

# 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

**May 2021**

## **PASTOR'S PEACE**

On Easter Sunday morning this year our worshipping congregation followed the lily-laden cross carried outside. As it was positioned in front of our church for display, so were we. The weather was good—dry, sunny, even pleasantly warm. Although keeping it safe through masking and social distancing, we then joined in singing, 'O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing.' It was a joyous moment.

I count our Easter morning together as a signal and harbinger of what is to come. As spring progresses our congregation can look forward to future Sundays outside where without undue risk we can resume singing as a congregation. Right now, the plans are to erect our tent on the green at the west side of our church where it was positioned last year, beginning in May. Potentially, weather permitting, we could have our first outdoor service on Sunday, May 2 and just about every Sunday thereafter. Of course, if it's windy, rainy, or too cold, we'll have to step back into the sanctuary. There may also be special services, like Music Sunday, June 6, that will also require us to gather inside where we have the full benefit of musical instruments like the chancel organ and piano. But we know from last summer's experience from July to September that we can manage outside very well together and even continue good Facebook coverage for those who continue to follow the worship service at home.

Of course, if the condition for outdoor services is "weather permitting" what is "permitting" weather? Obviously, high wind or rain would put the kibosh on worshipping outdoors on any given Sunday morning; so would cold temperatures. But how cold is cold? The consensus among those of us planning worship is that we are going to need temps in the 65 degree range to stay in most folks' comfort zone, even for those disposed to wear a sweater, sweatshirt, or light jacket to services. Personally, I think that's pretty reasonable. Cooler in this way may even be better. We won't be tempted to fall asleep during worship and prayer time as the apostles did in the company of Jesus at Gethsemane on his last night with them.

Like last summer, we'll be calling upon everyone to bring their own comfortable folding chair for the space under and on the perimeter outside the lawn tent. Most

folks just keep it in their trunk or the back of their SUV. If you're not from the same household, it remains important to again choose your place with social distancing in mind—six feet or more apart. Likewise, although all the outdoor ventilation will certainly be fantastic, even without a breeze, the Centers for Disease Control and other doctors in the know still advise us that masking be retained for outside venues, including tent services. Thus, just as we did last Easter, we'll sing with masks on. But week on week we will be singing—that's what matters most for us as God's people.

There have been huge strides in vaccinations. (I got mine. Did you get yours?) But caution is still a good idea, particularly with the possibility of those COVID variants, known and unknown, that in unforeseen ways may not be so well kept at bay by the shots we've already had. We've sacrificed so much already over the past year and more. It's important that not we not waste all these efforts but, instead, finally get this pandemic quashed.

As part of my theology as a Christian believer, I always seek to look for God's blessing every day because God is always working redemptively. I already know that one of the blessings on Sunday mornings hence will be looking out over our church's ten acres of open green space and woods, always handsomely groomed. It's a beautiful sight—not least of all in the morning when the sun is shining which reminds us of God's greatness as creator and sustainer. We'll sing some hymns to that—promise!

~ *Shalom, Pastor Geoffrey Drutchas*

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EDITORIAL**

***"I said to myself, "Relax and rest. God has showered you with blessings."***

***– Psalm 116:7***

Our perspective can change a lot of things. Remembering all the great things God has done for us can change how we look at the not-so-good things that happen sometimes.

When we continually remind ourselves, especially during those trying and troubling times, that God made us and promised to love us and be with us forever. That He sent His Son, our Savior, to give us eternal life. That regardless of where or what season we might be in, God has a great plan for our life. And lastly, when we remind ourselves that He has given us talents and abilities to be used to do great and amazing things, our perspective can change things.

When we remember God's blessings and promises and keep our eyes on the big picture, it becomes easier to relax and trust God. May we all work together to relax and carry on.

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

## **Christian Education Activities**

### **The 30 Hour Famine Update**

Members of Rock Hard in Faith Youth Fellowship and the Young Adult Ministry want to thank everyone who supported their 30 Hour Famine. Over \$500.00 was raised to help feed and care for those in need.

