

TIDINGS

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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www.stpaulucctaylor.org

Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. Geoffrey G. Drutchas

Minister of Christian Education - Pastor Cheryl Schalm

July/August 2018

Snapshot of Events

Steak Fry - July 20 - 4:00 - 7:00 pm

Vacation Bible School - July 23 - 29 - 6:15 to 8:30 p.m.

Caregivers Meet - July 23rd - 7:30 p.m.

Picnic Sunday - July 29 - 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Guest Minister - Rev. Brown - August 5th - 9:30 a.m.

Exercise Classes begin - August 6 - 2 p.m.

Guest Minister - Pastor Schalm - August 12th & 19th - 9:30 a.m.

Active Assailant Training - August 14 - 6 p.m.

Red Hat Bunco Pot Luck Dinner - August 16 - 6:30 p.m.

Annual All Church Kitchen Clean-up - August 18 - 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Reducing the Risk Training Class - August 26 - 10:30 a.m.

Guest Minister - TBD - 9:30 a.m.

Fish & Loaves Pantry Golf Outing - September 15th - 8:00 a.m.

Ordination of Ethan Drutchas - September 16th - 4:00 p.m.

PASTOR'S PEACE

During the last days of June our congregation received word that church member Vernagene Schafer had passed on. For two decades Vernagene had served as a part of our St. Paul staff as financial secretary. But she was a great contributor to our congregation in so many different ways. On June 30th I officiated at the service for Vernagene in the our church sanctuary, giving thanks for her life and the way she shared her faith and talents with all of us. Her family—sister Irene, daughter Lori, son Robert, granddaughter Melissa, and son-in-law Tony, as well as nieces and nephews—were all present

No doubt many of you still remember Vernagene well. Those who didn't have a chance to meet her have missed out on knowing a great gal who was ever-smiling, vivacious, enthusiastic, faithful, plus fun to be with. In a eulogy prepared for her service, I tried to share some of the important moments and milestones of her life. Those who weren't able to attend the Saturday morning service may enjoy learning more about someone who are a wonderful servant to Christ and this congregation through this excerpt from her eulogy. May the best of Vernagene's life be an example and inspiration for us all.

--Shalom, Pastor Geoff Drutchas

Vernagene was born in Ypsilanti, Michigan in her grandparents' home on July 16, 1927 to Loretta (Block) and Charles Kruger. She was the second of six siblings—a brood that also came to include Una, Clyde, Irene, Norman, and Roy. Sister Irene is with us today.

Vernagene's parents owned a farm on Cherry Hill Road in Superior Township. Consequently, days after her birth, moving from town to more rural country, she was brought to the family farm to spend her early growing up years. It is hard to imagine what farm life was like back then. No matter how prosperous, farm living in the early decades of the 20th century was pretty basic without many of the amenities that city folk already knew and that we all count on now. In addition, just two years after Vernagene's arrival, a financial panic on Wall Street plunged our nation into the Great Depression. The 1920s had already been an economically depressed time for farmers. The Great Depression just compounded everything. Most farmers were lucky if they could meet their tax payments. The Kruger family met up with further adversity in July 1932 when a faulty chimney started a fire that almost burned their house to the ground. Fortunately, they found the means to rebuild.

Of course, on the farm, where you can raise your own food, no one starves. The Kruger farm raised corn, wheat, and hay and had its share of barnyard animals—sheep, pigs, chickens, and cows. Along with her sisters and brothers, Vernagene had no shortage of daily farm chores. A strong work ethic was instilled in her from a young age. Sister Irene also remembers her older sister as someone who always wanted everything clean.

In her early years, Vernagene attended the one-room Cherry Hill School which was close to home. However, she had to go further afield to complete her education. For secondary school, Vernagene enrolled at Ypsilanti High School. Every morning she and her older siblings boarded a Greyhound bus that had a route along Michigan Avenue. For ten or fifteen cents it provided the transportation that Vernagene needed to get to classes. However, since Greyhound did not provide curb-to-curb service, there was probably a lot of walking involved for Vernagene too.

That same Greyhound bus also allowed Vernagene and her sisters and brothers to attend church for Sunday services. Vernagene's family were members of Immanuel Lutheran Church

on River Road near Ypsilanti's Depot Town. That's where Vernagene was baptized and confirmed in Christian faith.

During her high school years, Vernagene found local work beyond the farm at Randall's Grocery on Michigan Avenue. It was about a half-mile from home—within walking distance. She later took a similar job at the Packard's Grocery Store in Ypsilanti. Yet upon graduation from Ypsilanti High School in 1945, Vernagene looked for and secured more serious, full-time employment with Washtenaw County Auditor's Office.

In 1947, Vernagene's parents moved to a new farm on Webber Road. Vernagene relocated with them and car-pooled to work with a County sheriff and several others. Yet after a long winter at the new farm and challenge of the daily commute, she decided to move in with her older sister, Una, on Superior Road, closer to Ypsilanti. Since Una also worked with Washtenaw County and already had a car they were able to drive into together to work.

For recreation and entertainment on weekends, Vernagene liked to go dancing. A favorite gathering place was the VFW Hall in Wayne, Michigan where the son of Henry Ford's famous dance master, Jack Whitehead, used to call square dances. A young farmer named Kenny Schafer saw Vernagene there and was interested. There was just one problem: he had arrived with another date. The following Saturday night Kenny Schafer returned solo looking for Vernagene. She was there. He introduced himself. What's more, he successfully persuaded Vernagene to let him escort her home at evening's end. The beginnings of a courtship soon got underway.

