

November 9, 2020

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

Today our prayer for you is for health and healing: of our bodies, our minds, and our spirits. May the light of Christ offer you healing and hope today and all days.

Covid19 continues to impact many in our congregation and our community. Please continue to pray for your neighbors who have tested positive.

For the past three weeks, our worship and sermon theme has been stewardship. In next week's mailing you will find a pledge card. We encourage you to complete the card, mailing into the church office the name portion and the pledge portion, keeping the third portion for your records. We thank you for your generosity and faithfulness!

Looking ahead, the Discipleship Team and the New Bremen/New Knoxville Rotary are hosting a Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Monday, November 23. While there will be no dine-in eating, meals will be delivered and you have the opportunity to pick up meals on the Herman Street side of our education building between 5:00-6:00 p.m. that day.

St. Paul Church folk will provide the dessert for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner. If you are able to provide sugar cookies or chocolate chip cookies, please contact Pastor Becky.

Advent begins the last Sunday of November. Like past years, we offer you and your family the opportunity to "adopt" local families for Christmas. If you would like to provide gifts and toys to a local family, please contact Pastor Becky.

The Blessing Pantry's hours have changed to keep us in compliance with our partnership with West Ohio Food Bank. You and our neighbors can access the Pantry Tuesday evenings from 5:30-7:30 and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 p.m. via the north education building doors.

Church office hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to Noon and Monday through Thursday 1:00-3:30 p.m. Closed Friday afternoon.

May the peace of Christ, which passes all understanding, be with you!

Grace and Peace,



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

Financial Information as of November 9, 2020

Operating Fund

Beg. Balance (\$2,974.14)

Giving Income \$4,952.98(weekly)

Endowment Transfers \$32,681.01(ytd)

Income \$261,139.08 (YTD)

Expenses \$265,128.03 (YTD)

Balance **(\$6,963.09)**

Building Maint & Property Care

Beg. Balance \$83,428.04

Income \$13,767.00 (YTD)

Endowment Income \$1,756.84 (YTD)

Expenses \$30,349.42(YTD)

Balance \$68,602.46

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$9,934.05

Income \$16,023.00(YTD)

Expenses \$17,893.05(YTD)

Balance \$8,064.00

Bless Pantry Inc. \$13,101.16

Bless Pantry Ex. \$11,827.92

Balance \$1,273.24

Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$30,000.00

Income \$405.00(weekly)

Income \$21,804.00 (YTD)

Project of the Year

Income \$75.00(weekly)

Balance \$2,375.00

Hanging of the Greens will take place on Sunday, November 22, after church. We are looking for volunteers to help with decorating of the Sanctuary and Chapel for the Advent Season. Thank you!

NOVEMBER 15, 2020
TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking faith home

The importance of encouraging one another.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 25:14-30	Parable of the talents
Monday	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18	Judgment of Judah
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Encourage one another
Wednesday	Judges 4:1-7	Deborah and Barak
Thursday	Psalms 123	A prayer for mercy
Friday	Philemon 1:4-7	Philemon's love and faith
Saturday	Psalms 90:1-12	God is eternal
Sunday	Matthew 25:31-46	The sheep and the goats

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. **1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, we thank you for the body of Christ that helps us when life is difficult and our faith is weak. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Lord God, you who make the earth fruitful, we thank you for this meal that strengthens our bodies and encourages our souls. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Almighty God strengthen your soul through brothers and sisters in Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)



© 2019 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

NOVEMBER 15, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Will You Let Me Be
Your Servant*

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:

- How do you support someone when they are discouraged or are feeling down?
- How has someone supported you when you were in need of encouragement?
- Why do you think Christians need support and encouragement from one another?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.

Good times and hard times can happen—and change—rather quickly (v. 3). Daily life is fragile. Life experiences can change dramatically with a phone call. What is constant is the need to care for one another and build up the body of Christ. There are important connections between this text and the parable of the talents in Matthew 25. God has gifted us to use our vocation, our calling in life as a child of God, to do God's work in the world. If we do not do this, if we ignore or hide our calling, the ministry of the church suffers. Instead, we are to trust in a God who acts; we are not to fall prey to complacency and speak and live as though God is not present and active in our lives and history (Zephaniah 1:12). Paul reminds the people that they—and we—are to reach out to others—especially our brothers and sisters in the faith. We are to do so with encouragement to live each day in faith, love, and hope because of the God who acts and has given us “salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:9). How are you encouraged by others to live your faith? How do you encourage others?

Pray: God of grace, we thank you for the cloud of witnesses that walk alongside us to strengthen us in faith, love, and hope through Christ. Amen.

