

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

October 2020

PASTOR'S PEACE

A little over a week ago, one of our church members, Joan Foley, shared some wisdom I've thought about many times. "Pastor Geoff," she said, "This is a year that none of us will want to remember but no one will be able to forget." How true, I thought then. How true I still think. Yet from what I hear and see through conversations with our own church members we are slowly finding our way through it all, figuring our way forward. It's not without hardship and sacrifice. It's no fun dealing with a pandemic, especially when we don't know if and when there will be a true let-up. My own prayers include all the medical researchers working earnestly on viable vaccines for us all. Yet in the meantime we have to be diligent about exercising the precautions we can and looking to our faith in Jesus Christ to give us the spiritual and emotional stamina to deal with the inconvenience.

Good things are happening at St. Paul. We've managed well with outdoor services throughout August and September with Facebook viewing still possible. Weather (especially temperature) permitting, we'll be continuing with services in and around our tent on the church green before we come back indoors for the rest of the fall and winter. Our Sunday School and Confirmation classes have also resumed, making use of the wide spaces of Fellowship Hall and the West Room upstairs on Sundays and Wednesday nights. Our Tuesday Morning Bible Study has never stopped meeting. As in the case of Sunday morning worship, everyone brings their individual lawn chairs, while I provide the printed scripture. (We're reading Paul's New Testament Letter to the Romans right now and enjoying some great discussions.)

Meanwhile, our Dorcas Society is hosting its annual retreat on Saturday, October 3, seeking inspiration from great women of the Bible. It's on-site in Fellowship Hall this time around and limited to a dozen participants and a half. But it's still happening *despite* Covid 19—and that's good. No less intrepid, our youth are meeting for their own weekly Bible study and various outings, taking all due precautions but keeping up their fellowship with the Lord and one another.

As we look ahead, other "normal" activities are also percolating. Our Parish Nurse Kathy Williams is doing her best to schedule a blood drive in early November (blood donations are needed as much as ever). Also, together with our Council president

Michele McNeely and vice president Tim Ruffner, Nurse Williams is putting together a fun, faith, and fitness program that anyone can participate in through home activities throughout the last months of the year, culminating on Three Kings Day, January 6. I don't know that our organizational team will be passing out crowns to those who participate and carry through all the way. But church members and friends who join in the fitness program may be saved from the extra ten pounds around our waistlines that health experts predict will befall most folks because of decreased daily activity. Those unburned calories can quickly mount!

The ongoing health crisis is calling us all to be more creative, flexible, and adaptable. Fortunately, God has given us more creative talent that we usually tap. Also, we have a God who exemplifies and models flexibility and adaptability. When some of his original solutions for humankind's troubles didn't work out as hoped and planned, God figured out new ways to reach us—first, through the prophets, and then by sending his own son, Jesus, to us and then raising him up when folks still tried to defeat and thwart his saving plan. In our own ministry, we need to stay faithful, persistent, and unflagging too.

Amid this year we're never going to forget, but may we together forge experiences and memories that really show who we are as God's people. When we look back on this year may we find cause for quiet joy and humble pride that we met all our challenges with faith, courage, creativity, and love.

~ *Shalom, Pastor Geoffrey Drutchas*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EDITORIAL

As the nation continues to spiral and become more divided and chaotic, let us find comfort in God's promises as reminded by Max Lucado.

Before sending the Flood that would cover the earth, God promised safety for Noah and his family. All of humanity at the time was wicked, "but Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord" (Genesis 6:8). Grace comes when the flood comes.

Noah found a God who would stoop down and help him. Indeed, "stoop" is the Hebrew meaning of the word grace. God stooped and entered Noah's world. Grace is the God who stoops, who descends, who condescends and reaches.

The Noah story is our story. The world is corrupt. The judgment is sure. But salvation is certain. God has provided us a way of escape: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:23-24).

God promised to stoop down to Noah's level by saving him from the Flood. God then stooped down to our level in the form of Jesus to save us from our sin. We were in trouble, but he came near.

We are saved, not by a boat, but by Jesus Christ. He is our Ark. We enter into him. We trust Him. His gangplank is made of Calvary's cross. The skylight is formed from an empty tomb. He seals it shut from the outside. He, and he alone, keeps us safe from the evil that floods about us. When we trust the promises of God, we enjoy the unspeakable benefits of His Son.

Let us never forget; regardless of the darkness that surrounds us, the Son is with us and His light cannot be extinguished. May we reflect His light.

