

TIDINGS

St. Paul United Church of Christ
24158 Goddard Road, Taylor, Michigan 48180-3910
(313) 291-1221
email: stpaulucctaylor@stpaulucctaylor.org
www.stpaulucctaylor.org
Interim Sr. Pastor - Rev. Linda Anderson

Calendar of Events

September 2024

Sunday, September 1st	Church Service and Summer Sunday School - 10:00 am - Communion Served
Monday September 2nd	Labor Day - Office closed.
Sunday, September 8th	Church Service & Rally Sunday - 10:00 am
Monday September 9th	Rummage Sale Set Up and Drop-Off begins
Sunday, September 15th	Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 am
Sunday, September 22	Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 am
Sunday, September 29	Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 am

October 2024

Thursday October 3rd	Rummage Sale - 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
Friday October 4th	Rummage Sale - 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
Saturday October 5th	Rummage Sale - 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.
Sunday October 6th	Church Service and Sunday School - 10:00 am - Worldwide Communion Sunday
Sunday, October 13th	Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 am
Sunday, October 20th	Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 am Trunk or Treat - 4:00 - 6:00 pm
Sunday, October 27th	Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 am

PASTOR'S PEACE

As I write, August is coming to an end. Teachers, students, and especially parents, are preparing for school to resume. Schedules are changing, nights are coming earlier, and temperatures are cooler. A few of the leaves on the trees are beginning to turn color. While we acknowledge the beauty, we feel a bit uncomfortable with the timing. It seems too early. It is a time when we expect things to change. Change goes on at the church as well.

The search committee at St. Paul continues its work of looking for a settled Pastor to join the congregation. They are seeking someone who will both honor the strong history of the church while exploring new ideas and directions moving forward. This summer, we recognized and thanked Pastor Cheryl Schalm for her years and dedication to the congregation. As she steps aside from her long connection to our young people's Christian Education program, we look forward to new directions she will take us. We sadly said Good-bye to Tracy Hoffman as he left for newer opportunities after serving as St. Paul music director for over seven years. While we miss some members of the St. Paul family who have left us, we have welcomed new folks.

Change is all around us. We can't stop it, we can try to direct it, and we must adjust to it. The constant, however, is what we are best to focus on. We, as a church, are a family of faith. Children of God. We don't have to agree on everything, but we need to appreciate ideas and people that differ from us. The church is a welcoming port for all people. Constantly striving to build for the Kingdom of God. The changes we experience are an invitation to new ideas and opportunities. Our foundation in faith remains sure. It is our place to find where we best fit within the world God has entrusted to our care.

Every day we are offered the rare and powerful invitation to look into the center of our own individual souls and acknowledge our questions about God and life. We need to admit the bad, the difficult and the worst. But we do this as we celebrate what is good and pleasing. We have to see what the best within us is. We do this while we are uncertain of the future, but confident of God's love, strength and mercy.

I am blessed to be sharing this journey with you! Let me know your thoughts.

In God's Service,

Rev. Linda

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EDITORIAL

My Dearest Church Family.

I cannot begin to THANK YOU enough for all the ways in which you have supported the Christian Education program and myself over the years. Serving at St. Paul UCC has been an honor and an experience I will forever treasure and be grateful for.

The friendships and memories made over the years have served to be one of my greatest blessings in life, a true gift from God that I will forever treasure and hold dear to my heart.

I thank you all for the beautiful and warm retirement reception, service and gifts. It was beyond humbling and touching. There are so many individuals who give of their time and talents to serve at the church. I personally want to acknowledge that and to thank each of you. Kathy Williams, Mike Issacs, Council, all the ministries – Christian Education, Men & Women’s Fellowship, Sew & Sew’s, the super seniors Karen Hill & Helen St. Louis and so many others.

The plaque given to me will always serve as a reminder of my responsibility to God’s children and His Kingdom and to our shared responsibility as the body of Christ to Love and Serve God and one another.

I am abundantly blessed and thankful to have such a wonderful church family. From all parts of my heart, THANK YOU!

