

TIDINGS

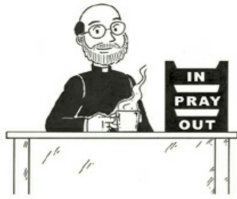
St. Paul United Church of Christ
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www.stpaulucctaylor.org
Interim Pastor - Rev. George Reed
Minister of Christian Education - Pastor Cheryl Schalm

November 2023

Calendar of Events

- Sunday November 5th - DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday November 12th - Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Guest Minister Rev. Lillian Daniels
- Sunday November 19th - Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Reed's last Sunday of preaching
- Tuesday November 21st - Cabinet Meeting - Decorating the Facility & Calendar
- Thursday November 23rd - HAPPY THANKSGIVING
- Friday November 24th - OFFICE CLOSED - Set up trees - 10:00 a.m.
- Saturday November 25th - Remove Christmas decorations from the balcony
10:00 a.m.
- Sunday November 26th - Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
Church Decorating - 11:00 a.m.

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends,

I want to thank you all for the wonderful support you have shown to me as I transition from serving as your interim senior pastor to returning to appointment as a United Methodist pastor near our home in Paulding, Ohio. You have been so gracious in your words of thanks for my service here and also in your understanding of why I felt I needed to take this position.

You have welcomed Betty and I into your community of faith and been so kind to us. The work that you did to update the parsonage and completely redo the pastor's office was remarkable. You did it quickly and with great care.

I will long remember the fun of working with you on the fish dinners and the joy of sharing worship together. Every congregation is different and you were very patient with me as I learned the unique ways in which this congregation functions.

I will continue to keep you in my prayers as I serve elsewhere.

The Reverend George Reed
Interim Senior Pastor

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EDITORIAL

"For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

~Luke 6:38

We will never give to God and become the poorer for it. In exchange for our small gifts, whether material or time, we shall be given His boundless riches. Through the contribution that comes from a willing heart, God bestows the abundance of heaven, treasures we can never purchase from the world.

But we must see that we give joyfully, for God delights in a cheerful giver. Otherwise, we grieve the Spirit, for has He not given to us without measure? As we have received freely, we are required to give without grudging, not mindful of any sacrifice.

Our giving seems sacrificial only when viewed in the light of what other use we could have made of the money or time. Let us give freely to the work of God's Kingdom and trust that He will add to us the things we need.

Let us live out our faith and be agents of righteousness and goodwill and trust that God will prove Himself to us as our Heavenly Father, supplying our needs out of the riches of His own treasury. God's economy is wonderful! His Kingdom truly is not the kingdom of the world. Even the material gifts we dedicate to God immediately become "spiritual currency." He can multiply them so that they become spiritual blessings to us and to others.

As we count our blessings this month let us first, give thanks and then let us commit to sharing them with others. Happy Thanksgiving!

In Christ, Pastor Cheryl Schalm, Minister of Christian Education

Christian Education Activities

Thank You for the Trunks and Treats

Christian Education would like to thank all those who decorated a trunk and passed out treats during the annual St. Paul Trunk or Treat Halloween event held on October 29th. Thank you also to all those who helped in the kitchen and helped set-up and clean-up. A great time was had by all.

Rock Hard in Faith Youth Happenings

NOVEMBER:

Friday, November 17th 5:00 p.m.

We will gather for pizza at Pastor Schalm's prior to heading to the **Toledo Zoo Lights Before Christmas display**. Cost approx. \$20.00 (Dependent on number attending)

Sunday, November 19th

Lunch & pack up Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes and deliver to collection center

Christian Education to Kick-Off Christmas Caring Campaign

Christian Education will be sponsoring three Christmas caring opportunities to help those in need. The first will be **Operation Christmas Child**. Christian Education kicked-off their Operation Christmas Child shoebox campaign on Sunday, October 29th. All church members are invited and encouraged to pick up a wrapped shoebox in the Fellowship Hall during coffee hour, fill it with small Christmas gifts (a brochure with gift ideas will be included), tag the box with the appropriate label that will be included and return the box by November 19th. All filled shoe boxes will be distributed to children in need throughout the world.

