

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

November 2022

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday November 6 - Totenfest Service and Sunday School - 10 a.m.

Sunday November 13 - Church Service and Sunday School - 10 a.m.

Sunday November 20 - Church Service and Sunday School - 10 a.m.
Retirement Reception - 11 a.m.

Friday November 25 - Office Closed

Sunday November 27 - Church Service and Sunday School - 10 a.m.
Hanging of the Greens - 11 a.m.

December

Sunday December 4 - Church Service and Sunday School - 10 a.m.
"Advent by Candlelight" - 6:45 - 8:45

Sunday December 11 - Church Service and Sunday School - 10 a.m.

Sunday December 18 - Christmas Pageant - Sanctuary - 10 a.m.
Cookie Walk & Light luncheon - 11 a.m.

Saturday December 24 - Christmas Eve Service - 7 p.m. & 11 p.m.

Sunday December 25 - Sunday Service and Sunday School - 10 a.m.

PASTOR'S PEACE

It's hard to believe but Thanksgiving is coming up fast. So is Advent and even Christmas. And also at year's end my own time of departure, bringing to a close many years of ministry with our St. Paul congregation.

At moments like this I wish it was within our power to hold back time. Yet as we all know that's impossible. What we can do is appreciate and savor what time we have, making the most of it. We can help accomplish that by our own spirit of gratitude and thanks. It's a spirit encouraged by our own Christian faith and the example of Jesus Christ and our Christian forebearers who knew to look for God's blessings and to give thanks even for the most humble of them.

I am grateful and thankful for so many things. I see God's blessings abounding. I am grateful for the life companionship of my wife, Eileen, and for my family—son, daughter-in-law, grandchildren, as well as brothers. I am thankful for our congregation that has continued to welcome and spiritually nourish me over these many years and for all the friendships in Christ that have been forged. I am grateful too for all that we have been able to accomplish together in Jesus' and for the beautiful way that we have together withstood all the worst temptations and challenges of our day—including skepticism, cynicism, materialism, and a selfishness reflected in "me first" or even "we first" attitudes that are so widely prevalent today. Thanks to God and his grace and our faithfulness as his people, not even a lingering two-year Covid pandemic could knock us down or keep us apart from long. I feel joy that we continue to face the future with faith and courage.

Amid the sweep of time that I am especially feeling this month, all these things I will be savoring and celebrating with deep thankfulness and gratitude. I hope you will too as we continue week by week to worship and fellowship in Christ. I look forward to all that yet lies ahead for us together in the seasons of Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas.

~ *Shalom, Pastor Geoffrey Drutchas*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EDITORIAL

"Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart." ~Psalm 37:4

Everyone has hopes and desires for their lives. The desire to own a home, to have children and a family, to be successful in their career, or to simply be healthy and happy. These are all good hopes and dreams to have. However, we must remember that to "take delight" in the Lord also means to trust Him and His perfect timing.

We may want or desire something at this very moment in our life, but God may be telling us that it's not time yet. Maybe He wants to fulfill a desire we have in a completely different and perhaps, better way than we imagine. There may be more He wants to accomplish through us, before fulfilling whatever it is we want Him to fulfill. Perhaps He wants to use us to help fulfill someone else's dream or

desire, or maybe the different path He wants to take us along will lead us to one of our heart's desires. Whatever it might be, we must keep the faith. We must delight in Him first and trust that He loves us and knows what's best for us.

May this Thanksgiving season find us with grateful hearts, delighting in our Lord!

~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, Christian Education finds themselves in search of a nursery attendant.

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.

Christian Education to Kick-Off Christmas Caring Campaign

Christian Education will be sponsoring three Christmas caring opportunities to help those in need this year. The first being, **Operation Christmas Child**. All interested participants can pick up a wrapped shoe box during coffee hour beginning October 30th. The shoe box comes complete with instructions on how to fill it and return it. All filled shoe boxes will be sent to children around the world in need of a little Christmas cheer; and more importantly, with a message of Christ's Love. A huge thank you to Jane Dykowski for wrapping all the shoe boxes! All gift-filled shoe boxes should be returned by **November 20th**. They will be delivered to the collection center later that afternoon.