In Christ, Pastor Cheryl Schalm, Minister of Christian Education

Christian Education Plans for Upcoming Events

Sunday School Kicks-off "2020-2021" School Year

On Sunday, September 13th Christian Education led a special Family Rally Sunday program during the 10:00 a.m. worship services. Rally Sunday commemorates the beginning of a new Christian Education year and provides some summer reflections. In addition to the special service, a Sunday School Family Scavenger Hunt was held following the service.

With teachers now installed and the "2020-2021" program in place, the Sunday School staff is prepared and excited to return to the classroom. While that classroom may look a bit different and be located in Fellowship Hall rather than upstairs, we are back! And it feels darn good.

Parents, please make sure to complete the Sunday School covenant form for your child/ren located on the St. Paul UCC website. For the health and safety of everyone, children and teachers will be required to wear a mask during class and to have their temperatures taken prior to class.

We look forward to a great year of learning about Christian character and The Fruits of the Spirit.

Ole' Fashion Halloween Party

Due to the pandemic we will be unable to hold our annual "Trunk or Treat" event. However, the Sunday School children are invited and encouraged to come to class on Sunday, October 25th in costume. Over the course of the hour children will have the opportunity to learn about another fruit of the spirit, make a Halloween craft, make a caramel apple, decorate a pumpkin cookie and take a sack of candy home with them.

Calling all College Students and Recent High School Graduates

Christian Education is in need of 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 to Pastor Schalm or to the church office.

Rock Hard in Faith Youth Fellowship

Sunday, October 11th - Youth Food & Flick

Pack a lunch and plan to join your church friends after service for "lunch & a movie." We will meet in the Sunday School area located in the back of Fellowship Hall. Youth should plan to wait in their classroom or outside until such time the children have departed and the room has been sanitized. Youth can then enter, take one of the designated seats and enjoy a social distanced lunch with their friends. Following lunch, a mask must be worn as we watch a movie on the big screen that will be located in the hall.

While there are many things that we will not be able to do this month as a result of the pandemic, we can take advantage and enjoy the opportunities we do have to fellowship – even if from a distance.

Please let Pastor Schalm know if you plan to attend by October 9th.

Christ-Net Warming Shelter Outreach

The youth will be preparing a meal for the guest of the Christ-Net Warming Center on October 23rd (tentatively). We will plan to meet in the kitchen at 4:30 p.m. to package the meals so that they can be delivered to the Christ-Net location. Watch your mail/text/email for further information.

Bottle & Can Returns

Numerous bags of returnable cans and bottles have been dropped at the church for the youth group to return. Youth are needed to take a bag or two and return them for the deposit. All monies will be used for youth group events and activities. Please contact Pastor Schalm for a time to pick up a bag of returns.

Worship Wednesday's Young Adult Bible Study & Fellowship

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. - John 6:35

Whether you have been a regular or are considering coming for the first time, we welcome and look forward to your company and participation. Please consider joining the Young Adult Bible Study group as we kick-off the new Sunday School Year. All post-high school young adults are encouraged to come. We meet at Pastor Schalm's on Wednesday's at 7:00 p.m. Masks are required.

Sixth Graders to Receive Bibles on Reformation Sunday

On Reformation Sunday, October 25th, all sixth grade students will be presented with Good News Bibles during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. The presentation of Bibles will be part of a special service commemorating the birthday of the Protestant church.

Due to receive Bibles this year are Jake Smart, Joshua Mathias, Marci Carleton and Cash Erickson. Please accept my apologies and contact Pastor Schalm if your child's name has been omitted. Additional information regarding the service will be sent to all sixth graders in mid-October.

Operation Christmas Child Kick-Off set for October 25th

Christian Education will kick-off the Operation Christmas Child shoebox ministry on Sunday, October 25th in the Fellowship Hall. Sunday School children and members of the congregation will have the opportunity to take a simple shoe box, decorate it, and fill it with small gifts for children in need. The gift-filled shoe boxes will then be distributed by Samaritan's Purse (a Christian, non-profit organization) to children in need throughout the world. All shoe boxes will be required to be returned by Sunday, November 22nd. The shoe boxes will then be delivered to the collection center where they will be loaded onto semi-trucks for distribution. For more information on this program please contact Pastor Schalm.

Watch your Morning Tide for more information on this community outreach program.

ALL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EVENTS WILL BE HELD ACCORDING TO CDC AND STATE OF MICHIGAN COVID RECOMMENDATIONS AND LAWS. EVENTS WILL BE MONITORED AND CANCELLED IF DEEMED NECESSARY BASED ON SUCH.

