

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

September 2021

PASTOR'S PEACE

Congregation, every year we gather for a "summer picnic." It's always been the last Sunday of July—until this year when lingering COVID concerns prompted us to look to another time. Yet that wasn't a cancellation, only a deferral. We're all set now for Sunday, September 12, immediately following our 10 a.m. worship service. Inspired by our Summer Vacation Bible School focus, our worship and picnic theme is "ROAR-ing Back!"

Although the date is certainly different, it'll still be a summer picnic. To be precise, the fall equinox when hours of day and night become briefly equal, ushering in autumn, doesn't arrive until September 22, 3:21 p.m. Providing any possible rain stays away or at bay, we can usually count on pretty good weather at this time of year—not too hot or cold. For Picnic Sunday we'll be returning to the outdoors tent for one last time this season. Yes, you'll want to bring a comfortable folding chair.

The morning will actually start at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and donuts, which you can carry right into the service as it begins. (No worry about spilling it on the carpet!) During worship, our young people will be sharing what they learned during a "Roaring" Summer Vacation Bible School; other youth will be participating in the service as well. As worship finishes, we'll be turning to games and activities for all ages.

At 11:45 a.m., a buffet lunch will be served under a dining fly. We'll be managing the line to ensure social distancing. Except for what's cooking on the grill, food items served will be already in containers or packaged. A great picnic menu welcomes those attending: grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, and bratwurst, along with corn-on-the-cob, pasta salad and chips. And don't forget the ice cream. There'll be wrapped ice cream treats offered, bringing smiles to everyone. (Have you ever seen anyone with a sad face with ice cream in hand—unless they've just lost the scoop from their cone or stick?)

Topping our picnic day off will be the entertainment—a petting farm with pony and horse rides for kids and kids at heart. Through it all, DJ Russ Walker will be providing some easy listening music and opportunities for karaoke. It all goes to

show that despite our COVID time we haven't forgotten how to have some fun, enjoying good fellowship.

My own hope is that we will have a "roaring" wonderful day--both worshipping and relaxing together. I can't think of a better, more hopeful launch for a new church season as summer truly ends and fall begins. Plan on joining the "roar." See you in church.

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EDITORIAL

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven."
~Ecclesiastes 3:1

Time is a nonrenewable gift from God. But sometimes, we treat our time here on earth as if it were not a gift at all: We may be tempted to invest our lives in trivial pursuits and petty diversions. But our Father beckons each of us to a higher calling.

An important element of our stewardship to God is the way that we choose to spend the time He has entrusted to us. Each waking moment holds the potential to do a good deed, to say a kind word, or to offer a heartfelt prayer. Our challenge, as believers, is to use our time wisely in the service of God's work and in accordance with His plan for our lives.

Each day is a special treasure to be savored and celebrated. May we- as Christians who have so much to celebrate never fail to praise our Creator by rejoicing in the glorious day, and by using it wisely.,

"Our leisure, even our play, is a matter of serious concern. There is no neutral ground in the universe: every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counterclaimed by Satan." ~ C.S. Lewis

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

Christian Education Activities

Christian Education Seeks a Nursery Attendant

As we move forward with the hope and anticipation of reopening the nursery in the Fall, Christian Education finds themselves in search of a nursery attendant. Kaylee Ostrowski, who served in this position for several years has resigned due to full time work and other obligations. Kaylee will be greatly missed!

Anyone interested in caring for our youngest treasures on Sunday morning during the worship hour should contact Pastor Schalm. The attendant receives \$20.00 per service and is paid once a month. The nursery is located in the church's family room located at the back of the sanctuary. The worship service can be viewed via the television located in the family room.

Rock Hard in Faith Youth Fellowship

Youth will be participating in the Rally Worship Service and helping with the Children's games to be held at the all-church picnic on September 12th. Additionally, youth should plan now for a trip to Kackleberry Farm in Monroe on September 26th. The cost of \$15.00 per youth will include a Hayride, Bonfire, Barrel Train ride, Barnyard Friends, Corn Hole Toss, Tether Ball games, Corn Popper (jumping pillow), Rubber Duck Races, Little Farmers PlayLand, Kackleberry Rollers, Pig Races, Captain Drew's Pirate Ship Playscape, Zander's Chicken Hoop (basketball), Birdyville playscape, visit to Nana's Pumpkin Patch, Steer Roping, photo props, and unlimited visits to the Cornfield Mazes. It's an all-day pass, so you are free to come and go during the farm's operating hours. The group will leave for the farm after service. Families are welcome to participate. Watch your mail for more information.

