

# TIDINGS

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

## Calendar of Events

### **November 2024**

Sunday, November 3rd	Church Service - Communion and Sunday School - 10:00 am Totenfest - Daylight Savings Time Begins
Sunday November 10th	Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 am Stewardship Sunday
Sunday, November 17th	Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 am
Tuesday, November 19th	Cabinet Meeting - Christmas Decorating and 2025 Calendar
Sunday, November 24th	Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 am Boxes due for "Operation Christmas Child"
Thursday, November 28th	Thanksgiving - Office Closed
Friday, November 29th	Office Closed

### **December 2024**

Sunday December 1st	Church Service - Communion & Sunday School 10:00 am
Friday, December 6th	Christmas Gift and Basket Sale 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Saturday, December 7th	Christmas Gift and Basket Sale 12:00 am to 3:00 pm
Sunday, December 8th	Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 am Advent by Candlelight Program Christmas Gift and Basket Sale 11:00 am to 2:00 pm and after Advent by Candlelight
Sunday, December 15th	Children's Christmas Program - 10:00 am
Sunday, December 22nd	Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 am
Tuesday, December 24th	Christmas Candlelight Service - 7:00 pm
Wednesday, December 25th	MERRY CHRISTMAS - Office Closed
Thursday, December 26th	Office Closed
Sunday, December 29th	Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 am

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EDITORIAL**

### **Reformation Sunday**

On Reformation Sunday, October 27th, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students Everett Hard and Preston Romas received Bibles as part of the special service commemorating the birth of the Protestant Faith.

### **Thank You for the Trunks and Treats**

Christian Education would like to thank all those who decorated a trunk and passed out treats during the annual St. Paul Trunk or Treat Halloween event held on October 20th. Thank you also to all those who helped in the kitchen and helped set-up and clean-up. A great time was had by all.

### **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.**

## **MISSION OUTREACH**

### **Christmas Outreach Opportunities**

In addition to St. Paul's October/November outreach, Operation Christmas Child, members will have the opportunity to participate in the annual Salvation Army Angel Tree and Hat and glove drive that will run throughout the month of December.

Operation Christmas Child is a shoebox ministry providing Christmas gifts and an introduction to Christ to children throughout the world. The outreach kicked-off on Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. All church members are invited and encouraged to pick up a wrapped shoebox in the Fellowship Hall or Narthex during coffee hour, fill it with small Christmas gifts (a brochure with gift ideas is included), tag the box with the appropriate label that is included and return the box by November 17<sup>th</sup>. All filled shoe boxes will be distributed to children in need throughout the world.

Those not able to fill a shoebox are encouraged to purchase small gifts (hygiene items, small toys, crayons, small notebooks, ect.) and place them in the box located in the narthex. All items will be used to fill shoeboxes.

A collection box for hats, gloves and scarves will be placed in the Narthex and Christian Education department beginning in November. All items collected will be delivered to the Salvation Army for those in need.

The annual Angel tree, draped with tags identifying the age and gender of a child in need will be placed in the Fellowship Hall mid-November (once tags become available). A list of gift ideas will be available at the table where the tree will be located. Please sign the sheet that will be located on the table identifying the tag that you have selected.

A huge thank you to Jane Dykowski who wrapped all the shoe boxes and to all those who contributed to the Hurricane Relief Donation collection. A total of \$935.00 was sent to the American Red Cross to help in the relief efforts.

Please contact Pastor Schalm with any questions regarding these outreach programs.

## **MOMENT OF SHARING FROM YOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

As most of you know, I'm in the final months of my tenure as your St. Paul UCC Council President. It has been very enlightening, overwhelming, frustrating and enjoyable. With that said, I will be returning to the Council as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President for another term. As there are so many things currently in transition, I have prayerfully decided that I would like to see them thru to completion.

As most of you know, our congregation is aging. In recent years we have seen a decline in our attendance due to death, retirement, moving on to another location or state, and many of our organizations have lost members or have ceased to exist. Because of these occurrences it has become extremely difficult for us to continue without more help from the congregation. We are currently looking for a Deacon and Trustee to complete the council for 2024. In 2025, the following positions will be available: Treasurer, Elder, Trustee and Deacon. Job Descriptions are available by contacting the office. Please consider giving some of your time and talents to these important positions. Training and guidance are also provided.

There are also many opportunities for non-members to assist with coffee hour, setting up tables and chairs for various events, kitchen help for the many events we have as a church. I know that many of you are already assisting in various areas, and I thank you for your time. One of the concerns we are having is being able to continue with coffee hour. We could use extra help on Sunday mornings with hosting coffee hour, helping to serve, and with the clean-up, which involves the kitchen and tables.

Please feel free to contact me on Sunday mornings, my church email (smrowka@stpaulucctaylor.org), or on Friday from 9:30 - 2:00 p.m. in the church office (313)291-1221. I'm always available for your comments and concerns.

