

TIDINGS

St. Paul United Church of Christ

24158 Goddard Road, Taylor, Michigan 48180-0190

313.291.1221 • Fax 313.291.3305 • email: stpaulucctaylor@stpaulucctaylor.org

www.stpaulucctaylor.org

Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. Geoffrey G. Drutchas

Minister of Christian Education - Pastor Cheryl Schalm

February 2018

PASTOR'S PEACE

I am a graduate of Michigan State University—a proud graduate. It was a wonderful campus for me during my student years. It was a place where I learned a lot about the world and myself and made many friendships that mattered. Although I don't follow the fortunes of MSU's sports teams as closely as many others do, I still like to cheer them on from distant sidelines. Every so often I also visit the MSU campus, one of the most beautiful in the United States. MSU has a special place in my own affections.

Imagine then my shock, disappointment, and dismay to hear the terrible stories emanating from a Michigan courtroom about what has happened for at least 160 young women over the past two decades who, as budding gymnasts, experienced sexual abuse at the hands of a sports physician employed by MSU and USA Gymnastics. The doctor, who was long acclaimed as a healer for those with sports injuries, was sentenced on January 24, to a 40-175 prison sentence by an Ingham County judge. 150 young women testified in court about their abuse. A number of them had reported the abuse as long as twelve years ago to MSU staff and others but were ignored or dismissed. They have charged that the MSU administration was complicit in the denial and cover-up of what was going on. MSU President Lou Anna Simon was pressured to resign. More than one investigation will soon be underway.

Although not all the facts about MSU's role in protecting a predatory doctor are known, the evidence of abuse is overwhelming. A Detroit newspaper called the young women who spoke up in court about their abuse "courageous." I agree. In this and other cases, I find morally despicable those who criticize the abused for not all speaking up earlier and louder. First of all, women and men who do so often encounter the deafness of those who prefer to see no evil or hear no evil. Secondly, all too frequently the victims are young and vulnerable, confused about how to grasp and understand what just happened to them. Third, in the moment and the immediate thereafter they can't imagine how this violation of their own bodies may haunt them for years to come, creating relational and trust problems for future intimate relationships that have the promise of being healthy and wholesome. Finally, for all that sex is talked about out

loud today, it can evoke immense shame where the privacy of our own bodies is involved.

My heart goes out to all the young women so wrongly touched and violated by the MSU/USA Gymnastics sports physician. While these women have seen justice done in his conviction and sentencing, they have to live with the wrong done them. I don't doubt that there are many emotional and spiritual challenges yet ahead for them as they deal with their own anger and outrage. I hope that they have faith to help them navigate through any personal shoals.

Charges of sexual misconduct by people in positions of power, particularly in Hollywood, New York, and Washington, D.C., have become rampant of late. But what happened in East Lansing is another reminder that it can happen anywhere, as we also saw a few years back at Penn State and the sex abuse scandals that have rocked the Roman Catholic Church across the United States and elsewhere.

Sexual exploitation is nothing new. Our Old and New Testaments condemn it directly and by allusion. Jesus also warned us about becoming too self-righteous in the face of such wrongdoing by others. He preached that we all need to be careful that we don't give way to lust and the temptation to abuse positions of power for our own advantage. The Apostle Paul and others seconded this double message.

One of the important roles that the church as the living body of Christ has played since Jesus' resurrection is to remind us all that we are capable of sin and to reinforce positive and healthy standards of personal conduct so that we don't exploit each other. This is what Christian morality and ethics are all about. Unfortunately, as our commercially-driven culture has shed any pretense of being Christian, it has also discarded moral norms that used to check exploitive behavior. Meanwhile, because "sex sells" social media and mass communications bombard us with images and talk that has further dissolved former moral boundaries and tacitly given permission and license to act in ways that from any Christian perspective are wildly inappropriate and morally wrong. We see the awful fruits of what's been going on close to plain view in the spate of media headlines about accusations, charges, and convictions. The only good news in all this is the possibility that our nation has now reached a tipping point where we are going to stop winking at sexual misconduct or putting blinders on, making clear all around that it is not acceptable and that there will be consequences for perpetrators. In the time ahead, we may actually see more appreciation for what the Christian church historically has been saying all along.

Here at St. Paul we need to continue to uphold and reinforce high spiritual and moral standards, just as Jesus would have us do. In our personal lives, all of us need to model moral decency and integrity, while speaking up against any behavior we witness near or far that is exploitive and demeaning. If we do our part and other churches do their part, we increase the likelihood that a change in public attitudes that appear to be emerging can be sustained.

The Season of Lent is about to begin. Traditionally, it's always served for Christians as a time of reflection, prayer, repentance, and penance (for personal sin and wrong-doing). Amid what's all wrong with the world and the scandals that have erupted, let's ourselves try to do what is right and good and kind and loving, rededicating ourselves to Jesus Christ and his way and forging our daily lifestyle accordingly.

We all need to be stretched in faith. We all need to be deepened in spirit so that we don't end up conforming to the loose morals of the world. Worshiping together, sharing in Bible study and small group discussion, joining in service to God and church are each

important ways that we can flex our spiritual muscles and build them up. I hope that you won't miss the opportunity of the season to recommit and rededicate yourself to Christ and his living body, the church.

