

TIDINGS

St. Paul United Church of Christ

24158 Goddard Road, Taylor, Michigan 48180-0190

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

August 2020

PASTOR'S PEACE

This past Sunday, our congregation met for its annual picnic service outdoors. It was different in several ways. First, it was combined with a semi-annual meeting of our congregation; cars and SUVs were pulled up around the outdoor tent; and, also, the crowd present was smaller. Still, there were almost fifty people present—enough for both a quorum and an enjoyable worship time and tailgate picnic afterwards. The weather also cooperated. It was a lovely summer Sunday morning with a cool breeze blowing. For those not able or disposed to be present, there was a Facebook broadcasting of the service: that also appeared to go well.

At the end of it all, there was a general feeling that we ought to do more of this—i.e., try worshiping outdoors in the month of August, weather permitting. Accordingly, we are planning outdoor services, as many other churches are now doing, for Sundays, August 9 and 16. While I am usually away throughout the month of August on a kind of Pastor's sabbatical, I will be present for those Sundays, providing worship leadership. We'll see how things go on those Sundays and may continue outdoor worship under our open tent on the remaining August Sundays when Pastor Cheryl will be in the pulpit, presiding at services. We encourage St. Paul members to keep folding chairs in the trunk or the back of their car, truck, or SUV to bring to church for outdoor use for these Sunday. We'll be following up with emailed word to the congregation, week-by-week, to alert everybody to what's exactly happening.

Of course, our fallback option each week is always the indoor sanctuary with windows wide open and the air conditioning on. The sanctuary pews continue to be set up for appropriate social distancing--just as we outdoors ask non-family members to maintain safe mutual distance. Masking is maintained in both locations, indoors and out.

As we move ahead, I think we all realize that attending on-site services isn't for everybody. Anyone with an underlying medical condition or over 65 years of age continues to be encouraged to take special care, indeed great caution. That's why we are continuing with the Facebook live streamed services which can be viewed from home. Hopefully, this fall we can improve the quality of our Sunday morning broadcasts by moving to a different online platform. But that is a great work in progress. Please

keep our tech team in prayers as they further research this, acquire necessary equipment, and look to implementation.

I am glad that we are a community of great faith. Through our prayers and best faithful efforts I trust that God is going to see our church and its members through this difficult time to another happier shore.

~ *Shalom, Pastor Geoffrey Drutchas*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EDITORIAL

“Every dreamer knows that it is entirely possible to be homesick for a place you've never been to, perhaps more homesick than for familiar ground” (Judith Thurman). We grow when we explore and discover new things, new places and new things about ourselves. When it comes to our relationship with Christ and our faith, our exploration leads us home and to many new and exciting things and ways of life.

The Exploration is a Michigan Conference program designed to encourage youth and young adults to engage in individual faith practices. This is a four week journey designed to inspire new ways of seeking God in daily life.

How we see and seek God each day is our faith story. This {Exploration} is a way to purposefully add to that story. Most of our story happens on our own, outside of church, so we must practice being intentional and do work to shape our own story.

All interested participants will be given a packet. Each packet will include activities to use over 4 weeks. These activities are flexible to fit into many different youth/young adult summer lifestyles. They serve to encourage youth & young people to take an intentional break. They are non-tech or low-tech except for group sharing and reflecting and they are designed to help young people experiment with seeing God in unexpected ways. I am asking that you please encourage your youth/young person (middle school – young adult) to participate. If interested in participating and receiving a packet please contact Pastor Schalm by August 9th.

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

Christian Education News and Events

Virtual Vacation Bible School

“*Breaking Free,*” was the theme of the “2020” virtual Vacation Bible School program. Pastor Schalm would like to thank all the special guests who gave up an evening of their time in order to take part in the VBS program. They shared their stories and songs with 15 children/young people who participated in the program. We look forward to resuming our traditional VBS program next summer.

Church Picnic Children’s Activities

Because of social distancing requirements, the traditional children’s games and petting farm were not offered at the all-church picnic. Instead of group activities bags full of fun activities were prepared for all children attending the picnic. A huge thank you to Emily Winter for the help! We are looking forward to next year with hopes of children and young people running about, laughing, playing and enjoying themselves.

Sunday Morning Sunday School Blog to Continue Through August

The Christian Education Corner Sunday School Blog will be available every Sunday throughout August. Simply log onto the website, stpaulucctaylor.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 School Rally Sunday

As we look towards starting a new year of Sunday School we hope to gather the groups for a little social distanced decorative rock scavenger hunt. Do you know how many "fruits of the spirit" are identified in scripture? Do you know what they are? Knowing the answers to these questions will serve to ensure that you find the right rocks in the quickest amount of time. While all families will be able to keep their decorative rocks, the one who finds them the quickest will win a trip to the Dairy Queen!