Thank you all for taking the time to review my plea for some extra time if you are able. Please know that the entire Church Council is here for all of you and look forward to hearing from you with any questions, concerns and/or suggestions

you may have,  
God Bless,  
Sue

Dear Church Family:

I want to share with you, in-part, a letter that was received from Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, Cleveland, Ohio, as follows:

"Dear Friends at St. Paul United Church of Christ:

Thank you for your gift to the Strengthen the Church Ministry of the United Church of Christ. With your support, we will continue to bring justice and love to our neighbors locally and worldwide.

Through our services, webinars, and advocacy, the United Church of Christ seeks to weave God's message of hope and welcome with actions for justice and peace. With your support and the work of more than 200 mission partners, we live out our faith in ways that affect change in our nearby and global communities. Thank you again for partnering with us in creating a just world for all.

Faithfully,  
Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President"

I also want to thank all of you for your generous and continuous support of all our ministries throughout the year. They mean so much to everyone involved.

God Bless,  
Sue

## **ALL CHURCH EVENTS**

### **Totenfest Service Remembers Family Members and Friends**

Church members who have passed away over the last twelve months are being remembered at the Totenfest Service on Sunday, November 3rd. As their names are read aloud near the end of the service, our 1911 church bell will be rung to honor each deceased member. Prior to the start of the service, an altar candle will be lit for each church member and friend being memorialized during morning worship. Also, a large separate candle will be lit with the accompanying candles memorializing all who have lost their lives due to the coronavirus.

Memorial Sunday always immediately follows All Hallows' Eve (Halloween), All Hallows' or All Saints Day, and All Souls' Day—three back-to-back occasions in the historic calendar of the church in which those who have died are remembered and celebrated.

### **Remove Christmas Decorations from the Balcony**

Saturday, November 30th members of the Building and Grounds Ministry and volunteers will gather at 9:00 am in the Sanctuary to take down all of the Christmas Decorations from the balcony. Please contact Gary Staffeld or Dan Case if you can volunteer to help.

### **Christmas Gift and Basket Sale**

There will be a Christmas Gift & Basket Sale in the West Room open to the public on these dates: Friday, December 6 ( 10 am. – 1 pm); Saturday, December 7 (12pm – 3 pm); and Sunday, December 8 (11am. – 2 pm). This event is much expanded from last year. There are REASONABLY PRICED gifts for all ages. Many items are arranged in decorative gift baskets. The list includes: spa items, toys, fleece blankets, jewelry, men's items, children's books, candy, candy with candy dishes, candles, soupers with soup and crackers, mugs with treats, kitchen items, stocking stuffers and more. The gifts are for all occasions and many Christmas themed. Plan to attend. Also, INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS. (Proceeds benefit Christian Education, Sew 'n Sews and Women's Fellowship.)

### **"Advent by Candlelight" Program Kicks off Holiday Season**

Sponsored by the Christian Education Ministry, our annual "Advent by Candlelight" program is being held on Sunday, December 8, from 6:45-8:45 PM. This is where one woman hosts a table and asks about seven other ladies to join her for an advent program, fellowship and dessert. There will be a sign up sheet during coffee hour all through November, or you can contact Peggy Staten. (pstaten75@yahoo.com). It is quite easy to be a hostess and I will have envelopes for each hostess with all the information. There will also be a sign up sheet for ladies that do not want to host a table but would like to attend. We will do our best to find a place for every lady that would like to attend.

Deadline to sign up is Sunday, November 24th. The table arrangement in the hall is based on the order that you sign your group up by. I will need to know the total numbers at each table by December 1st.

### **Annual Congregational Meeting Scheduled**

The annual meeting of the St. Paul congregation will be held on Sunday, January 19, 2025. In addition to reviewing reports on our ministry and programs over the past year, the congregation will be voting on a new budget and a slate of nominees for Council leadership. The proposed 2025 budget will be sent to all church members in mid-December accompanied by a letter from the President-elect Tim Ruffner.

The annual meeting will follow our 10 a.m. worship service that morning. Church members should sign in at the narthex and pick up a copy of their annual report.

## **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Surprise Emergency Exit Drill**

On Sunday, October 20th the Safety and Security Ministry held an unannounced Emergency Exit drill for the building. The drill commenced immediately after the benediction. Members of the ERT (Emergency Response Team) helped to escort all members from the building including the children in our Sunday School. Members were told to congregate in one of our two assembly areas. I am happy to announce that we were able to evacuate the building in approximately two minutes and 30 seconds. Any one interested in joining the ERT should contact any member of the Security and Safety Ministry. Your safety is our number one priority.

### **2024 Budget Status**

Our actual income YTD is \$165,610 and our actual expenses YTD are \$166,163 a difference of (\$553) this is a vast improvement from last month. Our General Fund, which is the fund we use to pay our expenses (salaries, utilities, etc) is at \$26,322 an increase of about \$4,604 from last month, we continue our positive trend. As I said last month 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

### **2025 Year Budget Planning**

The St. Paul 2025 budget process has begun. The Budget and Finance Ministry will continue working to develop a new budget for next year. There will be an open meeting in the West Room on Sunday, November 10th immediately following the 10:00 am worship service. Church members are invited to attend and provide input or ask questions regarding our budget. If you have any questions regarding our budget development process, please contact Treasurer, Daniel Case or complete a "Make-a-Wish" card and drop it in an offering plate. The new proposed budget will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 19, 2025 for final approval.

