

TIDINGS

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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www.stpaulucctaylor.org

Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. Geoffrey G. Drutchas

Minister of Christian Education - Pastor Cheryl Schalm

July/August 2021

PASTOR'S PEACE

It's hard to believe but summer is almost more than half-done. Apart from the rains and flooding that has impacted many, these summer weeks have been good. Most of us are venturing out more after a year plus of hunkering down. All hazards are not gone. There are concerns by some that these weeks of calm with reported Covid cases way down are only a window and that we could see a Covid resurgence by fall, especially for the non-vaccinated, which could impact us all. Yet, whatever the near future brings, it's good to have this breather, to be able to see family and friends again--and more intimately so with hugs included. What a joy, too, to gather with others in larger groups, including fellow worshippers at church, outdoors or in, without the need to always hide our smiles behind safety masking.

Before Covid came, there is so much we used to take for granted. Perhaps one of the blessings coming out of our often terrible experience battling a pandemic is our renewed and deeper appreciation for those simple things we weren't able to do. How important it is to be grateful now and not to forget as we move forward what we've learned about what really matters and what doesn't. I hope we, keeping true to the loving and positive spirit of Jesus Christ, can emerge from this time a less petty and more faithful people.

In the last weeks of July and in the weeks of August, I look forward to seeing my son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren who live in Philadelphia for the first time since August 2019. It wasn't possible to travel out-of-state without quarantining for two weeks afterwards and being literally and figuratively out of service at church. Facetime was our only face-to-face connection throughout that long interval. It will be great to see everybody in person again. Live connection matters.

As I contemplate the joy of seeing my six year-old grandson and three year-old granddaughter, I do find myself wondering about how they are more deeply experiencing this time. Kids can be very resilient. But that doesn't mean there

hasn't already been an emotional and spiritual toll for them, either short or long term. As they head back to school classrooms this fall, they'll need to continue masking since vaccination is not yet possible and they are still vulnerable. What a gift we would give our younger people if more adults who are able to be vaccinated would opt to do so, creating a safer world for all ages. All our kids deserve a more normal life. It would be a terrible thing if schools have to shut down again in the year ahead because we haven't done more to assure their well-being. As we make decisions, we need to make their physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being priority. For us as Christian men and women, this is all the more imperative because Jesus called to make the children in our midst a priority. As he declares in Matthew's Gospel, inviting children to share time and company with him, "to such as these belongs the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 19:14)

I want to wish us all safe, healthy times as we finish up with summer and begin a fresh fall season. While I encourage everyone to make the most of the opportunities which these weeks ahead offer, be careful and stay vigilant about those ways that we can personally help keep Covid tapped down for each other's benefit, preventing any renewed outbreak. I am both prayerful and hopeful that our light at the end of the long tunnel is a light that remains bright, with a clear, safe road ahead for us all.

~ ***Shalom, Pastor Geoffrey Drutchas***

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EDITORIAL

"Everything is possible for him who believes." ~ Mark 9:23

Like everything worthwhile, Faith requires hard work and dedication. It requires something of us. Faith does not replace the pain and suffering of this life. Rather, it serves to help us manage and handle it with hope rather than despair; with patience rather than impatience, with courage instead of fear and obedience instead of disobedience.

The "everything" mentioned here in scripture does not always come simply by asking. God is always seeking to teach us the way of faith. Our training for a life of faith requires many areas of learning, including the trial of faith, the discipline of faith, the patience of faith, and the courage of faith. Often we will pass through many stages before we finally realize the result of faith- namely, the victory of faith.

May our faith be rooted in the One who has all power and knowledge.

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

Christian Education Activities

Sunday School Resumes Meeting Upstairs.

Effective June 20th, the Sunday School children began meeting upstairs in the air-conditioned Confirmation classroom. Parents should continue to bring children to the West lobby where they will be escorted upstairs. All protocols continue to be followed.

Vacation Bible School Coming this Summer

The "2021" Vacation Bible School program, ROAR, Life is Wild... God is Good was held July 18 -22 (Sunday through Thursday). Through Bible Adventures, games, crafts, music, cinema and snacks the children learned that God is Good even when life is unfair, scary, sad and when life changes. On Thursday, the children headed to the Metro Willow Park.