Additionally, we will once again be supporting the Salvation Army Angel tree program benefiting children in need in our local communities. Tags are expected to become available in mid-November. All interested in participating will be able to secure an angel tag from the small Christmas Tree that will be located in the Fellowship Hall. A sign-up sheet and gift ideas will be available in mid-November. More details to come as they are made available.

Additionally, a tub will be placed in the back of the sanctuary and in the Sunday School Welcome Center area for donations of hats, gloves, scarves and undergarments. All items will be delivered to the Salvation Army so that they can be included in their Family in need Gift Shop.

Watch your Morning Tide for more information on this community outreach program.

Sunday School Christmas Pageant and Luncheon to be Held December 17.

Church members should plan now to attend the annual Sunday School Christmas Pageant that will be held as part of the December 17th's worship service. "The Birth Of Jesus," to include a live nativity will be held in the sanctuary during the 10:00 a.m. service. A luncheon and visit from St. Nick will follow in the Fellowship Hall. The annual youth sponsored **Cookie Walk** will be held after the pageant in the Westroom. The youth will be seeking donations of baked Christmas cookies for this fundraiser. They thank all bakers and donors in advance for their support.

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 (734) 255-0935 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.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Parable of the Vineyard Laborers

What is a parable? From C. H. Dodd: (The Parables of the Kingdom, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1961, p. 5) ***"At its simplest a parable is a metaphor or simile (story) drawn from nature or common life, arresting the hearer by its vividness or strangeness, and leaving the mind in sufficient doubt about its precise application to tease it into active thought."*** The meaning of most parables is not so obvious, or at least it shouldn't be. If we assume we know what Jesus is talking about, we are probably missing the main point; if we are too familiar with the story, we may not glean its deeper truth.

We might think that Jesus spoke in parables to make it *easier* for people to understand the Christ message. Jesus explains clearly, he does NOT expect everyone to understand. Jesus expresses in **Matthew 13:10-13: Then the disciples came and asked him, "Why do you speak to them [the crowds] in parables?" He answered, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has *not* been given. For those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. The reason I speak to them in parables is that 'seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.'**

Consider the Parable of the Vineyard Laborers located in **Matthew 20:1-15**. Most people attempt to make this a parable about economics. Biblically, it is a lesson in the abundance of God's Grace which has no scarcity. The farmer has to get much done in due time. Overwhelmed by lack of progress he decides he needs to hire more laborers. In verse 7 a question is raised: 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?' ***"Because no one has hired us,"*** they answered.

What is the solution to feeling unwanted or without a purpose in life? The ultimate solution is for us to come to know God's Grace and show others God's Grace. Salvation is for all eternity. Salvation brings the quality of eternity into our daily lives today. By coming into the graceful salvation of Christ the Lord, we come to know our worth. The price of all of us becomes priceless when Jesus the Christ comes into life. A case for those not hired is an illustration of God's Grace for all people. No matter when in life we discover Salvation in Christ, the gift for us is just as it was for the penitent thief on the cross. The final hour added meaning to both the penitent thief on the cross and that of the laborer's life. In the business world we may typically find a pattern where the last hired is the first fired. In God's Unending Grace: Last hired is the first paid. This lesson can be applied to many stories throughout the Bible. Again, the penitent thief on the cross who asked Jesus to remember him (Luke 23:33-43), Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." The thief may have lost out on

the companionship that the disciple that Jesus loved (John) enjoyed, but he was in store for an eternal companionship ahead of him without having to do all the work John would do in later life. Why didn't Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus go along with the Sanhedrin such that Jesus would be let off according to Jewish law under a unanimous decision? Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea cast their minority vote on behalf of Jesus, which was recorded by God to their glory throughout eternity. Joseph of Arimathea can be considered the laborer who showed up during the day, he was not a disciple but a follower. Nicodemus within the final burial hours of Jesus, shows up publicly for work and perhaps comes to finally understand what Jesus meant by being born again. We should come away with four gifts:

1. Generous unending Grace of God found in the Salvation of Jesus the Christ.
2. A greater sympathy for human beings regardless of their walk of life, who they are, or where they have been or where they are going, sins and all. For anyone saying "No one has hired me, "No one sees my talent," "No one loves me," is a saddening place to be lost. We ought to be attentive to find the nearly forgotten and lost and those on the outer fringes of society.
3. The benefit of having a personal relationship with Jesus the Christ because God is Faithful!!
4. A Joy and Love so filling that it produces a Happiness that can make a vegetarian BBQ a hamster (Peter Furler - Newsboys).

