

# TIDINGS

St. Paul United Church of Christ  
24158 Goddard Road, Taylor, Michigan 48180-3910  
313-291-1221 • Fax 313-291-3305  
email: [stpaulucctaylor@stpaulucctaylor.org](mailto:stpaulucctaylor@stpaulucctaylor.org)  
[www.stpaulucctaylor.org](http://www.stpaulucctaylor.org)  
Interim Pastor - Rev. George Reed  
Minister of Christian Education - Pastor Cheryl Schalm

**March 2023**

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Friday March 3 - 1st Drive Thru Fish Dinner - 3:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday March 5 - Church Service and Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.  
Guest Minister Rev. Lillian Daniels from the Michigan Conference UCC

Monday's March 6 thru April 3rd - Lenten Bible Book Study- 7:00 p.m.

Friday March 10 - 2nd Drive Thru Fish Dinner - 3:30 to 6 p.m.

Sunday March 12 - Daylight Savings Time begins - Church Service and Sunday  
Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.

Friday March 17 - 3rd Drive Thru Fish Dinner - 3:30 to 6 p.m.

Sunday March 19 - Church Service and Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.

Friday March 24 - 4th Drive Thru Fish Dinner - 3:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday March 26 - Church Service and Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.

Friday March 31 - 5th Drive Thru Fish Dinner - 3:30 to 6:00 p.m.

## **FROM THE PASTOR**



Greetings:

I want to share with you some things about *Interim Ministry* because it has been many years since St. Paul UCC has had one. I hope this will help clarify my role here and help us be more faithful to the task that is before us.

First there is the descriptive title of who I am and what I do no matter where I serve which is 'intentional interim pastor'. This signifies that I do not serve a congregation as long term supply pastor but I come to serve during the 'interim' or transitional time with a congregation and I do this with 'intention', that is I come to assist the congregation with their specific tasks. I am here to help you come to terms with your history. This does not mean that your past is a problem but that your past holds meaning not only for times gone by but to help you discern where God is calling you in the present and into the future. Which leads us into the task of defining more clearly who we are as a congregation and what gifts/talents/issues we have to work with. Then we can begin to more clearly discern the future that lies before us. We will learn together to celebrate the past and the things that will remain the same and to anticipate and enter fully into the new things that God has for us.

Secondly, I am here as your 'Interim Senior Pastor'. I do not come to replace Reverend Drutchas but I have come to take over the position which he filled during the transitional time until your settled pastor is called. Often people ask what I do as an interim pastor and the answer is: everything I would do (and did for many years) if I were a settled pastor plus the additional work of guiding the congregation through the transition from one settled pastor to the next.

Call on me as you would any pastor who serves your congregation and feel free to call on me with questions about the transition time. I look forward to serving among you in our time together.

Yours in Christ,  
George+Reed, O.S.L.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EDITORIAL**

***“For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”***

***~Esther 4:14***

The Bible is full of countless examples of people - average people just like you and I, whom God chose to do big things for His kingdom through. There was Moses who led the Israelites out of Egypt, Jonah who warned the people of Nineveh, and Esther who risked her life for her people. And then there are those who followed their example: Martin Luther who led a reform, Abe Lincoln who took a stand on slavery, Martin Luther King Jr. who spoke against racism, Mother Teresa who served the poorest of the poor in Calcutta, Rev. Faith Fowler who continues to serve the poor and homeless in the Cass corridor of Detroit and the list goes on and on. Through scripture and other genres we know that many of these people doubted themselves and felt unqualified to do what they were asked to do - even to the point of pleading with God to choose someone else!

Like Queen Esther, who concealed her Jewish identity to the King until such time he made a royal decree that would annihilate her people, you may find yourself in a seemingly impossible or troubling situation. What do we do when in such a situation? Do we speak up like Esther or remain silent? Do we try to blend in and fit in or do we stand out? Do we cower in fear or proceed with courage? Esther chose to courageously speak up and stand out. As a result, God used her to save the nation. “It’s not hyperbole to say that her courage changed the course of history. Nor is it an overstatement to say that God can do the same with us.”-Max Lucado

Like Esther, we can act in a way that will bless more people than we can imagine. During the season of Lent, let us meditate upon God’s Word and let us, with courage, speak out and stand up and join God in His work.