Church people have a better chance. A more churched world does too.

--Shalom, Pastor Geoff Drutchas

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EDITORIAL

As we move forward into the New Year with all its uncertainty, concerns and cares let us do so committed to prayer. Additionally, let us put on the full armor of God, so that we can take our stand against the devil's schemes. For as the Apostle Paul acknowledges, our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 6:10-18).

I once read and concur, prayer that uses previously unanswered prayers as an excuse for laziness has already ceased to be a prayer of faith. To someone who prays in faith, unanswered prayers are simply the evidence that the answer is much closer. From beginning to end, our Lord's lessons and examples teach us that prayer that is not steadfast and persistent, nor revived and refreshed, and does not gather strength from previous prayers is not the prayer that will triumph (William Arthur).

Arthur Rubinstein, the great pianist, once said, "If I neglect practicing one day, I notice; two days, my friends notice; three days, the public notices." It is the old principle "Practice makes perfect." We must continue believing, praying, and doing His will. In any of the arts, when the artist ceases to practice, we know the result.

May we in the year ahead use the same level of common sense in our faith that we use in our everyday life; only then will we move toward perfection.

In Christ, Pastor Cheryl Schalm, Minister of Christian Education

Christian Education Plans for Upcoming Events

Calling All College Students and Recent High School Graduates. Christian Education is in need of pictures and addresses of all St. Paul UCC college students and High School graduates enrolled in continuing education programs (trade school, skill programs, apprenticeships, etc.). Please forward addresses and pictures to Pastor Schalm or to the church office.

Pictures will be displayed on the "College Connection" board and students will be added to the quarterly "College Connection" mailing list.

***Thirsty Thursday's Young Adult Bible Study & Fellowship**

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. - John 6:35

Whether you have been a regular or are considering coming for the first time, we welcome and look forward to your company and participation.

"Thirsty Thursdays"

The What: Young Adult Bible Study

The Why: Rehydration: Daily living and life can be dehydrating!

The Where: The Schalm's. 26868 Winslow Drive. Flat Rock

The When: Thursday evenings

The Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m

***Rock Hard in Faith Youth Fellowship upcoming activities include:**

Planning Meeting & Sub Making: Sunday, February 4 @ 8:30 a.m.

Youth should plan now to meet in the Westroom for donuts & a short meeting.

Afterwards we will be filling sub sandwich orders.

30 Hour Famine: February 16th – 18th: Youth should plan now for this outreach and youth lock-in. In addition to the lock-in we will be hosting a dinner dance for the ARC (Special Olympic, Association of Retarded Citizens.) Refer to your "30 Hour Famine" agenda for more information.

ARC (Association of Retarded Citizens) Dinner Dance: Friday, February 16th, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Youth should plan to arrive at 5:30 p.m. to set-up and greet guest.

Fish Dinner, February 23rd / 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Youth should plan to help with this all-church fundraiser.

March Fish Dinners, Friday, March 9th and March 23rd / 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Youth should plan on assisting with this all-church fundraiser.

Joe Dumars Fieldhouse Christian Lock-In

March 16th – midnight – 5:30 a.m. Youth should plan to arrive to the church by 9:00 p.m. We will depart at 10:30 p.m. for Shelby Township (location of the fieldhouse.) This is a youth Christian lock-in. Basketball & Volleyball (Unlimited court use), Bayou Golf (Unlimited rounds of 18 holes), High Ropes Course (2 hours on use of the lower level, must be at least 48" in height), Caj'n Cliffs (2 hours of unlimited climbing, must weigh between 40 and 270 lbs.), Gator Tag (2 hours of open play), In-Line Skating (2 hours, skates included, very limited availability; guests are encouraged to bring their own skates), Giant Inflatable Slide (2 hours of play must be at least 42" in height), Bungee Trampoline (2 hours of play (must weigh between 30 and 260 lbs.)

COST: \$20.00 / PLEASE sign sheet on youth board to confirm your participation by March 2nd. Reservations and a non-refundable deposit are required by the Fieldhouse. I do not want to commit to a number of participants unless they have committed to attend.

MISSION TRIP – June 17th – June 23rd

EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

Annual Scrapbook Crop is Sat. Feb. 3, from 9 AM- 7 PM. The cost is \$40. This includes your cropping space, three meals, as well as snacks and beverages all day. There will be vendors, make and takes, demos, and raffles. Even if you do not want to scrapbook, there will be something for everyone as you shop with our vendors. If you are a vendor, or know of a vendor, and they might be interested, please let me know. We will be needing raffle and door prizes, as well as people to help that day. This is a big fundraiser for BOF and the Christian Education Ministries. Please contact Debbie Case at 734-941-1228 or email debbiescase@aol.com if you want more information.

Youth Fellowship continue to take Super Sub Orders

The youth will be taking orders for sub sandwiches, soup and cookies through February 2nd. All orders will be filled and ready for pick up between and after services on Super Bowl Sunday, February 4th.

