

TIDINGS

St. Paul United Church of Christ

24158 Goddard Road, Taylor, Michigan 48180-0190

[313-291-1221](tel:313-291-1221) • Fax 313-291-3305 • email: stpaulucctaylor@stpaulucctaylor.org

www.stpaulucctaylor.org

Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. Geoffrey G. Drutchas

Minister of Christian Education - Pastor Cheryl Schalm

December 2018

Snapshot of Events

Advent of the Unexpected Service - December 2 - 9 & 10:30 a.m.

Advent by Candlelight - December 2 - 6:45 to 8:45 p.m.

Blue Christmas Service - December 6th - 7:00 p.m.

Begin Single Service for 6 Weeks - December 16th - 10:00 a.m.

'The Night Christ was Born' Pageant, Lunch & Cookie Walk - December 16th - 10:00 a.m.

Taylor Chorus Christmas Concert - December 16 - 4:00 p.m.

Caregivers Meeting - December 17 - 7:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir Cantata "Born a Savior, Born a King" - December 23rd - 10:00 a.m.

Toledo Zoo Walk - December 23 - 5:00 p.m.

Candlelight Services - December 24 - 7:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.

Hurricane Relief Mission Trip - December 29

Winter Family Fun Night - January 11th - 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting - January 13 - Following 10:00 a.m. service

Resume Double Service - January 20 - 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Souperbowl Sunday - January 27 - 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Blood Drive - January 29 - 1:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Scrapbook Crop - February 2 - 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Wild game Dinner - February 7 - Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

PASTOR'S PEACE

Over the past week I have been visiting one of our members who landed at Beaumont South Shore Hospital. As I arrived one evening to sit, talk, and pray with her, I laughed. Playing on the television monitor hanging from the ceiling was a Hallmark Christmas drama. What made that funny to me is the fact that our church member, whether at home or hospital, always manages to find the Hallmark Christmas channel. The two of us have talked about this before. Our church member enjoys watching Hallmark Christmas stories year-round because they are always so positive and upbeat, exactly what she needs in the face of some of the health problems that she contends with every day.

Given the extra unpleasantness of the news of late—everything from the Mueller investigation in Washington, D.C., to the horrendous fires sweeping California—I decided to take some of my parishioner's medicine as I run in place in front of the television for an hour daily by tuning into Hallmark. As never before, I now appreciate the allure which these Christmas dramas have for my sister in faith. Yes, each Hallmark Christmas drama is pretty formulaic. Full of handsome actors and actresses, particularly in the lead roles, they're all girl-meets-boy romances (or the other way around) that are a part of somebody's homecoming. Almost inevitably, there's tension in the air because one guy or gal doesn't really like Christmas or is tinsel-minded—caught up in all the materialistic trappings of the holiday. Selfishness or self-centeredness on someone's part invariably looms as another problem that can ruin Christmas for others. Yet in the end selfishness is checked, true love wins out, and to everyone's benefit (in some cases the whole town) the true meaning of Christmas is discovered anew—all within two or so hours!

What makes these Hallmark Christmas dramas so winning, so endearing, is their sheer hopefulness. Each show offers its testimony as to how we as human beings can give ourselves over to the better angels of our nature, rather than being hobbled by an ugly greed and egotism. That's a good message that's worth hearing.

Of course, for all the talk of Christmas that we find in these Hallmark dramas, there's not much direct and explicit mention of Christ. Nor do words like sin and salvation appear in the script. Yet as Christian men and women we should be smart enough and faithful enough to fill in the blanks and add in our own deeper understanding as we absorb these stories. After all, Christmas is about Christ's coming into the world. Jesus' self-sacrificing birth, life, death and resurrection are the reason why humble human beings like us can say no to the persistent temptations of selfishness and greed and yes to a more just, generous, and compassionate kind of life that in our troubled world is more important than ever.

To my knowledge, none of us are Hallmark actors destined for a silver screen. But as church-going men and women we all have parts to play in the re-telling of greatest Christmas story of all, entrusted to us through God's Word, as we gather for worship and other activities throughout the next four weeks of Advent leading up to Christmas Eve. I hope that each of us will step into the lights and into our roles as men and women of faith--together in church celebrating anew what God has made possible for us through Jesus Christ. The happy ending to *this* Christmas story, writ by God and shared amid the beauty and splendor of our own church sanctuary, is up to us and our faithfulness in the days ahead. See you in church! ~ ***Shalom, Pastor Geoffrey Drutchas***

Christian Education Editorial

As Christians, during the Advent season our thoughts are specially drawn in remembrance to the wonderful time, so long ago, when God in His grace sent the eternal Son of His love into the world to serve as the atonement for our sins. How we rejoice when we recall that He set aside His glory and great majesty to take on the form of a man and be born into this world as a tiny baby, in such humble circumstances. In a world that has become more secular, may we, the people of God who are called by His name take time to reflect with awe and wonder on this amazing truth and prepare our hearts for the time when Jesus Christ will return again in power and great glory at His Second Advent.

During this mystical time of the year let us purify our hearts and sanctify our lives so they we may serve Him in newness of life; and not only during this special season of Advent, but every day of our lives. Wishing you and yours' a very Blessed and Peaceful Advent Season.

~ In Christ, Pastor Cheryl Schalm, Minister of Christian Education

Christian Education News and Events

St. Paul UCC Generosity Shared With Children Around The World

On Sunday, November 18th, a total of 59 gift-filled shoe boxes, donated by members of our congregation were delivered to the Operation Christmas Child Dearborn Collection Center. The boxes will be loaded onto semi-trucks for delivery to the Boone, NC distribution center. From Boone, the boxes will be shipped around the world to children in need and serve as a means to introduce them to Christ. Thank you to all who so kindly and generously gave to support this outreach.