SERVICE

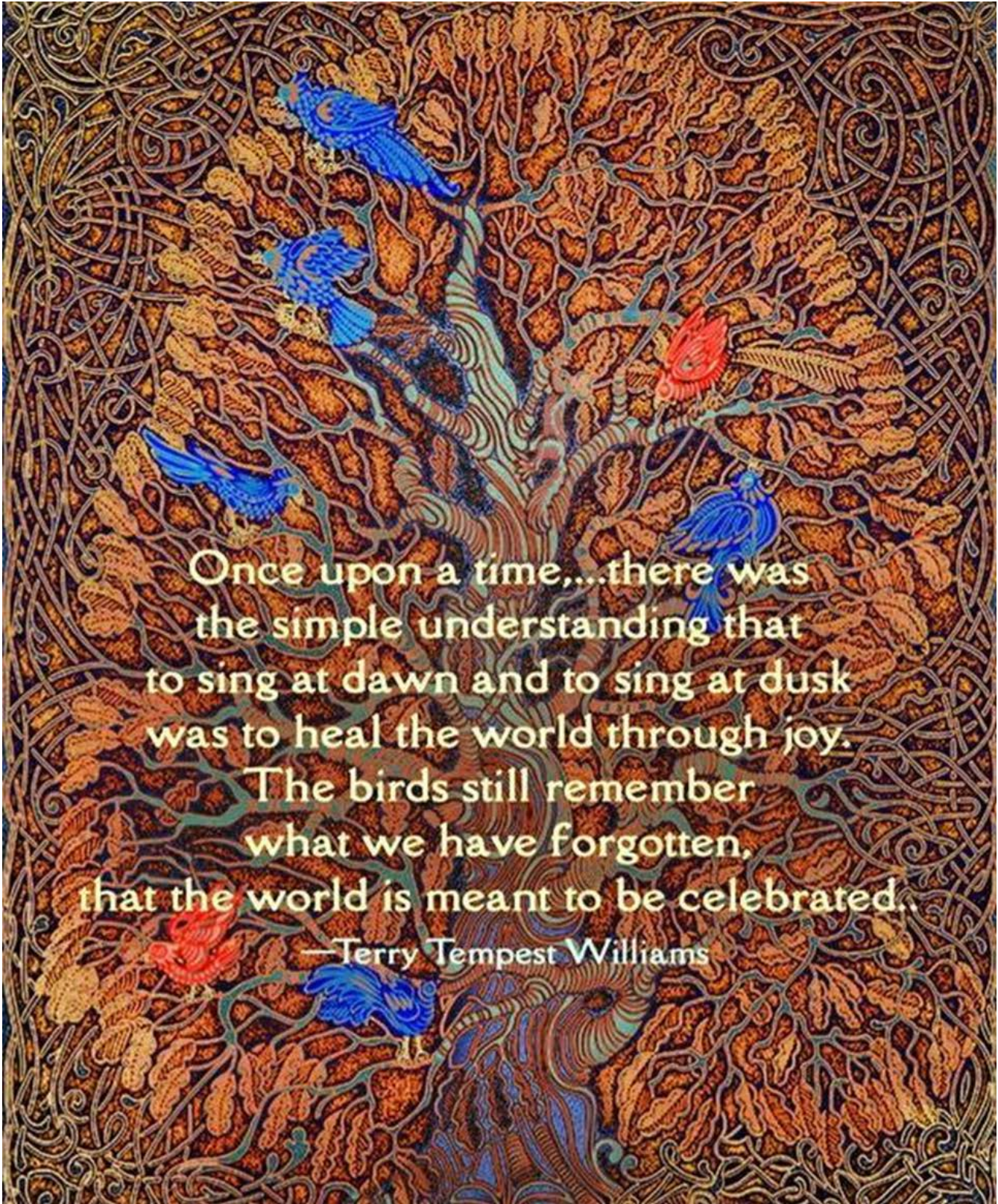
Jesus' parable of the talents makes a strong case for every Christian to have a calling, to use one's gifts and passions to serve the church and the world. Make a list of how to use your gifts and talents to serve the church and world around you.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

A *talent* in Jesus' day was money. Jesus tells a story about three servants. One hid his money and never used it. In our day, we think of a talent as a natural ability to be good at something. If we are good at something, we should not hide our talent but use it to the best of our ability. Drawing, singing, and dancing are a few talents. Think of what talent(s) you have and in what ways you can tell others about Jesus by using that talent. Each day this week choose one talent to use and say this prayer: **Dear God, help me to use my talents, whether big or small, so that others know you. Amen.**



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



Once upon a time,...there was
the simple understanding that
to sing at dawn and to sing at dusk
was to heal the world through joy.
The birds still remember
what we have forgotten,
that the world is meant to be celebrated..

