

# TIDINGS

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. Geoffrey G. Drutchas

Minister of Christian Education - Pastor Cheryl Schalm

**July 2020**

## **PASTOR'S PEACE**

For the past three Sundays our church has resumed sanctuary services—successfully. Attended by about three dozen members each week, our “pilot” services have not been without precautions. In fact, the congregation and its leadership have taken seriously everything recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). That includes masking; social distancing in our coming and going, as well as while seated in the pews; a shorter service; no singing; limiting current building usage to the sanctuary and narthex; and maximum ventilation. Our sanctuary windows have been wide open with the air conditioning and fans on. Although we all wish that everything could be as it once was (and hope it can be in times ahead), it has still been good to gather in the sanctuary for worship even as we continue to livestream services on Facebook.

Our Council officers and our Worship Planning Team met this past week. Based on our very positive experience with our pilot services there has been a decision to continue just as we have been. We recognize that not everyone may be comfortable sitting in the pews. Indeed, public health officials have warned that anyone with an underlying medical condition, especially if they’re over age 65, should be very careful about mingling in any larger groups or crowds, minimizing social contact. As things “open up” a little all across Michigan, that advice still stands. However, those who can be physically present on Sunday mornings are witnessing to our endurance as a genuine face-to-face community on another level beyond what is possible through Facebook online. Every single person present on Sunday mornings is representing those faithful men and women of our congregation who can’t be.

For the coming weeks, it will no longer be necessary to call several days ahead in order to reserve a pew. We now have an experienced greeting team to welcome you. Our sanctuary can safely accommodate at least forty worshippers with appropriate social distancing. But one of the deacons or greeters will be noting your arrival and asking your name if they aren’t already familiar with you. In case of any viral flare for our congregation, we want to make sure that everyone can be personally contacted and informed in a timely way. Although we can’t foresee any problems, it’s important for us to anticipate any possible problems and do our best to mitigate or minimize them.

Whenever folks enter most buildings today, they are asked more than half-dozen, now-standard questions: (1) Do you have a fever? (2) Do you have a cough? (3) Do you

have shortness of breath? (4) Do you have a sore throat? (5) Do you have diarrhea? (6) Have you traveled? (if so, when and where?) and (7) Have you been in contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days? If the answer is “yes” to any of these screening questions, individuals are asked to self-isolate or quarantine at home for (a) a minimum of 7 days since symptoms first appeared and 3 days after symptoms have ceased; (b) 14 days following close contact with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19; and (c) 14 days following domestic or international travel.

For Sunday services we are not calling upon anyone to sign a paper verifying an absence of illness, a lack of exposure to COVID-19, or no recent travel. But as a part of our ongoing church covenant with each other that makes us mutually protective in the loving spirit of Jesus Christ, these are the question-based guidelines that we all need to honor and uphold without being asked. I trust that we will each fully honor and uphold them because of who we are as partners in ministry together here at St. Paul United Church of Christ.

As the nation’s health crisis has unfolded, we have all had to be adaptable and flexible. Every week is different: we often don’t exactly know what the next day will bring. Personally, I have been learning anew the power of now and, amid any plans I still make, the importance of taking life day by day. What helps me through it all is the confidence that God remains near to all who call upon him and each day he is seeking to bless us. May we all trust God’s love and look for his daily blessing.

~ *Shalom, Pastor Geoffrey Drutchas*

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EDITORIAL**

***“God does not see the same way people see. People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart.”***

***~ 1 Samuel 16:7***

Some of the simplest and healthiest means of helping us to understand God’s message come through the teachings of talking vegetables. Take for instance the explanation of God’s message offered by Bob the Tomato, a kid’s Veggie Tales favorite!

“Other people see us from the outside, and they may judge us based on the way we look. But God looks at things differently. Why? because He cares about who we are on the inside - God sees our heart.

That does not mean that we should not try to look our best. After all, our bodies serve as the temple that houses the Spirit of God. But we should not let what we look like, or what others look like on the outside determine how we think about ourselves or others. God made each of us special, and there is no one else in the whole world just like us! We should not compare ourselves to others or worry about how we look. God thinks we are wonderful just the way He made us!”