Much Love, Peace & Blessings,
Pastor Cheryl Schalm

MISSION OUTREACH

Members of St. Paul UCC Supports and Supplies the Needs of Local Community Outreach Programs

Throughout the month of August, church members had the opportunity to donate school supplies for children being served through the Fish and Loaves Food Pantry. Backpacks, crayons, markers, pencils and other supplies were generously donated and taken to the Fish and Loaves Food Pantry for distribution to families with children in need. Thank you to all who so kindly and big heartedly supported this outreach.

Throughout the month of September, church members will have the opportunity to help feed the homeless and downcast. On September 8th and September 22nd members of St. Paul UCC will be providing lunches for the ChristNet Day Center guest. Lunch items for September 8th have already been donated. Items to prepare spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and dessert will be needed for September 22nd's lunch. Three to four volunteers will also be needed to prepare and serve it.

In addition to serving these lunches, we will be collecting paper products and breakfast foods for the center: cereal, cereal bars, granola bars, etc. If you are interested in helping please contact Pastor Cheryl Schalm. All items being collected can be dropped in the drop box located in the narthex. All dinner items should be marked “ChristNet lunch” and dropped in the kitchen.

Please contact Pastor Schalm with any questions.

ALL CHURCH EVENTS

Rally Sunday Scheduled for September 8th

Rally Sunday- September 8th, 2024 at 10am. Let's RALLY while wearing your favorite color!! It's that time of year, a new Sunday School program will start with a new curriculum and fun filled activities. Sign-up sheets and forms will be available to fill out. Mark your planners and watch your Morning Bulletin for more information in the weeks to come.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rummage Sale Donations Sought—Volunteers Needed

The annual St. Paul Fall Rummage Sale will be held Thursday through Friday, October 3rd - 5th. Rummage sale hours will be Thursday & Friday 9 am to 4 pm, Saturday 9 am to 11 am. Rummage Sale donations will be welcomed starting Tuesday, September 10th. We ask that items be distributed and dropped-off to designated tables. All donated clothing, household goods, and equipment should be clean and in a good state of repair.

Rummage sale set-up in Fellowship Hall starts Monday, September 9th at 9:00 am. If you are available to help in the set up it would be greatly appreciated.

The Fellowship Hall will be closed for all other activities until the rummage sale finishes. Beyond set-up, help is needed to host the actual sale and clean-up afterwards on Saturday morning. To volunteer, please contact the church office (313) 291-1221. All proceeds from the rummage sale support church-related projects.

2024 Budget Status

We are over halfway through our 2024 budget year and for the first seven months we are \$34,143 under our projected budgeted income and we are \$34,679.30 under our projected budgeted expenses. The budgeted number assumes many things though, for example: that we have a settled Sr. Pastor, an Organist, a Music Director, etc. and can be deceiving. In actuality our actual income YTD is \$135,735 and our actual expenses YTD are \$134,834 a difference of \$901. Our General Fund, which is the fund we use to pay our expenses (salaries, utilities, etc) is at \$20,037. In order to avoid confusion I am only going to talk about actual income vs expenses as we move forward. If you have questions please feel free to give me a call. Dan Case - St. Paul Treasurer

Calling all College Students and Recent High School Graduates

Christian Education is in need of 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 to the church office.

Sew "N" Sew Gals to Meet

Thursday, September 19th at 10 AM in the Parlor. Bring a sandwich, dessert and coffee are provided. No sewing experience necessary. Join us for 'food for thought.' Contact Janet Staffeld, chairwoman, for more info.

2024 Membership Directory

The 2024 Membership Directory is scheduled for release in mid-September.

Make A Wish Cards

Have a suggestion or just want to make a comment about something that concerns you, then please utilize the orange Make-A-Wish cards located in each pew. Just fill the card out and hand it to a Deacon after the Sunday Worship. A signature helps us to provide you with appropriate feedback in a timely manner. The cards are reviewed each week and appropriate action is taken. Our goal is to respond to the cards within one week and provide feedback to the author. St. Paul Council

Fire Extinguisher Training

Thirteen people were trained in the proper usage of a Fire Extinguisher in August. The training was done by Westland Fire Extinguisher, Inc. Special **Thank You** to James Poet, Candace Poet, Crystal Poet and Eric Poet. We hope to make this an annual event for our staff and members.