—Terry Tempest Williams

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 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, whether online or in person, to have you with us today.

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 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 Brook Schmitmeyer 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

November 15, 2020
Stewardship Sunday

Worship Leaders

Ministers
Rev. Becky Erb Strang
Pastor Dee Schroer
Cheyenne Olt

The Congregation
Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Accompanist/Vocalist

The * indicates all who are able may stand

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 The Worship Sourcebook, 2013)

Leader: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

People: Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

Leader: Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us and we are his;

People: We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

People: For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

How Great Thou Art

verses 1 & 4

How Great Thou Art

Chords: Bb, F7/C, Bb/D, Eb, Edim7

1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der con - sid - er
 2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der and hear the
 3 And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
 4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me

Chords: Bb/F, Dm/F, F7, Bb, F7/C, Bb/D, Eb

all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing
 birds sing sweet - ly in the trees, when I look down from loft - y moun - tain
 die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -

Chords: Eb, Edim7, Bb/F, Dm/F, F7, Bb

thun - der, thy power through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played.
 gran - deur, and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze.
 bear - ing, he bled and died to take a - way my sin.
 ra - tion, and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art."

Section: Refrain
 Chords: Bb, Bb7/D, Eb, Bb, F7

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee: how great thou

WORDS and MUSIC: Stuart K. Hine (1899-1989)
 Words and Music © 1953 S. K. Hine. Assigned to Manna Music, Inc. Renewed 1981.

Chords: F, Bb, Bb7/D, Eb

art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to

Chords: Bb, F7/C, Bb/D, Eb6, G7/D, Cm, F7, Bb

thee: how great thou art, how great thou art!

*SERVICE OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us come before the Lord our God, confessing our sins before him.

UNISON CONFESSION OF SIN: O God Most Holy, filled with mercy and steadfast love, we are embarrassed to come before you, for we have preferred the ways of this world to your ways; we have rebelled against your wisdom; we have rejected your guidance. Hear us when we pour out our sorrows before you. Forgive us, not on the ground of our own righteousness, but on the ground of your great mercy in the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. It is in his name we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand.

People: We are loved. We are forgiven. We belong to Christ. 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

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, 2/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht. The score consists of four staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The second staff has a common time signature 'C' and a key signature of one sharp. The third staff has a common time signature 'C' and a key signature of one sharp. The fourth staff has a common time signature 'C' and a key signature of one sharp. Chord markings are present: C, Am7, D7, D, G, D, Em.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Louise Anna Dicke

Congregational Response: We promise our love, support and care.

BAPTISMAL HYMN

Borning Cry

BAPTISM

680

Borning Cry

Unison G Gmaj7 Am/G G Am/G Gmaj7 Am/G

1 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be
 2 When you heard the won - der of the Word I was
 3 In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too

G Gmaj7 Am/G G Am6/G

there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you
 there to cheer you on. You were raised to praise the
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you

G Am/G G C/E Am7 D7sus D7 G (Fine)

were bap - tized to see your life un - fold.
 liv - ing - Lord to to whom you now be - long.
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.

C G/B Am G

I was there when you were but a child with a
 If you find some - one to share your time, and you
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in, and you

WORDS and MUSIC: John C. Ylvisaker (1937-)
 Words and Music © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

WATERLIFE
 Irregular

Am D D9 G Am G/B C2 Am6/C

faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you
 join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your
 shut your wear - y eyes, I'll be there as I have

Bm7 Em A G/A F#m/A Em/A D D7

wan - dered off to find where de - mons dwell.
 vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.
 al - ways been with just one more sur - prise. D.C. (vs. 1) al fine

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Sacrament of Baptism Louise Anna Dicke daughter of Austin & Casey Dicke. Sponsors are Emily Shelby and Jarrod Feltz. Congratulations to Louise and her family.

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Macie Barlage (Mercy Hospital NICU-St. Louis), Ralph Plattner (Mercer Health-Coldwater), Janet & Bob Eilerman, Teresa Joyce, Deb Lear, Jan Dammeyer, Drew Wray, and Pastor Dee Schroer.

Please remember the family of Mary (Dicke) Reed (sister to James Dicke I) in your prayers. Mary passed away Friday, October 30, 2020. Services to celebrate her life were held Saturday, November 14, 2020.