Let us rejoice and take delight in all the different ways God made people. Most importantly, let us always remember that God is more concerned with our heart and character than He is our hair, eye or skin color. Our concern and efforts should always be on what He gave us control over and not on what He gave us no choice in.

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

## **Christian Education News and Events**

### **Virtual Vacation Bible School**

"*Breaking Free*," will be the theme of the "2020" virtual Vacation Bible School program. While VBS will look a lot different this year as we will not be gathering together, a program will still be offered. Packets to include: color materials, craft and activity projects, songs, and snack ideas will be prepared and available for pick up from the church on July 13. The materials will serve to accompany the VBS Zoom lessons offered each day July 20<sup>th</sup> – July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

In addition to a daily story/message, Choir Director, Tracy Hoffman will be leading a song each night; special speakers to include, a college basketball player, a professional soccer player and an athletic trainer will join our Zoom lessons to speak to the importance of disappointment & faith, Hope despite set-backs and patience and perseverance in recovery. In addition, they will be sharing some pointers on playing their sport. Lastly, Ms. Sheri and Ms Case will join one of our Zoom meetings to share a special craft and snack idea.

All families interested in participating should contact Pastor Schalm by July 6<sup>th</sup>. The VBS Zoom lessons will be offered at 7:00 p.m. each day during the week of VBS. Packets will be made for only those who confirm their participation. To confirm your participation please email Pastor Schalm at [cschalm@stpauluctaylor.org](mailto:cschalm@stpauluctaylor.org) or text/call her at 734.255.0935.

### **Church Picnic Children's Activities**

Because of social distancing requirements, the traditional children's games and petting farm will not take place this year during the all-church picnic. Instead of group activities; bubbles, sidewalk chalk and jump ropes will be made available for children to utilize while they tailgate with their parents. Please contact Pastor Schalm by July 19<sup>th</sup> to confirm the number of children you will have in attendance.

### **Sunday Morning Sunday School Blog to Continue Through July**

The Christian Education Corner Sunday School Blog will be available every Sunday throughout July. Simply log onto the website, [stpauluctaylor.org](http://stpauluctaylor.org) and click on the Christian Education Corner link. There will be a greeting, a story, a message, a love letter from God, an activity, a weekly challenge and a closing prayer. Additionally, the lesson will be offered via ZOOM on Sunday mornings/afternoons. If you would like to participate or if you have any questions regarding the blog please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Schalm.

### **Book Buddy Program Suspended Until September**

Due to the difficulty of coordinating Big Buddy & Little Buddy schedules during the summer, the Book Buddy program will be suspended until September. A big shout out to our faithful Big Buddies: Katie Stull, Beth Schalm, Angel Staten, Alyssa Brandt, Eliana Pettigrew, Merideth Stull, Billy Medley, Candace Poet, and Dylan Stull. Your dedication to your little buddies is commendable and so greatly appreciated.

## **Adopt a Grandparent Program Continues**

A huge shout out to all our Sunday School children, youth and young adults who have adopted a grandparent. Likewise, a huge thank you to all our wonderful "adopted grandparents." The expressions of appreciation and joy received from the letters, cards and drawings received have been mutual.

If you or your child/ren are interested in participating please contact Pastor Schalm.

## **Sunday All-Church Videos Facebook Posted**

Each Sunday during quarantine, an all church video was posted to the Rock Hard in Faith Facebook group following our live streamed service. With summer now in full swing and with the Shelter-in-Place restriction being lifted, less and less pictures are being received for the videos. As a result, the weekly videos will be replaced with bi-weekly videos. *July videos will be posted on July 12th & July 26th.* July 12th's theme will be "wedding pictures," and July 26th will be "VBS and church picnics." PLEASE send pictures by 7:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to posting. If you have questions please contact Pastor Schalm.