"LIVING WITH PURPOSE" 2018 Youth Retreat Happened November 4 & 5

A group of 21 young people and chaperones attended the annual youth retreat held at Michindoh Conference Center and Camp the weekend of November 3rd – 4th. Over the course of the weekend youth participated in three worship services & workshops, enjoyed numerous games of basketball & group games, performed and/or watched a talent show, sipped hot chocolate upon a hayride, went on a nature walk and had an overall great time.

In addition to these activities the youth also had the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of God's purpose for their lives and how He works all things for the good.

The youth would like to thank Men's Fellowship for sponsoring the youth retreat and all the chaperones who gave a weekend of their time to chaperone. Without your generosity and kindness this event would not be possible. Thank You and God Bless you all!

Rock Hard in Faith Youth Fellowship December Happenings.

Soup Kitchen Christmas Party is December 8

Members of Rock Hard in Faith will once again be hosting the cookie decorating station for the Wyandotte UCC soup kitchen Christmas party held on Saturday, December 8th. Youth should plan to arrive at St. Paul UCC by 11:00 a.m. Please make sure to sign the sheet located on the youth board if you plan to attend.

Youth Continue to Seek Cookie Donations for Annual Youth Cookie Walk

Members of "Rock Hard in Faith Youth Fellowship" continue to seek cookie donations for their annual cookie walk to be held on Sunday, December 16th following the Children's Christmas Pageant. The past cookie walks have been a great success due to the variety of cookies donated. The youth are grateful and thank all those who have contributed in the past. With your continued support, we look forward to another delightful Cookie Walk.

The Cookie Walk will begin following the conclusion of the morning worship service. Please wait for the youth to set-up and to be present prior to taking and filling a cookie tin. Large tins will be \$9.00 and small tins \$5.00. All proceeds benefit youth community outreach programs. Thank you again! Any questions please contact Pastor Schalm.

Youth and Family Christmas Potluck ... this year's party will be held at Pastor Schalm's on Thursday, December 20th at 7:00 p.m. All youth and families are invited to bring a dish to pass and youth, instead of bringing a gift to exchange, are encouraged to bring a pair of children's (up to age 16) flip flops, crocs or children's chewable vitamins with iron. All items will be donated to Christy's Legacy of Hope for an orphanage in Haiti. Please sign the sheet located on the youth board or inform Pastor Schalm of number of family members attending. The more the merrier!

St. Paul United Church of Christ Young Adult Fellowship

Young Adult Fellowship provides an opportunity for High School graduates and young adults to gather together, reconnect, network and to enjoy Christian fellowship. The group will meet several times a quarter for an activity or event. Spouses, friends and companions are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Young Adult Worship Wednesday Bible Study Continues

The group will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at Pastor Schalm's. All post-High School young adults are welcome and encouraged to join. We are working our way through the Gospels. Plan to join the group for study, discussion, laughter, food and fellowship.

Lights Before Christmas Toledo Zoo Walk December 23

Please join us for a festive night at the Toledo Zoo on Sunday, December 23rd. Participants will meet at Pastor Schalm's at 5:00 p.m. to carpool. Tickets are \$16.00.

Hurricane Relief Mission Trip to Depart December 29th

A team of young adults will be departing for Volusia County Florida on December 29th to partake in a week-long mission trip to provide aid for those affected by the numerous hurricanes that have struck that area over the last several years. Partnering with the

UCC wider mission, the group has been assigned a house that was destroyed by one of these natural disasters. Those participating are current or recently graduated college students and/or young working adults. If you would like to help sponsor one of these young people you can do so by purchasing stock at the Kiosk during coffee hour. The current team of 10 seeks your prayers for safe travels and a productive and impactful week.

Winter Family Fun Night... this much loved event is hosted by Rock Hard in Faith and will be held on January 11th from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. throughout the church. Youth should plan to arrive by 5:30 p.m. to help set-up.

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.

Spotlight on the Family

The December Spotlight shines brightly upon the Dykowski family: John (dad), Heather (mom), Drew, Hayley and Drake. This wonderful and devoted University of Michigan family is the owner of a dog named, Champ. Some favored activities of the family include swimming, bike riding, and camping. Their most favored traditions include family holidays and birthdays.

The Dykowski family has enjoyed trips to Cedar Point, Camping and NASCAR races. Their favored family values are that of kindness, honesty and helping others. Please take the time to introduce yourself to this wonderful family!

EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

'Advent of the Unexpected' Festival of Lessons & Carols

St. Paul Church members and friends are invited to join in the great carols of the season as our congregation gathers for the first Sunday of Advent, December 2, 9 and 10:30 a.m., to share in a re-telling of births of both John the Baptist and Jesus, which revealed God's new plan for humankind. Plan on lots of joyous singing as we also listen to the word of the gospel according to both Matthew and Luke which share the most details about the early lives of both John and Jesus.

All church members are invited to wear blue for morning services—the official color for the Advent season, prized for its association with both heavenly skies and spirituality.

The morning service will conclude with pew communion open to all baptized Christians of adult age or who have already been confirmed in faith.