How could you not like Ken? However, Vernagene's family apparently had some reservations. In those days he rode a 1945 "Indian Chief" Eagle motorcycle. As much as she liked Ken, Vernagene didn't care much for the cycle either. The story is told—legend or true—that Kenny drove over her foot one day. Then there was the time when Ken got detained by police as a suspicious character. Apparently, after Ken dropped Vernagene off after one of their date nights the police mistook him for a shooter they were pursuing. For a credible alibi and identification Ken had the officers drive him all the way back to Una's house where Vernagene, summoned, was pointedly asked: "Do you know this man?" Fortunately, she did. Yes, love and constancy won out. Even the fact that Kenny—to Vernagene's disappointment—never quite mastered dancing country-style rounds—could not deter romance.

On those date nights when he had to work late on the farm, Kenny would actually dispatch his sister Pat to pick Vernagene up. They could then meet at the hall in Wayne without any crimp in their time together. Bless Pat for that! Ultimately, Vernagene and Ken were married at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Ypsilanti on April 14, 1951. It was a marriage that stuck. Together, Vernagene and Ken shared sixty years of married life together.

Initially, Vernagene and Ken rented a house in Ecorse Township, today Southgate, at the corner of Kerr and Walnut Streets. But traffic noise drove them to look for a quieter place. They found it nearby on Poplar Street, where they moved in 1953.

Always full of energy and eager to get out in the world, Vernagene enjoyed working outside home. Now settled in the Downriver area, she found a job with Wyandotte Cement. Later, she made the shift to Security Bank, which proved to be the start of a three-decade career. However, when son Robert was born in July 1957, Vernagene shifted to part-time employment. She continued to work part-time as well after daughter Lori arrived in March 1962.

By the time that their children were born, Vernagene and Ken were already members here at St. Paul Church, then pastored by the Reverend Leonard Weigel. Happily, they joined company with Ken's brother Harold and his wife, Muriel, who were members too. The St. Paul congregation became an extra, extended family for the Schafers. Importantly, son Robert and daughter Lori were both baptized and confirmed in faith, in this very sanctuary. But Vernagene and Ken also got involved in just about everything here—from committee work to men's and

women's groups to Boy Scouts. With Vernagene's encouragement, Ken brought his woodworking skills to bear on many church projects. The handsome pedestal stands that are used in our sanctuary for floral displays on worship occasions like this were crafted in his workshop on Poplar Street.

Vernagene was a great wife and mom. Daughter Lori credits her mother for many things, not least of all her own work ethic. Vernagene always stressed getting work done before heading out to play. But with her "C'mon let's go" attitude, there were many get-up-and-go fun times. A lot of these fun times were spent with the Kruger and Schafer families. But no less memorable were the weekend camping trips made in association with the Boy Scouts. Father and son, Ken and Robert, would camp out in one part of the park with fellow Scouts. Wives, daughters, and younger sons would simply stay in another part of the park in a pop-up trailer. One night, one of the young people sharing the trailer mischievously placed some rubber worms in Vernagene's bed. That got a big jump and huge rise out of Vernagene who for a moment thought they were the real thing!

Life was not without pitfalls for Vernagene, Ken, and kids. In 1970, two years after Ken and his brothers sold the Schafer farm that had been the family livelihood for decades, he was involved in a terrible accident with the excavation company that now employed him. Specifically, while Ken was excavating a large swimming pool in Pontiac, Michigan for the Justin Moore Company his bulldozer toppled into the ground opening. Even worse, the Flex-Cor structure covering the pool area also collapsed. Ken was completely pinned down and had to be extricated by a rescue squad. When he arrived at the hospital, doctors found that his hip had been pulled out of joint and his hand been crushed. Initially, it looked as if the hand had to be amputated. However, it was ultimately saved. Ken had to remain in traction for seven weeks and undergo many hip and hand surgeries to restore as much use as possible. Through it all, Vernagene was there with Ken. What a shock for her. The blessing in it all was that Ken had survived what could have been a fatal accident.

To help supplement household income impacted by Ken's sudden disability, Vernagene went back to work full-time with Security Bank. She became the gal at the front desk trouble-shooting customer problems. Vernagene was very good at it. At home, Ken used to teasingly call her "The General" as in "The General's speaking..." In fact, she had a take-charge personality and was always able to speak with a sense of authority, based on what she knew. She was also a genuine people person who always went out of her way to be friendly and helpful.

Despite their reverses, Vernagene and Ken were able to purchase a neighboring house for themselves and their children right on Poplar Street. Coincidentally, the Hinzman family who was selling it were distant relations to Ken and Vernagene. Thereafter, they also became fast friends. Ken and Vernagene loved that house and refitted it over the years in the way that suited their style best.

In time, our kids grow up. That can be bit sad. Yet there are glad moments too that always compensate. Vernagene and Ken had the blessing of seeing their son and daughter fully launched in life. After Robert married in 1989, he and wife Sarah welcomed a child, Melissa, making Vernagene a grandmother. In the years that followed, Vernagene enjoyed spending time with Melissa. Meanwhile, Vernagene saw her daughter Lori graduate from Western Michigan University and wed Tony McAdam. For Vernagene and Ken alike, Tony became like another son. Vernagene always took pride in their subsequent career accomplishments, whether it was in the fields of selling cars or Longaberger Baskets.

I first met Vernagene thirty years ago when she was face-to-face with these many family changes and entering still another chapter in her life. She smiled through it all. Her cheerfulness was infectious, not least of all if and when things didn't go right.