Christian Education was awarded a metro parks grant. The grant provided funding for transportation, swimming passes and lunch (hot dogs, chips, drink) for 50 children/chaperones. The big VBS family celebration will coincide with the church picnic to be held on Rally Sunday, September 12th. Watch your Morning Bulletin for more information. A huge thank you to all our volunteers who made Vacation Bible School possible. We truly appreciate you!

"Powered By The Spirit" served as the theme of the "2021" Sunday School Spring Program. The program, held under the tent coincided with the Baccalaureate service held on Sunday, June 13th. During the worship hour the Sunday School children shared their unique superpower prior to rehearsing a Bible verse and singing a song for the congregation.

Thank you to all the teachers who helped throughout the year and with the program: Alyssa Brandt, Debbie Case, Mary Hard, Candace Poet and Emily Winter. Thank you also to Megan Barnosky for printing the superhero capes

Rock Hard in Faith Youth Fellowship

Youth "2021" Local Summer Mission Trip is in the Books

The week started with the Youth Spring and Baccalaureate Sunday Service in which the youth participated. Following the service the youth gathered for a special lunch celebrating and honoring Alyssa Brandt. Alyssa has served as a dedicated Sunday School teacher, youth advisor and chaperone for many years. Alyssa has now relocated to the Upper Peninsula where she has accepted a teaching position near her family. After lunch the youth prepared a meal for the ChristNet guests currently being housed at a local motel. Afterwards they and the Sunday School children headed to the Cinemark Theater in Taylor for a private viewing of "Spirit Untamed."

On Monday, the youth once again prepared and packaged meals for the guests of ChristNet. On Tuesday, the youth prepared summer foster kits for children placed in local foster homes. And then on Wednesday, the youth served at Cass Social Services in Detroit. Upon return to the church they prepared and packaged dinner for Christ Net guests.

Thursday found the youth baking and preparing goodie trays for those who made their annual flower sale the success it was and for others who have

supported the Christian Education program. On Friday the youth returned to Cass Social Services for a full day of kitchen work and helping with the green industry mat program.

Due to the weather, the scheduled trip to Cedar Point on Saturday had to be postponed. However, a trip to the Poet cottage in Howell served to be a fun-filled alternative. Despite a little rain, the young people enjoyed swimming in the lake, playing UNO and having lunch at the cottage. A huge THANK YOU to the Poet family for opening their cottage up to the group. We had a great time! Thank you also to Roger & Peggy Staten for their donation of water, gatorade and numerous snacks and to Liz Isaacs for the wonderful homemade brownies.

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. Whether you have been a regular or are considering coming for the first time, we welcome and look forward to your company and participation.

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.

RECENT HAPPENINGS

Life Can Be Very Wild on Our Church Green...and God is Good

For Vacation Bible School (VBS) at St. Paul church this July the theme was "Roar! Life Is Wild! God Is Good." During VBS sessions Monday through Thursday, children reflected and celebrated together on God is good even when life is unfair, scary, changing, or sad." Thanks to Pastor Cheryl Schalm and the adult teaching team, our young people shared a great learning time.

It was all launched the preceding Sunday, July 18, with an introduction to "Life is wild! God is Good" VBS by Pastor Schalm during outdoor worship under the tent. Almost on cue, life did get a little wild. First, our young people seated on the grass in front of the pulpit encountered crawling spiders. But then, raising ohs and ahs, two deer were spotted crossing the back of our church grounds. It was a tender moment, further underscoring life in God's creation, life is beautiful and life is good.

St. Paul Church Services "Open Up" with Changes

As reported COVID cases decline in Michigan and activities and businesses across the state are modifying safety rules, our church is too. A "Reopening" task force delegated by the St. Paul Church Council to update and revise our congregation's health and safety protocols has made some changes to help open up Sunday morning worship service indoors and outdoors while ensuring everyone's well-being. The changes are now being implemented:

- Face masks are no longer required but unvaccinated individuals are encouraged to wear a facemask while inside our building.
- People can now choose their own seat for inside Worship Services, but every other pew is still reserved to allow for social distancing. We do ask that you practice social distance as you enter and depart from the sanctuary to avoid congestion in the aisles, narthex and vestibule.
- Face masking and social distancing are not required for outside services under the tent.
- Coffee Hour has resumed after each worship service either inside or outside depending on the weather.