'Blue Christmas' Service Cherishes Loved Ones on Thursday December 6th

Church members and friends who have lost loved ones over the past year or more and are experiencing Christmas the first or second time without a loved one are invited to attend a special "Blue Christmas" program and worship service on Thursday, December

6, 7 p.m. We will initially gather in the church parlor and then join for a time of very special worship in the chancel of the St. Paul sanctuary.

Participants are encouraged to bring a photo of their loved one with them that night to place on the altar. The "Blue Christmas" Service will be led by Pastor Geoff Drutchas. For more information, contact the church office (313-291-1221)

Sunday School Children Continue their Hat & Glove Drive Through December 10th

The Sunday School children will be collecting hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, socks and undergarments for children and families in need. All items can be dropped off upstairs and/or placed in the gigantic stocking located at the bottom of the stairs. All items will be donated to the Salvation Army on December 10th for their annual "Families in Need Christmas Store." If you have any questions please contact Pastor Schalm.

Be an Angel This Holiday Season To A Child in Need, through December 10th

Christian Education is pleased to give all interested members the opportunity to be an "Angel" to a child in need this holiday season. An Angel Tree adorned with angel ornaments identifying the gender and age of a child in need will be placed in the Fellowship Hall by November 25th. Anyone interested in purchasing a gift for a child in need this holiday season should simply pull an ornament, log the number on the sheet located on the table, and return the gift unwrapped with the ornament taped to it by December 10th. All donated gifts will be delivered to the Salvation Army on Monday, December 10th. If you have any questions regarding this outreach please contact Pastor Cheryl Schalm.

Single Service Schedule Begins on Third Advent Sunday December 16

As the Advent season gets underway and we ready ourselves for Christmas with special services planned our St. Paul congregation will be shifting to a single service schedule at 10 a.m., beginning Sunday, December 16. That's the morning of our Children's Pageant in Fellowship Hall. The single service schedule will continue with Sunday morning services on December 23 and 30 and also January 6 and 13. Our congregation will resume a double service schedule on January 20, 9 and 10:30.

To check on the Sunday morning service schedule, call the church office (313-291-1221). The church's voice mail recording will maintain an updated service schedule.

'THE NIGHT CHRIST WAS BORN' to be Performed on December 16

The "2018" Sunday School Christmas pageant will be held on Sunday, December 16th in the Fellowship Hall as part of the single 10:00 a.m. worship service. Following the pageant a special luncheon will be hosted by the Christian Education Ministry. All are encouraged to attend. Parents should plan to bring their cameras and children should bring their wish list as we anticipate a special visit from Santa.

Parents, please mark your planners as a special dress and all cast rehearsal will be held on Saturday, December 15th from 10:00 a.m. – noon. All cast members should refer to their rehearsal schedules for additional rehearsal dates.

Taylor Community Chorus Hosts 'Songs of Peace' Christmas Concert

Our church will be welcoming the thirty voices of Taylor Community Chorus to Fellowship Hall as they join in offering seasonal "Songs of Peace" for their annual Christmas concert on Sunday, December 16, 4 p.m. The Chorus has close ties to our own congregation. Nearly a dozen members of the chorus are St. Paul members. Also, the Taylor Community Chorus is directed by St. Paul Music Director Tracy Hoffman.

Tickets for the "Songs of Peace" concert are \$8 for adults 18 and older, \$5 for children 6-17, and free for kids 5 and younger. Refreshments, including a wide array of cookies, will be served at intermission, adding to the festiveness of the concert gathering in a beautifully decorated Fellowship Hall.

Caregivers Plan Pre-Christmas Meeting

The St. Paul Caregivers Group will meet on Monday, December 17. Besides sharing recent caregiving experiences we will be talking about our Christmas plans with those for whom we provide care. Led by Pastor Geoff Drutchas and Parish Nurse Kathy Williams, the group meets in the church parlor at 7:30 p.m.

Born a Savior Born a King Sunday, December 23, 2018.

Under the direction of Tracy Hoffman, the St. Paul Chancel Choir will perform the cantata "**Born a Savior, Born a King**". As the prophets had long promised, the time had finally come for the advent of Jesus, the Son of God. But could this child, born in such a humble surroundings, truly be the promised Savior and King? Where were the trumpets and fanfare announcing the Mighty One who would vanquish the enemy and deliver God's people? Could the prophecy be fulfilled with the promise of love and everlasting peace? No armies? No generals? No golden carriage?

Plentifully supplied with original melodies that often meld with familiar carols, both the confusion and excitement of that first Christmas is fully explored in song and word, once again uplifting the familiar story that rests in our hearts and minds today.

Come to this worship service on December 23 and experience this beautiful cantata, along with narration, that expresses the true meaning of Christmas.

'With Bells, Drums, and Voices Glad' - Christmas Eve Services Celebrated

St. Paul Church members and friends are invited to a joyous Christmas celebration with "Bell, Drums, and Voices Glad" as we gather together in our historic and beautifully decorated sanctuary to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Candlelight services will be held on Christmas Eve December 24 at 7 and 11 p.m. It's a great time and place to share the true spirit of Christmas with family and friends..

Pastors Geoffrey Drutchas and Cheryl Schalm will lead worship that sacred night. As the Advent candles are reignited and a Christ Candle is lit to the accompaniment of choral affirmations, the story of Jesus' birth will be retold. Also for kids and kids at heart, the story of the Little Drummer Boy will also be shared. Our church's Noel Ensemble (7 p.m.) and the full Chancel Choir (11 p.m.) will provide music for the night, as well as lead our congregation in a medley of Christmas carols. Worship at both services will culminate in the sacrament of Holy Communion and a congregational singing of both "Silent Night" and the Lord's Prayer in candlelight.