### **Sew "N" Sew Gals to Meet**

Thursday, November 21st at 10 AM in the West Room. 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 now available please ask the Deacon before or after the Sunday Service for your copy. 2025 calendars are also available.

## **St. Paul Tree of Faith - A Special Christmas Gift**

Looking for that special Christmas gift this year, leaves for our congregation's "Tree of Faith" are still available for those who wish to honor or commemorate family members and events. The cost of each commemorative leaf is \$300 with proceeds helping our Facility Improvement Fund. The ornamental tree located in the narthex is on the wall just outside the entrance to the new Family Room. Just talk with a Deacon any Sunday and ask for one of the blue "Tree of Faith" cards or contact Dan Case.

## **The "Christmas Fund Offering" for Retired UCC Clergy and Lay Persons**

The Christmas Fund Offering will be received any Sunday in December. For over 100 years, the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross, one of our Special Mission Offerings of the UCC Church, has been a way to ensure that a light of love and hope will always shine for the faithful servants of our church denomination who find themselves facing unforeseen financial need. One of the unique aspects of the Christmas Fund is that your offering provides direct financial assistance to individual UCC clergy and lay church employees via "Thank You" gift checks. With your continued generosity, these faithful servants will receive the support of the church in their time of need. Think of the ways your life has been touched by a former clergy, and how important those experiences were for you. Your contributions do make a difference in the lives of many! You will find a "Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross" envelope included in this Tidings. You may also use Vanco, our electronic online giving source for your UCC Christmas Fund donation. It is easy to set-up a donation. Visit us online at [www.stpaulucctaylor.org/giving](http://www.stpaulucctaylor.org/giving), click on the blue Online Giving button, scroll down to the bottom of the "Donations" listing, and select UCC - Christmas Fund Veterans of the Cross and enter the amount of your donation. On behalf of the Stewardship of St. Paul, God Bless you, Merry Christmas, and Thank you.

## **HEALTH MINISTRIES**

### **Meditation Class for Body and Soul**

Meditation has helped me for years. A meditation class helps with relaxation, concentration, decreasing stress and is good for the soul. We will try out 3 weekly sessions. Wednesday's 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m., Nov 6, 13 and 20. Please contact Kathy Williams if you are interested. Other times can be considered.

### **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. 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](http://www.stpaulucctaylor.org)

Health Activities (stpaulucctaylor.org) 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**

### **ChristNet Rotating Shelter Looks to Continue Operation for 2025**

Soon we will be ushering in some much colder weather making the need for homeless shelters all the greater. As most of you are aware, St. Paul has served and supported the Christ Net rotating shelter and program for several decades or better. When the COVID pandemic struck the rotating shelter was halted. Churches began providing and delivering dinner meals to the hotel in which guests were being housed.

ChristNet is going to continue the rotating shelter at the beginning of next year (January). They are canvassing churches to inquire about their interest and availability to participate. Participating churches will be expected to host guests from Sunday to Saturday for a one-week time period. Guests will arrive at the host church in the evening. Upon arrival they will be fed dinner prepared by the host church. Guests will over-night at the church utilizing sleeping bags and blow-up mattresses. In the morning they will be transported by van to the day center where they will receive breakfast and lunch and the opportunity to shower.

If you, or perhaps a group you may be involved with whether inside or outside of the church; book club, scouts, card club, athletic team, etc., would be interested in more information or in assisting with hosting guests please contact the Church Office at (313) 291-1221. We will need to cover two shifts with a minimum of one male and one female per shift. Additionally, we will need individuals and groups to prepare, serve and clean-up following dinner. The St. Paul Council has approved our participation for 2025, we will be hosting Christnet the week of January 19th through January 25th. Specific information and sign-up sheets will be posted as we come closer to the event.

### **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 still needed 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 still 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.

## **Positions still open for 2025 Council**

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**

### **MEMORIALS**

#### **MEMORIAL FUND:**

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

#### **UNIFIED BUDGET FUND:**

In Memory of: *Jim West* From: Sharon Podpora

## **WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR**

**Church Members and Friends:** Everett Hard, Nancy Rabb, Dave Schmoekel, Robert Black, Marion Bolen, Barbara Brewer, Julius Enesey, Barbara Gish, Kyle Hard, Pam Jones, Justine Kimbler, Rosemarie Laslo, Patricia Olson, Bill Pattenaude, Shirley Robinson, Sandi Rose, 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), Freeman Floyd, Alicia Hagen, Tony Koths, Jennifer Lee, Jeff MacZink, Andrea Matney, Sue Milatz, F. Scott Miller (son, Fred Miller), Debi and Al Petri, Kelly Potter, Jerry Rossi, Kevin Siemers, Vicki Simon (mother of Michael Isaacs), Randy Snelson, Rachel Tank (Daughter, Tom & Linda Tank), Anna Thomson (mother, Lucinda Chavez), Diana Williams, Al Wierzbicki.

#### **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**, American House, 16333 Allen Rd, Apt. 109, Southgate, 48195; **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.