The scavenger hunt will take place following a special Family Rally Service to be held on September 13th. Please contact Pastor Schalm to confirm participation in the scavenger hunt. Each family will have their "own space" to search upon the church grounds.

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 only one video will be posted in August. The next video is scheduled for August 30th and will feature "summer escapes." Plan now to send Pastor Schalm pictures of outings, walks, drives, or vacations you were able to partake in over the Covid summer.

Young Adult Ministry

A Senior Send Off Planned

A senior send off is planned for Friday, July 31st. This youth/young people gathering will be for all of our seniors (regardless if they are going off to school or commuting). Church protocol is that no food can be prepared and shared and thus, no germs be passed. Thus, all interested in participating will gather at Pastor Schalm's at 7:00 p.m. for individually bagged snacks and social distanced fellowshiping. Please confirm your participation by July 29th.

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.

Youth / Young Adults Happenings

The youth prepared and provided a hot dog lunch for **Christnet** guests on July 13th. A huge thank you to Katie Stull and Morgan Schalm for all their help! The lunches were delivered to the housing location in Wyandotte where we trust they were enjoyed by all.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Paul Pictorial Directory Postponed Again

Due to the uncertainty with regards to our church activities and the Coronavirus we have once again decided to postpone the Pictorial Directory. The new dates for photo sessions are Thursday, November 5th (10:00 am to 4:00 pm), Friday, November 6th (1:00 – 7:00 pm) and Saturday, November 7th (10:00 am to 4:00 pm) . Re-scheduling of your appointment will be required. An information letter will be sent to all members once the details have been finalized. This should allow families to have their pictures taken together for their 2020 Christmas cards or for that very special Christmas gift. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause you and your family. Please call Dan Case, if you have additional questions.

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting Held

A semi-annual meeting of the congregation was held as planned on Sunday, July 26, at the close of the Sunday morning worship service. A quorum was quickly established and the congregation proceeded with the agenda which included a mid-year financial report on the operating budget and endowment, approval of bylaw revisions introduced at the annual meeting in January; and a report on programs and activities recent and upcoming. It was noted that at this time the Women's Retreat (September 19), Rummage Sale (October 1-3), and Craft Show (October 10) are all still scheduled.

President Michele McNeely presided at the meeting and spoke on our congregation's response to the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. She thanked the Council, pastors, and others for their leadership and was thanked in turn for her own. Treasurer Dan Case shared the good news that thanks to the Small Business Loan extended by the federal government to cover over a month of staff salaries the church budget is in the black. Loan repayment is waivable once our church provides evidence that the money loaned was actually paid out for salaries. Meanwhile, church members have kept up their donations. Dan Case noted that there was approximately only a \$12,000 balance still owed in repayment to the St. Paul Endowment Fund on the loan for the church addition. Our congregation is on track to have that full amount paid back.

Trustee Michael Isaacs reported that the parking lot drainage has been repaired to prevent further pooling of water which would lead to further deterioration of concrete. Also, the asphalted horseshoe drive around the church as well as the west parking lot will be repaired and resurfaced in the coming weeks. Arrangements have been made for a replanting and re-landscaping of the Memorial Garden on the west side of the church along the sanctuary wall. The present shrubbery will be removed with new more attractive and healthy shrubs and flowers replacing them. The work is expected to be finished by September. Joined by Dan Case, Michael Isaacs affirmed the strong financial support that the Women's Fellowship has provided to Buildings & Grounds, covering roughly half of the expense through funds raised in past rummage sales.

Pastor Geoff Drutchas, who opened and closed the meeting with prayer, offered his personal thanks for the tech-team making live streamed services possible and a Church Council and its executive committee composed of Council officers who have been judicious in helping our congregation navigate safely and responsibly at time when some church, along with bars, seem to be contributing to the public health problem that continues to beset our nation.

Financial Status (January - June)

I am happy to say that the first six month of 2020 find us well over budget for income and well under budget for expenses. Your generosity has allowed us to continue our ministry, pay our dedicated staff and pay our utilities and contractual agreements during these unprecedented times. We will continue our freeze on spending for all discretionary items not approved by the Treasurer. The office will continue to be closed for normal business during the month of August with hopes that things will begin to get back to normal beginning in September.

We continue to receive donations by mail, however many members have decided to move to electronic giving for the convenience it offers. We invite everyone to evaluate the potential of utilizing Vanco for electronic giving. It just 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, 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

Communion Sacrament Offered on First August Sunday

On the first Sunday in August, Pastor Geoff Drutchas will be leading our congregation in the communion sacrament, offered during 10 a.m. worship. Church members have three options: (1) sanctuary communion, using pre-wrapped wafer and cup, distributed upon arrival; (2) parking lot communion with elements distributed by the elders to individual cars, following the service via Facebook or radio (FM 105.3); or (3) home communion with bread and juice from our own kitchens. All elements will be consecrated by pastoral prayer in worship.