Our St. Paul congregation observes an "open communion," which means that all guests and visitors of adult age or confirmed in faith are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper.

Although no child care attendant will be on hand that night, families are encouraged as needed to make use of the convenient and accessible Family Room off the narthex which offers a wide-angle video screen so parents can follow the service in any time away from the sanctuary. The adjoining lavatory has a changing table. Christmas packets for children, including crayons and coloring books, can be picked up in the narthex prior to the start of services. Also, battery-lit candles are available for young people under the age of ten for the candle-lighting time during the singing of "Silent Night." Please let an usher know if you have any additional need.

Youth Prepare to Host "WINTER FAMILY FUN NIGHT" On Friday, January 11th

On January 11th members of Rock Hard in Faith Youth Fellowship will be hosting their annual Family Fun Night. This free and fun family event will be held from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. and is open to all church members, family and friends. In addition to music, an indoor moonwalk, crafts, games, cookie decorating, hat decorating, s'more making, a coffee café featuring minimally priced flavored coffees, hot chocolate, pizza, nachos and a snow cone machine will be set-up in the Westroom. This night is packed with so much fun that you will not want to miss it. This event will replace the Holiday Family Fun night. We hope to see you there!

Annual Congregational Meeting Scheduled for January 13, 2019

The annual meeting of the St. Paul congregation will be held on Sunday, January 13, 2019. 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 2019 budget will be sent to all church members in mid-December accompanied by a letter from the President-elect Pam Lange.

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

To prepare for the annual meeting all church organizations should complete reports and submit them no later than December 16, 2018.

Sewing Guild "Sew 'n Sews" to meet January 17, 2019

Come and join us at 10:00 a.m. on January 17th in the West Room. No sewing skills necessary. Bring a sandwich, dessert and beverages are provided. Wonderful fun and fellowship. For more information please contact Sharon Leonard or Janet Staffeld. Instead of gathering in December, we will be joining Women's Fellowship and Dorcas Society for a Christmas Luncheon, Wednesday, December 12th at 12:30 p.m. The Luncheon is at Woodside Meadows Golf Course Restaurant, 20820 Inkster Rd., Romulus. Please R.S.V.P. to Thelma Poet by Sunday, December 9th. All ladies are welcome.

Red Hot Purple Angels January Meeting

January 24, at 7:00 p.m. is our planning meeting for 2019. Bring your ideas. If you are unable to attend call Kathy or Sally with your ideas before the meeting.

"Souperbowl Sunday" coming: Soups Needed - January 27, 2019

The sixth annual "Souperbowl Sunday" will be held on Sunday, January 27, 2019, in Fellowship Hall, 11:30 am -1:00 pm. Church members and friends will have the opportunity to enjoy a wide array of 20-25 different home-made soups along with crackers and condiments. Donations for the event are \$7 per person at the door or you can purchase tickets in advance at the KIOSK table during Fellowship Hour or by calling the Church office at [313-291-1221](tel:313-291-1221) beginning in January. Those participating receive a carrier or tray to take with them to the many soup stations as they sample the full variety offered. The event is being organized by the Building and Grounds Ministry. All proceeds will benefit improvements to our church facilities.

Church members are invited to contribute their culinary talents to the occasion by preparing a soup to be featured. Those interested in hosting a soup station are asked to speak with event coordinator Jim Poet (734-718-3137). Mark your calendars now for the last Sunday in January so that you don't miss out on a fun and tasty afternoon.

Blood Drive Donors Needed for January 29

It is important to sign up ahead of time. There needs to be 59 days between donations. Please make an appointment by contacting Parish Nurse, Kathy Williams, or complete a Make-a-Wish card and place it in the offering plate. You can make appointments for/at your own convenience through the Internet. Visit www.redcrossblood.org click on the blue box on the left side of the page that says, 'Enter a Sponsor Code', under 'Find a blood drive near you.' Type in StPaulTaylor (no spaces). You will then be directed to the next page listing our blood drive. Click on the last column to sign up. You will need to register & obtain a password. IDs & passwords are case sensitive. You can also download to your phone or print out a Rapid Pass the day of the drive prior to coming to the drive. You can read the educational materials & complete the health history online to save some time at the blood drive. If you have questions about eligibility you can look at eligibility requirements on www.redcrossblood.org or contact the Red Cross blood donation center at 866-236-3276. Hours for the blood drive will be from 1:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Scrapbook Crop - February 2

Mark your calendars for our Annual Scrapbook Crop on Sat. Feb. 2, from 9 AM- 7 PM. The cost is \$40. This includes your cropping space, three meals, as well as snacks and beverages all day. There will be vendors, make and takes, demos, and raffles. Even if you do not want to scrapbook, there will be something for everyone as you shop with our vendors. If you are a vendor, or know of a vendor, and they might be interested, please let me know. We will be needing raffle and door prizes, as well as people to help that day. This is a big fundraiser for BOF and the Christian Education Ministries. Please contact Debbie Case at [734-941-1228](tel:734-941-1228) or email debbiescase@aol.com if you want more information.