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND PICTURES PRIOR TO THE WEEK INDICATED. DUE TO MY STORAGE LIMITATIONS, MY PHONE CAN ONLY TAKE SO MUCH.**

## **Young Adult Ministry**

### **Young Adult 'Worship Wednesday' Bible Study Meets**

The group continues to meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at Pastor Schalm's. All youth & young adults are welcome and encouraged to join. Social distancing precautions will continue to take place.

### **Pending Youth Events**

Some social distancing events, to include: my space, your space, backyard picnics; family canoe/kayaking trip, and a social distancing service project will be planned. Please watch your mail and email for updates.

## **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **The Tuesday Morning 'PARTY LINE' Bible Study Group Meets Outside**

During the month of July weather permitting the Bible Study Group will meet outside on our church green for class at 10:30 a.m. Please bring your own chair, cup of coffee, and handout. In case of stormy weather we will be telephone conferencing from our own households. If you like to join this group, please contact Pastor Drutchas at the church office (313-291-1221).

### **Fourth of July Weekend Communion Service**

Our St. Paul congregation will be celebrating communion on the first Sunday in July—the day after the Fourth of July. Those attending the Sunday service in the sanctuary will be greeted as they arrive by our church elders who will present them with individually wrapped communion elements. These communion "kits," including both wafer and cup, were first used for the Pentecost 'Road Rally' Service in the church parking lot. Church members will open them following prayers of consecration by Pastors Geoff Drutchas and Cheryl Schalm later in the morning service. These communion "kits" will also be available to those who, alternatively, wish to follow the

morning service via radio or Facebook from their parked car. Others sharing in the morning service from home via Facebook are invited to set aside bread and juice from their own kitchen to be used at communion time. The prayers of consecration will include those home-prepared elements as well.

In the communion theology of the United Church of Christ what always matters most is the reverent spirit and penitent heart seeking God's grace in which the sacrament is celebrated and received. May we rejoice in the opportunity that God's ministry provides us to partake of this sacred meal together wherever we find ourselves that morning.

If you have any questions about communion for the upcoming Fourth of July weekend please feel free to call Pastors Drutchas or Schalm, or one of our presiding elders—Barbara Schulz, Mark Ennis, and Christine Schwab.

### **Semi-Annual Meeting and All-Church Picnic Sunday To Be Combined**

The St. Paul Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting and All-Church Picnic Sunday will be combined this year on Sunday, July 26. Both the meeting and worship service will be held outdoors under a big-top tent with church members asked to bring their own lawn chairs. Although the Semi-Annual meeting proceedings will be short, reports will be shared and a Church By-law revision resolution will be presented (see next article for details). Pastors Geoff Drutchas and Cheryl Schalm will be leading the prior morning worship with church members maintaining responsible social distancing. After the worship service and the final adjournment of the meeting, church members and friends will be joining in a "Tailgate Picnic." In lieu of a buffet, everyone will be asked to bring their own picnic meal. Individually wrapped ice cream will be offered as part of this year's ice cream social. As presently planned, there will be music in the air, health-safe activities and, perhaps, the reappearance of the Clown Maybelle.

Church members and friends are encouraged to mark their calendars now for a midsummer day for worship, meeting, and fun fellowship.

### **Proposed By-Law Changes January 12, 2020 final vote at Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, July 26, 2020**

The proposed By-Law changes were reviewed and agreed upon at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 12, 2020, final vote to change By-Laws will occur on Sunday, July 26, 2020.

#### **Article 6 Governing Body Section 6.1**

The governing body of this Church shall be the membership assembled in a Church meeting. The vote of a majority of voting members present at the meeting shall be the action of the Church. A quorum shall consist of 10% of the voting membership according to the latest figures in the yearbook of the United Church of Christ, as shown in the official Church records.