## **Easter Sunday Children's Easter Party and Egg Hunt**

On Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup> the Sunday School held an Easter egg hunt and party for all children attending Sunday School. All activities were set up for sibling groups or individual participation. In addition to cookie decorating, egg coloring, craft making, and a hunt for Easter eggs, the Easter Bunny made a special appearance. A big thank you to Megan & Ricky Barnosky, Alyssa Brandt, Debbie Case, Hayley Dykowski, and Candace and Diane Poet for all the help! A huge shout out to Emily Winter A.K.A. the Easter Bunny!

## **Sunday Morning Sunday School Blog to Be Discontinued**

With most children returning to in-person classes at school and with in-person classes being offered for Sunday School; the Sunday School lesson will no longer be posted to the blog. However, if any parent would like the lesson emailed to them they can contact Pastor Schalm.

## **Sunday School Spring and Baccalaureate Program**

Plans are currently underway to hold a Sunday School Spring and Baccalaureate program as part of the June 13<sup>th</sup> worship service being held outdoors under the tent (weather permitting). Pending church council approval, youth and children, following all protocols, will take part in the service. Additionally, all "2021" graduates will be recognized.

## **Abbreviated On-Site Vacation Bible School**

Plans are currently underway for an on-site vacation bible school program July 21 – July 23. Pending church council approval, children will gather (6 feet apart) at the church from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. for lesson, games, music, crafts and refreshments. Weather permitting, all activities will be held outside under the tent. Watch your mail and morning bulletin for more information.

## **Rock Hard in Faith Youth Fellowship**

### **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***

All post-high school young adults are invited and encouraged to join the Young Adult Bible Study group. The group meets at Pastor Schalm's at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday's. However, due to Covid all participants are required to wear a face mask and to maintain a six foot distance. Whether you have been a regular or are considering coming for the first time, we welcome and look forward to your company and participation.

### **Youth Flower Sale**

The youth would like to thank everyone who purchased flowers in support of their annual flower fundraiser. All pre-ordered flowers can be picked up from the church following the May 2<sup>nd</sup> worship service. A huge thank you to Candace Poet for all her help and support.

### **Youth and Young Adult Kayak and Calders in May**

Plans are underway for a youth and young adult kayaking and Calders (ice cream) trip. Following the church service on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, all participants will eat a sack lunch prior to heading to Huroc Park in Flat Rock. There, they will rent kayaks and head down the Huron River. Upon return, they will head to Calders Dairy for ice cream. Only siblings and those fully vaccinated can share a kayak. All others will be single. Please contact Pastor Schalm by May 9<sup>th</sup> to secure your participation.

### **Local Youth Mission Weekend Happening in June**

Plans for a local youth mission weekend are currently underway for June 17<sup>th</sup> - June 20<sup>th</sup> (pending church council approval). Youth would meet at the church at 8:00 a.m. on June 17, June 18, and June 19<sup>th</sup> for morning devotions and a light breakfast before heading out to our mission sites - Cass Social Services and the Salvation Army. Both sites mandate and practice all CDC mandates and recommendations as it relates to the Covid pandemic. Following the work day, the youth would return to the church for dinner and an activity before returning home for the night. On Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup> the youth will gather for a sunrise service prior to heading to Cedar Point for the day. Pending weather, we will gather outside for devotions and meals. MASK WILL BE WORN AND ALL MANDATES FOLLOWED.

### **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.

**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.**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Veterans Remembered Memorial Day**

Veterans in our St. Paul congregation will be remembered this coming Memorial Day Weekend at our Sunday service on May 30, 10 a.m. Opening with the procession and arrival of flags, the service will recall the sacrifice made by men and women to preserve not only our nation but the positive, faithful, and democratic values on which it has been built. Our hymns for the morning will also capture the spirit of pride that we feel for a nation that remains "under God."

Church members who have small American flags are invited to bring them that morning to plant in the ground next to their own chairs.