St. Paul Twelfth Annual Wild Game Dinner - February 7

The St. Paul Building and Grounds Ministry will be hosting its 12th Annual Wild Game Dinner on Thursday, February 7, 2019. Doors 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. Hors d'oeuvre items for the night will include wild chicken chili,

turtle soup, salmon dip, sausage, cheese and crackers and fresh fruit. Entree items will include venison meatballs, Mexican venison lasagna, buffalo-carved, buffalo stir fry, BBQ wild boar, wild boar sausage w/green pepper and onions, along with potatoes and gravy and of course dessert. Tickets are \$30/each and can be purchased at the KIOSK table during Coffee Hour, or by calling the Church office at [313-291-1221](tel:313-291-1221) or by calling James Poet, Gary Staffeld, John Smith, Candace Poet or Dan Case. This is always a **sell out event** so get your tickets early. We are also looking for donations of wild game food and any items that can be used for the raffles or door prizes.

HEALTH MINISTRIES

Exercise Classes Continue in December

Exercise is important to our health. Classes are scheduled on Mondays and Wednesdays at 2 PM in the West Room. We will meet December 3, 5, 10, 17 and 19. Classes begin again January 14. Delessa is our instructor. She is a wonderful trainer with a Christian philosophy. Participants have noticed increased in strength and balance. A donation of \$3-5 is suggested for each day class attended. All are invited.

TOPS, - (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Meets Weekly

TOPS is a nonprofit and noncommercial weight loss support group St Paul is hosting the TOPS Chapter 9744, Taylor. Meetings are held on Monday nights with weigh in starting at 6:00 p.m. Meetings start at 6:30 p.m. and end at approximately 7:15 p.m., in the West Room. There is no cost for the first meeting attended. Contact Kathy Williams for more information.

Adult Shingles and TDAP Immunizations

The Shingles immunization changed in 2017. The current recommendation is to have a two-dose series, given 6 months apart, to protect adults over 50. This is even recommended for those that have had the previous one dose shot given before 2017. This can be an expensive vaccination. To find out if your insurance covers the immunization call your **insurance company to see what your co-pay will be**. The pharmacy you choose to get the immunization at will not be able to clarify what your total co-pay will be, but your insurance company will be able to clarify your cost. The TDAP vaccination is the adult version of diphtheria, tetanus (lockjaw), and pertussis (whooping cough). Years ago, the pertussis vaccine was not given to adults. It was found that adults were getting or carrying pertussis exposing other persons. It is advised to get a booster every 10 years. Often adults don't get boosters unless they are traveling out of the country or need a tetanus shot for an injury. The Hepatitis A vaccine is still recommended.

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

Church is Beautifully Decorated for Christmas Season

An Angel Tree and nativity scene decorate our sanctuary. So does a shining star, a Wise Man banner, and ropes of lighted greenery. But the sights of Christmas at St. Paul Church don't stop there. Instead, they can be enjoyed from our lobbies to our fellowship hall and everywhere in between. Our church groups have gone all out to "deck the hall" so that there's no mistaking that one of the most important times of the year for us as Christians has come and is coming. If you haven't already seen the splendor, come and enjoy on the Sundays and weekdays ahead.

Your Advent and Christmas Season Gifts Are Important

In the weeks of Advent ahead you may notice church members wearing bright "Gifts We Bring" lapel buttons. They are meant as a simple reminder that the gifts we each bring to the church in the remaining weeks of this year are important, supporting our ministry together on behalf of Jesus Christ and ensuring that there is no budget shortfall at year's end. Please give consideration to a special contribution to our church's "Heat & Energy" fund that helps keep the lights on and the church warm!

In this season when we remember God's gift of salvation revealed in the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem, as well the gifts that the Wise Men presented to him at the Bethlehem manger, may we give and share as best we are able to our church as the living body of Christ.

Poinsettias Honor and Commemorate Family and Friends

In keeping with custom our sanctuary 'Angel Tree' will be banked with fresh poinsettias honoring and commemorating loved one and friends. You can purchase a poinsettia to include in the Christmas Eve floral array. The names of those whom you wish to honor or remember will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

To reserve a poinsettia, simply use one of the white envelope pews, include your \$8 contribution, mark the envelope "Poinsettias," and indicate whom you would like to commemorate. The envelope can be added to the Sunday morning offering plate or returned to the church office. All poinsettias request need to be received no later than Monday morning, December 17.

The Christmas Fund Offering sponsored by the UCC Pension Boards Ministerial Assistance Program for Retired UCC Clergy and Lay Persons will be received any Sunday in December.

The theme for the 2018 Christmas Fund Offering is "The Light Is Surely Coming". For over 100 years, the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross, which is one of four Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ, has been a way in which we, as members of the United Church of Christ reflect the light of Jesus Christ in the lives of the many women and men who have so faithfully and selflessly served our God. In many instances these servants now find themselves facing unforeseen financial crises.

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. The funds do not support programs or institutions, but people. In the past years, "Thank You" gift checks were provided to over 500 retired clergy and lay employees. With your

continued generosity, more individuals 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 or lay person, and how important those experiences were for you. Your contributions do make a difference in the lives of many!

You will find a Veterans of the Cross Christmas envelope included in this Tidings and also in the Sanctuary pews. Please contribute prayerfully and as generously as you are able, to those who have served God so faithfully. On behalf of the Stewardship of St. Paul, God Bless you, Merry Christmas, and Thank you.

Electronic Signage is Coming!

In the new year ahead St. Paul Church will be sporting new electronic signage to alert Goddard Road travelers to coming attractions hosted by our congregation. It's all thanks to generous donor Bob Harry and efforts of our trustees and Building & Grounds Committee who committed themselves this past fall to update our existing sign to make easier to post event notices with equipment more more likely to attract viewers. The new signage will be compatible with what many other area churches have already installed.