Safety and Security

This month we will continue to highlight some safety measures that are in place at the Church to help keep you informed. This month we will be covering **SEVERE WEATHER ALERTS.**

The National Weather Service has developed a method of identifying storm conditions that foster the development of tornadoes. **A tornado is wind spouts spawned by several thunderstorms or hurricanes.** Winds may approach 300 miles per hour. Their usual direction of travel is from the southwest to northeast.

The weather service uses a two-stage system to alert people to a tornado danger:

WATCH: Atmospheric conditions are conducive for tornadoes although None have been sighted.

WARNING: A tornado has been spotted, visually or on radar.

In the event of severe weather or a tornado warning, the following procedures should be followed:

- Emergency Response Team members will monitor the weather conditions. They will communicate the need to take cover if appropriate.
- If a tornado threat is present, the Emergency Response Team will direct people to move to the identified Tornado Assembly areas and stay away from windows.
- An Emergency Response Team member will be responsible for bringing the children from the 2nd floor Sunday School.
- All doors should be closed.
- Everyone should stay clear of windows and exterior doors.
- If a tornado were to hit the building, everyone would crouch on their elbows and knees and put their hands over the back of their head.

St. Paul E-mail System is designed to keep you informed

Communication with you, our members and friends is very important to us at St. Paul, one method we use to keep members informed about upcoming and current activities is our email system. More than 250 of our members currently receive a short email about current activities, future events, funeral notifications, and many other interesting items including the monthly St. Paul Tidings.

If you are not currently registered for the e-mail system or your email address has changed, all you need to do is visit the homepage of our website, "stpaulucctaylor.org", and simply click on the "Join Our Email List" button. or you may find it easier to just call the Office at (313) 291-1221 with the new information. If you have any questions or comments on the e-mail system, you can contact any member of the IT ministry, Gary Peters, Michael Isaacs or Dan Case.

St Paul Sitemaps

You may have noticed the St. Paul sitemaps located strategically around the building during your last visit to the church. These maps were developed by the Safety and Security Ministry and are placed in certain locations throughout the building for your safety. Each map identifies the location of fire extinguishers, first aid kits, the defibrillator and phones. The maps also identify tornado shelters and provide correct exit routes in case of fire or other emergencies. Please familiarize yourself with these sitemaps the next time you are in the building. If you have a question about the maps, please see any member of the Safety and Security Ministry.

Neighbors In Need Mission Offering – Received in October

This Mission offering supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. A large portion of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of ministries, advocacy efforts and direct service programs. This offering also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC through the Council for American Indian Ministries. There are over 20 UCC congregations on reservations primarily in the states of North and South Dakota and Minnesota. Neighbors In Need helps make another world possible, it needs your support.

An offering envelope is included in this Tidings. If you misplace the envelope, any regular envelope indicating "Neighbors In Need" may be used. There will also be offering envelopes in the pews as well. Place your envelope in the offering plate on Sunday, drop it off to our Church Office, or US Postal mail. Make checks payable to St. Paul UCC Church and indicate the offering name on the memo line.

You may also use Vanco, our electronic online and mobile giving source for Your "Neighbors In Need" donation. Visit us online at www.stpaulucctaylor.org/giving, locate the Online Giving button and select "Neighbors In Need" and enter the amount of your donation.

Your prayerful gift helps God's spirit move and speak in our congregations for generations to come. On behalf of the Stewardship of St. Paul, Thank You.

HEALTH MINISTRIES

CPR & First-aid Class

People are needed with certification of CPR & First aid. Heartsaver, CPR with AED CLASS & First-aid Class by the American Heart Association will be offered October 10 or 11 from 5:30 – 9:30 PM for CPR, then October 12, 1-5 PM for First aid. The class takes about 7.5 – 8 hours divided into two 4 hour sessions. One on CPR the other first-aid. The certification lasts for two years. Books are distributed for reading two weeks prior to class. For safety reasons, we try to have at least one person in each sub-organization within our church. We never know when an emergency may occur. Please contact Kathy Williams if you are interested in taking the class. If you are already certified, it would be helpful to add you to our list. Thanks for your consideration.