ALL CHURCH VIDEO... Pictures are needed of you and yours' in Halloween attire. An all church Halloween video featuring our very own goblins, fairies, princesses, angels, and super heroes will be posted on the Rock Hard in Faith private Facebook group on Halloween, October 31st. Please send all pictures to Pastor Schalm by October 24th.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Outdoor Services Continue Through 'Indian Summer'

Fall has arrived. The first frost has come. But 'Indian Summer' may still be around the corner, keeping us all warmer for a little longer and allowing us to continue outdoor services. That's the hope as we look to the first couple of weeks in October. Weather and temperature permitting we will be gathering for 10 a.m. under and beyond the tent on our church green. Thanks to the efforts of our tech-team we'll also be able to maintain the Facebook services, as well as posting them online to our web site by Sunday afternoon. As October moves forward we will be returning to the sanctuary where social distancing will be followed through the use of designated pews and ushers on hand to answer questions and provide any necessary directions. Whether we are outdoors or indoors, the cooperation of the congregation in keeping a safe and healthy environment for everyone is appreciated.

New Confirmation Class Gets Underway

A new confirmation class is meeting on Wednesday nights with Pastor Geoff Drutchas as instructor. The class is using the upstairs West Room—a space now exclusively dedicated to Confirmation use for the fall and winter ahead. This year's class will be focusing on the history of the Bible and the emergency of the Christian through Protestant Reformation to the present day. An orientation for parents and confirmands was held in mid-September. The first class met on the second to the last Wednesday of September.

Confirmation is a two year program with 8th and 9th graders enrolled. This year's joint confirmation class includes Ethan Hard, Kaitlyn Isaacs, Dylan Stull, Anthony Staten, and Angel Staten.

HEALTH MINISTRIES

A message from our Parish Nurse Kathy Williams

We hope that you continue to social distance and wear masks/face shields. I also pray that you stay as healthy as you can. I will be glad when I can once again make in-house home visits to members. In the meantime, if I can visit you outside on a patio while social distancing please let me know.

Exercise Class Starts Again

On Wednesday, Oct 14, at 2-3:15 p.m. we are scheduled to start our exercise program again. Delissa Hampton will continue to be our instructor. You will need a face mask or face shield to participate. We will stay ten (10) feet apart. Weather permitting, we will be outside on the blacktop. We will be inside the Fellowship Hall if it rains or is too cold. Face shields are available. Please join us. Contact Kathy Williams if you have questions.

Medicare Enrollment Time is Here

Not sure about which Medicare supplement to choose? Enrollment time to change is Oct 15 - Dec 5. The Senior Alliance this year is not scheduling any in-person sessions due to Covid-19. They will offer individual sessions via the phone. They help explain the different plans, what works best for your needs and assist you with finding the best medication plan for the money that you pay. Call 734.2830 for Wayne County and leave a message for what you want to discuss. They will call you back to set up a date and time. The Senior Alliance will provide a ZOOM class Medicare 101, on Wednesday, October 28, at 7 PM. General information about Medicare and changes will be presented in an unbiased way. An email will be sent to you with a link to join the ZOOM class. There are many changes and cuts in Medicare for 2021. For those who prefer an in-person informational explanation, we will meet in Fellowship Hall on November 4 at 7 :30 p.m., for an informational Medicare 101 session with speaker Mishael Raiford a health insurance coordinator, member of Circle of Care and, Interfaith Health & Hope Coalition. Contact Kathy Williams if you have questions about either meeting.

Blood Drive Save the Date November 24

Please mark your calendar for Tuesday, November 24, from 1-7:45 p.m. for our next blood drive at St Paul. There is a critical need. You can sign up for a time now by going to <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>. Contact Kathy if you want her to set up a time for you. There needs to be 56 days between donations.

Faith and FITness Fun to 2021

Getting and Keeping FIT through Covid-19 starts October 1st and goes through Three Kings Day, January 6th. Let us together make a journey to a healthier life as we move forward to 2021. The National Exercise goal is 150 minutes (2.5 hours) of physical activity a week. This includes F = frequency, I = intensity and T = time. Let's get FIT. We are all at different stages of fitness. We encourage you to start at whatever level you are comfortable with and improve steadily. You may only be able to walk in place for a minute or run as much as a marathon. The idea is to keep moving to be flexible, improve strength, endurance, and balance. Together we can track time and possibly distance. We are starting a computerized system through our website that will track your activities both individually and collectively. If you do not have a way to get on-line or have further questions, please contact Kathy Williams. We would love to have you participate. Go to www.stpaulucctaylor.org and (insert your info), choose your goal and add data weekly. More explanation will come soon.

TOPS, - (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Meets Weekly

TOPS is a nonprofit and noncommercial weight loss support group St Paul is hosting. TOPS Chapter 9744, Taylor meets 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.