Plans for the new signage have been submitted to the City of Taylor. As part of the project electric wiring will have to be extended from the church to the signs roadside location. St. Paul Trustees and the Building & Grounds Committee hope to see the project finished by March 2019. In the meantime, the existing sign will be used for postings.

At a recent worship service, Pastor Geoff Drutchas thanked St. Paul Dan Evison for his long years of service to our congregation posting announcements and messages on the outdoor sign in all seasons and weather conditions, whether hot, wet, steamy, or freezing. The new signage system will allow our congregation to post messages from the comfort of the church office and computer.

New St. Paul Website

The St. Paul Website has migrated to a new and more secure SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) Certified site. The new SSL certification ensures a connection that is highly secure and shows our website's visitors that we take their privacy very seriously. Note, when you begin viewing the new site you will see (<https://stpaulucctaylor.org>) in your browser's address bar. Improvements will include total compatibility with all mobile phone devices, making it more convenient to use on this widely used method of surfing the web. At St. Paul, we are committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all viewing our website and social media platforms. If you have questions, please see any member of the IT Ministry.

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

As St. Paul begins to prepare for our 2019 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. Automating your financial commitments means your contributions will be received on a steady, uninterrupted basis.

To set up a recurring giving schedule, visit our secure online website at <https://.stpaulucctaylor.org>, locate the "Online Giving" tab and set up your recurring giving schedule. The first time you give, you will select a password that will enable you to log in at any time and make changes to your giving or view your complete online giving history. St. Paul also offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smartphone. If you need additional assistance or have questions, please contact Gary Peters, our Treasurer or Dan Case, Auxiliary Trustee.

Candidates Sought for Church Council

Nominations are invited for several St. Paul Church Council positions as our congregation looks to its annual meeting and election on January 13, 2018. Council positions open for nomination include second vice president, secretary, elder, deacon, and trustee. All positions are for three year terms. The nominee elected for second vice president thereafter serves as first vice president during the second year and as Council president during a third and final year of office. All Council members attend monthly meetings on the second Tuesdays of every month. Any church member interested in being nominated should contact the church office or speak with Church trustees Dave Badarak, John Smith, or Michael Isaacs.

Church Security Planning Underway

In the face of recent violence in places of worship across America, a Safety and Security group has been meeting periodically to consider ways that we can enhance overall security at St. Paul Church. The group sponsored a security seminar last summer which attracted 39 participants from our church and the wider community. There is now a volunteer team designated to develop recommendations for our St. Paul Church Council and congregation. They will be getting to work in the new year.

As an interim security measure, the St. Paul Church Council at its November meeting voted to have the deacons close and lock the front doors of the church ten minutes after the start of each worship service. This follows the recommendations of professional church security analysts who have noted that most intrusions have occurred after worship services have gotten underway.

Anyone interested in joining and contributing to the church security study team are encouraged to contact the church office (313-291-1221).

2019 Membership Directory

The 2019 Membership Directory is scheduled for publication around March 29, 2019 , if you have moved, added a new family member or changed your phone number please notify the Church Office at (313) 291-1221. If you don't want your cell phone number listed in the directory, you will also need to notify us in advance. Your help in keeping our data up-to-date will make for a more accurate 2019 Membership Directory. Thanks in advance for your support, Dan Case.

New Door Closers have been installed in all the downstairs bathrooms as required by the Health Department. We are in the process of adjusting the closers for ease of opening and closing timing. Please knock before entering.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Santa's Magic Forest Needs Volunteers for St. Paul Day December 8th

It's going to be "St. Paul Day" at Santa's Magic Forest in Taylor Heritage Park on Saturday, December 8, 12-8 p.m. and volunteers from our church are needed to welcome visitors to the Downrivers finest holiday display. In lending a hand, our volunteers will also be helping raise funds for the Fish & Loaves Food Pantry which is Michigan's largest food pantry.

Santa's Magic Forest will open its doors this year on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 24th, at 3 p.m., just in time to welcome Santa at the head of city-wide parade through Heritage Park at 4 p.m.

The "Magic Forest" holiday display, which includes two dozen charming Christmas scenes with moving animatrons, will continue to welcome visitors through Sunday, December 23. Children have an opportunity to visit Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Magic Forest. It's a beautiful time for kids, parents, and volunteers.

There is a small \$3 admission charge to the Magic Forest which directly benefits the Fish & Loaves Pantry in its ongoing mission, providing food assistance to thousands of Downriver families throughout the year. Photos with Santa are also available at \$8. All fees are cash only. No credit cards accepted.

All volunteer stints for St. Paul Day at the Magic Forest are two hours. To volunteer, complete a Make-A-Wish card on Sunday mornings and add it to the offering plate, or contact the church office (313-291-1221).

Lectors Needed for Sunday Morning Services

Scripture readers 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 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.

Ushers Needed for Sunday Morning Services

Visit our new Usher Sign-up board located in the Narthex of the Church. Being an usher is as easy as signing your name to the board, you can sign up for only one 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.