Here at church, Vernagene became a powerhouse in our senior citizens' group. Her leadership was welcomed because "it was never about her," if you know what I mean. She began planning and coordinating chartered bus excursions that took our members all over the country. For seniors who hadn't done much traveling before, her tours were a big thing—a source of many wonderful experiences and memories that are still talked about. On her own with Ken and a handful of close friends, Vernagene liked heading up every August to McGuire's Resort in Cadillac, Michigan for golf, late-night hands of euchre, and just good old fellowship. It was a great, relaxed time.

In the early 1990s Vernagene retired from Security Bank. Yet she didn't remain completely retired for long. She soon signed on as financial secretary for our church, using her past banking experience to help us keep track of donations and contributions. Everyone trusted her to keep our church's financial giving records secure and confidential. She exercised great tact and discretion. It was one more way that she lived out her faithfulness to Jesus Christ and his church. I enjoyed serving on the same church staff with her for the good part of two decades all the way through to her second retirement in 2011.

Unfortunately, around 2003, Ken was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. As much as he fought it with Vernagene's support and encouragement, Parkinson's is progressive. As more time passed and problems inevitably mounted for Ken, Vernagene also became more stressed and a little worse for wear. Yet here, Lori and Tony made a huge difference. Although they lived on the other side of the state, they were always coming back and forth to help as necessary. There were still some very happy times. A bright memory is all the Christmas cookie-making that Vernagene joined with Lori and Tony, as well as his parents, to do. It was an annual two or three day affair with everyone decked out in matching custom-designed baker's aprons. When Lori and Tony built their new house out in western Michigan they made sure that the kitchen was big enough for five or six chefs at once!

Ken passed away in early November 2011. That was hard for Vernagene, particularly because her own health was beginning to fail. Of course, smoothing the necessary transition was son Bob's presence, sharing the same household, and Lori, who began virtually commuting back and forth between Portage and Southgate. Soon it became apparent that it was better for Vernagene to move in with Lori and Tony. They truly welcomed Vernagene with open hearts. Vernagene closed and sold the house on Poplar Street in August 2014.

All in all, Vernagene adjusted well to the move-in with Lori and Tony. As long as she was able, she certainly enjoyed attending church with them on Sunday mornings, as she mentioned to me. Yet in November 2015, Vernagene developed a blood clot in her lungs which required an extended hospitalization for treatment and a nursing home stay for recuperation. Six months later, the pulmonary embolism recurred. She couldn't stand and couldn't breathe. This time after further hospitalization Vernagene needed 24 hour care which prompted her move to Borgess Gardens where she remained. Although there were moments when she was better—the Borgess Gardens staff always found her a delight—Vernagene lost more and more mobility and had more difficulty eating and swallowing. Last month she developed pneumonia. Then last week she was enrolled in hospice. The end came peacefully on Tuesday, June 26th. Lori and Tony were with Vernagene throughout this time. Robert was able to visit last week and Melissa and her mother, Sarah, were able to share a couple of days with her.

Right now, there may be a part of us still in shock. What's happened could still be slow to register and be hard to believe. I suspect that it's going to be a long time before the reality of Vernagene's passing truly settles in and all our emotions, which may even surprise us, settle down. However, we can take consolation in the goodness of Vernagene's life; the many years she enjoyed; the great memories we have of so much shared; and the promise of eternal life for

all who live and die in faith. Let's also trust in whatever grief we carry God can and will provide the guidance and strength we need to go on with life in a positive and hopeful way.

In the days ahead, I ask you not to forget or forsake each other. Please keep Vernagene's family in your prayers. Visit or telephone them; drop them a note. Let them know that they have your continued concern, care, and support so that they know that, whatever the depths of their own grief, they do not walk alone. In this way, you show your own faithfulness as a Christian disciple and friend and honor Vernagene's memory best. God bless and sustain us all in the days to come. In Jesus Christ, Amen.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EDITORIAL

He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint." ~ Isaiah 40:29-31

We've all been there! And despite that summertime is considered a season to kick-back, slow down and relax, it does not always afford us the opportunity to do so. We are challenged daily, throughout every season with uphill battles, time restraints and the demands of family, work and other obligations. We all know and have experienced enough to know that the uphill climbs are found everywhere in our lives.

We all get weary sometimes. Even "youths" and "young men & women" will grow tired – it's a part of the human condition. Maybe it's Mondays or at the end of the month or the quarter. Maybe it's after something has happened in your life to sap you of that last ounce of energy. Sometimes week after week just gets to you.

It's easy to get worn down, emotionally and physically. We need to look to the Lord for rest and rejuvenation, which He promises. God is our source of power. We need to stay connected regardless of the season. May this summer season find you "plugged" into God as you enjoy His beautiful creation.

In Christ, Pastor Cheryl Schalm, Minister of Christian Education

Christian Education Plans for Upcoming Events

It's Time for Camp Moose on the Loose! -July 23rd thru July 26th

This summer's Vacation Bible School program, "Camp Moose on the Loose" will be taking place at St. Paul UCC from July 23rd through July 26th. The program will begin each evening at 6:15 p.m. and conclude at 8:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Over the course of the evening children will uncover and explore biblical lessons, partake in camp games, create awesome crafts, sing some lively campfire songs, and eat lots of camp side snacks. Then on July 29th, parents and members of the congregation are encouraged and invited to join the children for the VBS family finale and closing program that will coincide with the annual picnic. In addition to picnic activities, all attending can look forward to lunch, games, a pony ride, a petting zoo and a special music presentation offered by VBS participants.

Early registration and round-up will begin on July 22nd during Coffee Hour. All those interested in helping with the program or in registering their children, grandchildren, neighborhood children or friends should see Pastor Schalm.