A Bible & Book study on the book, *“You Were Made For This Moment, Courage for Today and Hope for Tomorrow”* by Max Lucado will be offered on Monday evenings beginning on March 6th and concluding on April 3rd. Anyone interested should contact Pastor Schalm by February 27th. Books will be ordered at that time.

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

### **Christian Education Activities**

#### **Youth Fellowship & Sunday School Raise Money for Earthquake Relief**

The news continues to unfold about the devastating earthquake on the border of Turkey and Syria. The death toll continues to rise – numbers are pointing to over 35,000 – depending on the source.

The youth and Sunday School held a B & B (bottle drive & bake sale) on Sunday, February 19th during coffee hour. All proceeds from the bottle & can drive and bake sale went to benefit the UCC Turkey and Syria Earthquake relief efforts.

All donations were deposited into the International Emergency fund designated for “Turkey and Syria Earthquake Response.” Funds will be used by UCC partners

in the areas of greatest need for relief and long-term recovery. Thank you to all who so generously supported the efforts of the youth to share God's love with those in need.

### **Youth Winter Retreat Ice Camp held February 24 – 26**

Eleven young people and their chaperones spent a weekend worshipping, praising and playing at Miracle Camp & Retreat Center. Along with young people from churches throughout Michigan the group worshiped together, broke bread together and praised God together. During free time they enjoyed snow tubing, karaoke, dodgeball, snowshoeing, and many other activities.

### **Rock Hard in Faith Youth Fellowship "St. Patty's Pizza and Dance" ARC outreach**

In lieu of the annual ARC Valentine Dinner Dance, the youth will be hosting a St. Patty's pizza party and dance for members of the ARC/ Special Olympics downriver association. The event will take place on Saturday, March 11th. Anyone interested in making cupcakes or cookies for the event should contact Pastor Schalm.

### **Meditation Monday'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. Whether you have been a regular or are considering coming for the first time, we welcome and look forward to your company and participation. Please contact Pastor Schalm for more information.

### **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.

### **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.

## **ALL CHURCH EVENTS**



### **Michigan Conference Minister to lead us in Worship on March 5th**

On March 5, St Paul UCC Taylor will have the pleasure of hosting our new Michigan Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel to lead us in worship. She began her position with the Michigan Conference UCC on July 1st, 2022. Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel served as Senior Pastor at First Congregational Church in Dubuque, Iowa (2016-2022) - a church with a heart for the city located in historic downtown Dubuque. Our own youth groups led by Pastor Cheryl Schalm have visited Dubuque, Iowa for mission trips in previous years. Prior to Lillian's arrival in Iowa, she spent ten years as Senior Pastor of a 1,400- member church located in a western Chicago suburb. Graduating from Bryn Mawr College, she earned her Masters and Doctorate from Yale Divinity School and Hartford Seminary. Lillian began her ministry in Cheshire, Connecticut as an Associate Pastor and three years later became Senior Pastor at the Church of the Redeemer in New Haven. Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel is traveling across the state of Michigan with her goal to visit all the UCC Michigan congregations by year's end 2023. Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel comes from Iowa and is an accomplished preacher, teacher, and writer having spoken at over 140 churches including, but not limited to the National Cathedral, Duke Chapel, King's College, London and Queen's College, Ontario. She has taught preaching at a number of schools, including Chicago Theological Seminary, University of Chicago, University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and Yale Divinity School. Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel has been featured in the New York Times and on PBS Television with her writing described as "biting, hilarious, pitch perfect, tender, and often stunningly beautiful." Publications authored by Rev Dr Lillian Daniel include the following:

#### **TIRED OF APOLOGIZING FOR A CHURCH I DON'T BELONG TO**

Daniel argues that it's time for Christians to stop apologizing and realize that how we talk about Christian community matters. With disarming candor laced with just the right amount of humor, Daniel urges open-minded Christians to explore ways to talk about their faith journeys that are reasonable, rigorous, and real. Daniel shows why it matters how we talk about Christian community while urging open minded Christians to learn better ways to talk about their faith. SOURCE: AMAZON REVIEW