On Sunday mornings, weather permitting, our congregation will continue to worship outdoors on our church green. For rainy days, we will return to the sanctuary with every-second-pew seating. The west lobby lavatories are open for outdoor worshipers and the narthex area lavatory is accessible when we are worshipping in the sanctuary.

As approved by the Reopening task force and ministry, indoor meeting space is also now available for other church-related activities, especially when inclement weather does not permit outdoor gatherings under the tent that has been in place on our church green since late spring. As a health precaution, it is still important with all indoor activities to maintain social distancing through generous table spacing and maximal ventilation and masking encouraged for the non-vaccinated.

The Reopening task force and ministry will continue to evaluate and update our church's COVID-related protocols, based on recommendations and mandates from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). If you have questions or concerns, please contact St. Paul Council Executive Committee members Tim Ruffner, Jim Poet, Dave Lange, or Dan Case.

Sunday Services Attract On-Site and Facebook Crowd

On-site services at St. Paul United Church, which resumed a year ago in July 2020 with only a few weeks' suspension in late November and early December when Covid cases surged, have continued to draw in increasing numbers. Throughout the Pentecost season beginning in late May, on-site attendance for outdoor and indoor worship services has ranged from 55-90, with another three dozen households following our services through Facebook live streaming or our Vimeo posting on the St. Paul Church website. Copies of the Sunday morning sermons have also been included with the monthly *Tidings* newsletter and through individual mailings to another 126 St. Paul households who do not have Facebook or online access. Adding the impact of our church's ministry together, at least a half-dozen members receiving the extra sermon mailings report sharing them with neighbors, extended families, and friends who have not been churching or attending services during the pandemic.

Church members who have not been present for on-site worship services because of health concerns are invited and encouraged to check out what's happening at St. Paul on Sunday morning as we worship safely together. At both outdoor and indoor worship, we continue to social distance with a great sound system, ensuring that the service can be well-heard wherever you are seated. For outdoor worship, please bring your own comfortable folding chair. However, for

your convenience the deacons and ushers can, if you request, provide a folding chair for you.

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting Held

The St. Paul Semi-Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, July 11. After being opened with a full quorum in place, business was suspended until after the worship service. For the occasion Pastor Geoff Drutchas was preaching a sermon, "For the Common Good," included with your July-August Tidings.

During the Semi-annual Meeting Treasurer Dan Case reported that church giving has more than kept up with budgeted expenses with a significant increase in electronic giving by church members who appreciate the convenience. Other good news were the announcements that the U.S. government loan to our church during the COVID pandemic to cover staff salaries has been "forgiven" as anticipated and—on a separate matter--there is \$5,600 remaining on the payback to the St. Paul endowment fund loan for our church's Family Room addition.

During a brief report from the Trustees, who oversee building-related matters, Trustee Toni Hill noted ongoing efforts to address any necessary parking lot repairs and enhance the flower beds around the church building. Also noted was the transformation of west lobby lavatories, both downstairs and upstairs. All four lavatories have been reconfigured and updated thanks to the donated labors of Julius Enesey and Charlie Barnard who utilized the church downtime afforded by the COVID pandemic to undertake the reconstruction project. Pastor Geoff Drutchas joked at the end of Toni Hill's report that the lavatories are now so beautiful it is hard to get people out of them!

The semi-annual meeting closed with prayer. The St. Paul congregation gathers for its annual meeting in mid-January 2022.

St. Paul Council President Receives 'Serenity Prayer'

Following custom and tradition, St. Paul Council president Tim Ruffner received a framed rendering of Reinhold Niebuhr's famous "Serenity Prayer," during the Sunday morning service on July 11, coinciding with the congregation's Semi-Annual meeting. The prayer, which was penned by Dr. Niebuhr in the early 1940s, prays for "the grace to accept the things that cannot be changed, the courage to change the things that should be changed, and the wisdom to know the difference."

For almost fifteen years Reinhold Niebuhr served as the pastor of one of our sister congregations in Detroit near Henry Ford Hospital before going to become one of the greatest and most famous American Protestant theologians of the 20th century. He attended his first clergy conference at St. Paul Church in 1915, when he first arrived in Detroit as a young minister. He appears at the center of a large photo from the conference hanging in the West Lobby of our church.