Seventeen Youth & Chaperones Serve the Cities of Detroit and Muskegon

On Sunday, June 17th, a group of seventeen youth and chaperones set out for a week long mission trip to serve as the hands and feet of Christ. They sacrificed all activities, events, and traded a week of their summer vacation for a week of service. Over the course of the week participants hit the streets of Detroit serving its residents through the Christian based organization, Rippling Hope. From there they moved on to Muskegon where they served at the Muskegon Rescue Mission. They concluded their work by preparing and serving lunch at the Waynewright Soup Kitchen in Wyandotte.

Over the course of the week the group washed walls, repaired falling rails, did some home repairs, worked at a women's shelter and thrift store, and prepared and served meals. While the group served and gained a greater awareness of those in need, they also had the opportunity to fellowship and to enjoy evening activities to include a tour of Belle Isle, a day at Michigan Adventures and pizza at the Muskegon State Park. In addition to service and fellowship, the group learned the importance of "the character attached to a name," during morning and evening devotions.

The youth would like to thank everyone who supported their fundraising efforts and kept them in prayer during their trip.

Christian Education to Lead Children's Games at Annual Church Picnic July 29th

As is customary, Christian Education will once again host the children's games at the annual all-church picnic being held on Sunday, July 29th. In addition to the traditional kiddie-carnival games held this year in Wonda Woody's Wilderness located at St. Paul, children will have the opportunity to take a pony ride and visit the petting farm. In addition, we will be holding our annual "goodie" walk. Baked goods will be needed and are appreciated. Volunteers are needed to help run the children's games. Anyone interested should see or contact Pastor Schalm.

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.

EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

Red Hot Purple Angel Upcoming Events begin July 19th

July 19 - Thursday - Christmas in July at Kathy Williams' house, 9385 Cogswell St. Romulus MI 48174. 6:30 PM. Bring a dish to pass. Kathy will have pulled pork, turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy. Bring a gift to of \$5-10 to exchange. **August 16** - Potluck Dinner and Bunco at church at 6:30 PM in the West Room. Bring \$5 and a dish to pass. Bunco is easy you don't have to know how to play ahead of time. **September**

15 Mark your calendar for this date for the "Magic of Motown" at 8 pm at Dearborn Performing Arts Ida Black is the contact.

Men's Fellowship Ministry to host their 4th Annual "Steak Fry" - July 20th

The event will take place at the Church on Friday, July 20th from 4:00 – 7:00 PM. Dinner will include a New York Strip Steak or a BBQ Chicken Breast, your choice, a Baked Potato (Regular or Sweet), Corn on the Cob, Salad, Dessert and Beverage. You will want to purchase your ticket in advance to reserve your steak or chicken, since only a limited number of steaks and chicken breast will be available at the door for purchase. Tickets are \$14 per person and will be available at the Kiosk Table during Coffee Hour or by calling the Church Office at 313-291-1221. All "Grill Masters" are invited to participate, if you have any questions please feel free to contact Jim Poet, Gary Staffeld, or Dan Case. It promises to be an enjoyable evening, so come on down and bring your friends.

Caregivers Meet on Third Monday - July 23rd

The St. Paul Caregivers group will be meeting on Monday, July 23, 7:30 p.m. Led by Pastor Geoff Drutchas and Parish Nurse Kathy Williams, the Caregivers gathering provides an opportunity for church members and friends to share caregiving experience in a setting of mutual encouragement and support.

Newcomers are welcome to attend. Please speak with Pastor Drutchas or Kathy Williams if you have questions or would like more information about the group.

Picnic Weekend Campers Invited- July 28th-29th

All St. Paul Church members are invited to camp out on the church grounds during Picnic Weekend, July 28-29. Campers, RVs, and trailers, as well as tents, are all welcome. Electrical hook-ups can be provided but your RSVP (313-291-1221) is needed no later than Monday, July 23. A site plan for St. Paul campers will be worked out based upon the number of RSVPs received. In making your RSVP please indicate your space and electrical needs. There is no charge to camp during Picnic Weekend.

Volunteers Needed for Summer Picnic - July 29th

On Sunday morning, beginning at 9 am, volunteers are needed to help with set-up of the Worship Area and to shuck freshly picked corn. Beginning at 11:00 am help is needed to prepare the food, and to staff the buffet table for lunch. Christian Education will need help with the Kiddie Games. Your help is also needed at the conclusion of the picnic. Please plan on joining the team by volunteering to help. You can contact Pam Lange our Picnic coordinator or any of the people listed below to volunteer.

Volunteer Contacts: Kitchen/Lunch – Jim Poet; Kids Games – Cheryl Schalm; Petting Farm/Pony Rides - Cheryl Schalm; Vendor Arcade - Sharon Leonard; Basket Raffle Donations - Barb Schultz; 50/50 Raffle - Andrew Caruso; Worship Set-up - Al Gunther; Pie in the Face - Sheri Herkimer

'Moose on the Loose' Promises All-Church Picnic Fun - July 29th

The moose will be on the loose on Picnic Sunday, July 29, at St. Paul Church. But instead of mayhem, we can all look ahead to some happy, good fun. In addition to an outdoor worship service under a big-top tent, our day will include a picnic buffet, a

vendor show, a petting zoo, plus games and activities for kids and adults alike. Music and opportunities for karaoke will be provided by Russell Walker.

Our picnic morning will begin with a 9:30 a.m. coffee hour hosted by the Men's Fellowship in the Lodge (West Room). Our outdoor service follows at 10 a.m., culminating with a fun presentation by the Vacation Bible School participants who will have some moose stories to tell. The picnic then gets underway outdoors with a host of activities that will take us right through the afternoon. A lunch buffet will be served starting at 11:45 a.m. with a free-will offering invited to defray expenses.