"Because no one hired us" represents a waiting world on life's cliff in front of a chasm impossible to cross without Jesus the Christ. People try to fill the void with materialism, new spiritual movements, cults and some never learn that nothing of this world can fill the emptiness of their heart. It's up to us to seek out the unhired, share the Gospel with them and invite them into the love and Salvation of Jesus the Christ. Reconciliation with God the Father, Salvation in Jesus the Christ, and Counsel of the Holy Spirit is what Christianity uniquely offers this fallen world. Jesus substitutes our sinful life with His Righteous life. In Christ alone our Hope is found! Jesus tells us: (John 14:6) "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Living, Jesus loves us; Dying, Jesus saves us; Buried, Jesus carries our sins far away; Rising, Jesus justifies us freeing us forever and seals us with the Holy Spirit taking us to a place where sin no longer has the last word in the life of a believer. The Way, the Truth, and the Life is open for business and ready to hire. In accordance with God's time and will for our goodness we will hire our Settled Pastor. And we will labor in the Vineyard with a new Settled Pastor finding a new mission, a new purpose. Fears we face as we journey through this transition will soon find a place to face the God we know. In closing, a reminder from our Search Team: Prayer and Patience.

ALL CHURCH EVENTS



Reverend Dr Lillian Daniel to visit St. Paul UCC Taylor

Michigan Conference Minister Reverend Dr. Lillian Daniel has been visiting the UCC congregations in Michigan over the last two years. Lillian Daniel has spoken at the National Cathedral, Duke Chapel, Kings College, London and Queen's College, Ontario, but on most Sundays you can find her preaching at one of the 140 churches in her care in the beautiful state of Michigan. An accomplished author, preacher and teacher her book, ***Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To*** is generating international conversation about the changing religious landscape. It continues the theme of her 2013 book ***When 'Spiritual But Not Religious' Is Not Enough*** about the growing number of people who claim "none" as their religious preference. She comes to St Paul UCC Taylor Sunday, November 12, 2023 and will lead our worship service. Please join us for this special occasion to meet and greet our UCC Michigan Conference Minister Reverend Dr. Lillian Daniel.

COMING SOON: Christmas Gift Shop Grand Opening, Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

After morning worship on the day of our annual Advent by Candlelight Event, you will have an opportunity to shop at Christian Education's Christmas Gift Shop in the West Room. Invite your friends and neighbors. The Gift Shop will also be open after Advent by Candlelight in the evening for anyone interested in browsing. Please contact Jane Dykowski or Peggy Staten with any questions.

"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. 3, 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. 19th. 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. 26th.

Annual Congregational Meeting Scheduled

The annual meeting of the St. Paul congregation will be held on Sunday, January 21, 2024. In addition to reviewing reports on our ministry and programs over the past year, the congregation will be voting on a new budget and a slate of nominees for Council leadership. The proposed 2024 budget will be sent to all church members in mid-December accompanied by a letter from the President-elect Sue Mrowka.

The annual meeting will follow our 10 a.m. worship service that morning. Church members should sign in at the narthex and pick up a copy of their annual report.