#### **Article 10 Church Staff Section 10.1 Pastor**

~~c) The salary of the Pastor shall be mutually agreeable to both the Pastor and the Church Council. Such salary shall be paid in monthly installments and reviewed annually. Contributions to the Pastor's Pension Fund will be made by the Church. Contributions to the Pastor's Health Insurance Program will be made by the Church and the Pastor on terms agreeable to both. The Pastor will be furnished housing and all utilities will be paid by the Church. The total compensation package of the Pastor shall be mutually agreeable to both the Pastor and the Church Council. The Trustees shall negotiate a total benefit package for the Pastor including Compensation, Pension Fund, Health Insurance, Housing Allowance, and other matters as deemed appropriate.~~

**Article 10 Church Staff Section 10.3 Financial Secretary**

**Add:** d) The Financial Secretary shall report to the Treasurer in all financial matters.

**Article 11 Cabinet Section 11.1**

~~The Cabinet shall consist of the Church Council and the officers of the Church organizations.~~ The Cabinet shall consist of the following Church Council members (President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, (1) Deacon, (1) Elder and (1) Trustee and the Officers of the Church organizations and ministries. The purpose of the Cabinet is to coordinate and promote the entire program of the Church. It shall meet at least semi-annually and be subject to the call of the Church Council. The Cabinet shall make recommendations but not set policy for the Church.

**Article 12 Ministries Section 12.1**

The President of the Church Council shall appoint all Ministries necessary to the work of the Congregation. Following are the standing Ministries:

- Budget Ministry
- Christian Education Ministry
- Evangelism Ministry - **Drop**
- Memorial / Endowment Ministry
- Resource Development Ministry
- Worship/Music Ministry - **Add Music**
- Stewardship Ministry - **Drop**
- Building and Grounds Ministry
- Music Ministry - **Drop**
- Financial Advisory Ministry
- Security and Safety Ministry – **Add**
- Health Ministry - **Add**

**DROP:** b) The Chairperson of a Ministry may be appointed for three consecutive terms, if they so desire, but limited to three (3) consecutive years.

**Section B Duties of Church Council Section B.4 Deacons**

c) One of the Deacons shall be a member of the Worship/Music Ministry.

**Improvements Continue at St. Paul**

If you have driven by the Church this week you might have noticed the contractors working in the West Parking Lot. The concrete was in such poor shape it was causing a trip hazard for our members. Over the past two years several of our members have tripped in the parking lot while coming to Sunday Morning Worship Service. Last year we fixed trip hazards in the West Asphalt Parking Lot and this year we are fixing the trip hazards in the West Concrete Parking Lot. We are also putting in new drains so that the water does not collect in the parking lot causing an icing condition during the Winter months. The safety of our membership is of utmost importance to us. Funding for the project is coming from the Facility Improvement Fund which is a restricted fund to be used for building and ground improvements only.

**Help Shape the Future – Complete the 2020 Census**

Counting everyone in the 2020 Census can help communities receive critical funding. Over the next decade, lawmakers, business owners, and many others will use 2020 Census data to make critical decisions for communities nationwide. An accurate Census count is critical as it determines how much funding Michigan communities will receive for

essential services through 2030 such as police, fire departments, health care, education, roads, and infrastructure.

Take ten minutes to fill out the Census today. The Census count will shape Michigan's social infrastructure for the next decade. If you need assistance completing the 2020 Census questionnaire, please call toll-free 1-844-330-2020. To fill out the 2020 Census online visit: <https://my2020census.gov/>.

If you have already responded to the 2020 Census-thank you! Your response helps shape your future. If you have not yet responded online or by phone, you may have received a paper questionnaire so you can respond by mail. You are strongly encouraged to respond promptly. Even if you received a paper questionnaire, you can still respond online at <https://my2020census.gov/>.

### **Red Hot Purple Angels Events**

Due to social distancing we will not meet for July and August. In July we were to have our Christmas in July celebration and in August, we were supposed to go on a cruise with Diamond Jack, but they are only using the Detroit dock this year. We are hoping the next event on September 24th to Frankenmuth will still be a go. We will meet at the church and carpool for this outing.

With sadness, one of our members, Diane Anderson, recently passed away, funeral arrangements are pending.