Picnic activities in the late morning and afternoon will include the Petting Zoo that kids will love; Banana Nut Bingo, featuring as prizes "from scratch" banana breads home-prepared in our pastor's kitchen; a 'Pie-in-the-Face' contest that will entertain everybody; and a Water Balloon Toss that will give us all a chance to cool off on a warm afternoon and an ice cream social to cool the palette. A volleyball net will be in place for those who want more action. Of course you can always just sit and relax and enjoy the day visiting with other attendees and watching all the activities happening around you. The afternoon will conclude with a drawing for both 50/50 and basket raffles.

This is a great event for your whole family, including those who have always wanted to invite to come to church with you. You, as well as family and friends, will want to dress casual for the day. Also, bring a lawn chair for your own comfort. Need more information about Picnic Sunday? Call the church office at 313-291-1221. See below for a complete listing of activities and times.

Camp Moose on the Loose Picnic Sunday Schedule – Sunday July 29, 2018

9:30 - Coffee & Donuts at the Lodge – Hosted by Men's Fellowship – West Room

10:00 - Outdoor Worship Service – Under the Big Tent

11:00 - Vendor Arcade Opens (You will get one free ticket for the Vendor Drawing for every \$10 worth of merchandise you buy from them)

Wonda Woody's Kiddie Games, Music for your enjoyment begins with Russ Walker
50/50 and Basket Raffle Ticket sales begin

11:45 - Lunch Buffet - chicken, sloppy joes, hot dogs, corn-on-the-cob, baked beans, pasta salad, vegetables, fresh fruit salad and chips.

12:30 - Petting Farm and Pony Rides - Banana Nut Bingo – Under the Big Tent, Pie in the Face

2:00 - Moose Tracks Ice Cream Social & Sundae Bar – Hosted by the Dorcas Society

2:15 -Water Balloon Toss, Volleyball, etc

2:30 - Announcement of 50/50, Vendor Drawing and Basket Raffle Winners

3:00 - Close & Clean-up - Your help is needed for a quick clean-up as the picnic concludes

Vendors: Pampered Chef, Magnolia & Vine Jewelry, Hematite Jewelry, Clever Containers, Tupperware, Lady J's Boutique, Scentsy, Perfectly Posh and Door Wreaths

August Worship Leaders Announced

Those leading August worship services at St. Paul United Church of Christ in the absence of Pastor Geoff Drutchas during his time of sabbatical and vacation are no

strangers to our congregation. The Reverend Ralph Brown will be leading our Sunday morning service on the first Sunday, August 5. Pastor Cheryl Schalm will be leading worship services on the second and third Sundays, August 12 and 19. They will be assisted by lay members of our congregation who will be offering announcements and scripture lessons. Arrangements are being confirmed for our guest pastor scheduled for the fourth Sunday, August 27. Worship Committee member Barbara Schultz will be providing assistance each week with church announcements. Music Director Tracy Hoffman will be leading hymns.

In keeping with monthly custom, a chancel communion will be served on the first August Sunday with Reverend Brown and our church elders distributing the communion elements to church members at the front of the sanctuary. Reverend Brown, a graduate of the Eden Theological Seminary and former senior pastor at Hope United Church of Christ in Fraser, Michigan, brings more than thirty years of pastoral experience to our pulpit and chancel.

Please support those leading August worship by your presence and faithful participation in worship as they each share their insights on the living the Christian life with us in the weeks ahead.

Active Assailant Training scheduled for St. Paul - August 14th

The St. Paul Safety and Security Ministry has been working very closely with the District Police Authority of Wayne County Community College to enhance the overall safety of our membership and our facility. As a first step we have scheduled our first training session which will deal with how to handle an "Active Assailant on our Church Property". The training is scheduled for Tuesday, August 14th at 6:00 pm at the Church, Lieutenant Pride Johnson will be the instructor. All members of St. Paul are invited to attend, the Safety and Security Ministry members as well as the St. Paul Council will all be in attendance. If you have any questions regarding the training, please contact Dan Case or John Smith.

Annual All Church Kitchen Clean-up scheduled - August 18th

The St. Paul Building and Grounds Ministry will be hosting its Annual Kitchen Clean-up on Saturday, August 18th from 9:00 AM – 12:00 pm. All cleaning supplies and special equipment will be provided; all you need to do is come to the church in your work clothes ready to help clean. Please plan on coming to help even if you can only stay for one hour all help will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions please contact Gary Staffeld or Dan Case or call the Church office at 313-291-1221.

"Reducing the Risk" Training Class Scheduled - August 26th

St. Paul Child Protection Policy requires that all adults and youth over the age of 18, who work with children more than 10 hours a year, complete the "Reducing the Risk" Training Class and fill out a work application which includes a formal Criminal Background Check, every two years. During the class people learn the specifics of the St. Paul Policy regarding working with children and tips and information on how to handle situations as they arise. This year's class has been scheduled for Sunday, August 26th from 10:30 – 11:30 AM, a second class will be scheduled in September, date is TBD, both classes will take place in the Church Parlor. If you have questions regarding your need to attend this mandatory training please contact Cheryl Schalm or Dan Case.

Fish & Loaves Pantry Hosts 'Par for the Course' Golf Outing - September 15th

The Fish & Loaves Community Food Pantry will be hosting its tenth annual 'Par for the Course' Golf Outing on Saturday, September 15, 2018. This year's golf outing will be held at the award-winning Lakes of Taylor Golf Club on Northline Road.

The Golf Outing begins with an 8 a.m. registration, followed by a 9 a.m. shotgun start for 18 holes of golf. Lunch will be served at the turn. Dinner will be served at the Clubhouse with bar service offered. Total cost including golf, cart, and meals is \$100 per person.