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

We praise you and thank you, O God, that you feed us with your word, with your love, with your forgiveness and with your grace. Grateful for your gifts and mindful of the communion of your saints, we offer to you our prayers for all people. SILENCE

God of compassion, we remember before you the poor and the afflicted, the sick and the dying, prisoners and all who are lonely, victims of war, injustice, and inhumanity, and all others who suffer throughout our community, our nation and our world. SILENCE

O Lord of love, holding the people of our nation in your hand, we pray for our country. Inspire the hearts and minds of our leaders that they, together with all our nation, may seek first your kingdom in order that peace may dwell with your people. SILENCE

O God, our Creator, we pray for all nations and all people. Take away the mistrust and lack of understanding that divide your creatures; increase in us the recognition that we are all your children. SILENCE

O God of Christ, we pray today for your church universal and for St. Paul Church. Look upon the ministries of your church. Increase its courage, strengthen its faith, and inspire its witness to all people, even to the ends of the earth. SILENCE

O God, our Comforter, we pray for all who are sick, all who are recuperating, all who are grieving great losses this season. Pour your healing power and presence upon each. Remind all who need your gentle touch that they belong to you. SILENCE

Author of grace and God of love, send your Holy Spirit's blessing to all your children. Keep our hearts, our thoughts, and our actions upon Christ Jesus, our Savior and Friend. It is his prayer we pray together... **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 *Lean In Toward the Light* Carrie Newcomer
(YouTube Search: *Lean In Toward the Light* Carrie Newcomer)

*Winter is the oldest season
But quietly beneath the snow
Seeds are stretching out and reaching
Faithful as the morning glow*

*Carry nothing but what you must
Lean in toward the Light
Let it go, shake off the dust
Lean in toward the Light
Today is now, tomorrow beckons
Lean in toward the Light
Keep practicing resurrection*

*The shadows of this world will say
There's no hope why try anyway?
But every kindness large or slight
Shifts the balance toward the light*

*Waters wind and open wide
Lean in toward the Light
Don't just walk when you can fly
Lean in toward the Light
When justice seems in short supply
Lean in toward the Light
Let beauty be your truest guide*

*The shadows of this world will say
There's no hope why try anyway?
But every kindness large or slight
Shifts the balance toward the light
The prayer I pray at eventide
Lean in toward the Light
All left undone be put aside
Lean in toward the Light*

*When forgiveness is hard to find
Lean in toward the Light
Help me at least to be kind
Lean in toward the Light*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Luke 12:13-21, 29-34 (The Message)

Someone out of the crowd said, "Teacher, order my brother to give me a fair share of the family inheritance."

14 He replied, "Mister, what makes you think it's any of my business to be a judge or mediator for you?"

15 Speaking to the people, he went on, "Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed. Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot."

16-19 Then he told them this story: "The farm of a certain rich man produced a terrific crop. He talked to himself: 'What can I do? My barn isn't big enough for this harvest.' Then he said, 'Here's what I'll do: I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll gather in all my grain and goods, and I'll say to myself, Self, you've done well! You've got it made and can now retire. Take it easy and have the time of your life!'

20 "Just then God showed up and said, 'Fool! Tonight you die. And your barnful of goods—who gets it?'

21 "That's what happens when you fill your barn with Self and not with God."

"What I'm trying to do here is get you to relax, not be so preoccupied with getting so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep yourself in God-reality,

God-initiative, God-provisions. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Don't be afraid of missing out. You're my dearest friends! The Father wants to give you the very kingdom itself.

33-34 "Be generous. Give to the poor. Get yourselves a bank that can't go bankrupt, a bank in heaven far from bankrobbers, safe from embezzlers, a bank you can bank on. It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 Timothy 6:10, 17-19 (The Message)

But if it's only money these leaders are after, they'll self-destruct in no time. Lust for money brings trouble and nothing but trouble. Going down that path, some lose their footing in the faith completely and live to regret it bitterly ever after.

Tell those rich in this world's wealth to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage—to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous. If they do that, they'll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life.

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

This is a true story.

Once upon a time there was a church camp that ran well on a tight budget. The camp was only open in the summer time and was run entirely by volunteers—good church folk who would give of their time, talent, and dollars to organize, publicize, and run the camp—from cooks & counselors to life guards and grounds keepers. The camp was much loved because everyone felt a part of the camping community.

Now this camp had a fair amount of acreage, so volunteers would bring their lawn mowers in the back of pick-up trucks and trailers to cut

the grass. After years of doing things this way, it was decided that funds should be raised to purchase a riding mower so volunteers would not need to lug their equipment to and fro each week.

The mower was purchased and the problems began: where would the mower be stored? A shed was built on the campgrounds to keep the mower and its accessories. A lock was purchased to keep burglars at bay. Then the people asked, “But how can we know our lawn mower is really secure?” So, they hired a caretaker—one who would keep track of both the lawn AND the lawn mower. Then the people said, “It would be so much easier (and safer) if the caretaker lived on-site.” So, the people built a house—a wonderful brick ranch home in which the caretaker and his family would live.