Twelve inch subs can be ordered for \$9.00, homemade chicken and/or broccoli soup for \$4.00 and ½ dozen homemade cookies for \$3.00. All proceeds will benefit the Youth Fellowship local summer mission trip.

2018 Wild Game Dinner (selling out quickly)

The eleventh annual St. Paul Wild Game Dinner will be held on Thursday, February 8, 2018. Tickets, which are \$30 per person, can be purchased by contacting James Poet, Gary Staffeld, Candace Poet, John Smith or Dan Case.

The doors open on the night of the event at 5:30 pm, hors d'oeuvres are served at 6:00 pm with dinner at 7 p.m. Hors d'oeuvre items for the night will include wild chicken chili, turtle soup, salmon dip, sausage, cheese and crackers and fresh fruit. Entree items will include venison meatballs, Mexican venison lasagna, BBQ wild boar, wild boar sausage w/green pepper and onions, along with potatoes and gravy and of course dessert, all served in our own Fellowship Hall decorated like a large hunting lodge.

Adding to the excitement of the night, there will be ten unique and exciting raffles. This year will feature the raffle of genuine coyote hats. The St. Paul Building and Grounds Ministry, which sponsors the dinner, invites donations of wild game (e.g., Venison, Salmon, Rabbit, etc.) from church members. Prize items for raffle are also needed and welcomed. To donate or volunteer for the dinner, please contact coordinating team members Jim Poet, Gary Staffeld, Candace Poet, John Smith or Dan Case. The dinner is a fun filled event for all ages. Please visit our church website at www.stpaulucctaylor.org to see pictures of past events.

Lenten Season Begins with Ash Wednesday 'He Loves Me; He Loves Me Not' Service

Christmas may seem hardly done. But the new Christian season of Lent is already in sight. Arriving on Valentine's Day, the new Lenten season will begin midweek on February 14. In keeping with rich Christian tradition, the new season's start will be observed with a 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday service calling all God's people to repentance and renewal of faith.

In that night's preaching Pastor Geoffrey Drutchas will be taking a look at the games we sometimes play with God who loves us in spite of ourselves. Ashes, prepared from the charred remains of the palms distributed last year on the Sunday before Easter, will be offered to all worshippers by Senior Pastor Geoffrey Drutchas who will preside at the

service. Ushers will direct worshipers to the front of the sanctuary to receive the anointment of ashes.

The service will close with a Lenten anthem sung by our Chancel Choir. A 'bread and water' reception follows immediately after the service in the West Room, hosted by our confirmation classes. Church members are encouraged to invite family, neighbors, and friends to this special service that opens the season leading to Easter.

Ashes Offered at Early Morning Hours

Ashes will be offered during early morning hours on Ash Wednesday, February 14, for those who wish to stop by the church before heading to work that morning. Pastor Geoffrey Drutchas will be available from 7-9 a.m. to pray with you and anoint your head with ashes at the sanctuary altar. Those who wish to receive ashes for the first day of Lenten should use the front door of the church. Please ring the large handbell on the stand at the foot of the chancel steps before joining the pastor at the altar.

'No Wonder They Crucified Him,' Lenten Bible Study Begins

A six week "No Wonder They Crucified Him" Lenten Bible Study will get underway on Wednesday evenings, beginning during the worship service in the sanctuary on Ash Wednesday, February 14, and continue for the next five Wednesdays with regular sit-down sessions in the parlor, 7:30-8:30 p.m. The Bible study focuses on the different reasons why following Jesus is such a radical and wonderful thing to do. Our topics include "Get Off the Fence," "Completing the Circle of Grace and Thanks," "Patrol Your Pleasures," "Check Your Bags;" "Come Die with Me," and "Follow Me."

The "No Wonder They Crucified Him" Bible Study leaders will include Reverend Geoffrey Drutchas, Doreen Thompson, and Pastor Cheryl Schalm, plus two guest ministers, the Reverends John Martin and Ralph Brown. A study guide will be provided to all participants, including the scriptural texts that we will be reading and discussing each night. However, you are invited to bring a favorite bible to do a comparative reading of the texts that we will be studying.

The "No Wonder They Crucified Him" Bible Study is open to all church members and friends. There is no charge to participate. No previous bible study experience is necessary to enjoy and learn from this study series. Please sign up by using the RSVP form in your Sunday Morning Tide bulletin. For more information, contact Pastor Geoff Drutchas at the church office (313-291-1221).

Sewing Guild -- Sew 'n Sews -- Please join us for a little sewing and a lot of fellowship at our next meeting on Thursday, February 15th at 10:00 a.m. Bring a sandwich for lunch, dessert and coffee is provided. P/S: No sewing skill required

ROCK HARD IN FAITH YOUTH FELLOWSHIP TO HOST ARC DINNER DANCE... On Friday, February 16th the youth will once again be hosting a Valentine's Dinner Dance for the ARC (Association of Retarded Citizens). The youth became involved with the ARC as a result of a community outreach program with the Downriver Special Olympics for which the members of the ARC are involved.

The youth will be in need of donated desserts and door prize items to help off-set the cost of this outreach. If you are interested in making a donation or in helping with this event please contact Pastor Schalm.

