

October 5, 2020

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

Grace and peace to you during these gorgeous fall days. We continue to pray for your good health and the health of our communities.


Our Blessing Pantry has moved into our original space off the north hallway. We are also entering into a partnership with West Ohio Food Bank in order to purchase needed foods at greatly reduced prices. Because of this partnership, we will need to track our guests who visit the Pantry. **The new Blessing Pantry hours are: Tuesdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m., Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 p.m.** We will need two volunteers to staff each of these shifts. Please contact the church office if you can volunteer.

We 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. Thank you for your generosity!

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.

May your week be filled with blessings, joy and service!

Grace and Peace,

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

Financial Information as of October 5, 2020

**Operating Fund**

**Beg. Balance (\$2,974.14)**

Giving Income \$7,831.59 (weekly)

Endowment Transfers \$29,519.10(ytd)

Income \$229,508.44 (YTD)

Expenses \$238,023.03 (YTD)

Balance **(\$11,488.73)**

**Building Maint & Property Care**

Beg. Balance \$83,428.04

Income \$12,021.00 (YTD)

Endowment Income \$2,627.44 (YTD)

Expenses \$28,587.66(YTD)

Balance \$69,488.82

**Local Aid**

Beg. Balance \$9,934.05

Income \$15,139.00(YTD)

Bless Pantry Inc. \$11,466.16

Expenses \$17,637.14(YTD)

Bless Pantry Ex.\$10,314.68

Balance \$8,587.39

**Our Church Wider Mission**

Pledge \$30,000.00

Income \$665.00(weekly)

Income \$18,964.00 (YTD)

**Project of the Year**

Income \$75.00(weekly)

Balance \$2,226.00

Please remember the family of Rosemary Heitkamp in your prayers. Rosie passed away Friday, October 2, 2020. Services to celebrate her life will be held at St. Paul Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 11:00am. Visitation will be the hour prior to the service at St. Paul.

OCTOBER 11, 2020  
NINETEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*God's grace makes a difference in our lives.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 22:1-14	Parable of the wedding feast
Monday	Isaiah 25:1-9	A prayer of thanks to God
Tuesday	Philippians 4:1-9	Paul encourages his co-workers
Wednesday	Exodus 32:1-14	The people make an idol
Thursday	Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23	A nation asks for forgiveness
Friday	Matthew 5:1-11	The Beatitudes
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	Matthew 22:15-22	The question of paying taxes

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Finally beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. **Philippians 4:8 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God, guide our thoughts and actions in ways that reflect your reign of goodness and mercy through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, you who promise us a feast of rich food, help us to take joy in this meal today. Amen. (Isaiah 25:6)

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)



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OCTOBER 11, 2020  
HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Just As I Am, without  
One Plea*



### 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:

- Talk or think about a time you went to a party filled with friends, food, and laughter.
- Would you invite someone off the street who you do not know to a party? Why or why not?
- God's love in the Bible is seen sometimes as an invitation to a great party or feast. What does this say about God?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Matthew 22:1-14.

It is said we can have our own opinions, but not our own facts. Similarly, you can have your own message, but not your own Christian gospel. Matthew makes it clear that the good news of Jesus is powerful. God's mercy has the last word; it includes a divine judgment that says that the marginalized, the belittled, the "poor in spirit" (Matthew 5:3) will be blessed (v. 10). If we take the grace of God for granted, we not only miss the feast, we miss the fact that "many are called, but few are chosen" (v. 14). This text is from Jesus' final week before his crucifixion. The people see him as a prophet, a true messenger of God (Matthew 21:46), but soon he will suffer, be humiliated, and die. There will be false prophets who come along. They are like the guest who is not wearing the proper clothing and their message will be rejected. Our life in Christ will not be associated with messages and actions of hate, racism, prejudice or contempt for the poor. God's grace makes a difference in our lives and in the world in which we live. How does God's grace challenge your thoughts and actions toward people who are different from you?

*Pray:* God of grace and mercy, cleanse us of our way of life that can become indifferent to the people you love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### SERVICE

There is a theme this week about feasts and hospitality. Hospitality is receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, kind, and generous way. Think about what it means to show hospitality. Invite someone you may not know very well to your house for a meal.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalms 23 is one of the most well-known scriptures in the Bible. This psalm is the shepherd David's song to God. David likens how a shepherd cares for sheep to how God loves each one of us. Write a list of ways a shepherd cares for sheep. Look at your list and think about God caring for you in these ways. **Pray: Lord, thank you for caring for me and leading me with love. Amen.**



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



Devils Tower, Wyoming  
Photo by Becky Erb Strang

## **St. Paul United Church of Christ**

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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 Senior Pastor

Pastor Dee Associate Pastor

Jeff Quellhorst-Council President

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

Welcome! Your presence whether online or in person increases our joy as we praise our loving Savior. May every blessing be yours.