### **Veterans Are in Need: Donated Personal Care Items Invited**

As we celebrate another Memorial Day and remember the sacrifice of American soldiers, it's important to respond to the present needs that many of them have as they battle the effects of war-related injuries. Citizens and Christians like

ourselves can help by donating personal care items that are distributed to veterans' hospitals and care facilities. One of our members, Lynn Baier, who is already active in veteran outreach, has volunteered to make deliveries to veteran service sites. You can help by making note of the accompanying list in this the May Tidings and dropping off your donations at church on Sunday mornings and other times. A drop off bin will be located at the edge of the lawn tent used for outdoor services. Also, you may drop off items at the church during the week by arrangements with the church office (313-291-1221)

**\*\*Items needed for Veterans...**

Toothpaste \* toothbrushes \* shampoo \* conditioners \* soaps \* lotions \* shaving cream \* disposal razors \*t-shirts \* underwear \* socks \* feminine hygiene products \* crossword puzzles & games

**National Day of Prayer Observed at Taylor City Hall**

The National Day of Prayer will be observed on Thursday, May 6, at the Taylor City Hall in the outdoor Cameron Priebe Plaza. Pastor Geoff Drutchas will be one of a dozen Taylor ministers offering prayers for the occasion, highlighting different hopes and needs for our Downriver community. The prayer gathering will be held at 12 noon and continue for forty-five minutes to an hour. Various city officials are expected to be on hand. Chairs will be provided with social distancing maintained.

Last year's prayer service was pre-recorded by participants and then offered via Facebook and online. The National Day of Prayer event has been held in Taylor for the past two decades with Pastor Drutchas participating in the company of pastoral colleagues underscoring the goal of greater Christianity unity for our community at large. St. Paul Church members are invited to attend.

**Muffins for Mom - Mother's Day Sunday, May 9**

This year's event will not include that fantastic continental breakfast that Men's Fellowship normally prepare but the ladies of the church will not be forgotten. Members of the Men's Fellowship will be passing out individually wrapped bakery muffins as well as plants donated by Block's Stand and Greenhouse.

**HEALTH MINISTRIES**

**Message from our Parish Nurse**

It is still important that we continue social distancing with masks/face shields until there is no longer a need to keep each other safe from Covid-19. I pray that you are staying as healthy as you can. I look forward to a time in the near future when we can get back to our normal everyday life. In the meantime, please reach out and call friends, relatives, and church family members. Please feel free to call my cell phone if you wish to discuss any health concerns ~Kathy Williams, Parish Nurse

**Covid-19 Vaccination and Testing Locations**

Persons 16 and older are now eligible for the Covid-19 vaccine. There is a list of Wayne County Health Department Clinics: Vaccination | COVID-19 Resources (waynecounty.com) Call 1.866.610.3885, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for an appointment. Wayne County Community College-Taylor, Schoolcraft College in Livonia, Wayne

County Community College-Ted Scott Campus in Belleville, and the Flat Rock Community Center. Currently walk-up vaccinations are available as well. Residents of Detroit can schedule an appointment through the Detroit Health Department by calling 313-230-0505. Vaccines are also available in other locations such as CVS, Rite-Aid, Kroger, Meijer, the health systems you use for care. Covid-19 testing sites are listed at: Testing | COVID-19 Resources (waynecounty.com)

### **CPR/First Aid Being Offered in May/June**

Ideally, we would like two persons from each church group or committee to take a First Aid/CPR class. This will allow someone to be able to be a capable first responder to an injured person during church activities. Kathy Williams will lead an American Heart, CPR/First aid class which takes about 8 hours. We are in the process of ordering new materials from the 2020 international update. There are restrictions in place due to Covid-19. No breathing into manikins, and gloves will be used etc. Classes will include two four-hour sessions. The class workbook will be available prior to the sessions. The workbook needs to be read prior to the class. We may be doing classes on-line via Zoom. The amount of actual on-line class time would be in total of about 7 hours, broken into two sessions. An additional in person 1-on-1 skill testing will be arranged. Specific times have not been set yet but, will take place in May and June. If you have questions or are willing or interested in becoming certified, please contact Kathy. If you are currently certified, please leave a message for Kathy or contact her.