What began as a simple outreach project—a way children to know God through church camp experiences—turned into a high-maintenance year-round financial burden for all involved. The joy had been drained. What began as a fairy tale “once upon a time” did not end with “happily ever after.”

In today’s first scripture lesson Jesus tells a parable to the man in the crowd who wanted a share of the family inheritance. Jesus, refusing to get involved with the politics of greed, sidestepped the man’s request and told his own story: a parable that gets to the heart of the matter: that **far too often**, we make the STUFF of our lives matter **far too much**. We stockpile our stuff; we hoard our stuff; and we build and rent storage units for our stuff—certain that our lives be of greater value because of the stuff we surround ourselves with.

It might be easy to see Jesus’ parable of the rich farmer as a metaphor for the uber-rich of our nation—the billionaires, the tech giants, those movers and shakers of our nation. But truly, this story holds up a mirror to our OWN lives—calling each of us to account in our culture of greed. Life is not a contest of who has the most toys at the end of the day. For most certainly, we in the United States have more toys (and electronics, and clothes, and food, and cars, and books, and stuff and stuff and stuff) than most of the rest of the world.

Jesus takes a request spoken out of greed and turns it into a teachable moment—that by looking at life through Jesus’ eyes, we might ALL be transformed.

If we read and spoke Greek, we would immediately catch the intentional play on words between “merry” and “fool.” The rich man planned to rest upon his riches and be merry, but was merely a fool.

Today, too, we are forced to ask if our own greed-filled merriment has become folly. What IS the root of our foolishness? What was the source of the rich man’s folly? Scholars tell us that Jesus’ rich farmer was foolish in layers upon layers.

First, the rich farmer was preoccupied with his possessions. When reading the parable carefully, you get no sense of family or friends in the man’s life—only his stuff. What’s more, there is no sense from the farmer that he needed anyone in his life—by storing up his riches, he could take care of himself just fine, thank-you-very-much. It never even occurred to him to SHARE his abundant harvest with anyone besides himself. Pleasure: eating, drinking and being merry were his highest good.

But the foolishness of the rich farmer also has theological implications. By claiming the harvest entirely as his own, the man failed to acknowledge the Creator and Source of all life. God—our Creative Mother—was the source of the abundant harvest and is the source of our harvests today.

Digging even deeper, because there was no acknowledgement of God in the man’s life, he did not fulfill Old Testament Law—by offering back to God ten percent of his harvest—in thanksgiving for life itself. Whether his harvest had been measly and pitiful or delightfully abundant, God is still the God—the source of all life. Instead of sharing his bounty with others, he stored it away—probably in with heavy padlocks to keep the “those people” away from his goods.

When Jesus tells the parable, he shifts the focus. Abundant life is not experienced in how much stuff we accumulate, but in how we choose to live. No matter the amount of our harvest, we ARE richly blessed indeed. We have food, clothing, shelter, support of a faith community, and privileges beyond the imagination of most.

What Jesus seems to be telling the man who wanted his brother’s inheritance (and seems to be telling each of us) is that we each need to choose whom we will serve: the frantic-paced, stuff-acquiring culture that blares its continual commercials into our senses OR God: who calls us to a life of service and love. Wealth is not about loads of grain in our barns,

but in richness toward God. The wealth we choose, the life we lead, is a choice we are called to make each and every day of our lives.

Today is Stewardship Sunday. For the past few weeks, we have been given space during worship to consider how we can share of our abundance, share of our poverty, and share our lives. As a congregation, we DO have bills to pay: utility bills, insurance, program supplies, staffing. What I say to you today is this: the decision you make to financially support ministry through St. Paul Church is not about meeting a budget, but about serving God. It is about finding joy in service. It is about tearing the padlocks off of our hearts and our minds and our lives so that the Spirit will dance within—and we cannot help but sing God's praises.

Giving of our abundance, giving of our poverty, sharing our blessings, and sharing our lives is a spiritual practice we are called to make our own. The choice is ours to make.

Jesus' parable of the rich farmer pushes each of us to choose that which we serve, that which we worship. Will we be rich in the world or rich toward God? Will we serve ourselves or offer our best to others?

You should have received in the mail this week pledge cards. If you are worshiping with us online, I encourage you to complete the cards and send them in to our office. If you are worshiping with us in person today, I encourage you to complete the cards, placing them in the baskets found on the round tables. The dollar amount you pledge to God through St. Paul is a reflection of your spiritual journey, your walk of faith, and a thank-offering for the blessings in your life.

Friends, as we prepare to give generously and joyfully, I invite all who are comfortably able to stand that we might share in the Responsive Litany that speaks to who we are as God's holy people.

