

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

January 2025

Wednesday, January 1st	HAPPY NEW YEAR - Office Closed
Sunday, January 5th	Church Service - Communion & Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday, January 12th	Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday, January 19th	Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am Annual Congregational Meeting
Monday, January 20th	Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday - Office Closed
Sunday, January 26th	Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am Installation of Council Members

February 2025

Saturday, February 1st	St. Paul Wild Game Dinner 5:30 pm
Sunday, February 2nd	Church Service - Communion & Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday, February 9th	Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday, February 16th	Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday, February 23rd	Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am

MISSION OUTREACH

December Community Outreach Concludes and January Community Outreach Begins

A huge thank you to all those who purchased a gift for a child identified on the Angel Tree and/or donated hats, gloves, undergarments and other winter accessories. All toys and items were delivered to the Salvation Army to be included in their Family Christmas Shop for families in need.

Throughout the month of January, we will be collecting items for HFHS "Street Medicine" program in conjunction with Michigan State University. Street Medicine is founded upon a commitment to the ideals of social justice and the right to health care for all. Street Medicine providers aim to serve people experiencing homelessness and/or those living without health insurance by bringing empathetic health care to the streets and shelters.

Providers offer medical treatment, with follow-up, connections to health education and social services such as housing, and most importantly, the compassion, trust and respect that so many people have been denied.

Each week a student-led medical group works alongside licensed medical providers to serve those in need on the streets and shelters. In keeping with the program's philosophy of caring for the whole person, each patient is offered hygiene items, socks, hats, gloves, and warm clothing throughout the winter.

A collection box will be set up in the narthex for all those who would like to help support this program through the donation of hygiene items, hats, gloves, socks, and blankets.

A street medicine medical provider will be offering more information and insight into this program during a moment of interest in January.

Thank you for your consideration and generosity.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Winter Blast

Christian Education will be hosting a Winter Blast Event in February for all of the children. Please watch your monthly Tidings and the Morning Tide for more details.

Sunday School

Church Sunday School will resume on Sunday, January 12th at 10:00 am.

ALL CHURCH EVENTS

Sew "N" Sew Gals to Meet

Thursday, January 16th 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.

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 early January 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.

St. Paul Fifteenth Annual Wild Game Dinner - Get Your Tickets Now

The St. Paul Building and Grounds Ministry will be hosting its 15th Annual Wild Game Dinner on Saturday, February 1, 2025. As always the doors will open at 5:30 pm, hors d'oeuvres at 6:00 pm and a sit-down dinner at 7:00 pm. It's a fun filled evening with raffles, good eating and great fellowship. Tickets are \$45/each and can be purchased at the KIOSK table during Coffee Hour, by calling the Church office at (313) 291-1221 or by calling James Poet, Gary Staffeld, or Dan Case. This is always a **sell out event** so get your tickets early. We are also looking for donations that can be used for raffle items or door prizes.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Bookkeeper

As Lori Kuhn leaves as our bookkeeper we wish her luck in her new position. Jennifer Wilson has been hired to replace Lori as the Church bookkeeper. Jennifer officially started as bookkeeper on December 10th. Please welcome Jennifer when you see her at Church.

New Music Director / Organist Hired

Please join us in welcoming Ava Janus as our new Music Director / Organist. Her actual start date is still to be determined. She will be filling both positions as Music Director and Organist.

2025 Donation Envelopes

Donation envelopes for the first quarter of 2025 were mailed out in late December of 2024 to the members home address currently on file. Envelopes will continue to be mailed to each household with members receiving their envelopes in March, June, and September. If you did not receive your envelopes or would like to sign-up for envelopes please contact Annette Thie, Financial Secretary or Dan Case, Treasurer.

2024 Donation Statements

The 2024 donation statements will be mailed out to each household in mid January. If you have any questions regarding your 2024 statement please contact Annette Thie, Financial Secretary or Dan Case, Treasurer.

New Member Orientation Class to be offered

St. Paul will be offering a new member orientation class in the first quarter of 2025. If you would like to be part of this class please contact Rev. Anderson or call the Church Office (313) 291-1221.

Christmas Gift and Basket Sale

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Sale. All those who made and/or donated items, those who helped on sale days, those who helped set up and take down the sale room, those who came to shop and buy, and to Conrad Heidt who donated half the profits from the sale of his cut glass as he provided security at the entrance made the sale possible. The total income was \$3,624.00.

Included in this amount is money that went to the Sew 'n Sews for their items sold at the sale. The remaining profits were divided between Christian Education (the original sale sponsor) and Women's Fellowship (for availability of items from the rummage sales).

The continuation of this NEW event is being evaluated. Consideration is being given to time and length of the sale, collection of new items donated throughout the year, additional help in preparation and sale of items, availability of space at the church for assembling and storage of items during the year, and use of the profits. Your input shall be appreciated. Please share with Peggy Staten or Jane Dykowski.

Thank you again to everyone.

Open Council Positions

Trustees Toni Hill and Michael Isaacs are looking for members of the congregation to volunteer for several important positions that have yet to be filled on Council. We are looking for a 2nd Vice President (three year commitment), a Deacon (three year commitment), an Elder (three year commitment), a Trustee (three year commitment), and a Treasurer (three year commitment). We are also in need of a Trustee (one year commitment) and a Deacon (two year commitment) to replace Council members who have resigned. Those who have agreed to commit to open positions are Sue Mrowka for 1st Vice President (two year term).

If you are interested in filling any of the available positions please contact Tony or Michael. A complete description of each of these positions are available through the church office.