All members of the congregation are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please contact Pastor Schalm to confirm your attendance.

Volunteers needed to make Coleslaw

Mark your calendar, the 2018 St. Paul Fish Dinners are coming, this year we will be making our famous St. Paul coleslaw on Saturday, February 17th beginning at 9:00 AM in the Church kitchen. Depending on how many people participate it takes anywhere from two to three hours to make the (20) five gallon pails of coleslaw required. Even if you can stop by for only one hour all help is appreciated. Please contact Jim Poet, Dan Case or call the Church Office at (313) 291-1221 if you need more information or want to volunteer to help.

Pew Communion Served on First Lenten Sunday: Worshipers Asked to Wear Purple

Heralding the first Sunday of Lent, there will be parade down the center aisle of our sanctuary on February 18. Both church youth and adults will participating as our 'Old Rugged Cross' is carried in, as well as purple silk paraments that will adorn our lectern and pulpit for the new season. Adding to the celebration, our chancel choir which will be singing at both the 9 and 10:30 a.m. services. And further keeping with custom, pew communion will be served. All worshiping adults are invited to partake of the bread and cup. During morning services all alleluias will be buried for the duration of the Lenten season, not to be sung again until Easter morning

As a part of their own observance of the new Lenten season, all church members are asked to wear something purple that morning.

Jerusalem Café Opens for Lenten Weeks

During the upcoming weeks of Lent the lights of the Jerusalem Café will shine brightly, welcoming those attending Wednesday activities. Desserts and beverages will be served in the West Room from 5:30-7 p.m. Each week will offer a different variety of light desserts. Jerusalem Café visitors will have a chance to enjoy refreshment and conversation before music rehearsals, worship, and Bible study. A basket donation will be appreciated.

Church members interested in contributed baked goods to the Café's desserts are invited to contact the church office (313-291-1221) or speak with Pastors Geoff Drutchas and Cheryl Schalm.

ST. PAUL'S OWN GIRL SCOUT TROOP is selling their famous Girl Scout cookies. They are taking pre-orders now. Cookies will be delivered around Valentine's Day (maybe a little sooner) and our sale goes through April 8th, 2018. The six main cookie flavors (Thin Mints, Tagalongs, Samoas, Trefoils, Do-Si-dos, & Savannah Smiles) are still only \$4 per box and the two specialty flavors - Toffeetastic (gluten free) & S'mores - are \$5.50 a box. The Troops to Troops donation offer is available again this year, too. For a \$4 donation, our Girl Scout troop will donate a box of cookies to our troops in the US Military. If you would like to place an order and help support our troop, there is an order form available in Fellowship Hall on our Girl Scout board where you can write your order, you can contact Jennifer Berringer at Jberringer3@aol.com (please put "cookie order" in the subject line and be sure to include your contact information). The girls will also be selling cookies during coffee hour once we have them in stock. As always, thank you for supporting our troop and our girls! ♥

Caregivers Plan Meeting in February

The St. Paul Caregivers Group will once again be meeting on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. The next gathering is scheduled for Monday, February 19th at 7:30 p.m. Every session starts with a quick-read article on a caregiving topic before we turn to conversation and discussion. Caregiving tips will be shared by participants who offer mutual support on a confidential basis. Pastor Geoff Drutchas leads the sessions, assisted by Parish Nurse Kathy Williams. The group is open to all St. Paul church members and friends.

Readers Theater at Mid-week Lenten Services Tells Stories at the Cross

What do a thorn, robe, nail, spear, shroud, and stone have in common? They all have their place in the great drama of Jesus' final hours on earth. Each will be the focus of short dramas shared each Wednesday as part of a Reader's Theater featured during mid-week Lenten services at St. Paul Church. The drama-in-worship series begins on Wednesday, February 21 and continues through March 21. All services will be from 7-7:30 p.m., followed by other Wednesday night activities, including choir rehearsals, confirmation class, and "No Wonder They Crucified Him" Lenten Bible Study Series.

Pastors Geoff Drutchas and Cheryl Schalm will be leading the worship services with individual actors also participating each night. All services will be held in the chancel with overflow seating below the steps. Come prepared for a thoughtful evening of worship, drama, and praise.

Volunteers Needed for Lenten Fish Suppers

Our congregation will be hosting five fish suppers on Fridays during the Lenten Season. Sit-down suppers, plus carry-out, will be hosted on February 23, March 9 and 23, 4-6:30 p.m. Drive-thru suppers will be hosted on alternating Fridays, March 2 and 16. As in past years, the menu will include breaded wild-caught Icelandic Cod, French fries, macaroni and cheese, our church's famous Cole slaw, roll, home-baked pie, and beverages.

Volunteer help is needed to host all of the suppers, beginning with the preparation of the Cole slaw we serve. The Cole slaw will be made on Saturday, February 17, 9 a.m.-12 noon. All hands on deck make for a great morning! The donation of home-baked pies is also appreciated. Approximately 90 pies are needed to serve the anticipated crowd. Our volunteer sign-up board can be found in the narthex. Pie tins are also available in the narthex for pick-up. Please speak with the deacon on hand if you have any questions about volunteer sign-up or pie donations.