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.

Summer Sunday School

Christian Education offered Summer Sunday School class each week throughout the summer. Classes were held in the upstairs, air-conditioned Confirmation classroom. A big shout out to Helen St. Louis who led numerous classes over the summer.

Beginning on September 19th, classes will be relocated to the large classroom across from the Confirmation class. All Confirmands and 6th and 7th grade students should plan to meet in their pre-Covid classrooms. We look forward to the return of a full Fall Sunday School schedule. All Covid protocols will be followed and children will be required to wear masks. Their safety and wellness is our greatest concern.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chancel Choir Rehearsal and Performances Begin

Finishing a summer hiatus following Music Sunday in June, the St. Paul Chancel Choir will be rehearsing and performing again this fall for Sunday morning services. The first Chancel Choir rehearsal will be held Wednesday, September 1, 7 p.m. continuing thereafter each week at the same time. Rehearsals are led by

Music Director Tracy Hoffman with organist and pianist Sally Sigman providing accompaniment.

Newcomers are always welcomed to our church choirs. No auditions are required. You are invited to attend a rehearsal to experience first-hand the fellowship that choir members enjoy. For more information contact Director Tracy Hoffman through the church office (313-291-1221).

Communion Sacrament Offered During First September Service

If it's the first Sunday, it's communion time. The custom still holds as our St. Paul congregation begins a new season this September. Communion will be offered on Labor Day Weekend, Sunday, September 5, at our single 10 a.m. worship service. Arriving church members and friends should pick up their individually sealed communion "kit" from an elder in the narthex. The combined wafer and cup, symbolizing Christ's body and blood sacrificed for us, will be consecrated during the communion liturgy towards the end of the morning's service. Those worshipping at home and following the livestreamed service can participate using bread and juice from their kitchens.

Our St. Paul congregation observes an open communion. Friends and visitors are invited to participate in communion along with members.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study Resumes—Newcomers Invited

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study will be resuming its weekly gatherings on Tuesday, September 7, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Open to all St. Paul Church members and friends, the ongoing study group is currently reading the Apostle Paul letters in the New Testament.

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study follows a directed but open discussion format with opportunities to ask questions and to share mutual insights about the scriptures being read. Although participants may bring a bible from home, copies of the Serendipity Bible for Groups are provided for weekly use. Pastor Geoffrey Drutchas leads the weekly study and discussion sessions. For more information, contact Pastor Drutchas (313-291-1221).

Confirmation Classes Get Underway

As the fall season starts at St. Paul, so do confirmation classes for eighth and ninth graders. Led and taught by Pastor Geoff Drutchas and Mrs. Doreen Thompson on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings, the classes are intended to equip our church youth to make informed decisions for Jesus Christ, affirming their earlier baptisms. An orientation program for parents and confirmands alike will be held on Wednesday, September 8, 7-8 p.m. in the West Room for all first and second year students. The first Wednesday evening class will be held on September 15. The first Sunday morning class will follow on September 19.

On Saturday, September 11, there will be a day-long class retreat on South Bass Island in Ohio. Our chaperoned confirmands will head to Catawba Point and board a half-hour ferry across Lake Erie to Put-in-Bay. The class will spend the rest of the day exploring the island on bicycle, stopping for prayer and scripture study at various points of interest along the way, including the Perry Peace Memorial, the third highest tower in the federal park system. In the event of rain the retreat will be rescheduled for another time. Cost of the retreat is \$25, not including lunch. This covers the island ferry, bike rental, and other incidental admission fees.

Confirmation classes are open to any interested youth. The classes conclude during Holy Week and Easter 2022 with the actual confirmation ceremony for second year students on Palm Sunday, April 10. For more information, contact Pastor Drutchas at the church office (313-291-1221).

ROAR-ing Back, Sunday School Rally Sunday, September 12th

As summer comes to a close, it's time to head back to school! As part of a special Rally Sunday Service to be held during the 10:00 a.m. worship service under the tent on Sunday, September 12th, Pastor Schalm will be offering a "Backpack Blessing." Students are encouraged to bring their backpacks with them. Together, we will pray for a blessed and safe "2021-2022" school year.

