# **TIDINGS**

St. Paul United Church of Christ 24158 Goddard Road, Taylor, Michigan 48180-3910 (313) 291-1221

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Interim Sr. Pastor - Rev. Linda Anderson

## **Calendar of Events**

#### **March 2025**

Sunday, March 2nd Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am

Wednesday, March 5th Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 pm

Sunday, March 9th Church Service - Pew Communion & Sunday School 10:00 am

Friday, March 14th First Drive Thru Fish Dinner 3:30 - 6:00 pm

Wednesday, March 12th Meditation and Reflection 6:30 pm

Sunday, March 16th Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am

Wednesday, March 19th Meditation and Reflection 6:30 pm

Friday, March 21st Second Drive Thru Fish Dinner 3:30 - 6:00 pm Sunday, March 23rd Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am

Wednesday, March 26th Meditation and Reflection 6:30 pm

Friday, March 28th Third Drive Thru Fish Dinner 3:30 - 6:00 pm Sunday, March 30th Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am

April 2025

Wednesday, April 2nd Meditation and Reflection 6:30 pm

Friday, April 4th Fourth Drive Thru Fish Dinner 3:30 - 6:00 pm Sunday, April 6th Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am

Wednesday, April 9th Meditation and Reflection 6:30 pm

Friday, April 11th Fifth Drive Thru Fish Dinner 3:30 - 6:00 pm

Sunday, April 13th Palm Sunday - Communion , Easter Egg Hunt & Party 10:00 am

Thursday, April 17th Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 pm

Friday, April 18th Good Friday Service 12 Noon

Sunday, April 20th Easter - Pew Communion & Sunday School 10:00 am

Easter Brunch after Service

Monday, April 21st Setup Fellowship Hall for Rummage Sale 9:00 am

Sunday, April 27th Church Service - Communion & Sunday School 10:00 am

## **INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR**

As we approach the season of Lent, starting with Ash Wednesday on March 5, we are called to reflect upon our lives and relationships with one another and especially our relationship with Christ. We are encouraged to spend time moving closer to the one whose death and life we celebrate on Easter. Sometimes, we are asked to give up something so that we will have more resources to assist us in that journey.

Rev. Dr. Bruce Epperly is a UCC minister, teacher and author from the Cape Cod area who I read regularly. Here I want to share with you parts of an article he wrote in 2014. I appreciate his views on this solemn time of Ash Wednesday and Lent. I pray you will find them enlightening.

Life is fragile, and we hope for spiritual wholeness, perhaps, everlasting life evolving in companionship with God and our loved ones. For years, I struggled with Ash Wednesday Services precisely because of their otherworldliness and asceticism. My self-denial in Lent was typically half-hearted and short-lived.

These days, I am reconsidering the meaning of Ash Wednesday. The brevity and uncertainty of life now invites me to praise, wonder, and beauty, and to seize the moment – for this is the day God has made and I will rejoice in it! All that I love and care for is mortal and transitory, but mortality is the inspiration to celebration and love. Plato once described time as the moving image of eternity. We are constantly dying, but we are also constantly living as we reflect God's vision in the world of the flesh. This day, this moment, is a "thin place" for God is with us, revealed in flesh, blood, and healing touch.

This Ash Wednesday, I'm letting go of everything that keeps me from rejoicing in the passing beauty of the earth. Each year, as summer begins, I train my eyes for the first fireflies. Their season is brief, and given humanity's destruction of the natural world, I fear that each summer will be the last. But, when I see the first firefly in late May, my heart leaps with joy and all summer long, I rejoice in the fragile flashing beauty they display.

Yes, we are dust, but we are earthly dust, springing forth from a multi-billion year holy adventure. But, dust is good, after all; it is the place of fecundity, of moist dark soil, and perhaps we are "star-dust," as Rex Hunt suggests, emerging from God's intergalactic creativity. We are frail, but we are also part of a holy adventure reflecting God's love over billions of years and in billions of galaxies.

How can we not rejoice in the color purple or pause in wonder at a baby's birth? How can we be oblivious to the "dearest freshness deep down things?" Like Jacob, Ash Wednesday causes us to pause, notice, wake up, and discover that "God is in this place" and now we know it! With author Patricia Adams Farmer, Ash Wednesday invites us to take a "beauty break," open to the awe-filled, precarious world in which we live.

So this Ash Wednesday, I plan on considering the lilies and the birds the air. I will enjoy the beauty of the beach on my morning walk. Tomorrow, at our congregation's two Ash Wednesday Services, I will place ashes on congregants, but not the ashes of world-denial or bodily-mortification, but the ashes of transformation, of awakening to beauty and love, of seizing the moment.