The presentation of the prayer to Tim Ruffner was made by Pastor Pastor Drutchas and Elder Barbara Schultz, daughter of our late pastor Leonard Wiegel (1950-1965). As president, Tim has headed the Executive Committee of the Church Council that has had to provide extra-diligent guidance to the congregation and its ministries during the lingering Covid pandemic. Tim's wife, Jennifer Ruffner, serves as a church deacon. Their young daughters are enrolled and active in our St. Paul Church School program.

St. Paul Church Office Resumes Open Hours

The St. Paul Church office has resumed its more customary hours. The office is now open Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Drop-offs can be arranged at other times as well. The church office entrance is located at the west side of the church. Those arriving should make use of the intercom at the right side of the door in order to be "buzzed in." Administrative Assistant Cindy Romas can also be reached via our church telephone (313-291-1221) throughout business hours. Voice mail messages are promptly returned during or as early as possible the next working day.

Pastors Geoff Drutchas and Cheryl Schalm, as well as Parish Nurse Kathy Williams, are also available by calling the church office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday Morning Bible Study Takes August Break

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study group will not be meeting during the month of August in the absence of Pastor Geoff Drutchas who leads the group. However, the group will return to its usual Tuesday, 10:30-12 noon, meeting time on September 7—the day after Labor Day, also coinciding with the Jewish High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah. Class that morning will focus on Biblical teachings related to atonement and forgiveness which are such important themes of both Jewish and Christian faith.

Weather permitting, the Tuesday Morning Bible Study will meet outdoors; otherwise making use of the West Room with appropriate social distancing. Face-masking is always an option for participants. The Tuesday Morning group welcomes newcomers interested in learning more about the Bible in both an informational and informal, conversational setting. Weekly printed lessons are provided. However, participants may also bring their own Bibles from home for additional reference and guidance. For more information about the weekly Tuesday morning Bible study, contact Pastor Geoff Drutchas (313-291-1221).

August Worship Leaders Announced

Those leading August worship services at St. Paul United Church of Christ in the absence of Pastor Geoff Drutchas during his time of sabbatical and vacation are no strangers to our congregation. Pastor Cheryl Schalm will be leading two worship services, August 1 and 22. The Reverend Ralph Brown, former administrator for the Evangelical Homes of Michigan and pastor at Hope United Church in Clinton Township will be our guest preacher and worship leader for August 8. Pastor Brown, who has preached at our church on various previous occasions, will be assisted by lay members of our congregation who will be offering announcements and scripture lessons.

Pastor Drutchas will be returning to our pulpit on Sundays, August 15 and 29. During his absence he will be visiting with family in Pennsylvania and Virginia, as well as continuing work on a biography of Charles Lang Freer, who was instrumental in the development of the National Mall in Washington, D.C., with all of its patriotic and spiritual resonances.

Please support those leading August worship by your presence and faithful participation in worship as they each share their insights on living the Christian life with us in the weeks ahead.

Communion Sacrament Offered at Upcoming Service

In keeping with monthly tradition for St. Paul United Church, the sacrament of communion will be offered at the first service of next month, August 1. With the assistance of our church elders, Pastor Cheryl Schalm will preside at the communion service, consecrating both bread and cup.

Those worshipping on site at church are asked when they arrive to pick up their individualized communion kit with wafer and juice provided by the elders from an extended tray. Since opening the seals on the communion kit sometimes requires nimble fingers, you are encouraged to partly pull back the seals early in order to be ready at the actual time of communion.

Those following the worship service via Facebook live streaming may participate in communion using bread and juice from their home kitchens. Pastor Schalm will include them in her prayer of consecration.

At St. Paul United Church of Christ we practice an "open communion." Formal membership in our church is not required but all should be of adult age and baptized, as well as committed to walking more closely with Jesus Christ in faith and spirit.

Confirmation Classes Coming – Put-in-Bay Retreat Planned

It's still summer. But fall will be arriving sooner than we know with the start of school and the resumption of confirmation classes on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings.