The second opportunity to spread the Love of Christ during the Christmas season will be through the Salvation Army. **Angel tags benefiting children in need in our local communities will be hung on the "angel tree" located in Fellowship Hall. The tags are expected to become available mid-November.** All interested in securing a tag which identifies the gender and age of a child in need can contact Pastor Schalm or secure a tag from the angel tree. More details to come as they are made available.

Lastly, a tub will be placed in the back of Fellowship Hall and in the Sunday School Welcome Center for **donations of hats, gloves, scarves and undergarments**. All items will be delivered to the Salvation Army for families in need.

Watch your Morning Tide for more information on these community outreach programs. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Schalm.

Making Room For the Christ Child and a Home for the Savior

The Sunday School Christmas Pageant, ***Making Room for the Christ Child and a Home for the Savior***, will be held on Sunday, December 18th. This year's pageant will be intergenerational, incorporating the voices of choir members and older youth. The pageant will be part of the morning's worship service being held in the sanctuary. The youth sponsored cookie walk and a light Christmas luncheon will be served following the service.

Rock Hard in Faith Youth Fellowship

Brunch and Operation Christmas Child Box Packing

Following the special retirement reception for Rev. Geoff being held on November 20, the youth will be packing and loading up all the Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. The shoe boxes will be delivered to the collection center later that afternoon.

The Youth Fellowship Day of Service & Christmas Gathering is tentatively scheduled for December 3rd.

We will be preparing dinner for the guests of ChristNet along with some other service projects prior to heading out for a holiday celebration. Youth should watch their mail for more details.

Youth Sponsored Cookie Walk

After a two year cancellation due to the pandemic, the youth will once again be holding their annual Christmas Cookie Walk. The cookie walk will take place following the Sunday School Christmas Pageant being held on Sunday, December 18th as part of the morning worship service. Cookie donations are being sought. Please plan now to bake and donate!

Dinner and Dialogue

Every Wednesday the youth group will meet at the church at 6:00 p.m. for dinner and dialogue prior to the start of Confirmation class. All interested in participating should sign the sheet on the youth board by the Sunday prior.

Calling all College iStudents 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 CHURCH EVENTS

Totenfest Service Remembers Family Members and Friends

Church members who have passed away over the last twelve months are being remembered at the Totenfest Service on Sunday, November 6. As their names are read aloud near the end of the service, our historic 1911 church bell will be rung in honor of each deceased member. In keeping with custom, a special liturgy based upon the words of the Apostle Paul will also be offered as a part of the 10 a.m. service. Prior to the start of worship, altar candles will be lit for each church member and friend being memorialized Totenfest morning. Also, a large separate candle will be lit remembering all who have lost their lives due to the coronavirus.

Memorial Sunday always immediately follows All Hallows' Eve (Halloween), All Hallows' or All Saints Day, and All Souls' Day—three back-to-back observances in the traditional calendar of the Christian churches in which those who have died are remembered and celebrated.

Communion Sacrament Offered During Memorial Sunday Service

The communion sacrament will be offered during Totenfest, our Memorial Sunday Service, November 6. Our pastors and elders will be serving communion at the chancel steps but providing communion 'kits' to those who, arriving at church, prefer to partake of communion in their pew. The individually wrapped and sealed wafer-and-cup communion 'kits' will be consecrated along with those elements shared through communion trays at the front of the church, as well as bread and juice from home kitchens utilized by those following the Facebook live streamed service. Those receiving communion at the chancel steps will be invited by the deacons to step forward up the center aisle, returning to their pews via side aisles afterwards.

At St. Paul United Church of Christ, we observe an "open communion" which means that formal membership in our church is not required to share in the sacrament. We welcome all confirmed in faith or of adult age to the sacred meal that Jesus began in an upper Jerusalem room with his apostles before facing Calvary's cross.

'Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving' Stewardship Appeal Made

Our St. Paul congregation will be living the theme of this year's annual stewardship appeal as we move from celebrating the communion sacrament on the first Sunday of November to a celebration of faithful Christian stewardship the very next Sunday, November 13. The importance of our gifts of time, talents, and treasure to our shared ministry will all be emphasized on Stewardship Sunday with Pastor Drutchas preaching on the subject. Faith commitment cards will be received and consecrated with special prayer and blessing at the end of the service.

Stewardship appeal letters were sent to all church members and active friends in mid-October with a faith commitment card and sealable envelope enclosed. Your enveloped cards can be deposited in the tithe box at the entrance to the sanctuary on Stewardship Sunday or returned to the church office any time. As indicated by your mailed letter, any faith commitment made can be revised according to any changing circumstances in your own household.

If you have questions regarding stewardship at St. Paul, please feel free to speak with Pastor Drutchas or Elder and Stewardship Coordinator Barb Schultz.

'Look for the Blessing' Thanksgiving Eve Service

"Look for the Blessing" will be the theme of our annual Thanksgiving Eve on Wednesday, November 23. Led by Pastor Geoff Drutchas, this year's service will be held in the sanctuary at 7 p.m. church members are invited to worship and fellowship together as we give thanks for God's blessings.

The fellowship period will be held in the West Room with holiday refreshments served. Mark your calendars now for a night of thanks together.

The Lights of Advent Soon to Shine

The Advent season, marking the jump-start of a new Christian year, begins on the Sunday of the Thanksgiving weekend. Although our Advent communion will not be held until the following week, the first candle of the season preparing for Christ's birth will be lit on that morning of November 27. Also, the Christmas trees flanking the altar and the traditional star above the pulpit will be lit for the first time. To honor the new season, church members and friends are invited to wear something blue—the color associated with Advent.

St. Paul Hosts ChristNet Meals

In lieu of housing homeless guests overnight for a week as in past, pre-Covid years, our St. Paul congregation will be hosting a week of suppers for ChristNet guests who are being locally moteled, beginning Sunday, November 27 and continuing through Saturday, December 3. Volunteers are needed to help prepare the daily suppers for approximately 25 homeless guests. The catered meals will be delivered to their motel accommodations where they will be distributed. Approximately, 4-5 volunteers are required each night for meal preparation in our church kitchen.

Our ChristNet week continues the traditional support which our congregation has extended to the homeless shelter program which our own members were so instrumental in launching almost three decades ago. This past September ChristNet opened its spacious and attractive daytime center which, besides providing a refuge from the streets, offers laundry and showering facilities, plus classroom space for learning and training programs intended to help homeless guests gain housing security.

To volunteer to assist with ChristNet suppers during the first week of Advent please contact the church office (313-291-1221) or speak with Pastor Geoff Drutchas. Our ChristNet host week is a wonderful way to share the love and joy of the Advent and Christmas seasons with others in need.

'Blue Christmas' Service Remembers Loved Ones

Church members and friends who have lost loved ones over the past year or more and are experiencing Christmas the first or second time without a loved one are invited to attend a special "Blue Christmas" program and worship service on Thursday, December 1, 7 p.m. We will initially gather in the church parlor and then join for a time of very special worship in the chancel of the St. Paul sanctuary.

Participants are encouraged to bring a photo of their loved one with them that night to place on the altar. The "Blue Christmas" Service will be led by Pastor Geoff Drutchas. For more information, contact the church office (313-291-1221)

"Advent by Candlelight" Program Kicks off Holiday Season

Sponsored by the Christian Education Ministry, our annual "Advent by Candlelight" program is being held on Sunday, Dec. 4, from 6:45-8:45 PM. This is where one woman hosts a table and asks about seven other ladies to join her for an advent program, fellowship and dessert. There will be a sign up sheet during coffee hour all through November, or you can contact Debbie Case. (debbiescase@aol.com). It is quite easy to be a hostess and I will have envelopes for each hostess with all the information. There will also be a sign up sheet for ladies that do not want to host a table but would like to attend. We will do our best to find a place for every lady that would like to attend. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, Nov. 20th. The table arrangement in the hall is based on the order that you sign your group up by. I will need to know total numbers at each table by Nov. 25th.