Altar Guild has opportunities for volunteers to maintain (fill) the altar candles weekly and to ensure the paraments (cloths on the lectern and pulpit) are changed accordingly. There are no meetings to attend. All materials and training are provided at your convenience. For more information please contact Arlene Felske or Sue Mrowka.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Facility Improvement Fund

In Memory of: *Mary Prill* From: Bill & Sandy McGahey

In Memory of: *Lisa Wild* From: Thelma Poet

Memorial Fund

In Memory of: *Lois Frank* From: Irene Stoner, Ken & Darlene Fritz, Loretta Denbo
LaRiene Sjo, Tom & Mary Colasinski, Links West
Neighbors, Larry & Lucy Fritz

In Memory of: *Lisa Wild* From: Eugene & Joan Homeister, Gary & Kathy Peters
Shirley Koths, Karen Kulp

In Memory of: *Vernagene Schafer* From: Shirley Kruger, Dave & Dawn Wendzel,
Irene Jedele, Doug & Marie Bowker, Herb &
Laura Kiefer, Harold & Jean Schafer, Ray &
Ilene Fleszar, Ron & Henrietta Hinzmann

Missions

In Memory of: *Sara Kauffman* From: Andy & Karen Emler

In Memory of: *Lisa Wild* From: Karen & Andy Emler

BOF Memorial Fund

In Memory of: *Vernagene Schafer* From: Mary Reichard, Roger & Joanne Jedele,
Tom & Diane Elwart, Veronica Bohannon,
Wayne & Elaine Skalnican

Organ Fund

In Memory of: *Lois Frank* From: Murl & Judy Nieman

Music Growth Fund

In Memory of: *Lisa Wild* From: Diana Branchick

Kitchen Fund

In Memory of: *Lisa Wild* From: Gary & Pat Staffeld, Laura Kiefer

Health Ministries Fund

In Memory of: *Lisa Wild* From: Velma McGee, Tracy & Sue Spears

Generational Endowment Fund

In Memory of: *Lisa Wild* From: Miles & Irene Church

General Fund

In Memory of: *Leona Summitt* From: Irene Hubbard

Tree of Faith Leaf

In Memory of: *Ken & Vernagene Schafer* From: Friends & Family

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Thank You to the November Merry Mailers: Marjie Barnard, Beverly Sitz, and Barbara Schultz.

A Big 'THANK YOU' you everyone who contributed sweat labor for our annual Spaghetti Dinner: Girl Scouts, Toni Hill, Helen St. Louis, Rosemarie Laslo, Harold Fick, Barb Schultz, Sally Sigmund, Kathy Williams, Charlie Barnard, Marjie Barnard, John

Smith, Al Gunther, Dave Lange, Dan Case, Zach Defoe, Andrew Caruso, Sue Mrowka, Patricia Olson, Sheri Herkimer, Gary Peters, Mark Ennis, Pastor Schalm and Rev. Geoff. I would also like to thank all everyone who bought tickets and told friends, family and neighbors. Everyone working together made it a huge success! 1st V. P., Pam Lange.

A special THANK YOU to the St. Paul Women's Fellowship for their generous donation to repair the St. Paul boiler. Although the boiler is supplemental heat in some areas of our facility it is still the primary heat source in many areas of our facility. St. Paul Building and Grounds Ministry

Thank you to the following people who helped to set-up the Christmas Trees in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall and remove all of the decorations from the Bell Tower: James Poet, Diant Poet, John Smith, Michael Isaacs, Julius Enesey, Charlie Barnard and Dan Case. St. Paul Building and Grounds Ministry

Welcomed into Church Membership Ruth Board, Clifford Board, and Neil McEachern October 28, 2018. Please extend a warm welcome to our newest members.

United in Marriage Gerald Fargo wed Kristine Fargo Tuesday, November 6, 2018. Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas officiated.

Love and Deepest Sympathy to Linda, Tom, family, and friends of Will Tank who passed away November 5, 2018 at the age of 74 years. Funeral service was November 10, 2018. Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas officiated. Arrangements by Howe-Peterson Funeral Home, Taylor Chapel. And to the family & friends of Virginia "Ginnie" Butzlaff who passed away November 24, 2018 at the age of 72 years. Visitation is Saturday, December 1, 2018, 2:00-3:00 p.m. at St. Paul UCC, Taylor. Memorial service is 3:00 p.m. at St. Paul. Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas to officiate. Arrangements by Martenson Family of Funeral Homes, Allen Park Chapel.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR

Members & Friends: Susan Bennett, Gunter Berndl, Sherrill Berndl, Marion Bolen, Margo Charette, April Clark, Steve Clark, Charlie Duncan, Phill Felske, Joan Foley, Oren Forsyth, Harry Gardner, Bob Harry, Shirley Havenstein, Eileen Herkimer, Doris Hilliker (Beaumont, Southshore Hospital), Mark Kenosian, John King, Rev. Bill Kren, Emma May, Jacob May, Judy Nieman, Murl Nieman, Shirlen Powell, Walter Ray, Sue Spears, Kevin Staffeld, Brenda Tank, Bert Thompson, Grace Torango, and Carol Wioncek.

Extended Family: DeAnna Alderman (daughter, Brenda Tank), Rebecca Havenstein Coughlin (daughter, Shirley Havenstein), Dianne Fazzio (sister, Pam Lange), Allison Files (granddaughter, John & Barb Smith), Dan Fisk (son, Brenda Tank), Gabriella Gomez (niece, Darlene Babin), Robert Grigg (friend, Schalm family), Kevin Johnson (grandson, Patricia Olson) Richard Jones, Justin Kurtz (friend, Chelsey Schalm Eisenga), Joanne LeFleur (daughter, Helene & Neil McEachern), Jennifer & Tammy Lee (granddaughter & daughter, Barb Siemers), Courtney Matthew McEachern, Kim McEachern (daughters-in-law, Helene & Neil McEachern), Jeff Natzke (nephew Michael Natzke), Helen Osborne (sister, Esther Perry), Judy Robin (aunt, Lucinda Chavez), Brenda Roll

(friend, Helen St. Louis), Trudy Clark-Schiller (daughter, April & Steve Clark), Nicholas Surre (great-grandson, Helene McEachern), Victoria Witcher (daughter, Cheryl Stewart), and Brad Zabik.