Christian Education seeks baked goods for annual Fish Dinner Bake Sales

The "2018" sit-down, Lenten fish dinners will be held on February 23rd, March 9th and March 23rd. As is tradition, Christian Education will be hosting bake sales at all three dinners. The proceeds from the sales will benefit Christian Education programs and events. Baked goods will be needed for each sale. We thank you in advance for your consideration to bake and support these efforts. All items: cookies, cakes, breads, candies, pies, cupcakes, etc. are greatly appreciated and can be dropped off in the parlor the day prior or on the day of the dinner.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTREACH...On various Sundays the Sunday school children will have the opportunity to **make and decorate Valentine Cards** for our troops serving abroad and for those residing at Applewood Skilled Nursing Home in Trenton.

Additionally, Sunday School children will have the opportunity to support Rock Hard in Faith Youth Fellowship's efforts to raise awareness and resources for those in need. Members of youth fellowship will once again be participating in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine on February 16-18. In support of their efforts, a **food collection pantry** will be set-up in the Christian Education department with a challenge to the Sunday School children to fill its shelves with non-perishable food items. In addition, each class will have a jar to fill with loose coins. All food will be donated to the Fish and Loaves food pantry and all monies collected will be added to the total sum raised and sent to support World Vision's mission to combat world hunger. The class that collects the most coins and food will be treated to donuts and chocolate milk on February 25th.

ST. PAUL YOUTH TO GO WITHOUT SO OTHERS MAY HAVE... The young people of St. Paul will have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of starving children around the world. The "30 Hour Famine" youth lock-in will be held the weekend of February 16th – 18th. On Friday, February 16th participants will gather to host the annual ARC Valentine Dinner Dance. After dining and dancing with their guest they will participate in some friendly competition. Through team games participants will gain a greater knowledge and understanding of poverty and world hunger. A youth candle worship service will be held at 11:00 p.m. prior to the start of the 30 hour fast that will begin at midnight.

On Saturday, February 17th the youth will then head to Meijer for their annual shopping spree challenge. Upon return to St. Paul the young people will return home to finish their 30 hour fast. Then on Sunday morning, February 18th, the young people will break their fast as they join together at Pete's Place for breakfast.

The young people are in need of your help! They are in need of prayers and pledges. In addition, they will be collecting cans and bottles. All monies raised will be sent to World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide. Anyone interested in sponsoring a youth or making a donation should see a youth at the Kiosk during coffee hour. Anyone interested in helping with this event should see Pastor Schalm.

Red Hot Purple Angels – On Thursday, February 22, we will meet for dinner at 6:30 PM. Please, watch the MorningTide for where we will be going to eat.

Red Hot Purple Angels- March event is scheduled for Saturday, March 3, 7:00 p.m. All Church members are invited and welcome to attend. "Piano Wars", a Premier Dueling Piano event, is an entertaining evening featuring Dave Caruso, the man of a thousand songs, bringing the party to you. The show is programmed for ages 18 and older. The location is the Democratic Club of Taylor (main hall east side entrance) 23400 Wick Road, Taylor. Doors open at 5:30 pm and entertainment starts at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$25.00 and includes pizza and a soft drink. Beer and wine available for purchase. Tickets will be available from Michelle Matney, Barbara Shultz, and Marjie Barnard. This event is sponsored by the non-profit Taylor Public School Foundation for

Educational Excellence, to support student scholarships, mini-grants, and educational special projects not funded by the School District.

Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt and Party will be held during the 10:30 a.m. Sunday School hour on Sunday March 25th. All Sunday School children and their families should also mark their planners for that Sunday. Donations of Easter candy, juice and treats are needed. Please contact Sheri Herkimer or Pastor Schalm if you would like to make a donation or assist with the party.

HEALTH MINISTRIES

Exercise Classes - Exercise is important to our health. Classes are scheduled on Mondays and Wednesdays at 2 PM in the West Room unless otherwise advertised. Delissa is our instructor. She is a wonderful trainer with a Christian philosophy. Participants have notice increased strength and balance. Please plan to join us. A donation of \$3-5 is suggested for each day class attended.

Shalom – Chronic disease group meeting. We usually meet the 2nd Monday on each month at 1PM. Our next meeting is February 12 at 1 PM. There was no meeting in January. Check the MorningTide for additional information regarding topics and/or speakers.

Hepatitis A Outbreak in Southeast MI – Due to the outbreak of Hepatitis A in our area the health department has made *free* Hep A vaccines available. Two doses are required in the series 6 months apart. Check the Health Bulletin Board in fellowship Hall or speak with Kathy Williams if you wish more information.

First-Aid & CPR Classes – If you are interested in getting certified for First-Aid and CPR with AED, please contact Kathy Williams or make out a Make-a-Wish card for a future class. Typically, we have a class in February, but we will be changing this year to a time when the weather is better.

Our blood drive scheduled for January 25 was cancelled at 11 a.m. that day due to illness. Kathy Williams, our Parish Nurse, received a call from the American Red Cross apologizing that they had to cancel the blood drive due to many of the Red Cross staff being affected with the flu. The recent flu epidemic has been very prominent this year. We will try to reschedule due to the urgent need for blood in our area.