St. Paul Fourteenth Annual Wild Game Dinner - January 27, 2024

The St. Paul Building and Grounds Ministry will be hosting its 14th Annual Wild Game Dinner on Saturday, January 27, 2024. Doors open at 5:30 pm, hors d'oeuvres at 6:00 pm and a sit-down dinner at 7:00 pm. It's a fun filled evening with raffles, good eating and great fellowship. Hors d'oeuvre items for the night will include wild chicken chili, salmon dip, sausage, turtle soup, cheese and crackers and fresh fruit. Entree items will include venison meatballs, Mexican venison lasagna, buffalo-carved, buffalo stir fry, BBQ wild boar, wild boar sausage w/green pepper and onions, along with potatoes and gravy and of course dessert. Tickets are \$45/each and can be purchased at the KIOSK table during Coffee Hour, by calling the Church office at (313) 291-1221 or by calling James Poet, Gary Staffeld, or Dan Case. This is always a **sell out event** so get your tickets early. We are also looking for donations that can be used for raffle items or door prizes.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Trustees are seeking to fill Counsel Positions to begin in January 2024

Beginning in January 2024 the following positions are open on Council. Two elders, one to fill the vacated position of Pat Staffeld (whose term was to end in January of 2025) and for Barb Schultz whose term ends in January 2024. One Deacon, a three year term that would end in January of 2026. All other positions needed have been filled.

Please prayerfully consider taking one of these positions. If you are in need of a complete description of what the position entails please contact the church office and Cindy will give you a copy or see a trustee. If you will serve please speak with Fred Miller, Toni Hill or Marjie Barnard.

Lectors are needed for Sunday Services

If you would like to volunteer or would like more information please contact Rev. Reed or Cindy Romas in the church office. No experience needed. All information is provided to you.

ChristNet Rotating Shelter Looks to Resume Operation

Soon, far too soon in my opinion, we will be ushering in some much colder weather making the need for homeless shelters all the greater. As most of you are aware, St. Paul has served and supported the Christ Net rotating shelter and program for several decades or better. When the covid pandemic struck the

rotating shelter was halted. Churches began providing and delivering dinner meals to the hotel in which guests were being housed.

After three plus years, ChristNet is hoping to re-open the rotating shelter at the beginning of next year (January). They are canvassing churches to inquire about their interest and availability to participate. Participating churches will be expected to host guests from Sunday to Saturday for a one-week time period. Guests will arrive at the host church in the evening. Upon arrival they will be fed dinner prepared by the host church. Guests will over-night at the church utilizing sleeping bags and blow-up mattresses. In the morning they will be transported by van to the day center where they will receive breakfast and lunch and the opportunity to shower.

If you, or perhaps a group you may be involved with whether inside or outside of the church; book club, scouts, card club, athletic team, etc., would be interested in more information or in assisting with hosting guest please sign the sheet at the Kiosk in Fellowship Hall or in the Narthex. We will need to cover two shifts with a minimum of one male and one female per shift. Additionally, we will need individuals and groups to prepare, serve and clean-up following dinner. If you feel the Spirit calling you to chair and over-see a host week here at St. Paul, please contact Pastor Schalm.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sew "N" Sew Gals to Meet

Thursday, November 16th at 10 AM in the West Room. Bring a sandwich, dessert and coffee are provided. No sewing experience necessary. Join us for 'food for thought.' Contact Sharon Leonard, chairwoman, for more info.

Surprise Emergency Exit Drill

On Sunday, October 8th the Safety and Security Ministry held an unannounced Emergency Exit drill for the building. The drill commenced immediately after the benediction. Members of the ERT (Emergency Response Team) helped to escort all members from the building including the children in our Sunday School. Members were told to congregate in one of our two assembly areas. I am happy to announce that we were able to evacuate the building in approximately one minute and twenty-five seconds, a new record for us. Any one interested in joining the ERT should contact any member of the Security and Safety Ministry. Your safety is our number one priority.

2023 Budget Status

Donations through September of 2023 are still down from last year, we are currently under budget by approximately \$53,000 from our projected income. I am projecting that we will be approximately \$80,000 under our budgeted income of \$322,117 at the end of the year. The good news is that our expenses are approximately \$33,000 under budget. We continue to monitor all budget expenses and purchase only items necessary to maintain the church's business. If you have questions or concerns about the budget please feel free to call me or see me at the church. We thank all of your continued support during these difficult times. Dan Case St Paul Treasurer

2024 Year Budget Planning

The St. Paul 2024 budget process has begun. The Budget and Finance Ministry will continue working to develop a new budget for next year. There will be an open meeting in the West Room on Sunday, November 5th immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Church members are invited to attend and provide input or ask questions regarding our budget. If you have any questions regarding our budget development process, please contact Treasurer, Daniel Case or complete a "Make-a-Wish" card and drop it in an offering plate. The new proposed budget will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 21, 2024 for final approval.