This year's confirmation classes were an exciting adventure of faith for participating eighth and ninth graders. The classes, which meet from September through Easter every year, prepare our young people to affirm their baptism vows by making a personal decision for Christ as young adults. Classes culminate in a moving Palm Sunday service at the end of the second year of study.

This year's confirmation classes will kick off with an orientation and ice cream social on Wednesday, September 8, 7 p.m., immediately followed that Saturday, September 11th with a day-long retreat at Put-in-Bay. The retreat provides a chance for confirmands to get to know each other as we share an adventurous day, beginning with a boat across Lake Erie to South Bass Island. For the rest of the day we will be biking around the island with stops at various locations that tie-in with a "scriptural itinerary" prepared by Pastor Geoff Drutchas. Pastor Geoff Drutchas leads the retreat along with parent chaperones.

All eighth and ninth graders are invited to enroll for confirmation classes. Please encourage your child or grandchild to participate in a wonderful program that offers strong, positive peer fellowship and an opportunity to grow in a deeper understanding of their own Christian faith.

All-Church Picnic Set for Rally Sunday

Mark your calendars now. Our all-fun, all-church picnic is set for Rally Sunday, September 12. The picnic, which is usually held on the last Sunday in July, was moved to the last days of summer and the start of the new Church season in hopes of being able to offer a shared meal and activities that go hand-in-hand with our more usual pre-Covid gatherings. A planning team is meeting in late July to

develop guidelines, propose activities, and set the day's schedule. The planning team is being headed by Second Vice President Dave Lange. More information will be shared through email, Sunday morning announcements, and the September Tidings.

Fall Rummage Sale Planned

After a year and a half hiatus, St. Paul Church will once again be hosting its popular rummage sales. This year's fall rummage sale will take place a week later than usual on Thursday through Saturday, October 7-9. Due to plans for a Rally Sunday All-Church Picnic on Sunday, September 12, and the possible need for use of the Fellowship Hall, rummage sale drop off will begin on Monday, September 13. Actual rummage sale set-up will begin on Monday, September 20. Tables will be put in place at that time with the sorting of donations getting underway.

Donations of clothing, household goods, appliances, tools, and furniture are all welcomed. However, all items contributed should be clean and in a good state of repair. Besides raising funds for the church and its ministries, the rummage sales provide an opportunity for local Downriver residents to purchase goods at an affordable price with everything priced to sell.

Volunteers are needed to help host the sale. Please contact the church office (313-291-1221) to volunteer.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

2021 Pictorial Directory

Our current plan is to host the photo sessions for the 2021 Pictorial Directory on October 21, 22, 23. This will give everyone an opportunity to get that special photo for your 2021 Christmas cards or that Christmas gift. A detailed information packet will be mailed to members' homes in August explaining the process. If you have questions please contact any member of the Communication Ministry.

June Budget Numbers

Donations continue to remain strong through June with expenses still well below our projected budget. We truly appreciate the continued support of our members and friends during the first six months of 2021. As COVID restrictions are being lifted by MDHHS and MIOSHA we hope to see you at one of our worship services in-person this summer. Let us pray for a more normal life together as we move forward.

PO BOX for St. Paul was eliminated

As part of the budget planning for 2017 it was decided to eliminate the Post Office Box effective July 1, 2017, since most of the Church mail was already coming to our regular mailbox. Recently we have been receiving mail to the church from members still utilizing the PO Box number instead of the address. If for some reason you or your financial institution are still utilizing the (PO Box 190) address; you should notify them to change it to the church address (24158 Goddard Rd, Taylor, MI 48180) immediately. The post office is supposed to forward the mail, but recently there was an incident where they did not forward the mail in a timely manner. We apologize for any inconvenience this change may have caused you.

Toiletries and Personal Hygiene Items Collected for Veterans

Toiletries and personal hygiene items are being collected and delivered to U.S. Veteran hospitals and nursing care facilities. These in-kind donations for hospitalized and outpatient veterans can be dropped off in the bin at the entrance to our outdoor tent or sanctuary.

Items welcomed include reading glasses, hair brushes, combs, nail clippers, men's and women's underwear, non-elastic white socks, non-aerosol deodorants, denture cleaner and adhesive, toothbrushes, and travel-size containers of toothpaste, liquid soap, shampoo, hand/body lotions. Also helpful and appreciated are DVDs, video games (no VHS), paperback books, word search books, and crossword puzzle books. A fuller list is available through the church office. All items can be dropped off in the collection bin that can be found at the entrance of the outdoor tent or in the church vestibule. Please ask an usher for the collection bin location if you do not see it.