Health/Medical supplies –If you have or need medical supplies, such as walkers, wheelchairs, please contact our parish nurse or the office.

"Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live." John 11:25

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

February St. Paul Member and Friend Anniversaries:

Happy Anniversary to the following couples: Larry & Loretta Kurtzel (54 years), Rev. William and Elizabeth Kren (50 years), Kevin and Nancy Kittendorf (29 years), Andrea and Vern Holton (20 years), Douglas and Jamie Dowell (16 years), Carolyn and Mark

Bresky (7 years), Gregory and Shawn Block (6 years) and Kristi and Paul Caruso (4 years).

February St. Paul Member and Friend Birthdays:

Happy Birthday to the following members and friends: Marlin Radtke, Beverly Goodell, Dr. Eugene Homeister, Patricia Olsen, Shirley Drobil, Shirley Havenstein, Carol Wioncek, Irene Hubbard, Joan Foley, Sally Sigman, Danielle Gardner, Judy Kirsch, Arnold Knofske, Murlyn Nieman, Robert Barley, Dennis Bennett, Judy Motley, Kathe' Stears, Mark Kenosian, Rick Sitz, Elizabeth Kren, Dennis Sumner, Robert Ristow, Patricia Britt, Gerri King, Peter Ochab, Patti Hall, Rebecca Ostrowski, Douglas Dowell, Lariann Swain, Rebecca Warren, Timothy Ruffner, Griffin Vernor Drutchas, Margaret Staffeld, Matthew Matney, Khaela Hall, Jacob Barbee, Savannah Burden, Alexander Mink, Jacob Ochab and Makenna Martin.

February St. Paul Youth Birthdays:

Happy Birthday to the following youth: Elizabeth Ruffner and Paxton Case.

We apologize if we missed your Anniversary or Birthday, but it's because our records don't include all your personal information, please feel free to contact the Church office at (313) 291-1221 and we will gladly update your personal information for you.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregation Approves New Budget and Candidate Slate

The St. Paul congregation approved a 2018 budget and a new slate of candidates for Church Council positions a vote at its annual meeting on Sunday, January 14. After debate about an amended budget, a 2018 budget was approved by a show of hands. The vote on the candidate slate was unanimous.

The new Council members and those taking on new roles on the Council as a part of By-laws mandated succession were installed at Sunday morning services on January 18 with the exception of Pam Lange, who was home due to recent surgery. Pam was ill and absent that Sunday. She will be installed at an upcoming Council meeting.

The new and returning Council members include Diane Poet (President); Pam Lange (First Vice President); Cheryl Kincaid (Second Vice President); April Clark (Secretary); Barbara Schultz (Elder); Dave Badarak (Trustee); and Dee Salsbury (Deacon). The new slate of Council officers make history for our church. It is the first time that our congregation's executive leadership is entirely women.

The entire Church Council will be joining for a day-long, off-site leadership retreat led by Senior Pastor Geoff Drutchas on Saturday, February 3.

Souper Sunday Draws Largest Crowd Ever

Over 130 people attended the fifth annual Souper Sunday event at our church on January 28, immediately after the 10:30 a.m. service. Patrons of the event had an opportunity to savor 24 different soups that were offered at serving stations set up around the perimeter of Fellowship Hall. Café-style seating with red-checkered tablecloths added atmosphere for the occasion which drew rave reviews. No one left hungry and unhappy. Those preparing and serving a soup for the culinary event enjoyed themselves as well.

Before departing that afternoon, patrons were invited to vote on the "Soup Supreme," the best overall soup, and the "Soup Surprise"—i.e., the most original, creative and unique soup. The voting result winners will be announced next Sunday during our worship services.

New Bookkeeper Joins Church Staff

St. Paul Church has a new bookkeeper to succeed Marjie Barnard who relinquishes the interim role she assumed after her formal retirement from the position last year. Elizabeth Bisaro began working in our church office on January 16. She is currently undergoing training in the Church Windows computer program which our congregation utilizes for record-keeping. Mrs. Bisaro will be working from the church office during the week and on Saturdays, which is a down-time for other activities.

The new bookkeeper, who was introduced to the congregation at our annual meeting in January, comes to us with significant financial, bookkeeping, and administrative experience. More recently for seven years she was a franchise owner for SNAP Fitness, handling all aspects of her privately-owned business.

Mrs. Bisaro is the mother of two children and welcomes the opportunity for flexible-time, part-time work that the St. Paul bookkeeping position allows. Our Church Treasurer Gary Peters, who headed the search team, will be working closely with Mrs. Bisaro, as will various church staff members.

Volunteer Office Manager Needed

St. Paul is currently looking for a volunteer to serve as Office Manager, position would be a part-time position and be about five hours a week. Responsibilities would include monitoring usage of church office supplies (paper, pens, pencils, toner, etc.) and ordering, as required. They would also be responsible for ordering special items for the ministries (Christian Education, Music, Stewardship, Pastors, Parish Nurse, etc.), examples might include: confirmation robes, tent and chairs for summer picnic as well as other special items. Monitoring and recording usage for the copier and risograph would also be part of the job description. If you are interested in applying for this volunteer position, please contact one of the St. Paul Trustees; John Smith, Michael Isaacs or Dave Badarak.