Santa's Magic Forest Needs Volunteers for St. Paul Day

After a two-year hiatus due to the Covid pandemic, Santa's Magic Forest is returning to Taylor's Heritage Park in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Downriver's "finest holiday display" opens on Saturday at noon of the Thanksgiving weekend. To help host the Magic Forest on the following weekend, a "St. Paul Day" at the Magic Forest has been scheduled for Saturday, December 10, 12-7 p.m. As in past years, church members are encouraged to help welcome visitors of all ages. In lending a hand, bringing delight to many, our church members will also raise much needed funds to keep shelves stocked at the Fish & Loaves client choice food pantry. The largest of its kind in Michigan, Fish & Loaves serves 8,000 area households annually.

The "Magic Forest" holiday display includes two dozen charming Christmas scenes with moving animatrons. It will continue through Sunday, December 18. Children have an opportunity to visit Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Magic Forest. It's a beautiful time for kids, parents, and volunteers.

There is a small \$3 admission charge to the Magic Forest which, despite inflation, continues unchanged from previous years. Photos with Santa are also available at an additional cost.

All volunteer stints for St. Paul Day at the Magic Forest are two hours. To volunteer, complete a Make-A-Wish card on Sunday mornings and add it to the offering plate, or contact the church office (313-291-1221).

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Candidates Sought for Church Council

Nominations are invited for several St. Paul Church Council positions as our congregation looks to its annual meeting and election on the third Sunday of the new year, January 15, 2023. Council positions open for nomination include second

vice president, secretary, elder, trustee and deacon. All open positions are for three-year terms.

The nominee elected for second vice president thereafter serves as first vice president during the second year and as Council president during a third and final year of office. All Council members attend monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of every month, as well as assume other duties on Sunday mornings and other occasions. Throughout the year there are also special assignments that arise. Any church member interested in being nominated should contact the church office or speak with Church trustees Michael Isaacs, Fred Miller and Toni Hill.

St. Paul Budget

Summer contributions remained strong and as of the end of September we are above our budget amount for income. Our staff continues to monitor all spending and only purchasing those items required to run the church and our expenses to date are below the budgeted amount. However, Heat and Energy costs continue to rise and are over budget for the year. Thank you for your continued and generous support for the first 9 months of 2022. Dan Case St. Paul Treasurer

MAKE-A-WISH Cards

Have a suggestion or just want to make a comment about something that concerns you, then please utilize the orange Make-A-Wish cards located in each pew. Just fill the card out and drop it in the collection box during the Sunday Worship. Although a signature is not required it helps for us to provide you with appropriate feedback in a timely manner. The cards are given to the Communication Ministry each Monday for review and appropriate action. Our goal is to respond to the cards immediately and provide feedback to the author. St. Paul Communication Ministry

Building Maintenance and Improvements Continue

Taking advantage of the warm Indian Summer weather, St. Paul trustees arranged for the necessary repair and partial resurfacing of our large parking lot. Cracks were filled and stressed areas freshly top-coated to extend the life of the asphalt in the face of the coming winter freeze. The improvement is visible. Also, Trustee Michael Isaacs with a personally recruited team installed on our church's behalf a set of four ceiling spotlights to improve sanctuary lighting for Sunday morning Facebook broadcasts. At the same time, to minimize sunlight glare, the stained glass window closest to the pulpit was tinted. Although the tinting is barely noticeable indoors and outdoors, it too improves our church's broadcast quality. Please extend your thanks to the trustees for their good work.