In addition to the blessing of the backpacks, children will be sharing Vacation Bible School memories. All Sunday School registration forms can be completed on-line and found on the church website. Hard copies will be available on Rally Sunday. Mark your planner for a roaring return to Sunday School on September 12th. Prior to the church service all are invited to join their church family for coffee and donuts. Following the church service all are encouraged and invited to ROAR into an afternoon of fun, food and fellowship at the beloved, annual,

CHURCH PICNIC... Serving to fill those "growling" bellies; hamburgers, hot dogs, bratwurst, corn on the cob, pasta salad, chips and ice cream will round out the afternoon's menu. Prior to lunch, "cub" games and crafts will be hosted by Christian Education. Following lunch, families will have the opportunity to: visit the petting farm, take a pony/horseback ride, listen and sing to tunes spun by Russell Walker and to take some fun and silly pictures.

A great time is expected to be had by all. Mark your planners now for this fun-filled family event.

Rummage Sale Donations Sought—Volunteers Needed

The annual St. Paul Fall Rummage Sale will be held Thursday through Saturday, October 7-9. Rummage donations will be welcomed starting on Monday, September 13 - 9:30 till 2:30, and should be deposited on the appropriate tables set up in Fellowship Hall. All donated clothing, household goods, and equipment should be clean and in a good state of repair.

Rummage sale set-up will continue throughout September and the first week in October. Church members are encouraged to help pitch in, sorting and laying out items for sale, as well as during the sale and for post-sale clean-up, Saturday, October 9. The Fellowship Hall will be closed for all other activities until the rummage sale finishes. To volunteer, please contact the church office (313-291-1221). All proceeds from the rummage sale support church-related projects.

Red Hot Purple Angels to Start Meeting October

Finally, we will plan to start meeting again if all goes well. We will start with our Halloween Bunco. On Thursday October 28th at 7 p.m. in the West Room or Fellowship Hall. Bring \$5. Bunco is easy, you don't have to know how to play ahead of time. Wear a costume or Halloween shirt. We will not have a potluck dinner this year due to Covid. There will be a sign-up sheet on the RHPA Bulletin Board. Kathy Williams is the contact. We need to have a planning meeting in the near future.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Paul 2021 Pictorial Directory,

St. Paul has contracted with Universal Church Directories to help us with our new Pictorial Directory. Universal is widely known for top quality directories and photography. Their photographer will take pictures and you will view your proofs electronically immediately following your photo session.

There are some terrific advantages for participating in the 2021 St. Paul Pictorial Directory. You will receive a complimentary directory and a complimentary 8x10 photo sent postage free to your home. No hidden costs, no sales pressure, and no sitting fees, with just one trip to the Church. You are not obligated to purchase any pictures.

Sign-up for photo session appointments can be made after the 10:00 am Worship Service in the West Room through September 26th. To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to www.ucdir.com, click on schedule your photography session on the right side, enter mi1410 in the Church Code field and enter photos in the Church Password field.

Photo sessions can be scheduled for Thursday, October 21st (2:00 – 8:30 pm), Friday, October 22nd (2:00 – 8:30 pm) or Saturday, October 23rd (10:30 am to 4:00 pm). Available appointments will fill up fast so you should schedule quickly. Families that would like entire family photos should schedule back-to-back sessions so that you can have individual pictures as well as family pictures. If you are not available for any of these dates, please call Daniel Thero (734) 624-7701 and he will schedule you at another site on a day you can make.

If you have additional questions or need help scheduling your photo session, please call Dan Case. St. Paul Communication Ministry

New Mobile Electronic Giving will be offered from VANCO

VANCO, our electronic giving source will be offering a new mobile giving option called "VANCO MOBILE" very similar to their existing Online option. With the new app you will be able to support St. Paul ministries from anywhere. You will be able to go to the "App Store" for I-phones or "Google Play" for Android phones to download the "VANCO MOBILE" app for free. The new app is simple to use, set-up is very easy and if you are currently utilizing the online giving tool your credentials will remain the same. More information on how to set up your account will be released during the month of September.

'Par for the Course' Golf Tournery Helps Feed Hungry

Golfers have a chance to not only enjoy a great game but also help fight hunger Downriver by participating in the Eleventh Annual 'Par for the Course" Fish & Loaves Golf Outing at Taylor Meadows on Saturday, September 18. The golf outing is an important fundraiser for the Fish & Loaves Community Food Pantry which annually distributes 1.5 million pounds of food to Downriver and Dearborn Heights households with demonstrated need.