HEALTH MINISTRIES

Covid-19 Vaccination and Testing Locations

It's great that things are now opening up and we can do some socializing without masks with social distancing. Many of us have had our Covid-19 immunizations. We are still under 70% of the local population. Please help us to meet this percentage for herd immunity. Persons 12 and older are now eligible for the Covid-19 vaccine. Minors must have a parent/guardian present. There is a list of Wayne County Health Department Clinics: Vaccination | COVID-19 Resources (waynecounty.com) Call 1.866.610.3885, 9 AM-5 PM 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 training Being Offered

One 8-hour session has been completed for this class. Our next training class will be held on August 16th (CPR session) and 17th (First-aid session) from 6:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. It would be ideal if we could have at least 2 people from each ministry certified to be a first responder if someone is injured during a church activity. Our Parish Nurse Kathy Williams will lead the American Heart, CPR First Aid class. The class workbook is available and can be picked up at the church office. **Please be sure to read the workbook prior to starting the class.** For all in person sessions we will be following necessary guidelines to keep everyone safe from Covid-19. At each session there will be restrictions in place due to Covid-19. No breathing into manikins, and gloves will be used etc.

If you are still interested in signing up for the class or have any questions contact Parish Nurse Kathy Williams. If you are already certified please let Kathy know so she can add your name to her list.

Exercise Program Resumes

Exercise class resumed on Wednesday, June 30. Participants meet on Wednesday at 10:30. We have been holding the class in the West Room and utilizing the air conditioner because it has been hot. Every week a combination of aerobic, strengthening and stretching is done. You can exercise using a chair, in the standing position or you can use a combination of both. Our instructor is Delissa Hampton who brings energy, experience and a great Christian Faith to her classes. Hope to see everyone participate. Contact Parish Nurse Kathy Williams if you are interested in participating.

Our Daily Bread Devotional Availability

The next edition of Our Daily Bread, July thru September, is now available. If you are interested in receiving a copy contact the office. The editions are available in large print and regular print. Please specify the print type that you want when making your request. Parish Nurse Kathy Williams can mail you a copy via mail if you are not able to pick up a copy.

TOPS, - (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Meets Still on Hold

TOPS is a nonprofit and noncommercial weight loss support group St Paul is hosting the TOPS Chapter 9744, Taylor. Meetings are held on Monday nights with weigh-ins starting at 6:00 p.m. Meetings will resume at 6 p.m. in September

Health/Medical Supplies Available

In need of medical supplies that your insurance does not provide, contact the church office or Parish Nurse Kathy Williams to see if we have it available.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Ushers Needed for Sunday Worship Services

Ushers are needed to assist with Sunday morning services. In addition to greeting worshipers and distributing the orders of services and copies of the sermon, ushers are asked to help straighten up our worship space after the service. To volunteer for this important ministry, speak with Deacons Jim Nault, Terri Staffeld, or Jennifer Ruffner or call the church office (313-291-1221).

Annual All Church Kitchen Clean-up

The St. Paul Building and Grounds Ministry will be hosting its Annual Kitchen Clean-up on Saturday, August 21. Time will be from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. All cleaning supplies and special equipment will be provided; all you need to do is come to the church in your work clothes ready to help clean. It has been over two years since we have done a deep cleaning of the Church kitchen. Please plan on coming to help even if you can only stay for one hour, all help will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions please contact Gary Staffeld or Dan Case or call the Church office at 313-291-1221.

IT Ministry – Looking for VOLUNTEERS

As the church continues to expand its Information Technology (IT) needs for 2021, we are looking for volunteers who have an interest in the implementation of new technologies. As many of you know; due to COVID, we were challenged with developing a platform that allowed live streaming of our Sunday Worship Services. We decided to utilize Facebook Live and that has worked out very well, however it has shown us that we need more than four people to successfully run our Church IT needs. As we continue to expand our live streaming capabilities in 2021, we need additional help to be successful. Experience or knowledge is not a requirement, as we will provide the appropriate training. Communication to our members and friends is one of the most important goals that we are striving for in 2021.