In some liturgies, the imposition of ashes is accompanied by the words, "repent and believe the gospel." And, that I plan to do precisely this as I embrace these words – I plan to repent and believe – to "repent," turn around, live more in moment, appreciating God's grandeur, and believing the good news – the embodied,

yet ever-lasting, gospel of beauty, wonder, and grace – the good news of walking with beauty all around me.

Lent offers us a special time for reflection and renewal. We are fortunate that Lent comes in the spring. The vision of new birth comes easily. I pray that you will take advantage of this season of new beginnings. On March 5, we will gather for worship and, if desired, the imposition of ashes. The following Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. we plan to gather for meditation and reflection. Refreshments are being planned so we can 'chat and chew' about faith journeys from Biblical times to those at St. Paul today. Hopefully you can join us for the conversations.

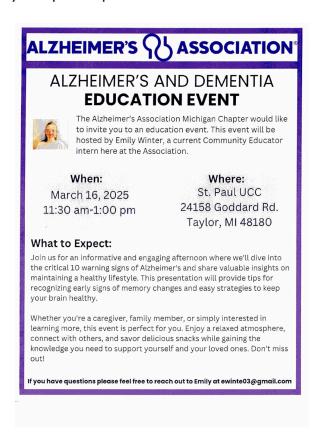
Looking forward to seeing you in Church, Linda

## MARCH COMMUNITY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

Thank you to everyone who donated money, made a card, or wrote a letter for families impacted by the California wildfires. All donations were sent to the American Red Cross to aid in relief efforts.

Throughout the month of March we will be collecting donations, both monetary and material items for the Alzheimer Association and individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Material items that will be collected are: nightlights that turn on automatically, digital clocks with large numbers and objects to touch such as small soft stuffed animals and small soft blankets.

In addition, all church members and friends are invited to attend a program to be held on Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> following the morning worship service. Participants are invited to grab a donut and some coffee and to join us in the church Parlor for the presentation. Please see the following flyer for additional information. Contact the church office to confirm your participation.



## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ACTIVITIES**

## Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt and Party to be Held

The Sunday School will be holding their annual Easter Egg Hunt and Party on Palm Sunday, April 13th. Donations of bags of individually wrapped Easter candy are being sought. Candy can be dropped at the Christian Education Welcome Center located upstairs.

## **Sunday School**

Church Sunday School continues through March at 10:00 am every Sunday.

# **ALL CHURCH EVENTS**

#### 2025 Lent Activities

Lent is recognized as a time of reflection, it is a time to consider our own values and especially our faith and our relationship with our creator.

"Even now," says the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping and with mourning." Rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents in sending calamity. (Joel 2:12-13)

Lent is comprised of those 40 days (minus Sundays) leading from Ash Wednesday to the Holy weekend of Good Friday thru the Easter resurrection celebration.

At St. Paul we will worship on **Ash Wednesday (March 5) at 6:30 pm** with the offering of the imposition of ashes for those we desire.

The following **Wednesdays** (March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9) we will gather for **Discussion**, **Meditation and Refreshments at 6:30pm**. Our talks will center around what the church has meant to us, individually and as a community, what it means today, and what it means to the future. Your thoughts and ideas are important. Please come and share them.

As we share this Lenten journey, may it be filled with prayer, fellowship and good thoughts. See you on Wednesdays, March 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th, April 2nd, and 9th at 6:30 pm. *Linda* 

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

Thursday, March 20th 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.

# **Order Your Easter Lily**

White envelopes (found in the pew racks) are due no later than Sunday, April 6th. Lilies will be displayed in the sanctuary on Easter morning and can be taken after service. Please indicate whom you would like to honor or commemorate. The 'Lily List' is published in the Easter morning bulletin and on the church website. \$10 each.

## Your Help is Needed for our Five Drive-Thru Lenten Fish Suppers

Preparations have begun for our Lenten Drive-Thru fish suppers. Upcoming suppers will be held on March 14, 21, and 28; and April 4, and 11, 3:30-6 p.m. or until the fish runs out. Patrons will make use of the horseshoe drive to pick up their dinners from the "fish trailer"—our conveniently positioned trailer at the west side of the church. Cost of the fish suppers are \$15, with a children's meal for kids ages 4-12 available at \$5. As in past years, the menu will include three breaded pieces of wild-caught icelandic cod, french fries, our church's famous cole slaw, roll with butter, and a pie slice or brownie for an adult meal, Children's meal will be two pieces of fish plus everything else in the adult meal.

As with all church activities, appropriate safety and good housekeeping will be maintained for all of the suppers. Volunteers are needed on the Friday of each supper, beginning early in the afternoon and continuing through the supper itself. To volunteer, call the office or speak with this year's chairperson Jim Poet.