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. Masks are still suggested indoors especially when social distancing is not enforced but masking indoors is not required. 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. A booster shot is suggested 8 months following a series of immunizations. There is a list of Wayne County Health Department Clinics: Vaccination | COVID-19Resources (waynecounty.com) Call 1.866.610.3885, 9 a.m-5 p.m. for an appointment. Vaccines are also available in other locations at pharmacies or possibly the health systems you use for care. Covid-19 testing sites are listed at: Testing | COVID-19 Resources (waynecounty.com)

Exercise Program Resumes

Exercise class continues on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. 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. Come and try it out. Hope to see many participate. No cost. Contact Parish Nurse Kathy Williams if you have questions.

CPR/First Aid Training is Still Being Offered

We have had three successful training sessions. One more is in the plan. It takes 8 hours and is usually broken into two 4 hour sessions. 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.

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 mid- October if there are enough interested persons. Let Kathy know if you are interested in trying out TOPS. The first meeting is free.

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

A **Special THANK YOU** to the following people who helped with the Annual Kitchen Clean-Up: Dan Evison, Mark Ennis, Pam Lange, Dave Lange, Julius Enesey, Harold Fick, Tom Tank and Dan Case. Your help was truly appreciated. St. Paul Building and Grounds Ministry.

To My St. Paul family and friends - Many thanks for all of your thoughts and prayers as I continue to recover from a stroke in April. Your kindness is truly appreciated. God Bless, Bev Goodell

JOYS AND CONCERNS

CONDOLENCES: To the family and friends of *Susan James* who passed away July 24, 2021. Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas officiated. Arrangements by Michigan Memorial Funeral Home; To the family and friends of Charlie Duncan III on the loss of grandfather, *Charlie Duncan* on July 28, 2021. Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas officiated. Arrangements by Czopek Funeral Home, Wyandotte; To the Schwab, Hard and Frazier families on the loss of *Sheryl Schwab* who passed away August 6, 2021. Memorial service is September 19, 2021 at St. Paul United Church of Christ. Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas to officiate. Arrangements by Martenson Funeral Home, Allen Park Chapel; To the McNeely family on the loss of *Joel Hunter* who passed away August 10, 2021. Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas officiated. Arrangements by Martenson Funeral Home, Trenton Chapel.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

MEMORIAL FUND:

In Memory of: *Irene Church* From: Miles Church
In Memory of: *Shirlen Powell* From: Tom & Barbara Block; Bill & Billie Jo Stears; MacZink Family; Ken & Trish Anderson

KITCHEN FUND:

In Memory of: *Shirlen Powell* From: Bill & Billie Jo Stears

HEALTH MINISTRIES FUND:

In Memory of: *Shirlen Powell* From: Brian Merlos & Emmeline Weinert

FACILITY IMPROVEMENT FUND:

In Memory of: *Shirlen Powell* From: Ruth & Mark Kenosian

TREE OF FAITH LEAVES:

In Memory of: *Arlene Wolfram* From: Frank Wolfram; The Grandchildren; Eric, Jennifer & Beth; Chuck Starnes

GENERATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND:

In Memory of: *Kevin Staffeld* From: Gary & Pat Staffeld

ORGAN FUND:

In Memory of: *Judy Nieman* From: Ray & Cindy Collen; Shirley Havenstein; Carl Reinhackel; Bill & Sandy Nieman; Susan Scheffer; David & Patricia Schmoekel; William & Debora Myhand; Robert & Shirley Nieman; Russell & Carol Nieman; Murlyn Nieman; James & Judith Sumner

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR

Church Members and Friends: Sherrill Berndt, Gunter Berndt, John Caufield, Margo Charette, Patrick Ferguson, Jim Fraser, Kyle Hard, Carrie Hill, Wayne Jones, Shirely Koths, Loretta Kurtzel, Dave Lange, Don Mack, Michelle Matney, Neil McEachern, Jeff MacZink, Maria MacZink, Murl Nieman, Shirley Robinson, Sandra Rose, Eleanor Rossi, Glen Sigman, Bob Smarr, Christie Smart, Sue Spears, Tyler Staten, Sue Stern, Brenda Tank, Linda Tank, Bert Thompson, Doreen Thompson, Nancy Walker, and Diane Wickline.

Extended Family: Dawn Sturgeon Anderson, 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 Jantzsen (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), Dick Milatz, Judy Robin (aunt, Lucinda Chavez), Dale Rose (brother Sandra Rose), Trudy Clark-Schiller (daughter, April & Steve Clark), Darryl Smith, Philip Smith, Hailee St.Louis & Renee St.Louis (nieces of Charlie & Marjie Barnard), Nicholas Surre (great-grandson, Helene McEachern), Gunnar Theisen, Nicole Wangbickler, 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.