### **Greeting Cards are Needed.**

Do you have extra greeting cards to donate? We need Blank and 'Thinking of You' cards. They can be dropped off at the office during office hours. Call first to let them know you are coming by.

### **Meditation Class via Zoom**

Please contact Kathy Williams if you are interested in participating in meditation classes via Zoom. Meditation can lead to a calmer lifestyle and positive feelings.

### **Health/Medical Supplies Available**

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

### **Our Daily Bread Devotional Availability**

If you are interested in reading, Our Daily Bread, please contact the church office. The quarterly editions are available in large print and regular print. Please specify the print type that you want when calling. Kathy Williams will mail a copy to you until Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. Available now is the April - June edition.

### **Health Programs still on Hold**

*TOPS*, - (*Take Off Pounds Sensibly*) classes are normally held on Monday Evenings. We will let you know when these classes are able to meet in person. Watch your tidings for updates.

## **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Strengthen the Church Mission Offering – Received in May**

Our offering of the UCC church represents the time of Pentecost, the Birthday of the Christian Church. This year, Sunday May 23 is observed as Pentecost. However, at St. Paul, we will be receiving this offering any Sunday during the month of May.

Please join in planting the seeds needed to grow and sustain our UCC denomination, by making a gift to the Strengthen the Church offering of our UCC congregations.

Funds raised support leadership development, new church starts, older churches being revitalized, youth ministries, and innovation in existing congregations. Let us realize our best hopes for the future, by investing in the visions that are rooted in the traditions of our diverse congregations. This offering embodies the wisdom “together we grow stronger”.

**An offering envelope is included in this Tidings.** If you misplace the envelope, any regular envelope indicating, “Strengthen the Church Offering”, may be used. You can place your offering in the offering boxes on Sunday, drop off to our Church Office, or US Postal mail. Make checks payable to St. Paul UCC Church and indicate this offering name on the memo line.

**You may also use Vanco, our electronic online and mobile giving source,** for your Strengthen the Church donation. It is very easy to set-up a donation, visit us online at [www.stpaulucctaylor.org/giving](http://www.stpaulucctaylor.org/giving), locate the Online Giving button and select “Strengthen the Church” and enter the amount of your donation.

Your prayerful gift helps God’s spirit move and speak in our congregations for generations to come. Strengthen the Church, God is Still Speaking.

On behalf of the Stewardship of St. Paul, Thank You.

### **Please be Patient**

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic we have reduced the hours that our Financial Staff are working in the office. We are counting money and making bank deposits only twice a month, normally the second and fourth week of the month. With the additional delay due to the US Mail your mailed checks do not always make it to the church in a timely manner causing the deposit of your checks to be delayed even further. We have had many calls regarding checks not being cashed, we ask that you give us at least three to four weeks for your check to clear. If your check does not clear in that timeframe, please feel free to call Annette Thie at (313) 209-6622 or myself at (734) 558-2585. Thanks for your understanding - Dan Case – St. Paul Treasurer

### **A Quick Reminder**

When donating to an outside organization through the church you should always make the check payable to “St Paul UCC”. When checks are made payable to other organizations or events, we cannot deposit them in our checking account to complete your donation. Some examples of checks we have received recently were made payable to the following: 30 Hour Famine, One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Fund, etc. Thank You in advance for your understanding and support – St. Paul Financial Team

## **St. Paul Budget Update - April**

Donations continue to remain strong through April as we continue to be above our budgeted income. We continue to monitor our expenses while purchasing only those items that are required to run the Church. Online giving has increased considerably during the past year, if you are interested in creating an online giving account please feel free to call me. Many members are finding out it is very convenient and easy. Dan Case - St. Paul Treasurer

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Health Ministry Committee**

The Health Ministry Committee is still in need of volunteers to assist in input on health issues that impact our church members and community. If interested please contact Parish Nurse Kathy Williams.