We are looking for people who would like to learn or assist in the following areas: Wordpress Websites, Audio/Video Technologies (Streaming, Sound boards, etc), Social Media (Facebook Page Accounts, Twitter, etc.) and Data Infrastructure (Computers, Software, Networks, etc). If you are interested, please contact any member of the IT Ministry. Michael Isaacs, Gary Peters, or Dan Case

Health Ministry Committee

Parish Nurse Kathy Williams is still in need of volunteers to help serve as a part of the Health Ministry Committee. She is looking for more input on health issues that impact our members and our community. Please prayerfully consider serving on the committee.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Church receives a new Exmark Zero Turn Mower

A special THANK YOU to the anonymous donors for the new Exmark mower. The new mover has a 60 inch deck and will allow Harold our groundskeeper to cut the lawn in much less time allowing more time for other outside needs.

United in Marriage: Steven Siemers wed Gaetana (Tania) Marasa June 5, 2021. Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas officiated. Eric Grant wed JoAnn Gabert June 19, 2021. Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas officiated. Justin Bozynski wed Brianna Williams July 16, 2021. Pastor Cheryl Schalm officiated.

Pulpit Rose: honors the birth of Raelynn Fisher, great-granddaughter of Julius and Janet Enesey; honors the birth of Paislee Mae Harmon, daughter of Mark & Jenna Harmon. Sibling is Ryleigh.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

FACILITY IMPROVEMENT FUND:

In Memory of: *Judy Nieman* From: Thelma Poet, Jim & Diane Poet, Dan & Deborah Case

In Memory of: *Ollie Hilliker* From: Thelma Poet, Jim & Diane Poet, Dan & Deborah Case

MEMORIAL FUND:

In Memory of: *Judy Nieman* From: Teri Staffeld, Dan & Dorothy Evison

In Memory of: *Ollie Hilliker* From: Jeannette Wackro, Dan & Dorothy Evison

ENDOWMENT REPAYMENT FUND:

In Memory of: *Ollie Hilliker* From: Jane Dykowski

In Memory of: *Judy Nieman* From: Jane Dykowski

MUSIC GROWTH FUND:

In Memory of: *Judy Nieman* From: Barb Schultz, Gary & Pat Staffeld, Jeannette Wackro, Alex & Phyllis Kato

KITCHEN FUND:

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

GENERATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND:

In Memory of: *Dr. Norman Gall* From: Alex & Phyllis Kato

ENDOWMENT AND ASSET DEPRECIATION FUND

<i>Change in Account Value</i>		SEMI-ANNUAL 2021 ENDING
Beginning Value		\$210,825.85
Deposits/Withdrawals		\$6,900.00
Income		\$1,687.07
Fees, Expenses		(\$1,444.60)
Change in Investment		\$15,843.77
End w/dividends: \$13.53		\$233,820.62
%Gain/Loss		7.52%

<i>Change in Account Value</i> <i>Endowment - Capital Appreciation= Endowment Value</i>	December 2020 Ending	SEMI 2021 ENDING
Ending Value Endowment Account	\$210,825.84	\$233,820.62
Asset Depreciation Fund Balance	\$57,207.94	\$61,394.12
Adjusted Endowment Account Value	\$153,617.9	\$172,426.50

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR

Church Members and Friends: Fred Block, Sherrill Berndt, John Caufield, Michael DePugh, Arlene Felske, Pam Foresta, Shirley Gratrix, Beverly Goodell, Kyle Hard, Carrie Hill, Wayne Jones, Arnold Knofske, Loretta Kurtzel, Dave Lange, Beverly Jean Lloyd, Don Mack, Neil McEachern, Maria MacZink, Bill McGahey, Shirley Robinson, Eleanor Rossi, Sheryl Schwab, Glen Sigman, Bob Smarr, Christie Smart, Sue Spears, Tyler Staten, Samantha Surre, Brenda Tank, Linda Tank, Bert Thompson, Diane Wickline, 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), Trudy Clark-Schiller (daughter, April & Steve Clark), Joseph Smith (husband, Cheryl Smith), Nicholas Surre (great-grandson, Helene McEachern), and Victoria Whitcher (daughter, Cheryl Stewart).

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