All funds raised by the golf outing support the non-profit Fish & Loaves Pantry, which annually distributes 1.5 million pounds of free food to Downriver families who are in need.

Fish & Loaves also welcomes sponsors--\$100 to \$10,000. For more information and to register, call Fish & Loaves at (734) 992-6284 or check out the Events page at www.DownriverFishAndLoaves.org.

Ordination Service Planned - September 16th

An ordination service for Ethan C. Drutchas will be held at St. Paul United Church of Christ on Sunday, September 16, 4 p.m. Officially convened by the Detroit Metropolitan Association of the United Church of Christ but hosted by our congregation, the service will sanctify and consecrate Ethan Drutchas for ordained ministry within our denominational family. The Church and Ministry Division of the Detroit Metro Association authorized him for ordination following his formal "call" to parish ministry by the Village Congregational Church (UCC) of Whitinsville, Massachusetts on June 10th. Ethan is slated to begin his ministry there on October 1. However, it is more-or-less customary for the ordinand's "home church" to host the ordination service with leaders and dignitaries from the local UCC association presiding.

Ethan is a nephew of our senior pastor and grew up attending Christmas and Easter worship here, plus other special services and events. After graduating from UCC-affiliated Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, and enrolling at the Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, Tennessee, he served as an unpaid summer intern at St. Paul Church. His internship gave him both exposure to and practical experience in pastoral ministry and community service that has stood him well. On various occasions, most recently last summer, he has preached and led worship at our church. Our congregation has had a chance to see him grow as a preacher and worship leader. Over the past six months Ethan has served as interim pastor for the First Congregational UCC Church in Grinnell, Iowa where his congregation includes thirteen retired ministers!

The Village Congregational Church unanimously voted to call Ethan as their pastor and are enthusiastic about welcoming him. The town of Whitinsville, best-known in the 19th century for its prominent textile mill, is located 44 miles southwest of Boston; 22 miles southeast of Worcester, Massachusetts; and 28 miles north of Providence, Rhode Island. The congregation was organized in the early 19th century and has an impressive stone building erected at the turn of the 20th century that has been recently restored.

Details of the September 16th ordination service will be worked in the coming weeks. The members of our church are encouraged to attend. Please mark your calendars for this important service. Quite notably, our congregation has fostered or ordained more

than a usual share of ministers, including Pastors Gustav Bloom, William Kren, John Martin, Anna Souto, and Cheryl Schalm.

HEALTH MINISTRIES

Blood Drive was Successful on June 19th

We surpassed our goal of 24 usable pints. Twenty-seven pints were collected. Two were unable to be used as they were incomplete or took too long to collect. One additional person was deferred. This is the first time in the last three blood drives that we made our goal. Thanks to all who participated!

Exercise Classes Begin Again August 6

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

Shalom to Meet on September 10th

Chronic disease group meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 1PM. Our next meeting is September 10 at 1 PM. Check the MorningTide for additional information regarding topics and/or speakers.

TOPS, - (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Meets Weekly

TOPS is a nonprofit and noncommercial weight loss support group. St Paul began hosting the TOPS Chapter 9744, Taylor, MI on April 2. TOPS does not sell, promote, or endorse any products. TOPS provides the support, encouragement and educational opportunities needed to make healthy, permanent lifestyle changes. TOPS also provides motivational rallies, workshops and retreats. Meetings are held on Monday nights with weight in starting at 6:00 p.m. Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. and ending approximately by 7:15 p.m., in the West Room. Membership is open to all women, men, teens and children 18 years old down to 7 years old, with parent permission. The first visit is free with no obligation to join. Bring a friend if you like. If you decide to join, a TOPS member will help you fill out a simple application form at the meeting. Dues are \$32 each year to the national and \$5/month for the local chapter.

Save Money on Prescription Medication – You may be able to save money on prescription medications even if you have coverage through an insurance plan even with Medicare. Go to Healthwize.com, type in the name of the drug choose the dosage. Click submit. It will compare prices at different pharmacy companies for a 30 day supply. Compare what you would pay with your insurance plan and the cost on Healthwize.com. If the price is cheaper then click on 'get card'. You can then use the Healthwize card rather than your insurance card to use your prescription(s).

Health/Medical Supplies Available

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

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Donate a Basket to the Picnic Raffle

Festive baskets are needed to complete the line-up for this year's picnic basket raffle. All kinds of baskets are welcomed: you are invited to use your imagination in creating something special and appealing to contribute to the picnic event. Donors are asked to avoid adding any perishables to the basket (like chocolates) that might melt or deteriorate in the summer heat. The baskets will be displayed at both the Steak Fry on Friday, July 20, and the church picnic on Sunday, July 29. The basket drawing will be held on the afternoon of the picnic. Your basket donations helps the congregation raise funds to cover the cost of our all-church picnic. For more information about the raffle, please contact the church office (313-291-1221).

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting Held

The semi-annual meeting of the St. Paul congregation was held on Sunday, July 8, immediately following the morning worship service. Council president Diane Poet presided.

A semi-annual financial report was shared with the congregation by Treasurer Gary Peters. As we enter the summer, donations to the unified budget have generally kept up with actual expenses. In response to a question from members about the listing of donations to facilities improvement, there was a recommendation that this item alongside other church income for greater clarity. As a part of new business, a revised budget was submitted and approved by church members in keeping with decisions made by the congregation at the annual meeting last January.