Congregations' Parents: Michael Bailey (father of Christie Smart), Robert Brainard (father, Ed Brainard), Jan Filpus (mother of Julia-Joy Miller), 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; Danielle Gardner - Maples The, Benzie County Medical Center, 210 Maple Ave., Frankfort, Mi 49635; John Montgomery - Hospice - Glacier Hills, 1200 Earhart Rd., Ann Arbor, 48105; Eleanor Rossi - *Maple Heights*, 4600 Allen Rd, Room 415, Allen Park, MI 48101); Betty Steinhauer, Grace Trango -*Rivergate Health Center*, 14041 Pennsylvania Rd., Riverview, 48193; Melissa Rossi -17652 Colgate, Dearborn Heights, 48125.

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

ENDOWMENT AND ASSET DEPRECIATION FUND		
<i>Change in Account Value</i>	3Q ENDING 2018	YEAR-TO-DATE 2018
Beginning Value	\$154,815.35	\$142,697.38
Deposits/Withdrawals	\$450	\$7,432.00
Income	\$173.84	\$2,035.17
Fees, Expenses	\$0	(\$1,511.75)
Change in Investment	(\$458.84)	\$4,327.55
Ending Value	\$154,980.35	\$154,980.35
%Gain/Loss	-0.30%	3.03%

<i>Change in Account Value</i>	December 2017 Ending	Year-to-Date 2018
<i>Endowment - Capital Appreciation= Endowment Value</i>		
Ending Value Endowment Account	\$142,697.38	\$154,980.35
Asset Depreciation Fund Balance	\$34,316.87	\$36,352.04
Adjusted Endowment Account Value	\$108,380.51	\$118,628.31

What's Ahead this Advent and Christmas...

Sunday, December 2... 'Advent of the Unexpected' Festival of Lessons & Carols, First Sunday of Advent, 9 and 10:30 a.m.

Opening the four week season of Advent leading up to Christmas Eve, our Festival of Lessons & Carols shares the stories of two mothers, Elizabeth and Mary, who gave birth to Christianity's greatest prophet and the world's Savior. Our 9 and 10:30 a.m. services are full of favorite Christmas carols and finish with the sacrament of communion. Come share the sacrament, the wonderful carols of the season, and the prophecy and promises of Holy Scripture in a beautifully decorated sanctuary, readied for Advent and Christmas. Help mark the start of Advent by wearing something blue!

Sunday, December 2... Advent by Candlelight, 5:45 p.m.

Women's gathering focused on the true spirit of the Advent and Christmas. To share in a beautiful night, contact Deb Case.

Tuesday, December 4... Red Hot Purple Angels Christmas Gathering, 6:30 p.m.

Our Red Hats chapter meets at Lakes of Taylor on Northline Road, east of Beech-Daly.

Thursday, December 6... 'Blue Christmas' Service, 7 p.m.

A special gathering to remember loved ones at holiday time. We meet in the church parlor for sharing; then gather in the sanctuary for candles of remembrance, prayer, and a celebration of our faith.

Saturday, December 8... 'St. Paul Day' at Santa's Magic Forest, 1-8 p.m.

Our church volunteers welcome visitors to the Downrivers finest holiday display at the Heritage Park Activity Building in Taylor. Volunteers are needed. Call the church office (313-291-1221) to help.

Wednesday, December 12... Women's Christmas Luncheon, 12:30 p.m.

The Women's Fellowship, the Sew n' Sews Sewing Guild, and the Dorcas Society join for a festive Christmas lunch at Woodside Meadows at Inkster and King Roads. RSVP with Thelma Poet - 313-291-1221.

Sunday, December 16... 'Songs of Peace' Taylor Community Chorus Concert, 4 p.m., St. Paul Fellowship Hall

Under the baton of St. Paul Music Director Tracy Hoffman and with the voices of many of our own church members, the Taylor Community Chorus presents its annual Christmas Concert: "Songs of Peace." This year the concert is closer than ever to home, hosted in the St. Paul Fellowship Hall. Admission: \$8 donation

Sunday, December 16... 'The Night Christ was Born' Children's Pageant, 10 a.m.

Our church school children perform a Christmas play on Fellowship Hall stage for the entire congregation which reminds us that "Jesus is the reason for the season." A light lunch follows - basket donations welcome.

Sunday, December 23... 'Born a Savior, Born a King' Christmas Cantata, 10 a.m.

Our St. Paul Chancel and Children's Choirs offer a beautiful Christmas cantata featuring both contemporary anthems and traditional carols honoring our Savior's birth. Come and enjoy a wonderful morning of song intended to stir hearts and prepare us anew to welcome the Christ Child.

Monday, December 24... Christmas Eve 'Bells, Drums, and Voices Glad' Candlelight Services, 7 and 11 p.m.

Honoring Christ's birth with traditional candlelight services that culminate with open communion and the singing "Silent Night" and the Lord's Prayer. Everybody's welcome and invited!

Sunday, December 30... 'Get Ready for New Year's' Service, 10 a.m.

Pastor Geoff Drutchas leads the morning service dedicated to saying goodbye to our old year and welcoming the new year with special consideration to what we may want to do differently. A fellowship period follows with church members invited to bring holiday desserts to share.