Volunteer needed for St. Paul Sign Board

The Building and Grounds Ministry is looking for a volunteer or volunteers to maintain our large St. Paul advertising sign, located to the West of the Church on Goddard Road. Responsibilities would be to update the sign as events are happening at St. Paul (ie: Fish Dinners, Rummage Sale, Blood Drives, etc), training will be provided. Anyone interested in volunteering to take over the responsibility for updating the advertising sign should see either Michael Isaacs, John Smith or David Badarak, our St. Paul Trustees.

Altar Guild has a couple of opportunities for volunteers to maintain (fill) the altar candles weekly and to ensure the paraments (cloth on the lectern and pulpit) are changed accordingly. There are no meetings to attend. All materials and training are provided at your convenience. For more information please contact Arlene Felske or Sue Mrowka.

St. Paul Eliminates PO Box

As part of the budget planning for 2017 it was decided to eliminate the Post Office Box effective July 1, 2017, since most of the Church mail was already coming to our regular mailbox. If for some reason you or your financial institution are still utilizing the **(PO Box 190)** address; you should notify them to change it to the church address **(24158 Goddard Rd, Taylor, MI 48180)** immediately. The post office is supposed to forward the mail, but recently there was an incident where they did not forward the mail. We apologize for any inconvenience this change may have caused you.

Lenten Food Drive for Fish & Loaves

St. Paul members are invited to make a difference for Fish & Loaves Community Food Pantry this Lent by the donation of canned goods each week to stock the pantry's shelves. Canned soups, stews, and chili will especially help Fish & Loaves serve the thousands of families who shop at the "client choice" pantry each month. If every worshipping member brings one canned good each week, our congregation will be able to present Fish & Loaves with over a thousand cans of nourishing food—a reasonable, worthy goal underscoring what one congregation can accomplish.

A Fish & Loaves bin has been placed in the church narthex. Canned goods collected each week will be counted and weighed with the results shared with the congregation throughout the season of Lent. Every can of food matters. Help Fish & Loaves help others.

Church Wi-Fi Password to change in February

The St. Paul Wi-Fi password will be changed during the month of February in accordance with our IT policy. As many of you already know the wireless internet has added another dimension to St. Paul, in that it enables our members with smartphones, tablets and laptop computers to access resources that actually aid in our congregation's mission, it also helps to bring people in and encourages them to stick around. Notice will be put in the St. Paul Morning Tide when the change occurs. Please contact the Church Office to get the new Wi-Fi password or see Dan Case, Michael Isaacs or Gary Peters during or after our services. Thank You, St. Paul IT Ministry.

Coffee Hour Drink Spills have become a Concern.

Please help us avoid drink spills. Lids are provided during Coffee Hour for your beverages if you would like to leave the Hall with your drink. We have noticed many areas in the building where beverages were spilled. We would like to keep our building looking as nice as we can. Your help is greatly appreciated. Thank You, St. Paul Building & Grounds Ministry.

Audio Copies of St. Paul Sunday Worship Services are available for your listening pleasure. Just log onto the St. Paul Web Site "stpaulucctaylor.org", select the "Our Worship Together" tab, then the Worship Services (Audio)" tab. Directions are given on the Service page. Services are also available on the Mobile application as well. If you have any questions, please contact Gary Peters, Michael Isaacs or Dan Case.

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

As St. Paul begins to prepare our budget for 2018, it is important to know what support we can depend on from our members and friends. By knowing what you are willing to commit financially, we are able to better plan for the future. Please consider setting up a recurring giving plan. Automating your financial commitments means your contributions will be received on a steady, uninterrupted basis.



To set up a recurring giving schedule, visit us online at www.stpaulucctaylor.org/giving, locate the Online Giving button and set up your recurring giving schedule. The first time you give, you will select a password that will enable you to log in at any time and make changes to your giving or view your complete online giving history. St. Paul also offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smartphone. Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's QR reader. If you need additional assistance or have questions, please contact Gary Peters, our Treasurer or Dan Case, Auxiliary Trustee.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

MEMORIAL FUND-

In Memory of: *Frederick Frank* From: Lois Frank

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Thank You to the January Merry Mailers: Fred Miller and Diane Poet.

Thank you to Karen Hill, Toni Hill and Barb Schultz for getting out the President's letter and budget for 2018.

A BIG "THANKS" FROM JULIUS ENESEY TO: Charlie Barnard, Dave Badarak, Jack Burchard, Mark Ennis, Fred Miller, John Smith, Gary Staffeld, and Tom Tank for helping remove all the equipment and furniture from the kitchen and west room last Tuesday to prepare for an outside company to deep clean, wax, and tile/ grout clean and seal the floors. They all returned on Thursday to move everything back in place.

LOVE AND DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO Leona Traub and Family on the loss of son and brother, William James Traub, who passed away January 1, 2018 at the age of 59 years. Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas officiated. Arrangements by Modetz Funeral Home, Silverbell Chapel.