*Responsive Litany: Where Is The Church? By Ann Weems

Leader: Where is the church? The church of Jesus Christ
is where a child of God brings a balloon
is where old women come to dance
is where young men see visions and old men dream dreams.

**People: Where is the church? The church of Jesus Christ
is where lepers come to be touched**

**is where the blind see and the deaf hear
is where the lame run and the dying live.**

Leader: Where is the church? The church of Jesus Christ
is where daisies bloom out of barren land
is where children lead and wise one follow
is where mountains are moved and walls come tumbling down.

**People: Where is the church? The church of Jesus Christ
is where loaves of bread are stacked in the sanctuary to feed
the hungry
is where coats are taken off and put on the backs of the naked
is where shackles are discarded and kings and shepherds sit
down to life together.**

Leader: Where is the church? The church of Jesus Christ
is where children run giggling in procession
is where the minister is ministered unto
is where the anthem is the laughter of the congregation and the
offering plates are full of people.

**People: Where is the church? The church of Jesus Christ
is where people go when they skin their knees or their hearts
is where frogs become princes and Cinderella dances beyond
midnight
is where judges don't judge and each child of God is beautiful
and precious.**

Leader: Where is the church? The church of Jesus Christ
is where night is day
is where trumpets and drums and tambourines declare God's
goodness
is where lost lambs are found.

**People: Where is the church? The church of Jesus Christ
is where home is
is where heaven is
is where a picnic is communion and people break bread
together on their knees.**

Leader: Where is the church? The church of Jesus Christ
is where we live responsively toward God's coming.

Even on Monday morning the world will hear an abundance of “Alleluias!”

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

*OFFERING SENTENCES: God’s wisdom turns the wisdom of the world upside down. God calls us to unexpected and extravagant opportunities to grow in our gifts and in our faith. Holding things close in fear distracts us from the path of discipleship, but trusting in God and in God’s future leads us to great generosity and joy. 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)

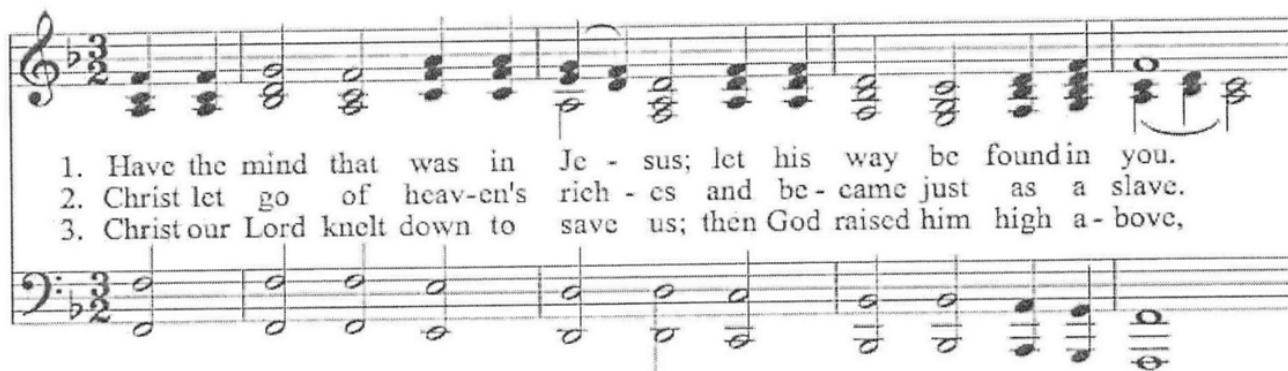
Thank you, God, for the opportunity to share in your creative and restorative work among people. Because you have blessed us, we have much to give. These offerings express our gratitude and our aspiration to be more fully your own children as we live and serve as Christ’s body here on earth. Amen.