## **HEALTH MINISTRIES**

### **Messages From our Parish Nurse**

#### **Improving Your Health during Covid-19 Social Distancing**

Depression and anxiety are common during a pandemic. It's important to seek guidance if you have a family member, neighbor or friend that you are concerned about. Resources include: suicide prevention Lifeline 800-273-8255 (24/7), crisis Text line - Text HOME to 741741 (24/7), Downriver Guidance Center 734-785-7700, Community Care 313-389-7500. You can also call Reverend Geoff, Pastor Schalm, or Kathy Williams to speak with regarding your concerns.

#### **When to Mask: Some Thoughtful Advice**

Masking has been increasingly identified as a major factor in tapping down or limiting the spread of COVID-19. As Christians, masking signals our mutual commitment to help protect one another from viral spread through coughing, sneezing, and even loud talking. Indeed, we benefit from the masks that others wear.

However, in summertime heat and humidity it's not always comfortable for us to wear a mask. Consequently, it is helpful to remember that, while masking is really important when we can't effectively socially distance from others, it's not necessary when we are driving our car alone or with immediate household members; riding a bike; and walking or running outdoors when and where others are not in close proximity. At the same time, it's a good idea to be carrying a mask with us in case we enter a group setting. Many stores, for instance, require masking. Even when they don't, it's a good idea if we do to protect other patrons and store employees who have to work in the air quality we leave behind.

The need for masking in public places and spaces is not going to go away anytime soon. We can complain about it—or choose to be gracious, always remembering that masking helps others and sets an example for others to reciprocate, helping us.

For our own congregation, church members Patrick Ferguson, Sharon Leonard, and Susan Bennett have sewn some beautiful masks that are almost a “fashion statement.” Almost 200 hand-sewn cloth masks have been distributed over the past eight weeks or more. Some remain available. If you have a need for a mask, please contact Pastor Geoff Drutchas or Parish Nurse Kathy Williams (313-291-1221)

### **Resuming Health Ministry Activities in the Future**

It will be a happy day when we can resume group activities and visitation. You will be notified when this happens. Be well and God Bless.

### **Walk with Ease Program to begin**

Long Distance Learning Program, Walk With Ease is a 6-week physical activity program that can reduce pain and improve overall health by building up to 30 minutes of walking at least three days a week. If you can be on your feet for 10 minutes without increased pain, you can have success with Walk With Ease. You'll be sent a book, enrolled in weekly email communications, and connected to a coach who will "walk" you through the program over the phone. The program has helped participants improve balance, build confidence in walking pace, and improve limitations and symptoms.

Walk With Ease will help you:

- Motivate yourself to get in great shape
- Walk safely and comfortably
- Improve your flexibility, strength and stamina
- Reduce pain and feel great

For more information contact Samantha Raad @313-259-1574 ext. 310 or [sraad@nkfm.org](mailto:sraad@nkfm.org)

Other programs include:

- Diabetic Prevention Program
- Personal Actions Towards Health
- Better Choices, Better Health
- Powerful Tools for Caregivers
- Cooking Matters at the Store

Click on: <https://www.nkfm.org/communities-families/distance-learning> for more information. Don't have Wi-Fi computer use? Please contact Kathy Williams

### **Our Daily Bread Devotionals are Available**

If you are interested in reading, Our Daily Bread, please contact the office. The editions are available in large print and regular print. Please specify the print type that you want. They come every three months.



## **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

A special **Thank You** to Tracy Hoffman for his donation of Hand Sanitizer, Disposable Face Mask and Sanitizing Wipes for the Church.

**Our Condolences to the Family of Diane Anderson** who passed away this past week. Arrangements for Diane's memorial services, which are being made through Martenson Funeral Homes, are pending. Diane was an active member of the St. Paul Tuesday Morning Bible Study group and Red Hats.

A **SPECIAL THANK YOU** for your continued support for St. Paul during these difficult times, you are allowing us to continue our ministry despite the COVID19 crisis. Your generous contributions continue to make a difference. We have continued to pay our dedicated and loyal employees as well as pay our utilities and all essential services. The freeze on all discretionary spending will continue through the summer. We will continue to monitor our financial health and will keep you our membership informed of any changes.