LOVE AND DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO Bob Harry on the loss of his brother, Bill, on January 10, 2018 at the age of 86 years. Funeral was January 16, 2018 in Tennessee.

LOVE AND DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO Family & Friends of Sylvia I. Hakala, who passed away January 13, 2018 at the age of 100 years. Funeral was Saturday, January 20, 2018. Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas officiated. Arrangements by Howe-Peterson Funeral Home, Taylor Chapel.

LOVE AND DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO Patrick Ferguson, family & friends on the loss of wife, mother, and grandmother, Sharon Ferguson, who passed away January 14, 2018 at the age of 67 years. Funeral was Wednesday, January 17, 2018. Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas officiated. Arrangements by Voran Funeral Home, Taylor Chapel.

LOVE AND DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO Matt Horne on the loss of his grandmother, Genevieve Gehringer, who passed away Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at the age of 89 years. Funeral was Saturday, January 20, 2018. Arrangements by the Uht Funeral Home.

LOVE AND DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO Megan & Ricky Barnosky & family on the loss of Ricky's grandfather, Jack C. Jones, who passed away January 21, 2018 at the age of 73 years. Funeral was January 23, 2018. Pastor Cheryl Schalm officiated. Arrangements by Michigan Memorial Funeral Home.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS

FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN – PRAYER LIST: Prayers are requested for the following church members and friends: Ann Anderson, Pauline Arndt, Megan Barnosky, Curt Buzo, Debbie Case, Betty Caufield, Miles Church, Phill Felske, Barbara Gish, Vicki Grant, Shirley Havenstein, Pam Jones, David King, John King, Nancy Kittendorf, Rev. Bill Kren, Pam Lange, Sharon Leonard, Neil McEachern, Velma McGee, Jena Mellin, Lexi Mellin, Michelle Mellin, Bob Robinson, Eleanor Rossi, Sue Spears, Kevin Staffeld, Mary Lou Staffeld, Brenda Tank, Linda Tank, Grace Wangbickler, and Shelly Wilson. *Please contact the church office if your family member or friend needs to be listed longer than three weeks or their health has been restored.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATION'S EXTENDED FAMILY: Brenda & Bonnie (friends, Daisy Stedman), Justin Collins (son-in-law, Gerri King), Rebecca Havenstein Coughlin (daughter, Shirley Havenstein), Lynn Harbin (sister, John Smith), Tamsey Hoffman (friend, Sue Mrowka), Justin Kurtz (friend, Chelsey Schalm), Joanne LeFleur (daughter, Helene & Neil McEachern), Courtney Matthew McEachern, Kim McEachern (daughter-in-laws, Helene & Neil McEachern), Scott Miller (son, Fred Miller), James Newsome (friend, Barb Schultz), Laura O'Neil (mother, Shawn Block), Nicki Pappas (friend, Velma McGee), Garnett Raymond (daughter, Betty Hagerty), Brian Reid (friend, Sue Mrowka), Judy Robin (aunt, Lucinda Chavez), Cookie Robinson (sister, Bob Robinson), Trudy Clark-Schiller (daughter, April & Steve Clark), Joyce Smith (sister, the late Harry Thompson), David Staten (brother-in-law, Peggy Staten), Nicholas Surre (great-grandson, Helene McEachern), Paul Tetreau (nephew, Kathy & Gary Peters), and Victoria Whitcher (daughter, Cheryl Stewart).

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATIONS' PARENTS: Michael Bailey (father of Christie Smart), Robert Brainard (father, Ed Brainard), Jan Filpus (mother of Julia-Joy Miller), Bruce Gaither (father, Rebecca Warren), Carol Kuhn (mother-in-law of Lori Kuhn), Stella Ludlam (mother-in-law, Ellen Ludlam), Bill Pinage (father of Brenda Buzo), Sheryl Schwab (mother of Mary Hard & Christine Schwab), Frank Small (father of Chris Chavez), and Anna Thompson (mother, Lucinda Chavez).

CHURCH MEMBERS & FRIENDS IN NURSING OR REHAB CARE: Mary Dubke (Amy's Place, 41346 Llorac Lane, Northville 48167), Melva Haglund (Rivergate Health Center, 14041 Pennsylvania Rd., Riverview, 48193), Ilene Krogman (Applewood Nursing Center, 18500 Van Horn Rd, Room #124, Woodhaven, 48183), Helen Parrish (9637 Janet, Taylor, 48180), Eleanor Rossi (Maple Heights, 4600 Allen Rd, Room 415, Allen Park, MI 48101), Melissa Rossi (17652 Colgate, Dearborn Heights, 48125), Vernagene Schafer (Borgess Gardens, 3057 Gull Rd, Kalamazoo, 49048), Ben Scherf (904 E. Lake Mitchell Dr., Cadillac 49601), Betty Steinhauer (Rivergate Health Center, 14041 Pennsylvania Rd. Riverview, 48193) Grace Torango (Rivergate Health Center, 14041 Pennsylvania Rd., Riverview, 48193), and Lisa Wild (Anestic Care Residence, 21071 Tiffany Dr., Woodhaven, 48183).

Link to our online: [**CHURCH CALENDAR**](#)