The trustees would like to present the names of all those who are taking the open council positions during the Annual meeting January 19th.

2024 Budget Status

Our actual income YTD is \$194,890 and our actual expenses YTD are \$195,002 a difference of (\$112) this is a decrease of about \$2,000 from last month. Our General Fund, which is the fund we use to pay our expenses (salaries, utilities, etc) is at \$23,648 a increase of about \$1,651 from last month. Please keep in mind that although the numbers don't look that alarming, you must keep in mind that we are currently not paying salaries for two major positions (Music Director and Director of Christian Education). I will continue to only talk about actual income vs actual expenses as we close out the year. I will however talk about the Budget shortfall at our Annual Meeting in January. If you have any questions about our budget please feel free to give me a call. Dan Case - St. Paul Treasurer

Qualified Charitable Distribution – Did you know?

The Secure 2.0 Act of 2022 changed the age for Minimum Required Distributions from 72 to 73 years of age, however it had no impact on Qualified Charitable Distributions. QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity, St. Paul does qualify. QCDs can be counted toward satisfying your minimum required distributions (MRDs) for the year. Since it is already excluded from your taxable income, you can't take the itemized deduction (charitable donation) again. That would be double-dipping. While many IRAs are eligible for QCDs—there are requirements:

- You must be 70½ or older to be eligible to make a QCD.
- The maximum annual amount that can qualify for a QCD is \$100,000. This applies to the sum of QCDs made to one or more charities in a calendar year.
- For a QCD to count towards your current year's MRD, the funds must come out of your IRA, generally by December 31.

If you have additional questions or want to start QCD donations please contact Daniel Case, St. Paul Treasurer.

Are you thinking about moving to Electronic Giving in 2025

As St. Paul prepares for a new fiscal year, it is important to know what support we can depend on from our members and friends. By knowing what you are willing to commit financially, we are able to better plan for the future. Please consider setting up a recurring giving plan or even a one-time donation as many of our members have already done. Automating your financial commitments means your contributions will be received on a steady, uninterrupted basis. To set up a recurring giving schedule, visit us online at www.stpaulucctaylor.org/giving, locate the Online Giving button and set up your recurring giving schedule. For additional assistance or if you have questions, please contact Dan Case.

HEALTH MINISTRIES

Exercise Class Continues

We are trying to make a change for the new year. Exercise classes will be held on Thursdays from 11 am – 12 n. 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 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Auxiliary Deacons needed

If you're looking to serve our church but don't want to commit to being on the Council the Auxiliary Deacon position might be right for you. The auxiliary appointees are not required to attend or allowed to vote at the regular Council Meetings. They are only allowed to assist with normal and/or special duties as a Deacon (ie: usher, etc) or cover for the elected position, as required. If you are interested please see any Deacon on Sunday morning.

Liturgists are still 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.

Ushers and Acolytes Needed for Sunday Morning Services

Visit our Usher / Acolyte Sign-up board located in the Narthex of the Church. Being an usher or acolyte is as easy as signing your name to the board, you can sign up for a single service or as many services as you want. Experience is not required; the Deacons will be glad to train you prior to the service. All ushers are asked to be at Church thirty minutes prior to the service. Talk to a Deacon on Sunday Morning if you would like additional information.

Volunteers are 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 are 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.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

CONDOLENCES to the **Allen Gunther** family and friends. Al passed away November 5, 2024 at the age of 82 years. Memorial service was November 16, 2024 at St. Paul UCC, Taylor. Pastor Cheryl Schalm officiated; to the family and friends of **Patricia Olson** who passed away November 22, 2024 at the age of 91 years. Memorial services will be private.

MEMORIALS

MEMORIAL FUND:

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

In Memory of: *Al Gunther* From: Rob & Tanya Foster

In Memory of: *Shirley Zabik* From: Gary & Pat Staffeld

In Memory of: *Nila Ziemtek* From: Jim & Linda Ferretti

GENERATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND:

In Memory of: *Al Gunther* From: The Dykowski Family

FACILITY IMPROVEMENT FUND:

In Memory of: *Al Gunther* From: Daniel & Deborah Case

In Memory of: *John & Delores Jarrett* From: The Michael Staffeld Family

In Memory of: *Melvin & Margaret Staffeld* From: The Michael Staffeld Family

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR

Church Members and Friends: Barbara Brewer, Jack Burchard, Debbie Case, Julius Enesey, Everett Hard, Justine Kimbler, Lori Kuhn, Rosemarie Laslo, Nancy Rabb, Dave Schmoekel, Robert Black, Barbara Brewer, Julius Enesey, Barbara Gish, Kyle Hard, Pam Jones, Justine Kimbler, Rosemarie Laslo, Bill Pattenau, Shirley Robinson, Sandi Rose, Joan Smarr, John Smith, Sue Spears, William Stears, Jr., Linda Tank, Leah Wagner, and Carol Wioncek.

Extended Family: Susan & Dennis Bennett (sister, brother-in-law of Karen Hill), Rhonda Wioncek Berndt, Ted Butkin, Nora Cousino (sister-in-law, Helen St. Louis), 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), Blain Tayler, Anna Thomson (mother, Lucinda Chavez), Cindy Twilliger, Diana Williams.

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; **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**, American House 20300 Fort St., Room 256, Riverview, 48193; **Bert Thompson**, Optalis Health & Rehabilitation, 9150 Allen Rd, Allen Park; Office: 313-386-2150.