Although we continue to receive many donations by mail, many members have moved to electronic giving. We invite everyone to evaluate the potential of utilizing Vanco for electronic giving. It might make it easier for you as we continue during these difficult times. It is very easy to set-up a giving schedule, visit us online at [www.stpaulucctaylor.org/giving](http://www.stpaulucctaylor.org/giving), locate the Online Giving button and set up your giving schedule. If you have a technical issue with setting up your electronic giving please feel free to call Dan Case or Gary Peters for assistance. Of course, you can continue to contribute by sending your donations directly to the church via the US Mail. Dan Case – St. Paul Treasurer

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

**Church Members and Friends:** Kirk Blanchard, Paula Block, Ron Bolen, Kari Cappello, Shirley Drobil, Fred Fanter, Harold Fick, Kyle Hard, Doris Hilliker, Shirley Koths, Loretta Kurtzel, Neil McEachern, Bill McGahey, Daniel Newton, Murl and Judy Nieman, Frank Patterson, Shirlen Powell, Sheryl Schwab, Bettie Slusher, Randy Smart, Doreen Thompson and Frank Wolfram.

**Extended Family:** Talama Braba (Judy Albright's daughter), Mary Jane Fliss (sister-in-law, Arlene Wolfram), Gabriella Gomez (niece, Darlene Babin), Kevin & Steven Johnson (grandsons, Patricia Olson) Richard Jones, Joanne LeFleur (daughter, Helene & Neil McEachern), Jennifer & Tammy Lee (granddaughter & daughter, Barb Siemers), Jonathan Milatz, Courtney McEachern Matthews, Kim McEachern (daughters-in-law, Helene & Neil McEachern), Judy Robin (aunt, Lucinda Chavez), Trudy Clark-Schiller (daughter, April & Steve Clark), Bob Smarr, Darlene Spence (sister, Grace Wangbickler), Nicholas Surre (great- grandson, Helene McEachern), Roger St.Louis (brother of Marjie Barnard) and Victoria Witcher (daughter, Cheryl Stewart).

**Congregations' Parents:** Robert Brainard (father, Ed Brainard), Jan Filpus (mother, Julia-Joy Miller), Bonnie Isaacs (step-mother, Michael Isaacs), and John Sharp (father, Gina Hribik).

**Church Members & Friends in Nursing or Rehab Care:**

Donald Babin - *Carolyn's Corner*, 17890 Parkridge Dr., Riverview, 48193; Mary Dubke - hospice - *Amy's Place*, 41346 Llorac Lane, Northville 48167; Terry Dyer - *Heartland Healthcare Center*, 9150 Allen Rd., Allen Park, 48101; Gertrude Hagen - *Imperial Rehab Center*, 26505 Powers, Dearborn Hts, 48158; Esther Perry - *Bellbrook Assisted Living*, 873 West Avon Rd., Unit 209 H, Rochester Hills, 48307; Eleanor Rossi - *Maple Heights*, 4600 Allen Rd, Room 415, Allen Park, 48101; Melissa Rossi -17652 Colgate, Dearborn Heights, 48125.

**LET US ALSO KEEP IN PRAYER THOSE PROVIDING EMERGENCY 'FRONTLINE' SERVICES** as police officers, nurses, and EMS workers during the ongoing pandemic.

We want to especially remember church members and friends *Kim Arndt, Wendi Wioncek Ashby, Rick Barnosky, Jennifer Babin, Rhonda Wioncek Berndt, Dana Wioncek Barlage, Chelsea Eisenga, Joshua Eisenga, James Hubert, Debbie Lyles, Amy McGahey, Ciera Mack, Marci Magnuson, Sam Martin, Michelle Mellin, Brenda Murphy, Inez Kurtzel Ogonowski, Amber Ostrowski, Samantha Pedersen, Eric Poet, Trudy Clark Schiller, Rachel Tank, Emily Wangbickler Baggett, Jillian Wangbickler, and Sarah Wangbickler.*