At St. Paul Church we observe an open communion. You do not need to be a formal member of the congregation to participate and receive the communion sacrament. If you have questions about communion, please call Pastor Drutchas (313-291-1221).

Tuesday Morning Bible Study Meets

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study group will be meeting at church weekly at 10:30 a.m., reading and discussing chapters from the Book of Acts of the Apostles. Weather permitting the group will be meeting outdoors under the tent on the church green or indoors in the West Room. The West Room chairs and tables have been reconfigured to maintain appropriate and necessary social distancing. West Room windows will also remain open for best air circulation during class time.

If you would like to join this group, please contact Pastor Drutchas at the church office (313-291-1221).

Fall ChristNet Plans Pending

In the midst of shutdowns everywhere, making it tougher for any homeless men, women, and families to find refuge from the streets, ChristNet has been able to provide safe, healthy 24/7 housing and support throughout the summer months. Now, ChristNet is looking ahead to the fall and winter seasons. A special zoom meeting for ChristNet church pastors and host site coordinators will be held on Wednesday, August 5, to discuss how we in these very difficult and challenging times ChristNet can continue to provide emergency housing to those in need. Topics to be addressed include:

- Current efforts underway to identify a single, stationary site to house guests overnight.
- The anticipated fall opening of the ChristNet Daytime Services building with kitchen, showers, and laundering facilities for guests.
- Recruitment of ChristNet churches to provide meals and night-time volunteer monitors in conjunction with an ongoing night-time shelter manager who would be present night-to-night.

This is a critical meeting for a ministry that has brought Christian churches of all stripes together in faithful witness and service. Please keep ChristNet in your prayers in these coming weeks.

St. Paul is ChristNet Supplies Drop-Off Point

Downriver churches seeking to assist the ChristNet Homeless with supplies are using St. Paul Church as a drop-off point. Once or twice weekly Pastor Geoff Drutchas delivers those supplies to the 24/7 ChristNet summer shelter in Wyandotte at the St. Elizabeth Religious Education Building.

ChristNet continues to need your help in providing breakfasts, lunches, and snacks for 20+ ChristNet guests. Individually wrapped breakfast, lunch, and snack items, including breakfast cereal boxes and bowls, muffins or pastries, puddings, juice boxes, and small cans of soda, are especially appreciated. Also donations of liquid Tide are welcomed: guests launder their clothes on site using an available washer and dryer. All donations can be dropped off at the rear of Fellowship Hall for delivery to the ChristNet center. Please contact Pastor Drutchas at the church office (313-291-1221) to drop off items.

Fish & Loaves Food Pantry Has Been Reconfigured for Maximum Volunteer Safety

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of St. Paul member Marjie Barnard and a few others, the Fish & Loaves Pantry now has a reconfigured office area for volunteers enrolling or checking in clients. New partitions ordered are now in place which allow for volunteer distancing.

Although Fish & Loaves has from the start been a client choice pantry with clients stepping into a store-like setting, it has made a transition to drive-thru only service with

volunteers packing the grocery carts which are taken out to waiting vehicles outdoors. By all reports, the transition has gone well.

Pastor Geoff Drutchas, who heads the pantry's Board of Directors as president, has been part of an interagency group developing safety protocols for organizations across the Metro area like Fish & Loaves. Fish & Loaves has been able to implement the recommended guidelines.

Fish & Loaves remains in need of younger volunteers who can help with food unloading, sorting, and shelving on Mondays and Fridays, 7:30-10 a.m., plus enrollment and drive-thru distribution to clients on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Due to the pandemic, all food is being individually packed for clients with all social distancing precautions taken. Also, new client enrollment and appointment scheduling is by telephone only. To volunteer, please contact the Fish & Loaves via web site or by calling 313-992-6284. For more information, you may also call Pastor Geoff Drutchas at the church office (313-291-1221).

Goddard Road Resurfacing Continues

Goddard Road is undergoing major reconstruction. The work is expected to continue through this fall. Currently, the road section between Telegraph and Beech-Daly Roads is torn up with orange barrels in place up and down the street. Due to the concrete work underway one or more of three entrances to our St. Paul Church parking lot could be blocked. Please look for the Goddard Road entrance(s) which remain open when coming to services or Bible study.

Have You Seen the Great Messages on our Digital Roadside Sign?

Our St. Paul digital roadside sign has become a pulpit once more dispensing biblical wisdom, thanks to the effort of signmaster Charlie Barnard. Charlies is posting short pithy pieces of advice from the Old Testament Book of Proverbs. This is giving drivers lined up in the daily traffic jam along Goddard Road something wise to think about. The message changes every day. As you come and go from church take note and enjoy as well!