*HYMN

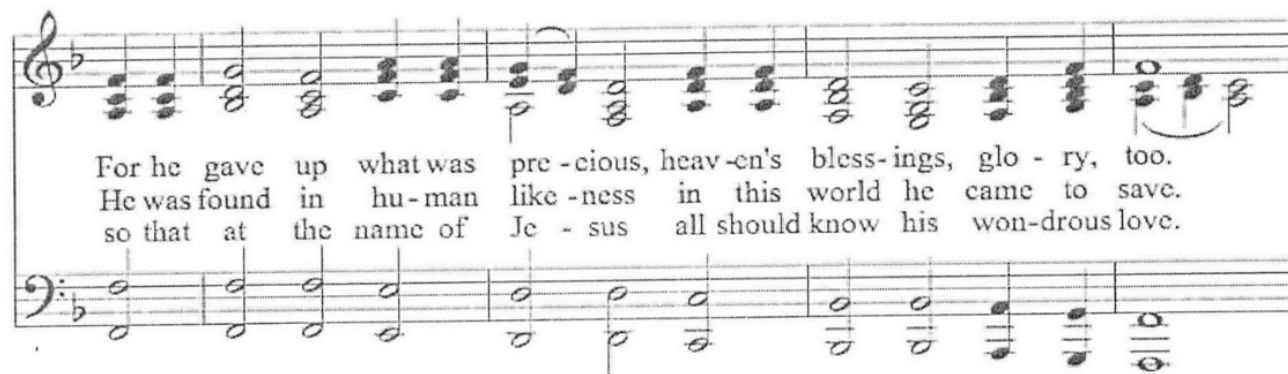
Have the Mind That Was in Jesus

verses 1 & 4

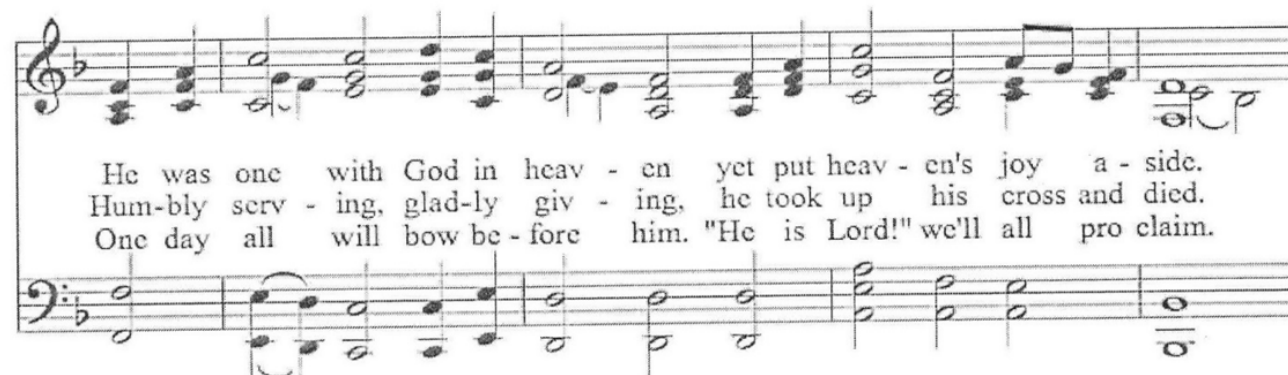
Have the Mind That Was in Jesus



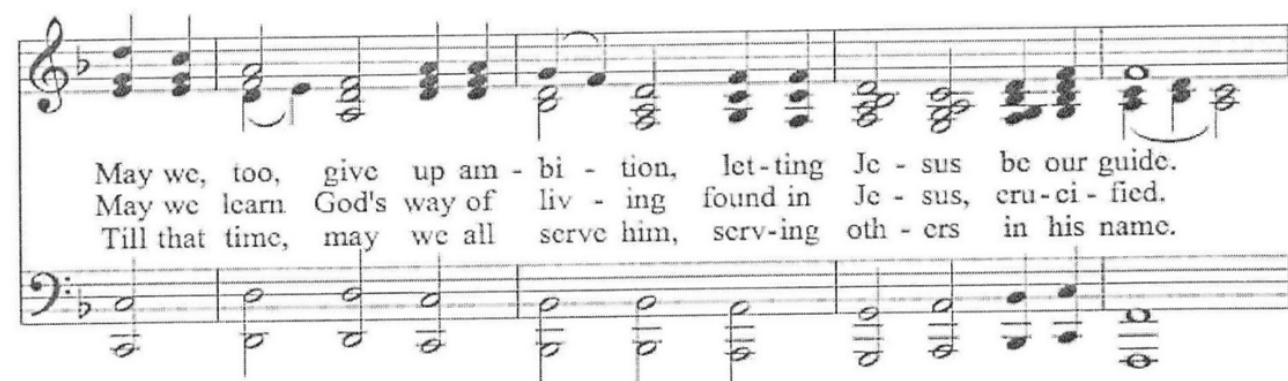
1. Have the mind that was in Je - sus; let his way be found in you.
2. Christ let go of heav-en's rich - es and be - came just as a slave.
3. Christ our Lord knelt down to save us; then God raised him high a - bove,



For he gave up what was pre - cious, heav-en's bless - ings, glo - ry, too.
He was found in hu - man like - ness in this world he came to save.
so that at the name of Je - sus all should know his won - drous love.



He was one with God in heav - en yet put heav - en's joy a - side.
Hum - bly serv - ing, glad - ly giv - ing, he took up his cross and died.
One day all will bow be - fore him. "He is Lord!" we'll all pro claim.