## **WHEN "SPIRITUAL BUT NOT RELIGIOUS" IS NOT ENOUGH**

Minister and celebrated author Lillian Daniel gives a new spin on church with stories of what a life of faith can really be: weird, wondrous, and well worth trying. From a rock-and roller sexton to a BB gun toting grandma, a church service attended by animals to a group of unlikely theologians at Sing Sing, Daniel shows us a portrait of a church that is flawed, fallible -- and deeply faithful. With poignant reflections and sly wit, Daniel invites all of us to step out of ourselves, dare to become a community, and encounter a God greater than we could ever invent. Humorous and sincere, this is a book about people finding God in the most unexpected of places: prisons, airports, yoga classes, committee meetings, and, strangest of all, right there in church. SOURCE: AMAZON REVIEW

## **This Odd and Wondrous Calling: The Public and Private Lives of Two Ministers**

This Odd and Wondrous Calling offers something different from most books available on ministry. Two people still pastoring reflect honestly here on both the joys and the challenges of their vocation. Anecdotal and extremely readable, the book covers a diversity of subjects revealing the incredible variety of a pastor's day. The chapters move from comedy to pathos, story to theology, Scripture to contemporary culture. This Odd and Wondrous Calling is both serious and fun and is ideal for those who are considering the ministry or who want a better understanding of their own minister's life. SOURCE: AMAZON REVIEW

## **TELL IT LIKE IT IS: RECLAIMING THE PRACTICE OF TESTIMONY**

Lillian Daniel shares how her congregation re-appropriated the practice of testimony one Lenten season, a practice that would eventually revitalize their worship and transform their congregational culture. The experience strengthened lay leadership, fostered more intimate community, and drew the congregation closer to God. The book features the testimonies worshipers heard and reflections from both those who spoke and those who listened to these stories about God at work in the world. SOURCE: AMAZON REVIEW

**Please join us in meeting our new Michigan Conference Minister Rev Dr Lillian Daniel Sunday March 5, 2023 during worship service and fellowship.**

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## **Lenten Fish Dinners Coming - Volunteers Needed**

Our congregation will be hosting six drive-through only fish dinners on Fridays during the Lenten Season. The dinners will be hosted on March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, plus April 7 from 3:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.. As in past years, the menu will include 2 breaded 4 oz. pieces of wild-caught Icelandic Cod, French fries, our church's famous Cole slaw, roll with butter, and a pie slice or brownie for an adult meal, Children's meal will be 1 piece of fish plus everything else in the adult meal. Cost of the dinners are \$14.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 12.

Volunteer help is needed to host all of the dinners. To volunteer, please contact Jim Poet or you may contact the church office (313-291-1221).

### **A Lenten Bible and Book Study begins March 6th**

Pastor Cheryl Schalm will lead a Lenten Bible & Book Study on the book, "You Were Made for this Moment, Courage for Today and Hope for Tomorrow," by Max Lucado on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. beginning March 6th and concluding on April 3rd. Anyone interested should contact Pastor Schalm by February 27th. Books will be ordered for those who sign up.

### **Palm Passion Sunday Readers Needed April 2**

On Palm Sunday (Palm/Passion Sunday) we will be reading the entire story of Jesus' passion which is almost two chapters long. We will do this in a readers' theater style with various folks reading the lines of each character. We will need 15 volunteers to read. Most of the parts are very short and we will be reading so you don't need to memorize the lines.

Palm Sunday is April 2nd and we will have a practice read through after worship on March 26th. If you are willing to volunteer to read please see Pastor Reed. Thank you.

### **Holy Week Services begin Sunday April 2**

Holy Week services begin on Palm Sunday April 2nd, 10 a.m. celebrating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the giving of palms at the end of the service. On Maundy Thursday April 6th we will commemorate the Last Supper at our 7:30 service with Holy Communion being served. Next on Good Friday April 7th, at 12 noon a solemn service will be held for the Day Jesus died on the cross for our sins. And finally on Easter Sunday April 9th at 10:00 a.m. we will Celebrate his glorious **Resurrection**.