A Popular Question for those Accustomed to a Morning Offering Plate

How do I make sure that St. Paul Church receives the tithes and offerings that I want to share? In these complex times, the answer remains simple:

- If you are attending the newly re-started sanctuary services, you may deposit your donation in the pedestal offering box at the center of the church narthex.
- If you are following Sunday services live streamed on Facebook, you may drop your check made out to St. Paul Church in the U.S. Mail. Although postal delivery has somewhat slowed, everything sent still finds its way to church.
- Whether you are attending services in the sanctuary *or* on Facebook, your best, most convenient option may be electronic giving. You'll find an easy 1-2-3 guide to electronic giving enrollment on the St. Paul Church website. Treasurer Dan Case is also available to walk you through sign-up.

For any questions about donations, please call the church office, Monday through Friday. As we maintain our church ministry in this difficult time for us all, all your prayers and financial support are appreciated. At St. Paul we are simply encouraged to give and share as we are able. Thank you.

Nursing Homes and Hospitals Open a Little to Visitors

Hospitals and nursing homes are now opening up a little bit to visitors. Most allow one Covid 19-free visitor every 24 hours. In certain cases this has allowed our church's pastoral staff to visit in advance coordination with families.

Meanwhile, our pastoral staff is actively telephoning church members throughout this period. Please let Pastors Drutchas and Schalm and Parish Nurse Kathy William know if you or a family member are facing health issues or a hospitalization by a quick call to the church throughout the week. If Pastor Drutchas is on another call at the office at that moment, he will return your call at the earliest possible opportunity. Meanwhile, as part of our ministry together, you are also encouraged to reach out to fellow church members through personal phone calls and mailed cards. It is important that we remind each other that we are not alone but part of a true network and *care-ring* of faith.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Roses on the pulpit celebrate the births of Joseph James Cappello, born June 24, 2020 to Jeremy and Kari Ennis Cappello. St. Paul Grandparents are Mark and Sandy Ennis. St. Paul great-grandparents are Betty and Joe Mayfield. Sibling is Jack. James Douglas Phipps born June 28, 2020 to Jason and Laura Staffeld Phipps. St. Paul Grandparents are Doug and Janet Staffeld.

Condolences to Lucinda Chavez and family on the loss of Lucinda's father, Leon Hawkins, in Paducah, Kentucky.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR

Church Members and Friends: Darlene Babin, Kirk Blanchard, Paula Block, Marion Bolen, Elaine Cowper, Harold Fick, Kyle Hard, Doris Hilliker, Ken Kaszubowski, Shirley Koths, Loretta Kurtsel, Neil McEachern, Judy Nieman, Frank Patterson, Shirlen Powell, Nancy Rabb, Lil Roscoe, Morgan Schalm, Ann Schmoekel, Sheryl Schwab, Glen Sigman, Bettie Slusher, Sue Spears, Tracy Spears, Doreen Thompson, Diana Wickline, and Tom Williams.

Extended Family: Kim & Julian Arndt (daughter, grandson Pauline Arndt), Marcie Bolen (daughter, Ron & Marion Bolen), Talama Braba (Judy Albright's daughter), Cassidey Wangbickler-Congelierre, Mary Jane Fliss (sister-in-law, Arlene Wolfram), Brian & Michele Gillespy, 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), Toni Oliver, 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), Darlene Wangbickler, and Victoria Witcher (daughter, Cheryl Stewart).

Congregations' Parents: Robert & Diane Brainard (parents, Ed Brainard), Jan Filpus (mother, Julia-Joy Miller), Carol Hoffman (mother, Tracy Hoffman), Bonnie Isaacs (step-mother, Michael Isaacs), Charlie Markey (father, Rebecca Markey), 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; 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, Chelsey 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.*

ST. PAUL ENDOWMENT FUND PERFORMANCE

Below is the financial performance for the PNC Endowment Fund for the first half of 2020. Please contact Dan Case, St. Paul Treasurer if you have questions.

ENDOWMENT AND ASSET DEPRECIATION FUND

<i>Change in Account Value</i>	2Q ENDING 2020	SEMI-ANNUAL 2020 END
Beginning Value	\$159,813.13	\$183,622.55
Deposits/Withdrawals	\$1,350	\$2,700.00
Income	\$1,170.12	\$1,919.09
Fees, Expenses	(\$617.66)	(\$1,231.54)
Change in Investment	\$19,917.47	(\$5,377.04)
Ending Value	\$181,633.06	\$181,633.06
%Gain/Loss	13.65%	-2.93%
<i>Change in Account Value</i>	December	SEMI 2020
<i>Endowment - Capital Appreciation= Endowment Value</i>	2019 Ending	ENDING
Ending Value Endowment Account	\$183,622.55	\$181,633.06
Asset Depreciation Fund Balance	\$45,320.47	\$ 49,715.51
Adjusted Endowment Account Value	\$138,302.08	\$131,917.55