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the Church-Covid-19** is a respiratory illness. 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.** 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!

**Thank you Dana Bornhorst** for serving in the Nursery Sunday! The Nursery is located on the east end of the south hallway in the educational building.

**Restrooms** are located in the Narthex/front entrance of the church and in the south hallway of the educational building.

**WIFI Connection**-connect via "St Paul – Guest"

Password: Godlovesyou

The \* indicates all who are able may stand

**October 11, 2020**  
**Nineteenth 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**

\*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

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

Leader: Let us gather with the faithful from every nation, race people and language, in worshiping the God made known to us in Jesus Christ.

**People: To God, the Ruler of the universe, and to Jesus, the Lamb, be blessing and honor, glory and power forever and ever.**

Leader: Whether gathered or scattered, we are in God's presence, singing songs of praise and joy with the people of God in every place and time.

**People: Holy, holy, holy, great God of Hosts! The whole earth is full of your glory. Glory be to you, O God, most high. Amen.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!* verses 1 & 4

# 136 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

D Bm A7 D G  $\frac{A}{G}$  G  $\frac{A9}{G}$  D

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!  
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,  
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark-ness hide thee,  
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

$\frac{A}{C\#}$  D  $\frac{A}{C\#}$  Bm  $\frac{E7}{B}$   $\frac{A}{C\#}$  D  $\frac{A}{E}$  E7 A A7

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.  
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
 though the eye made blind by sin thy glo - ry may not see,  
 All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea;

D Bm A7 D G  $\frac{A}{G}$  G  $\frac{A9}{G}$  D

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,  
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!

Bm  $\frac{D7}{F\#}$  G D  $\frac{Em}{G}$  A7 D

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
 which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.  
 per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.  
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

\*INVOCATION (in unison)

**O God, in our time of worship, and throughout the hours of our days, remain at the center of our thoughts and actions. When all that we do seems to fly off in scattered bits and pieces as our lives spin on, draw us back to you. Hold us together as individuals and as a community of faith. In our looking outward into time and toward your creation, enable us to focus our hopes and to hit the mark when we aim to do your will. Be for us a home base, a center of gravity, a balance point, a source of loving support through Christ Jesus in whose name we pray. 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: Bible Presentations

INTRODUCTION: Today is an important day in your lives. The day you receive your own copy of the Bible from St. Paul Church as a gift for life. We would not have the Bible today, if throughout the centuries caring, faithful people before us had not preserved the word of God and passed it on to the next generation, just as we are doing here today.

It is a privilege to present these Bibles to you today. May this Bible be a constant reminder to you of a worthy past, a past torn and mended by people's dreams and ambitions, and by hope fulfilled in God's continuing love. This Bible carries a tremendous history, a history that is part of our identity as human beings, and part of who and what we are as the church. It is a history that gives meaning to our lives together. The biblical message can transform all of human history, past, present, and future.

**BIBLE PRESENTATIONS:**

(Bibles will be presented to students by their Sunday School Teachers)

Leader: Hear now these words from Hebrews 4:12, "The word of God is something alive and active. It cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely. It can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow. It can judge the secret emotion and



thoughts." May this Bible enable you to dream today, and may your dreams challenge you to create a better tomorrow. As a congregation we celebrate alongside our youth.

**People: We rejoice in this step in your journey with God. We pray God will guide you, your family, and us as you use this Bible in your home, in Sunday School, youth groups, and in our worship. We will learn together and grow in our love for God's Word!**

PRAYER HYMN      *Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit*

## Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit

1. Bles - sed are the poor in spir - it; all God's  
2. Bles - sed, too, are those who hun - ger and who  
3. Those who share the peace God gives them will find

3  
realm is sure - ly theirs. Those in mourn - ing will find  
thirst for what is right. They will not be prone to  
bles - sings as God's own. Those op - pressed for faith - ful

6  
com - fort as an an - swer to their prayers. Meek ones  
wan - der, for your will is their de - light. Those who  
liv - ing will call Hea - ven's king - dom home. When the

9  
whom this world de - spis - es will in -  
show God's care and mer - cy will re -  
world's ways seem dis - tress - ing and we

11  
her - it ever - y - thing. God, your king - dom still sur -  
ceive that mer - cy, too. God, in Christ you show us  
feel life's pain - ful sting, God, re - mind us of the

14  
pris - es; may we seek the reign you bring.  
clear - ly of the joy we have in you.  
bles - sings of the won - drous life you bring.

## PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

**Joys:** Jenna Miller & Chance Daisy were united in marriage on Saturday October 10, 2020. Congratulations Jenna & Chance. **Birth Candle:** Welcomes Taylor Marie Lomakin, born Wednesday September 30, 2020. Taylor is the daughter of Jessica & Matthew Lomakin, sister to Harper, granddaughter of Janel & John Schwartz and great-granddaughter of Bob Wierwille.

**Concerns:** We are continuing to pray for Deb Lear, Julie Vogel, Jan Dammeyer, Drew Wray, Cindy Newman, Ron Bertke and Pastor Dee Schroer.

PASTORAL PRAYER, PERSONAL PRAYER, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER. (adapted from the Rev. David Long-Higgins: A Prayer for God's Promised Persistence...)

We thank you, O God, that day rises from night, that the death of the seed becomes the life from which the flower springs. So let us trust your uncovering grace so often hidden by the weight of seasons too long.

SILENCE

Let the same penetrating power of your creation by which the grass cracks the rocky crag be at work in every hard place. Especially let us break open our hearts that all possibilities born of fear may be broken open by your resurrection grace. SILENCE

O God, we ask you to make all things new. Let this new day break open the seed of this powerful possibility of your persistence, a transformational turning in us and in the life of the world. And grow, what you will, as you will, into your will. SILENCE

We pray for your persistent love in the midst of disease, violence, destruction and prejudice. Move us to offer love instead of fear, grace instead of condemnation. SILENCE

We lift up to you this day those who are grieving, those who are hurting, those who are recuperating from illness or surgery. Pour your Holy Spirit upon each. SILENCE

We pray today, O God, for ourselves. Fill us with your peace that we might be instruments of peace on this hurting planet, in this hurting nation. SILENCE

We thank you, O God, that you are ready to listen far more than we are to speak to you. Hear us now as we lift up to you our prayers.  
SILENCE

We thank you, Gentle One, for hearing our prayers and for loving us beyond measure. 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

*Go Down Moses*

(YouTube Search: Paul Robeson-Go Down Moses (Let My People Go))

*When Israel was in Egypt land*

*Let my people go!*

*Oppressed so hard they could not stand,*

*Let my people go!*

*Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt land,*

*Tell old Pharaoh to let my people go!*

*Thus spoke the Lord, bold Moses said,*

*Let my people go!*

*If not I'll smite your first-born dead!*

*Let my people go!*

*Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt land,*

*Tell old Pharaoh to let my people go!*

*Your foes shall not before you stand,*

*Let my people go!*

*And you'll possess fair Canaan's land*

*Let my people go!*

*Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt land,*

*Tell old Pharaoh to let my people go!*

*You'll not get lost in the wilderness*

*Let my people go!*

*With a lighted candle in your breast  
Let my people go!*

*Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt land,  
Tell old Pharaoh to let my people go!*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Exodus 32:1-14 (NRSV)

*When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."<sup>2</sup> Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me."<sup>3</sup> So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron.<sup>4</sup> He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"<sup>5</sup> When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord."<sup>6</sup> They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.*

*<sup>7</sup> The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup> they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'"<sup>9</sup> The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup> Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."*

*<sup>11</sup> But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup> Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup> Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants,*

*how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'”<sup>14</sup> And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.*

## 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

In today's reading from Exodus, we hear only part of the story—the part where Moses' brother, Aaron, was left in charge of the Israelites while Moses stayed on the mountaintop and talked to God. Moses must have been gone a good chunk of time, because the people grew antsy. Really antsy. They began to doubt that Moses would ever come back and that perhaps Moses' God had left them.

So what did Aaron do? He collected the gold earrings from men, women and children and had the gold melted down and turned into a golden calf—a common idol of that time; often used as a god of fertility. Delighted by their new god, the people began to celebrate.

When God caught wind of what was going on at the base of the mountain, he was furious and swore to Moses that he would destroy all the Hebrews. Moses, using his best possible arguments, changed God's mind.

Our reading ends here, but the story did not end. Moses did go back down the mountain to see his people partying it up around the golden calf. He was so angry that he smashed the stone tablets he was carrying and burned the golden calf—grinding down the burned remains into a powder and then forcing the people to drink this bitter stuff.