Trustee Michael Isaacs also reported that bids are now being received for a roadside electronic sign. Contingent upon approval of the City of Taylor of any final proposal, it would be installed along Goddard Road using the pole and frame of our existing sign located in the front of the church's west side parking lot. The present signboard has to be changed by hand—a task now performed by Church trustee John Smith. At the end of Michael Isaacs's remarks, church member Dan Evison was acknowledged for twenty years of service in manually posting signboard announcements almost on a weekly basis. Funding for the new sign would mostly come from two donor sources. Plans for the new sign should be finalized by early fall.

Summer Service Schedule Continues Through Labor Day Weekend

Our St. Paul congregation will continue to meet for Sunday morning worship at 9:30 a.m. only through Labor Day Weekend. A double service schedule, 9 and 10:30 a.m., will resume on Rally Sunday, September 9.

A Fellowship Period will continue to be hosted immediately following the Sunday morning service in either the Fellowship or our air-conditioned West Room, depending upon summer temperatures. Summer Sunday School for children meets upstairs each week. Nursery care is provided in the Family Room at the east end of the church narthex and front entry.

Audio Copies of St. Paul Sunday Worship Services

Not able to attend a Sunday service but still want to receive its message? 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.

Electronic Giving might be an option for you during the Summer months

Electronic giving offers convenience for individual members. You can easily create an account and schedule your gifts or give a one-time gift without creating an account. As you plan your summer vacations, please consider electronic giving as an option to support St. Paul during the summer months. While online giving is a great option, it may not be for everyone. You can continue to contribute through the Sunday morning collection plate, or by sending your donations directly to the church.

Unique feature of our new phone system

Our current phone system has an additional feature that allows you to call any member of the Staff directly. Each Staff member now has a unique phone number and personal Voice Mail Box. The new numbers for our Staff members are as follow:

Pastor Cheryl Schalm	313-209-6624
Cindy Romas	313-209-6630
Elizabeth Bisaro	313-209-6629
Annette Thie	313-209-6622
Kathy Williams	313-209-6628

If you wish to talk or leave a voicemail for an individual member of the Staff, please utilize the numbers above. As always you can still call the office at 313-291-1221 any time and be transferred or leave a voicemail. St. Paul IT Ministry

Come Cheer Our St. Paul Softball Team

St. Paul's co-ed softball team, captained by Chris (Mink) Rogers and Matthew Horne, has begun its summer season with the Downriver Church League. All games are on Tuesday nights at the Brownstown Recreation Center playing fields at Telegraph and Kings Roads.

There's no charge to see some great softball played. Church members and friends are invited to come to cheer our team. The time for each Tuesday night game is listed in the weekly church calendar published in the Morning Tide bulletin.

Our team always welcomes new players. For more information, contact the church office (313-291-1221) or speak with Chris (Mink) Rogers or Matt Horne.

Morning Tide News Items are due in the church office by Wednesday afternoon to allow adequate time to proof them. Articles received later than Wednesday cannot be guaranteed publication. If you have questions, please contact Cindy in the Church Office.

Pastor Offers Chamber of Commerce Invocation

Pastor Geoff Drutchas was invited to offer the invocation for the Southern Wayne Regional Chamber of Commerce on June 25, 2018. The featured speaker was the CEO/President of Goodwill Industries in Michigan, which continues to offer job training for the disabled and those who have barriers to employment. Pastor Drutchas combined a prayer for our nation with words of grace for the meal that was being served: ***O God, at a time of intense polarities when our nation's politics have become fraught with conflict and there seems to be no middle ground, help us to remember that morals still matter, and compassion counts. Renew us in a spirit of humane goodwill that transcends selfishness and moves us to honor and serve the common good. Keep us mindful of the commands of Holy Writ and responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable in our midst and at our borders, so that in days of Judgment to come you will not find us wanting or faithless. May the meal that we now share nourish us to do your work, fulfilling your greater and generous purposes for our lives together. Amen.***

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Christian Education is in Need of Summer Sunday School Teachers

Without summer Sunday School teachers, children will not have the opportunity to continue to learn what it means to be "disciples of Christ." Biblical lessons and activities provided for the children to help them discover how to apply Old and New Testament lessons to their everyday lives will be missed.

Adults are needed to lead Sunday lessons over the summer. The Summer Sunday School program began on June 24th and will conclude on September 9th with Rally Sunday and the Sunday School Open House.

Due to lower summer attendance all children (pre-school through 5th grade) meet together in the upstairs West-room. Youth (6th through 12th grade) meet separately in the Confirmation and/or High School classrooms.

Please consider giving one hour over the course of the summer to facilitate a Sunday School lesson. Sign-up by visiting the Sunday School Welcome Center located upstairs in the lobby. All curriculum, materials, and snacks are provided.

URGENT - Christian Education Seeks "2018 - 2019" Nursery Attendant

Christian Education is seeking a new nursery attendant. The position requires that candidates be 21 years of age or older, complete the "Reduce the Risk" program (offered at the church) and a background check (done at the church). The position pays \$15.00 per service (\$30.00 per two service Sundays). All interested parties should contact Pastor Cheryl Schalm or Sheri Herkimer, Chairperson Christian Education.

Volunteers need to Re-Varnish our Church Pews

The St. Paul Building and Grounds Ministry is looking for Volunteers to stain and re-varnish our Church Pews. Many of the pews are beginning to show their age and need to be refinished. All supplies and equipment will be provided we only need people who are interested in performing the work. We would like to do the work during the month of August. If you are interested please contact Gary Staffeld or Dan Case.

Lectors and Ushers Needed for Sunday Morning Services

Scripture readers and ushers are needed to read during Sunday morning services at 9 and 10:30 a.m. No previous experience is needed and training can be provided.

Copies of all readings for lectors, based on the Good News (NIV) translation found in our pew bibles, are available on Thursday or Friday of each week and for your convenience can be emailed to you by our church's administrative assistant, Cindy Romas.