Please join us for this important week for Christian's all over the world.

## **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **One Great Hour of Sharing -- A Special Mission Offering**

This year's theme is: It's Time To Share. This offering will be **received throughout the month of March**. An offering envelope is included in this Tidings, and you also will find an envelope in the church pews.

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of our United Church of Christ Special Mission Offerings that assists our Christian friends in need worldwide, in the development of programs of health, education, improving food security, agriculture, and with disaster and refugee relief.

Through sharing, we get a taste of the generosity of God, who does immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine. When we look at suffering in the world, we can become discouraged, unable to see past the difficulty. Faith is a bigger picture, and our God given gifts of talents, material goods, and love, are part of that bigger picture.

We can make a difference. We do make a difference. Your generosity makes all the difference. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing provide immediate aid and long-term support. The need has never been greater. The opportunity is now. **It's time to share.** Please pray about your gift, and share however you are able according to your individual financial ability.

**You may also use Vanco**, our electronic online giving source for this donation. It is easy to set-up a donation. Visit us online at [www.stpaulucctaylor.org/giving](http://www.stpaulucctaylor.org/giving), click on the blue Online Giving button, scroll through the "Donations" listing, select UCC – One Great Hour of Sharing and enter the amount of your donation.

*~Thank you from our St. Paul Stewardship Ministry.*

### **MAKE-A-WISH Cards**

Hear a rumor you want to verify, 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 plate 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. All cards are treated confidentially. St. Paul Communication Ministry

### **2023 Membership Directory**

The 2023 Membership Directory is scheduled for publication mid June. Please notify the office by Monday, May 15, 2023 of any changes to your personal information (phone number, address, new family member, etc.). No updates will be allowed after this date, it is very important that the information published in the directory is accurate and up-to-date. Please contact the Church Office if you have any questions. St. Paul Communication Ministry

### **IT Ministry – Continuing to Expand in 2023**

As the church continues the expansion of its Information Technology (IT) needs into 2023, we are looking for volunteers who have an interest in the implementation of new technologies. We continue to utilize Facebook Live for our Sunday Services and that has been working out very well, however it has shown us that we need more than three people to successfully run our Church IT needs. As we continue to expand our live streaming capabilities in 2023, we need additional help to be successful. Experience or knowledge is not a requirement, as we will provide the appropriate training. Communication with our members and friends is one of the most important goals that we are striving for in 2023.

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 MINISTRIES**

### **Exercise Class Wednesday's**

Join other church members on Wednesday's from 10:30 -11:30 a.m. for our weekly exercise class led by our outstanding instructor Delissa. She will lead you through a variety of exercises each week. All exercises can be done in a seated position with the use of a chair, a standing position or a combination of both. 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 Kathy Williams. A small donation of \$3 to \$5 is suggested, but not expected for each class you attend.

### **Health Ministry needs You to Continue its Mission**

Anyone interested in being a part of the Health Ministries Program are asked to contact the church office or Kathy Williams. Volunteers are needed in order for this ministry to continue going forward. Kathy Williams will continue temporarily to serve as a coordinator of Health Ministries. Please contact the office if you will help with this ministry. A list of items/jobs in need of assistance will be on the Health Ministries bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall, in late March. Thanks for your support in the past and in the future.

### **Results of the Blood Drive Held Thursday, February 16**

Results of the Blood drive on Thursday. Thirty persons presented to donate blood. Twenty-six usable pints of whole blood were collected.

Thanks to all that participated or found a friend or relative that participated.

### **Free Covid Testing Available**

Wayne County Commissioner Basham provides some at-home Covid-19 tests on a recent visit to church on November 20. Contact the office if you need some. The Hotline to call for free in person testing is 888-535-6136 or visit [michigan.gov/coronavirus](https://michigan.gov/coronavirus).

### **Call List Update is Needed**

Don't have internet service or a computer? We have an old list of people to call if there is a death of a member or other important communication needed to be passed on to church members. We are also looking for people to make the calls when necessary. Please contact the office if you want to be added to this list or can make the necessary calls.