Throughout all of this, Moses was heartbroken. He asked the people: who will follow the Lord? A few people came forward, but that day we hear that Moses killed 3000 people and then a plague came upon them.

Not a pretty story. Not a happy ending.

But this story is also about us and the idols we create each and every day.

Where do you place most of your energy? What does your checkbook say about that which you value? What stuff have you gathered around you in order to feel safe and secure and comfortable? My dear friends: we, like the Israelites before us, still have our idols we worship in place of God.

Like the Israelites, we seem hard-wired to want a tangible god—whether that god be our bank account, our car, our farm, or even our family. Then there is the idol of self. We have an easier time placing our trust in our own strength, our own skills, our own desires than we do placing our trust in God.

Think for a moment about that which you worship. What are your false gods? Where do you place your complete and total trust? SILENCE

Now, what would happen today, TODAY, if we each placed these idols, these symbols of our misplaced trust, into a great bonfire in the middle of Franklin Street? Can you imagine the size of the bonfire? Would you even be willing to part with what you idolize?

Then, imagine doing as Moses did to the Israelites—grinding the golden ash into powder and drinking down the bitter taste of our poorly chosen gods. Without a doubt, today's story gives us pause.

As Rob Bell asks us in "Love Wins", what God do you worship? A God of vengeance and anger? A jealous God? A spiteful God? A prosperity God? Even in the midst of our own Christian journeys, we find ourselves turning away from God—God who forgives us unconditionally, is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Many of us truly do have a difficult time placing our total trust in God. Oftentimes this is because the god we hear about in our culture is not our God of love.

So, having burned our idols on Franklin Street, and having drunk the bitter stuff of their false promises, how do we even begin to turn to God in a way that is faithful, worshipful, and life-giving for all?

It is Moses himself who gives us a hint. If we had read the entire narrative of Moses on the mountaintop with God, we would begin with Exodus 19 and 20 and the giving of the Ten Commandments. THAT story we know, but we rarely read Exodus 21-31: all the conversations and instructions God gave to Moses for the people to follow. I encourage you to take time this afternoon to read the rest of those chapters, to get a sense of how DETAILED God was with Moses.

Yet something else must have happened up on that mountaintop while Aaron and the Hebrews melted their golden earrings. In the midst of that mountaintop experience, God and Moses created a bond of trust that was far from one-sided. We hear in today's reading that when God realized what the Hebrews were doing, he threatened to destroy them all.

From this comes the power of trust, the power of relationship, the power of prayer. We hear that Moses spoke up on behalf of the wayward people at the base of the mountain. He begged for their lives. And what did God do in response to Moses' pleas? The scripture tells us in Exodus 32:14 that the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Eugene Peterson's rendering of this verse in *The Message* says this: *And God did think twice. He decided not to do the evil he had threatened against his people.*

Think about that for a moment. We say we are people of prayer. We say we are people who place our trust in God. We work to set aside our false gods to worship the One True God. And yet, how often do we feel as if our prayers have been answered? How often do we enter into prayer as it is meant to be: a deepening relationship with the Holy One who also seeks a relationship with us?

The trust between God and Moses during all that time on the mountaintop deepened and strengthened their relationship. We are asked to do the same. To deepen and strengthen our relationship with God—not as someone to be feared, nor blindly because your “pastor said so”, but simply because God loves you and wants to share that love with you.

This brings us back to idol worship. When we are so deeply in relationship with God, we have no need to worship anything or anyone else.

And that is not always easy, but it is most definitely the Christian way. Jesus encouraged his followers to place their entire trust in God. He also challenged them to treat one another in new ways—ways of peace and love.

In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives his followers these instructions: *“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone*

*strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.”*

That stands true for each of us. We cannot call ourselves Christian when we worship that which is not God. We cannot call ourselves Christian when we choose ways of violence and anger and retaliation. We follow Jesus when we choose peace and love for all of God’s children.

Moses knew this instinctively—arguing with the Lord God NOT to choose the way of death and destruction. We have the message embedded in our minds from our childhood Sunday School classes, but how often do we choose to turn the other cheek? How often do we let go of all that keeps us away from God/all the stuff in our lives that holds us captive? How do we begin to live as Jesus calls us—with peace and generosity and love?

In the end, Moses still had a lot to learn about love, peace and his growing relationship with God. Having drunk the bitterness of idol worship, he then killed the same people he challenged God to save. Perhaps that is a reminder that, we too, as Christians sometime falter and fall back to our old ways. But the good news is this: God will always pick you up. Love will always win. And we will worship God with joy. Amen.