## **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

### **2021 Drive-Thru Fish Dinners**

The 2021 Fish Dinners were a huge success, there were six drive-thru dinners one each Friday during the Lenten season. We served 1,439 dinners and made approximately \$6,500.00 for the Unified Budget. Just a couple of statistics you might find interesting, we purchased and served: 189 pies (apple and cherry), 17 brownie sheet cakes, 870 pounds of fish, 810 pounds of fries, 1,450 rolls with butter, 17 five-gallon pails of coleslaw were made, 3,600 small packets of tartar sauce and 4,000 small packets of ketchup. Hopefully, we will return to a more normal Fish Dinner schedule in 2022. A special **THANK YOU** to James Poet who chaired the 2021 Fish Dinners.

**A Very SPECIAL THANK YOU** to the following people for their continued support during the 2021 Fish Dinners: Jeff MacZink, Deb Case, Dan Case, Pastor Schalm, Candace Poet, Diane Poet, Crystal Poet, Eric Poet, James Poet, Sharon Podpora, Elizabeth Isaacs, Toni Hill, Tim Ruffner, Pastor Drutchas, Mark Ennis, Kathy Williams, Eddie Brainard, Fred Miller, Gary Staffeld, Dorothy Evison, Dan Evison, Grace Wangbickler, Cheryl Kincaid, Gene Kincaid, Dee Salsbury, John Smith, and Barb Smith. We served over 1,439 drive-thru dinners in total.

### **SPECIAL THANK YOU**

A special Thank You to Julius and Janet Enesey and their family members Michael and Kathy Talley for their generous donations to fund the refurbishment of the four lavatories on the West side of our Church Building.

## **MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

### **MEMORIAL FUND:**

In Memory of: *Shirlen Powell* From: Peggy & Roger Staten

In Memory of: *Doris Hilliker* From: Gary & Pat Staffeld

In Memory of: *Irene Church* From: Donald & Linda Lippert



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

### **Church Members and Friends:**

Bob Barley, Bonnie Batchelder, Shannon Block, Clifford Board, Pat Britt, John Caufield, Michael DePugh, Marguerite Dolan, Olivia Drapeau, Oren Forsyth, the DeAnna and Chris Frazier family, Shirley Gratrix, the Mary and Kyle Hard family, Carrie Hill, Ollie Hilliker, Wayne Jones, Arnold Knofske, Loretta Kurtzel, Dave Lange, Don Mack, Neil MacEachern, Maria MacZink, Bill McGahey, Judy and Murl Nieman, Gary Peters, Bob Robinson, Lil Roscoe, Eleanor Rossi, Jerry Rossi, Janice Schuman, Sheryl Schwab, Glen Sigman, Bob Smarr, Christie Smart, Joe Smith, John Smith, Sue Spears, Teri Staffeld, Tyler Staten, Brenda Tank, Linda Tank, Bert Thompson, and Carol Wioncek

**Extended Family:** Dawn Sturgeon Anderson, Paul Bachran (son, Sharon Leonard), Marcie Bolen (daughter, Ron & Marion Bolen), Talama Braba (Judy Albright's daughter), Cassidey Wangbickler-Congelierre, Mary Jane Fliss (sister-in-law, Arlene Wolfram), Gabriella Gomez (niece, Darlene Babin), Richard Jantsen (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), Joseph Smith (husband, Cheryl Smith), Nicholas Surre (great-grandson, Helene McEachern), Rick Thie, Bruce Vernor (father, Eileen Vernor Drutchas), Bob Wright (father-in-law, Charmaine Wright), and Victoria Witcher (daughter, Cheryl Stewart).

**Congregations' Parents:** Robert & Diane Brainard (parents of Ed Brainard), Jan Filpus (mother of Julia-Joy Miller), and Carol Hoffman (mother of Choir Director, Tracy Hoffman).

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

Donald Babin - Carolyn's Corner, 17890 Parkridge Dr., Riverview, 48193; 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 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.