#### St. Paul 2025 Communion Schedule

Date	<u>Occasion</u>	Type
March 9th	1st Sunday of Lent	Pew Communion
April 20th	Easter	<b>Pew Communion</b>
May 4th	1st Sunday of Month	Altar Communion
June 9th	Pentecost	<b>Pew Communion</b>
July 6th	1st Sunday of Month	Altar Communion
August 3rd	1st Sunday of Month	Altar Communion
September 7th	1st Sunday of Month	Altar Communion
October 5th	World Wide Communion	Pew Communion
November 30th	1st Sunday of Advent	Pew Communion
December 24th	Christmas Eve	Pew Communion

# St. Paul Spring Rummage Sale —Volunteers Needed

The annual St. Paul Spring Rummage Sale will be held Thursday through Saturday, May 8th, 9th, and 10th. 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, April 22nd. 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, April 21st 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.

## **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **Daylight Savings Time**

Just a quick reminder that Daylight Saving Time begins on **Sunday, March 09, 2025** at 2:00 am. On Saturday night, set your clocks **forward one hour** (i.e., losing one hour) to "spring ahead" before you go to bed. We are hoping to see you for Sunday's Worship Service which begins at 10:00 am both in the Sanctuary or via streaming on Facebook Live.

## Facebook Live Broadcast Sunday, February 23rd

We apologize for not being able to broadcast our Worship Service live on Sunday, February 23rd but we were having technical difficulties with the software. You may still view the service utilizing Facebook since we did record the service.

## **Council Positions Still Open**

Council Positions still open are: 1st Vice-President (2 year commitment), one Trustee (3 year commitment), two Deacons (2 year and 3 year commitment) Please prayerfully consider filling this position. A complete description of the position can be obtained by contacting the church office or by speaking to a Trustee.

#### **Pastoral Care**

If you find yourself or your family in need of pastoral care please call the Church Office at (313) 291-1221, Monday through Friday from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. If after hours please leave a message our voicemail is checked daily. In the case of an emergency please contact Tim Ruffner our President or Rev. Anderson.

# 2025 Budget Status - Thank You for your Continued Support

For 2025 I will continue to report only on actual income and expenses. Our actual income for January was \$8,898 and our actual expenses for January were \$16,162, a difference of (\$7,264) which is a negative balance for the beginning of 2025. Our General Fund, which is the fund we use to pay our expenses (salaries, utilities, etc) is at \$27,914 a decrease of \$7,764 from December. If you have any questions about our budget please feel free to give me a call. Dan Case - St. Paul Treasurer

#### **Burial Graves for Sale**

The St. Paul Memorial Ministry has four graves available for immediate purchase. The graves are located at Michigan Memorial Park in Huron Township. The four graves are all together and located in Section 22 "Garden of Apostles" with a retail value of \$1,825 per grave, the asking price is only \$1,000 per grave. Once purchased the graves may also be used as partial payment (full retail value) for purchase of a spot in their above ground burial sites or their indoor and outdoor cremation niches as well. You have many options available to you. Please contact any member of the Memorial Ministry if you are interested.

## St. Paul Organ

Our M. P. Moller pipe organ which was installed and dedicated in 1948 was in need of some repairs. We are happy to say that repairs are complete including tuning and the organ has never sounded better. Special thanks to Mark Ennis for overseeing the repairs.

## Forty Things to give up for Lent: The List

Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent are just around the corner. As the season of Lent approaches, many of us think about something to "give up." Unfortunately, these things often have little impact upon our life and walk with Christ.

With that said, we would like to offer up "40 things to give up for Lent." But this list is different. It is not the typical things like soda or chocolate. These are truly things to give up not just for Lent, but for the rest of your life.

1. Fear of Failure	2. Your Comfort Zone	3. Feelings of Unworthiness
4. Impatience	5. Retirement	6. People Pleasing
7. Comparison	8. Blame	9. Guilt
10. Impurity	11.Overcommitment	12. Lack of Counsel
<ol><li>13. Entitlement</li></ol>	14. Apathy	15. Hatred
<ol><li>Negativity</li></ol>	17. Complaint	18. The Spirit of Poverty
19. Bitterness	20. Distraction	21. Pursuit of Happiness
22. Giving up	23. Mediocrity	24. Going Through the Motions
25. Loneliness	26. Destructive Speech	n 27. Disunity
28. Busyness	29. The Quick Fix	30. Worry
31. Idolizing	32. Pride	33. Resistance to Change
34. Envy	35. Small View of God	36. Ungratefulness
37. Selfish Ambition	38. Self-Sufficiency	39. Sorrow
40. My Life		

God has so much more in store for you. But so many of these things above are holding you back from walking in the full destiny he has laid out for you. Today is a new day. So, there you have it – the 40 Things to Give up for Lent!