May we, too, give up am - bi - tion, let - ting Je - sus be our guide.
May we learn God's way of liv - ing found in Je - sus, cru - ci - fied.
Till that time, may we all serve him, serv - ing oth - ers in his name.

WORDS: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2012 (Philippians 2:5-11)

MUSIC: Attr. to B. F. White, *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. by Dean McIntyre, 2011

BEACH SPRING

87.87 D

***BENEDICTION:** May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant us to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Jesus Christ, that together we may glorify God now and forever. Amen.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Pass the Love

Pass the Love

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

Pass it on, t'all you meet, ev - 'ry day in___ ev - 'ry way.

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

Bless the Ho - ly Name. Praise our___ God.

Chords: F, Gm7, F, Gm7, F/A, F/Bb, Gm9, C7, F, Gm7, F, Gm7, F/A, F/Bb, Gm9, G7, C, Fmaj7, Dm, F/G, F/C, Am7, Dm7, Gm7, F/C, C7, F

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: 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

Church Calendar-November 15-November 21, 2020

Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School
	10:15am	Worship
	5:00pm-6:30pm	Splash
Monday	11:30am	Devotions (Facebook Live)
	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop w/Rev. Becky
Tuesday	11:30am	Devotions (Facebook Live)
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry is Open
Wednesday	11:30am	Devotions (Facebook Live)
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry is Open
	6:00pm-6:45pm	Jr High Youth Group
	6:30pm	Confirmation w/Mentors-Assembly
Thursday	7:00pm-7:45pm	Sr High Youth Group
	11:30am	Devotions (Facebook Live)
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry is Open
Friday	6:30pm	Bible Study via Zoom
	11:30am	Devotions (Facebook Live)
	Afternoon	Office Closed

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are given in memory of Loved Ones by Vernon and Julie Paul.

Attendance-Online-Daily Devotions Avg.-161, November 1-Sunday Worship Online-202, In Person-38, Sunday School-18 students, 8 teachers, Splash-6 students, 2 leaders, November 4-Confirmation-12 students, 4 leaders, Jr High Youth-4, Sr High Youth-0, 3 leaders.

Blessing Pantry-is located 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 2:00pm to 4:00pm. 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.

Sunday's in November-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.

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

2021 Altar Flower Chart has been posted in the Narthex. Please sign up for the date(s) you would like. You may also call the church office Monday-Friday to sign up. Thank you.

Thanksgiving Community Meal-“Gobble Gobble” held at St Paul and cooked by The New Bremen New Knoxville Rotary Club on Monday, November 23. This year our celebration will consist of home delivery from approximately 4:00pm to 5:00pm and pick up carry-out meals from 5:00pm-6:00pm-Herman Street side (west side) of Educational Building. An army of volunteers will be calling those unable to get out, about receiving a meal. If you live within a ten-mile radius of St. Paul, need a meal delivered and are not reached, please call Pastor Becky.

November/December 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.

November Monthly Mission-is Christmas gifts for the children of Washington UCC and surrounding families in Cincinnati. Our donations will go towards their program called “Gifts to the Manger” in which parents come to the church to pick out clothes and toys so they can give their children gifts at Christmas. A Christmas tree, containing ornaments with gift ideas for a specific age of boy or girl, is in the Narthex. We ask that you shop for that child and **bring your gifts back to church unwrapped and place them under the tree by Sunday, November 29th**. No violent toys or games, please. Can't get out to shop? We are also accepting monetary donations. Last year we gave over \$1,000 along with all the gifts to the children. The gifts and money will then be delivered to Washington UCC for their scheduled “Gifts to the Manger” event to be held on December 13th. Thank you for your generous gifts to this mission!

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 Blessing Pantry: Send 25 space pantry (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.

Poinsettia Order

It is time to place your orders for the poinsettia plants that grace our sanctuary during the Christmas season. The poinsettias are 6½-inch wrapped in foil with a drip pan. We are offering the choice of Red or White and the cost per plant will be \$10.00.

The plants may be picked up **after the 11:00pm, Thursday, Christmas Eve** worship service.

(Please be sure to pick up the color you ordered so that everyone will be able to enjoy the color of the plant that each chose.)

Poinsettia color choice and quantity:

Red _____ Qty White _____ Qty

In memory of _____

A gift for _____

By _____

I wish to contribute \$_____ to the Christmas Decorating Fund. Please place payment along with the order form in the offering plate or drop off in the church office. Checks should be payable to St. Paul UCC.

Please have poinsettia order in by December 5.

Every year at this time we also ask for and accept donations to the Christmas Decorating Fund. This money will be used toward decorations for the Church and Educational Building.

Please include payment with this order form.

Thank you for helping make our sanctuary even more beautiful as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.