Fall Rummage Sale Proceeds Reported

The St. Paul Fall Rummage Sale during the first full week of October proved to be a success with no shortage of wares to sell. The array of clothing and household goods displayed in Fellowship Hall and West Room was particularly impressive. However, the garage and tent had a smattering of furniture and equipment that attracted enthusiastic buyers. At the end of the sale, total reported proceeds indoors were \$5700 and outdoors (garage and tent) were \$2381. When combined, sale proceeds reached \$8,081, equaling, if not topping, pre-Covid rummage sale profits.

Besides being a solid fundraiser for the church, the sale is a major recycling event that also provides opportunities for low-cost shopping for area families and individuals. Once again, rummage sale volunteers heard from customers that the St. Paul rummage sales are the best to be had in Taylor and the surrounding communities. Thanks is due to the Women's and Men's Fellowships and many volunteers who step forward every spring and fall to make these sales possible.

Red Hot Purple Angels

This organization is still in need of leadership to start up again. We have made a couple of attempts at restart without success. Contact Sally Sigman or Kathy Williams if you are interested in continuing or leading this group.

HEALTH MINISTRIES

Exercise Class Wednesday's

Exercise classes are still being offered Wednesday's from 10:30 -11:30 a.m. A variety of exercises are all part of each session and can be done in a seated position with the use of a chair or standing position or a combination of both. A small donation of \$3 to \$5 is suggested but not expected for each class you attend. Can't make it to class, but want to join us from home? Join us on ZOOM. You must be able to access the internet by computer, I-pad, or phone with video availability. You do not have to have to show on camera during class, but you will need to be able to see the instructor. You can also find the zoom link on our St Paul website under 'What's Happening' Health Activities. If you would like to participate or have any questions, contact Parish Nurse Kathy Williams.

NO CLASS NOVEMBER 23RD

CPR/First Aid Being Offered in November

Two CPR/First Aid classes will be offered at St. Paul either the last weekend in November or the first weekend in December. At least four people are needed to conduct the class. Ideally, two people from each church group or committee should take a First aid/CPR class. This will allow for 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 8-8.5 hours. Classes will include two four-hour sessions or one 8-hour session. The class workbook will be available prior to the sessions and needs to be read prior to the class. If you are willing or interested in becoming certified, please complete a Make a Wish Card or leave a message in the office.

Health ministries is looking for volunteers to give input and/or serve in this ministry. Kathy Williams is continuing as coordinator at this time until a decision is made concerning our new Senior Pastor and where the next steps are. Contact Kathy if you are interested.

In need of medical equipment? Contact Parish Nurse Kathy Williams or the church office and let them know what you are needing.

JOYS AND CONCERN

Joined in Marriage

Walter Stanfill, Jr. wed Michelle Theeck Friday, October 21, 2022. Pastor Geoffrey Drutchas officiated.

Robert Zasadny wed Joanna Rogers Saturday, October 22, 2022. Pastor Cheryl Schalm officiated.

CONDOLENCES TO: Marge Bergman and the Block family on the loss of **Janet Brown** who passed away September 19, 2022 at the age of 95 years. Service was October 7, 2022. Pastor Geoffrey Drutchas officiated. Arrangements by Crane Funeral Home, Romulus, Michigan; Joan Smarr and family on the loss of **Robert Smarr** who passed away September 22, 2022 at the age of 84 years. Service was October 1, 2022. Pastor Geoffrey Drutchas officiated. Arrangements by Michigan Memorial Funeral Home; Sally Sigman and family on the loss of **Glen Sigman** who passed away October 3, 2022 at the age of 84 years. Service was October 9, 2022. Pastor Geoffrey Drutchas officiated. Arrangements by Martenson Funeral Home, Allen Park Chapel; Cindy and Emily Winter and family on the loss of **Laurence Yax** who passed away October 3, 2022 at the age of 85 years. Service was October 22, 2022. Pastor Cheryl Schalm officiated. Arrangements by Martenson Funeral Home, Allen Park, Chapel; Darlene Babin and family on the loss of **Donald Babin** who passed away October 24, 2022 at the age of 84 years. Service was October 28, 2022. Pastor Geoffrey Drutchas officiated. Arrangements by Molnar Funeral Home, Nixon Chapel; family and friends of **Daisy Stedman** who passed away October 26, 2022 at the age of 94 years.