Exercise Class Continues

Exercise classes are held on Wednesday's from 10:30 -11:30 A.M. in Fellowship Hall or the West room. Our instructor Delissa Hampton is there every step of the way to cheer you on to work at whatever pace you can do. All exercises can be done in a seated or standing position with or with the use of a chair, or a combination of both. We will also be meeting on the first **Thursday** of the month September 5, from 10:30 -11:30 A.M. A small donation of \$3 to \$5 is suggested, but not expected for each class you attend. Hope to see you soon. Can't make it to class, but want to join us from home? Join us on ZOOM. You must be able to access the internet by computer, I-pad, or phone with video availability. The information to join the class is on www.stpaulucctaylor.org, Health Activities. If you would like to participate or have any questions, contact the office or Kathy Williams.

Health/Medical Supplies Available

If you have or need medical supplies, such as walkers, wheelchairs, please contact our parish nurse or the office. We need more canes if anyone has extra canes or other equipment.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Liturgists are needed for Sunday Services

If you would like to volunteer or would like more information please contact Rev. Linda Anderson or Cindy Romas in the church office. No experience needed. All information is provided to you.

Volunteers need to cover the Office for Administrative Assistant

The office is looking for volunteers to cover the office functions when the Administrative Assistant is sick or on vacation. Office hours are 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Monday through Friday. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Sue Mrowka, Office Manager.

Volunteer needed to manage our three flags in front of the Church

We are looking for an individual or a couple who would be interested in managing the three Flag Poles in front of the Church. Flags would need to be replaced as required and the American Flag moved to half-mast on special occasions. If you are interested please contact the Office at (313) 291-1221.

2025 Council Positions

It's not too early to start thinking about joining the St. Paul Council in 2025, each position is for a three year cycle. Positions for 2025 include: 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, Elder, Trustee and Deacon. We are also still in need of a Deacon for two years and a Trustee for one year. Please prayerfully consider taking one of these positions on our church council. Description of these positions can be obtained by contacting the church office. If you have any questions please contact Trustee Toni Hill or Michael Isaacs.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Special **Thank You** to those individuals who helped with the Steak Fry. You helped to make it a huge success and enjoyable evening for those in attendance. St Paul Men's Fellowship

Special **Thank You** to the following people who helped with the Annual Kitchen Cleaning. They include Dan Evison, Dorothy Evison, Toni Hill, and Dan Case.

MEMORIALS

MEMORIAL FUND:

In Memory of: *Mary Darty* From: Debbie Hamilton

In Memory of: *Harold Foley* From: Thelma Poet, The Jim Poet Family, Jack & Sandra Burchard

In Memory of: *Lorne & Helen Spence* From: The Spence Family

GENERATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND:

In Memory of: *Harold Foley* From: Jane Dykowski

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR

Church Members and Friends: Robert Black, Marion Bolen, Barbara Brewer, Juliu Enesey, Kyle Hard, Justine Kimbler, Betty Mayfield, Fred Miller, Dan Newton, Bill Pattenaude, Shirley Robinson, Sandi Rose, DeAnna Schalm, Barbara Schultz, Dennis Schmoekel, Sally Sigman, Joan Smarr, John Smith, Sue Spears, Linda Tank, and Carol Wioncek.

Extended Family: Susan & Dennis Bennett (sister, brother-in-law of Karen Hill), Rhonda Wioncek Berndt, Ted Butkin, Ailani Flores (friends, Rosemarie Laslo), Alicia Hagen, Brody Howell (nephew, Justine Kimber), Tony Koths, Sue Milatz, F. Scott Miller (son, Fred Miller), Debi and Al Petri, Jerry Rossi, Randy Snelson, Rachel Tank (Daughter, Tom & Linda Tank), Anna Thomson (mother, Lucinda Chavez), Diana William.