Those interested in volunteering as lectors and ushers are asked to notify the church office and Pastor Geoffrey Drutchas by completing a Make-a-Wish card from the sanctuary pews and adding it to the morning office plate.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Health Ministries Fund

In Memory of: *Denise Koths* From: Cindy Romas

In Memory of: *Edna Badarak* From: Cindy Romas

In Memory of: *Judith Zabik* From: Cindy Romas

In Memory of: *Stella Ludlam* From: Cindy Romas

Memorial Fund

In Memory of: *Harold Schmoekel* From: Donna Purcell & Phyllis Pearson

In Memory of: *Don Pearson* From: Phyllis Pearson

Facility Improvement Fund

In Memory of: *Doris Muck* From: Thelma Poet

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Thank You to the May Merry Mailers: Fred Miller, Marjie Barnard, Diane Poet, and Barbara Schultz.

United in Marriage, Cameron Westjohn and Alanna Dukeman were wed June 16, 2018. Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas officiated.

Richard Long and Cheryl Stewart were wed June 23, 2018. Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas officiated.

Robert and Debbie Mathias were wed June 29, 2018. Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas officiated.

ROSE ON THE PULPIT celebrates the birth of Gabriel John Block. Born on June 21, 2018 to Greg & Shawn Block. Grandparents are Gordon & Laurie O'Neil, Jim & Paula Block, and Pam Block. Great-Grandparent is Virginia Maruszewski. Sibling is August.

BAPTIZED UNTO THE LORD, Gabriel Medrano-Kane, born November 8, 2017 to Steven & Norma Medrano-Kane. Sibling is Castiel.

Love and Deepest Sympathy to the family & friends of Barbara Sullivan who passed away June 4, 2018 in Virginia at the age of 82 years. **To family & friends of** Mary Ellen Prill who passed away June 15, 2018 at the age of 85 years. Funeral was June 18, 2018. Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas officiated. Arrangements by Michigan Memorial Funeral Home. **To family & friends of** Vernagene Schafer who passed away June 26, 2018 at

the age of 90 years. Funeral was June 30, 2018. Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas officiated. Arrangements by Martenson Funeral Home, Allen Park Chapel.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR

Members & Friends: Megan Barnosky, Ryan Block, Shawn Block, Juanita Davis, Gene Edwards, Phill Felske, Hayden Forsyth, Oren Forsyth, Danielle Gardner, Bob Harry, Mark Kenosian, Ruth Kenosian, John King, Nancy Kittendorf, Nancy Koszalka, Rev. Bill Kren, Bill McGahey, Sylvia Matney, Joe Mayfield, Bob Robinson, Eleanor Rossi, Glen Sigman, Bert Thompson (Beaumont, Heritage), Bev Traver (hospice), and Charmaine Wright.

Extended Family: Helen Belcher (aunt, Sue Mrowka), Lilliana Brewer (great-granddaughter, Barb Brewer), Justin Collins (son-in-law, Gerri King), Rebecca Havenstein Coughlin (daughter, Shirley Havenstein), Mary Faremont (sister, Richard Wagner), Dianne Fazio (sister, Pam Lange), Allison Files (granddaughter, John & Barb Smith), Gabriella Gomez (niece, Darlene Babin), Bob Greff (son-in-law, Doris & Ollie Hilliker), Robert Grigg (friend, Schalm family), Benny Hall (relative, Jeannette Wackro), Kevin Johnson (grandson, Patricia Olson) Richard Jones, King Family (relative, Arlene Felske), Justin Kurtz (friend, Chelsey Schalm), Joanne LeFleur (daughter, Helene & Neil McEachern), Jennifer Lee (granddaughter, Barb Siemers), Courtney Matthew McEachern, Kim McEachern (daughter-in-laws, Helene & Neil McEachern), Heather Meyers (sister, Rebecca Warren), Scott Miller (son, Fred Miller), Helen Osborne (sister, Esther Perry), Robert Rider (brother, Virginia Butzlaff), Judy Robin (aunt, Lucinda Chavez), Trudy Clark-Schiller (daughter, April & Steve Clark), Richard Sherman (brother, Anne Blanchard), Joyce Smith (sister, the late Harry Thompson), David Staten (brother-in-law, Peggy Staten), Nicholas Surre (great-grandson, Helene McEachern), Jerry Walsh (friend, Sue Mrowka), Victoria Whitcher (daughter, Cheryl Stewart), Richard Wysonik (friend, Sue Mrowka), and Brad Zabik.

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), Laura O'Neil (mother, Shawn Block), Sheryl Schwab (mother of Mary Hard & Christine Schwab), and Anna Thompson (mother, Lucinda Chavez).

Church Members & Friends in Nursing or Rehab Care:

Mary Dubke - *Amy's Place*, 41346 Llorac Lane, Northville 48167;

Lisa Wild - *Anestic Care Residence*, 21071 Tiffany Dr., Woodhaven, 48183;

Ilene Krogman Rm 124- *Applewood Nursing Center*, 18500 Van Horn Rd, Woodhaven, 48183;

Eleanor Rossi - *Maple Heights*, 4600 Allen Rd, Room 415, Allen Park, MI 48101);

Melva Haglund, Betty Steinhauer, Grace Trango -*Rivergate Health Center*, 14041 Pennsylvania Rd., Riverview, 48193;

Kevin Staffeld - *Tender Care Health & Rehab Center*, 22950 Northline Rd., Taylor 48180;

Helen Parish - 9637 Janet, Taylor, 48180;

Melissa Rossi -17652 Colgate, Dearborn Heights, 48125.

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