MEMORIALS

MEMORIAL FUND:

In Memory of: *William & Leona Traub* From: Paul, William &
Margaret Willard- Traub

In Memory of: *Kevin Staffeld* From: Teri Staffeld

In Memory of: *Bob Smarr* From: Dennis, Ann, Dan, & Dale Schmoekel

In Memory of: *Glen Sigman* From: Shirley Havenstein

MUSIC GROWTH FUND:

In Memory of: *Glen Sigman* From: Gary & Pat Staffeld

KITCHEN FUND:

In Memory of: *Robert Smarr* From: Dan & Dorothy Evison

ORGAN FUND:

In Memory of: *Glen Sigman* From: Dan & Dorothy Evison

FACILITY IMPROVEMENT FUND:

In Memory of: *Glen Sigman* From: Thelma Poet, Jim Poet Family

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR

Church Members and Friends: Dan Case, Margo Charette, Miles Church, John Dubke, Janet Enesey, Hayden Forsyth, Barb Gish, Kyle Hard, Carrie Hill, Wayne Jones, Judy Kirsch, Sheila Klimek, Gloria Lakatos, Rosemarie Laslo, Steve Matney, Neil McEachern, Jeff MacZink, Jeff Natzke, Bob Robinson, Shirley Robinson, LaVerne Roe, Ronald Rogers, Eleanor Rossi, Jerry Rossi, Joseph Smith, Sue Spears, Nancy Rabb, Sandi Rose, Joan Smarr, Dianne Sturgeon, Linda Tank, Bert Thompson, Jeanette Wackro, Al Wierzbicki, and Lorelee Wilson.

Extended Family: Karen Collett, Philip and Connie Linne Alberts, Dawn Sturgeon Anderson, Susan Barnard (Sister-in-law of Charlie Barnard), Mary Board (daughter, Clifford Board), Josh Edelbrock, Arthur Jensen (son, Phil Jensen), Talama Braba (Judy Albright's daughter), Kim Cichowicz, Courtney Daoust, Gabriella Gomez (niece, Darlene Babin), Raymond Harmon, Kevin & Steven Johnson (grandsons, Patricia Olson) Richard Jones, Jeff Kasher, Tom Koths, Janet Kren, Joanne LeFleur (daughter, Helene & Neil McEachern), Jennifer & Tammy Lee (granddaughter & daughter, Barb Siemers), Courtney McEachern Matthews, Kim McEachern (daughters-in-law, Helene & Neil McEachern), Brenda Meridith, Debi Petri, Judy Robin (aunt, Lucinda Chavez), Jerry Rossi, David Saalwaechter (grandson, Grace Wangbickler) Tammi Sherman, Mary & Darrell Smith, Debbie Smitt, Debra Stavros, Brenda Stockwell, Nicholas Surre (great-grandson, Helene McEachern), Sharon Thompson, Bill Warner, and Robin Weiner.

Congregations' Parents: Ronald & Myrna Matthews (parents, Brenda Rossi), Robert Brainard (father, Ed Brainard), Jan Filpus (mother, Julia-Joy Miller), Carol Hoffman (mother, Tracy Hoffman), Vicki Simon (mother, Michael Isaacs), and Bruce and Pat Vernor (parents, Eileen Vernor Drutchas), Victoria Whitcher (daughter, Cheryl Stewart).

Church Members & Friends in Nursing or Rehab Care:

Loretta Kurtzel- The Bellaire Senior Living, 12621 Hale Street, Riverview, 48193;
Esther Perry - Bellbrook Assisted Living, 873 West Avon Rd., Unit 209 H, Rochester Hills, 48307; *Eleanor Rossi* - Lakeland Nursing Center, 500 Williams St., Angola, IN 46703, *Melissa Rossi* -17652 Colgate, Dearborn Heights, 48125.