Church Members & Friends in Extended Care or Rehab Care:

Judy Albright, Allegria Village, 15081 Ford Rd., Apt. 606, Dearborn, 48126-4642;
Darlene Babin, American House, 16333 Allen Rd., Room 213, Southgate, 48195;
Dave Cowper, Hampton Manor of Woodhaven, 22125 Van Horn Rd., Room 308,
Woodhaven 48183; **Barbara Gish**, Rivergate Terrace, 14141 Pennsylvania Rd.,
Riverview, 48193; **Joe & Betty Mayfield**, Atria Kinghaven, 14800 King Rd. Apt.
308, Riverview, 48193; **Lois Rice**, Burcham Hills, 2700 Burcham Dr., Apt. 536,
East Lansing, 48823-9977; **Melissa Rossi** -17652 Colgate, Dearborn Heights,
48125; **Barbara Schultz**, Randall Residence at Encore Village, 10801 E. Grand
River, Room 212, Brighton, 48116; **Sally Sigman**, Atria Kinghaven, 14800 King
Rd., Room 116, Riverview, 48193; Office: 734-479-5000; **Bert Thompson**,
Optalis Health & Rehabilitation, 9150 Allen Rd, Allen Park; Office: 313-386-2150.

Council Position Highlights

For the months of September we will be highlighting the position of **ELDER**. A listing of all current council members is posted on the welcome board in the west lobby.

The **Elders** shall endeavor to preserve and promote Evangelical Doctrine and Christian teaching in the congregation. Together they organize and preside with the Pastors of the Church at all communion services. They also oversee all membership needs.

1. COUNCIL / CABINET

- A. Attend monthly Council meetings, as scheduled.
- B. Attend special Council meetings, as scheduled.
- C. Attend quarterly Cabinet meetings, as scheduled. (Senior Elder only)
- D. Attend yearly Council Retreat.
 1. Serve as the Council Representative at Church services for a minimum of six services each year. (see Council Representative duties and responsibilities)
 2. Work Coffee Hour or special events when Council has volunteered to host.
 3. The Senior Elder shall provide a written report including communion attendance records for each Council meeting.
 4. Attend the Semi-Annual and Annual meetings.
 5. Prepare a report for the Annual Meeting.

2. SPIRITUAL COUNCIL

- A. The Elders and the Pastor(s) shall serve as a Spiritual Council.
- B. One Elder shall serve as chairperson of the Spiritual Council.
- C. The duties of the Spiritual Council are as follows:
 1. It shall receive and consider application for Church membership or for transfer of Church membership.
 2. It shall be responsible for visiting the sick, winning the unchurched, restoring the erring, voicing the Congregation's concern for moral and spiritual conditions in the community, and in other ways seeking to exercise its responsibility of spiritual oversight of the Church.

3. Each year the Spiritual Council shall consider the Spiritual life of each member. It shall encourage each member to partake regularly of the Holy Communion, contribute to the support of the Lord's work and attend the service of worship and faithfulness. If a member shall not respond to any of these requirements of one year, the Spiritual Council shall make special effort, through brotherly visitation and counsel, to correct the fault.
4. A member whose address has long been unknown or who for a period of two years, in spite of spiritual care, has not attended the Church's worship or contributed to its support; shall by recommendation of the Spiritual Council and vote of the Church Council, be removed from the membership role. A report covering the Spiritual Council's findings shall be made to the Church Council semi-annually.
5. The Spiritual Council shall request from the Financial Secretary a confidential list of church members who have not made a financial contribution of record over the previous three years.
6. If a member persistently breaches his or her covenant vows (vows of Church Membership), the Church Council after due notice by a first class letter sent to him or her, and faithful with the law of Christ, may terminate his or her membership.

3. COMMUNION

- A. The Elders shall be responsible for providing the elements for Holy Communion and assist the Pastor(s) with their distribution.
- B. The Elders shall be responsible to notify the Office Manager when communion supplies are needed.
- C. The Elders shall be responsible for scheduling Council members to assist with serving Communion.

4. SPECIAL

- A. Responsible for training and to maintain an up-to-date list of Auxiliary Elders who have been approved by the St. Paul Council.
- B. The Elders shall assist and support the Pastor(s) in the spiritual affairs of the Church.
- C. The Elders shall endeavor to prevent strife and discord in the Church. If disputes arise, they shall try to adjust the difficulties in order that peace shall prevail.
- D. The Senior Elder shall serve as the Chairperson of the Search Ministry in the event of a vacancy of the pastorate.
- E. One Elder shall serve on the Worship Ministry.
- F. One Elder shall serve on the Visiting Elders Ministry.