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: We are living, breathing messages of God’s love for the world. This is our work of faith and our labor of love and our steadfastness of hope in Jesus Christ. Like the earliest Christians, we are here in this place because of the commitment and faith and generosity of others who shared the good news of the gospel in their time. So we turn now, in our time, and share our faith and our commitment through generous giving to support the ministry of this church in Christ’s name. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

### \*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)

Our spiritual ancestors offered sacrifices to glorify you, O God; so would we honor you by these gifts. May they express the depth of our love for you. As your church, we put them to work on your behalf in programs of outreach toward those who long for meaning as well as long for life's other necessities. Grant your joy to all who give and all who receive. Amen.

\*HYMN OF SENDING

*He Leadeth Me*

PILGRIMAGE & PERSEVERANCE

499

He Leadeth Me

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of three systems. Each system includes a vocal line with lyrics and a guitar accompaniment line with chords. The chords are indicated by letters above the staff.

**System 1:** Chords: C, G7/C, C, F, C. Lyrics: 1 He lead - eth me, O bless - ed thought! O words with heaven - ly; 2 Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ev - er mur - mur; 3 And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace the

**System 2:** Chords: C/G, G, C, G7/C, C, F. Lyrics: com - fort fraught! What - e'er I do, where - e'er I be, still; nor re - pine; con - tent, what - e'er my lot may be, since; vic - tory's won, e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since

**System 3:** Chords: C, Am, C/G, G7, C, Refrain C, G, G/F. Lyrics: 'tis God's hand that lead - eth me. He lead - eth me, he; 'tis my God who lead - eth me. God through Jor - dan lead - eth me. lead - eth me, by his own hand he lead - eth me; his; faith - ful fol - lower I would be, for by his hand he lead - eth me.

\*BENEDICTION: And now to the God who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Pass the Love*

Pass the Love

♩=95

F Gm7 F Gm7 F/A F/Bb Gm9 C7

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

F Gm7 F Gm7 F/A F/Bb Gm9 G7 C

Pass it on, t'all you meet, ev - 'ry day in\_\_ ev - 'ry way.

Fmaj7 Dm F/G F/C

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

Am7 Dm7 Gm7 F/C C7 F

Bless the Ho - ly Name. Praise our\_\_ God.

\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

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 memory of Loved Ones by Cindy & Jerry Newman.

**Attendance**-Online-Daily Devotions Avg.-102, September 27-Sunday Worship Online-257, In Person-51, Confirmation 9/30-12 students, 14 leaders.

**Meetings: Discipleship Team**-Monday, October 12, 2020 at 6:30pm. **Council**- Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 7:00pm. **Worship Team**-Sunday, October 18, 2020 at 11:15am.

**Blessing Pantry**-is located in its original space in the North Hallway and accessible by the North door during these hours - **Tuesdays 5:30pm-7:30pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays 1:00pm-3:00pm**. The Pantry will be closed Mondays and Fridays. **All Donations Welcome - Thank you!** There is a metal can outside the East Educational Building door for donations.

**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 air 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.

**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=K2FBaGYzRUpaRElwTjc4Q1Y4b3UrUT09> 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](mailto:berbstrang@stpaulnb.org)

**October Book Club** is scheduled for Sunday, October 25 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom. We will discuss Gavin Edwards book *Kindness and Wonder Why Mister Rogers Matters Now More Than Ever*. 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. Zoom information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8282977256?pwd=YIE0UWFEdlhtOHpsWEVJT2hNSDR4Zz09> Once you are logged on, you will need the following:

**Meeting ID: 828 297 7256      Passcode: 2zbqqg**

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

### **Sunday School and Worship Schedule for October**

**Sunday's in October-Sunday School** will be in person beginning at 9:00am. **Worship**-we will be worshipping via Facebook Live and in person in our sanctuary at 10:15am.

**October Monthly Mission:** Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the U.S. One third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). CAIM provides Christian ministry and witness to American Indians and to the wider church justice issues that affect American Indian life. Historically, the forebears of the UCC

established churches and worked with different tribes in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin and Nebraska. There are now 20 UCC churches on reservations. There are many Indians who are members of other UCC churches and CAIM also supports these churches and pastors.

Two thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries in the US. (JWM) supports a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. NIN grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. **In the last two years our own St. Paul received a grant for \$5000.00 from NIN for our Community Garden and for the annual Art Camp.** This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities throughout the US. Please support this all UCC Mission project for the month of October. Thank you for your generous support of another UCC Mission. The Mission Team.

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

**Online** – Make a donation on our website: [stpaulnb.org](http://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.