Health/Medical Supplies Available

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

Our Daily Bread Devotional Availability

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.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Burial Plots for Sale

The St. Paul Memorial and Building and Grounds Ministries have six burial plots available for immediate purchase. The burial plots are located at Michigan Memorial Park in Huron Township. Four of the plots are located in Section 22 "Garden of Apostles" with a retail value of \$1,825 per grave, the asking price is only \$1,000 per grave. The other two plots are located in Section 11 "Garden of Hope" and have a retail value of \$2,425 per grave, the asking price is only \$1,000 per grave. Once purchased the graves may also be used as partial payment (full retail value) for purchase of a spot in their above ground burial sites or their indoor and outdoor cremation niches as well. You have many options available to you. Please contact Dan Case St. Paul Treasurer if you are interested.

St. Paul Pictorial Directory

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the St. Paul Pictorial Directory has been postponed until 2021. We are hoping to begin photo sessions in October or November of 2021. This will give you a chance to get that special photo for your christmas cards or as a family gift. We promise to keep you informed of changes that will impact the Pictorial Directory. Please call Dan Case, if you have additional questions.

Financial Update

Donations remain strong through the first nine months of 2020 and expenses are well below our budgeted amount. This of course would not be possible without your continued support during these difficult times. A special **THANK YOU** for your continued generosity. Dan Case – St. Paul Treasurer

RED Hot Purple Angels

We are cancelling all meetings and outings until Covid-19 is under better control. We would like to have a call-in session on Thursday, October 22 at 7 p.m. to discuss the Secret Pal situation. It has been a difficult and frustrating year to get things to your secret pal this year. Should we continue with the same secret pal for next year or just postpone gift giving and choose new names when we resume? The phone number for group meetings is 1-617-839-6174. Please leave a message or call Kathy Williams of your choice or input prior to the 22nd if you cannot attend the meeting.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

A BIG **THANK YOU** to Janet and Julius Enesey for hosting a Yard Sale and raising \$675 for the Church Budget. You both are truly appreciated, God Bless You.
Dan Case - St. Paul Treasurer.

CONDOLENCES to the Poet Family on the loss of nephew and cousin John Poet who passed away September 16, 2020 at the age of 71 years.

LOVE AND DEEPEST SYMPATHY to Miles Church and family on the loss of wife and mother, Irene Church, who passed away September 21, 2020 at the age of 83 years. Funeral service was September 26, 2020 at St. Paul UCC, Taylor. Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas officiated.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR

Church Members and Friends: Darlene Babin, Paula Block, Marian Bolen, Deborah Case, Elaine Cowper, Harold Fick, Oren Forsyth, Nichole Gardner, Shirley Gratrix, Kyle Hard, Doris Hilliker, Diane Hines, Lin Hogan, Ken Kaszubowski, Shirley Koths, Sue Kren, Nora Kronemann, Loretta Kurtzel, Ciera Mack, Neil MacEachern, Andrea Matney, Steve Matney, Alice Nagy, Judy Nieman, Cleora & Bill Pattenau, Frank Patterson, Thelma Poet, Shirlen Powell, Lil Roscoe, Morgan Schalm, Sheryl Schwab, Glen Sigman, Beverly Sitz, Sue Spears, Tracy Spears, Helen St. Louis, Doreen Thompson, Bob Weigel, Diana Wickline, Al Wierzbicki, and Tom Williams.

Extended Family: Kim Arndt (daughter, Pauline Arndt), Marcie Bolen (daughter, Ron & Marion Bolen), Talama Braba (Judy Albright's daughter), Joe Coffee, Cassidey Wangbickler-Congelierre, Mary Jane Fliss (sister-in-law, Arlene Wolfram), Gabriella Gomez (niece, Darlene Babin), Richard Janztsen (son, Ann Anderson), Kevin & Steven Johnson (grandsons, Patricia Olson) Richard Jones, Joanne LeFleur (daughter, Helene & Neil McEachern), Jennifer & Tammy Lee (granddaughter & daughter, Barb Siemers), 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), Darlene Wangbickler (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), and Bonnie Isaacs (step-mother, Michael Isaacs).

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; Lindley Hogan - *Applewood Nursing Center*, 18500 Van Horn Road, Wodhaven, 48183; 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 *Tricia Nault, 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, Jarod MacZink, Ciera Mack, Marci Magnuson, Sam Martin, Lexi Mellin, Michelle Mellin, Brenda Murphy, Inez Kurtzel Ogonowski, Amber Ostrowski, Rebecca Ostrowski, Samantha Pedersen, Eric Poet, Trudy Clark Schiller, Rachel Tank, Emily Wangbickler Baggett, Jillian Wangbickler, and Sarah Wangbickler.*