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

Daily Bread magazine is still available for pick from the Deacon or an usher on Sundays as well as through the church office. These can also be mailed to you if you wish. For a mailed copy just give Cindy Romas a call in the office Monday - Friday and she will be sure one is mailed to you.

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

A **SPECIAL THANK YOU** to all of the wonderful people who helped make the coleslaw for the 2023 Fish Dinners. Free Coffee and Donuts were enjoyed by all. Your help was truly appreciated. James Poet, Candace Poet, Diane Poet, Toni Hill, Karen Hill, Lisa Childress, Bernie Baca, Colleen Baca, Dale Simon, Helen St. Louis, Sharon Podpora, Louise Stanek, Windy Warner, Christine Schwab, Dave Lange, Pam Lange, Phil Jensen, Judy Jensen, Justine Kimbler, Jeff MacZink, Janet Staffeld, Dan Evison, Sue Mrowka, Gary Staffeld and Eddie Brainard. Also a very **SPECIAL**

**THANK YOU** to the Block Family for donating all the vegetables (cabbage, carrots, red peppers and green peppers) required to make this year's coleslaw.

## **JOYS AND CONCERN**

**Happy Birthday** to Murl Nieman who had a birthday February 25, 2023.

**Happy Anniversary** to Larry and Loretta Kurtzel who celebrated 59 years of marriage February 22, 2023.

**Condolences:** Family and Friends of Iva Fanter, who passed away February 7, 2023 at the age of 95 years. Funeral was February 13, 2023. Arrangements by Howe-Peterson Funeral Home, Taylor Chapel.

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

**Church Members and Friends:** Kim Beyar, Dan Case, Debbie Case, John Caufield, Margo Charette, Haley Dowell, John Dubke, Frederick Fanter, Hayden Forsyth, Barb Gish, Kyle Hard, Carrie Hill, Wayne Jones, Judy Kirsch, Rev. Norm Kirsch, Sheila Klimek, Neil McEachern, Jeff MacZink, Michelle Mellin, Jeff Natzke, Murl Nieman, Bill Pattenaude, Bob Robinson, Shirley Robinson, Eleanor Rossi, Jerry Rossi, Dennis Schmoekel, Gabriel Siadak, Sally Sigman, Beverly Sitz, Sue Spears, Sandi Rose, Joan Smarr, Teri Staffeld, Dianne Sturgeon, Linda Tank, Bert Thompson, Loralee Wilson, and Shelly Wilson.

**Extended Family:** Rhonda Wioncek Berndt, Philip and Connie Linne Alberts, Dawn Sturgeon Anderson, Susan Barnard, Mary Board (daughter, Clifford Board), Lynn Case, Josh Edelbrock, Arthur Jensen (son, Phil Jensen), Kim Cichowicz, Courtney Daoust, Gabriella Gomez (niece, Darlene Babin), Donna Greca (friend, Peggy Staten), Raymond Harmon, Kevin & Steven Johnson (grandsons, Patricia Olson) Richard Jones, Jeff Kasher, Tom Koths, Janet Kren, Joyce LaBlanc (friend, Peggy Staten), Joanne LeFleur (daughter, Helene & Neil McEachern), Jennifer & Tammy Lee (granddaughter & daughter, Barb Siemers), Courtney McEachern Matthews, Kim McEachern (daughters-in-law, Helene & Neil McEachern), Sue Milatz, Debi Petri, Judy Robin (aunt, Lucinda Chavez), Jerry Rossi, Tammi Sherman, Kevin Siemers, Mary & Darrell Smith, Debbie Smitt, Debra Stavros, Brenda Stockwell, Nicholas Surre (great-grandson, Helene McEachern), Sharon Thompson, Bill Warner, Robin Weiner and Victoria Witcher (daughter, Cheryl Stewart).

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

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

*Loretta Kurtzel*- The Bellaire Senior Living, 12621 Hale Street, Riverview, 48193;  
*Murlyn Nieman*, Promedica, 9150 Allen Road, Allen Park, 48101; *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.