#### Make-a-Wish Cards

Hear a rumor you want to verify, 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 drop it in the collection box during the Sunday Worship or give it to a Deacon. Although a signature is not required it helps for us to provide you with appropriate feedback in a timely manner. The cards are reviewed weekly and acted upon accordingly. Our goal is to respond to the cards immediately and provide feedback to the author. All cards are treated confidentially.

# One Great Hour of Sharing donations to be received this month

During the month of March we will be collecting for One Great Hour of Sharing. You are invited to participate in this UCC Mission Offering which assists our Christian friends world-wide in the development of health and education, and disaster and refugee relief. An offering envelope is included in these *Tidings* and can also be found in the Narthex. We also offer the option of making your donation through our electronic giving process. Visit us at <a href="www.stpaulucctaylor.org/giving">www.stpaulucctaylor.org/giving</a>, click on the blue Online Giving button, scroll through the "Donations' Isisting, select UCC – One Great Hour of Sharing and enter the amount of your donation. Please prayerfully consider your gift to those in need.

#### **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.

## St. Paul Coleslaw (some interesting facts)

Thought we would share the following information. To make fifteen buckets of coleslaw it takes the following: 132 heads of cabbage, 2 cartons of green peppers, 3 cartons of red peppers, 10 pounds of diced onions, 35 pounds of carrots, five gallons of apple cider vinegar, 3 boxes of kosher salt, 80 pounds of sugar, 80 teaspoons of whole celery seed, 80 teaspoons of whole mustard seed and a lot of cutting, chopping and mixing. St. Paul Fish Dinner Committee.

# **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. If you would like to participate or have any questions, contact the office or Kathy Williams.

## People are needed with certification of CPR & First aid in April.

Heartsaver, CPR with AED CLASS & First-aid Class by the American Heart Association. Classes are planned to be provided in April. 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. 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. Please contact Kathy Williams or leave a message for her ASAP if you are interested. Books need to be given out at least 2 weeks prior to the class.

# **Health/Medical Supplies Available**

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

# **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

# 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.

### **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.

## **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.

# Volunteers 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**

A special **Thank You** to the following people who helped with the 2025 Wild game Dinner: Karen Hill, Helen St. Louis, Diane Poet, Crystal Poet, Dee Salsbury, Debbie Case, Vicky Grant, Christine Schwab, Lauren Fultz, Mike Covert, Sara Tominac, Teri Staffeld, Peggy Staten, Anthony Staten, Stuart Block, St. Paul Girl Scouts, Eric Poet, Tim Ruffner, Doug Staffeld and Cindy Romas. A special **Thank You** to Pat Staffeld for her donation of the deserts and to the Block family for their donations of meat, vegetables and fruit. St. Paul Building and Grounds Ministry.

A huge **THANK YOU** to the following people who helped in the preparation of coleslaw for the 2025 Fish Dinners: Teri Staffeld, Toni Hill, Tom Tank, Sharon Podpora, Helen St. Louis, Jane Dykowski, Dorothy Evison, Dan Evison, Jeff MacZink, Janet Staffeld, Doug Staffeld, Karen Hill, Mark Ennis, Sandy Ennis, Sheri Herkimer, Dee Salsbury, Dan Case, Candace Poet, Crystal Poet, James Poet. Also a **special thanks** to the Blocks Stand and Greenhouse for donating all of the cabbage, peppers and carrots. When finished we ended up with fifteen five gallon pails of our famous St. Paul Coleslaw.

**Tyler McLean wed Ashlan Celesky** Friday, February 28, 2025 at St. Paul UCC, Taylor. Pastor Cheryl Schalm officiated.

## **MEMORIALS**

#### **MEMORIAL FUND:**

In Memory of: Lily Radtke From: Gary & Pat Staffeld

In Memory of: Barb Schultz From: The Bruce Wilson Family, Linda Anderson

#### **FACILITY IMPROVEMENT FUND:**

In Memory of: Lily Radtke From: Dan & Deborah Case

In Memory of: Barb Schultz From: Dan & Deborah Case, Dan & Dorothy Evison,

Larry Kurtsel

#### **GENERATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND:**

In Memory of: Barbara Schultz From: The Dykowski Family

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

**Church Members and Friends:** Ed Brainard, Debbie Case, Harold Fick, Denise Foley, Julius Enesey, Justine Kimbler, Rosemarie Laslo, Dave Schmoekel, Robert Black, Barbara Gish, Kyle Hard, Pam Jones, Bill Pattenaude, Thelma Poet, Shirley Robinson, Sandi Rose, Joan Smarr, John Smith, Sue Spears, Roger Staten, 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, Diane Brainard (mother of Ed), 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), Steve Newberry, Debi and Al Petri, Kelly Potter, Tess Richardson, 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, 17381 Michigan Heights Dr., Romulus, 48174-5911; 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; 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.