September 20 at 11:15 in the Sanctuary. Discipleship Team-Sunday, September 27 at 11:15 in the Sanctuary. Men's Group-Saturday, October 3, 8:00am, Speedway Lanes.

Attendance-Online-Daily Devotions Avg.-92, September 6-Sunday Worship Online-249, In Person-37

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. Beginning in October, the Blessing Pantry will return to its original space.

Building Entrance-St. Paul is accessible by the East Educational Building door, Monday-Friday 10:00am-Noon and 1:00pm-3:00pm through the month of September. 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!!!!

Opening Day Sunday School/Youth Groups-Due to COVID-19, Sunday School will start Sunday, October 4 in-person and Youth Groups will start Wednesday, October 7. More information will be in your mailbox soon. Thanks, Pastor Dee.

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.

Zoom Bible Study- Thursday's at 6:30 p.m. Join Zoom Meeting by clicking on or logging onto:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88567175194?pwd=K2FBaGYzRUUpaRElWUjY4Q1Y4b3UrUT09> Once you are logged on, you will need the following:

Meeting ID: 885 6717 5194 Passcode: 229014

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

September Book Club is September 27 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. We will discuss Ashlee Eiland's *Human (Kind)*. 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/81861071237?pwd=WTIEOTRCeXgrVGoZNgwL056NFIRUT09> Once you are logged on, you will need the following:

Meeting ID: 818 6107 1237 Password: 218178

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

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 September and October

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

September monthly mission-Local Aid As the name implies, Local Aid helps individuals and families in our surrounding communities, meeting the needs of daily life. Aid can come in the form of gas cards, rent money and other miscellaneous repairs and expenses that may occur in our daily living. To give towards Local Aid, please mark your giving envelope accordingly or bring to the church office in an envelope labeled “Local Aid”. Thank you!

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.



WARM WINTER COAT & GLOVES DRIVE



KEEPING YOUR COMMUNITY WARM

Agape Ministries will once again
be collecting
NEW & GENTLY USED WINTER COATS
& NEW WATER PROOF WINTER GLOVES
for those in need.

Coat Drive Dates: September 21 – November 1.

Drop off Coats to the Agape Client Services Building
from 9 am – 4:30 pm Monday thru Friday.

If dropping off at THRIFT STORE, please tell them it is for the coat drive
and not to be sold in store.

Items may also be dropped off at St Paul. We will have a
designated coat rack available in east hallway of
Educational building. Thank you.