St. Paul Tree of Faith - A Special Christmas Gift

Looking for that special Christmas gift this year, leaves for our congregation's "Tree of Faith" are still available for those who wish to honor or commemorate family members and events. The cost of each commemorative leaf is \$300 with proceeds helping our Facility Improvement Fund. The ornamental tree located in the narthex is on the wall just outside the entrance to the new Family Room. Just talk with a Deacon any Sunday and ask for one of the blue "Tree of Faith" cards or contact Dan Case.

HEALTH MINISTRIES

Exercise Class Continues on 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. **NO CLASS NOVEMBER 22ND,**

Health/Medical Supplies Available

If you have or need medical supplies, such as walkers, wheelchairs, please contact Kathy Williams or the office.

Our Daily Bread Devotional Availability

If you are interested in reading Our 'Daily Bread', please contact the office. The editions are available in large print and regular print. Please specify the print type that you want. They come every three months. Kathy Williams can send a copy to you via US mail, or you may ask the usher to give you one from the narthex if they are available.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

MEMORIAL FUND:

In Memory of: Lorelee Wilson From: Gary & Pat Staffeld

JOYS AND CONCERN

A special **THANK YOU** to all of those people who helped with the Fall Rummage Sale. Your help was truly appreciated and allowed for a very successful rummage sale. St. Paul Women's and Men's Fellowship.

"Thank you" to the September Merry Mailers: Sue Mrowka and Sandi Rose.

"Thank you" to Sue Mrowka, Sandi Rose, Marjie Barnard and Toni Hill for assisting in our Stewardship Letter mailing.

Condolences to: Howard and Shelly Wilson on the loss of Howard's mother, Lorelee Wilson, who passed away September 22, 2023, at the age of 94 years. Funeral service was in New York; **Pam Jones** on the loss of husband, Wayne who passed away October 5, 2023. Arrangements are pending; **Dave Cowper** and Family on the loss of wife and mother, Elaine who passed away October 22, 2023, at the age of 89 years. Memorial service was October 26, 2023, at St. Paul UCC, Taylor. Rev. Colin Finch officiated.

Blood Drive Results for Thursday, October 19

A special thanks to all those who participated in our blood drive. Twenty-seven pints of blood were collected. Twenty-six persons presented (one was a double-red) at the drive. This means that 81 persons will be helped with this donated blood. There is still a nationwide urgent need for blood. There needs to be 59 days between donations. Visit www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-redcross.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR

Church Members and Friends: Judy Albright, Mark Ennis, Kyle Hard, Dave Lange, Sr, Dan Newton, Bill Pattenau, Lois Rice, Shirley Robinson, Barbara Schultz, Gabriel Siadak, Sally Sigman, Joan Smarr, Sue Spears, Dianne Sturgeon, Linda Tank, Tom Williams.

Extended Family: Rhonda Wioncek Berndt, Ted Butkin, Marybeth Staffeld Gibbs (daughter, Roy & Mary), Sue Milatz, Debi and Al Petri, Jerry Rossi, Randy Snelson, Rachel Tank (Daughter, Tom & Linda Tank), Jane Zeuner (friend, Sandi Rose) and the Abdual Family (friends, Rosemarie Laslo).

Church Members & Friends in Nursing or Rehab Care:

Darlene Babin, American House, 16333 Allen Rd., Room 213, Southgate, 48195; Dave Cowper, Michigan House Senior Living, 18533 Quarry Rd., Riverview, 48193; *Esther Perry* - Bellbrook Assisted Living, 873 West Avon Rd., Unit 209 H, Rochester Hills, 48307; *Melissa Rossi* -17652 Colgate, Dearborn Heights, 48125. *Sally Sigman* - Atria Kinghaven, 14800 King Rd., Room 116, Riverview, 48193; Office: 734-479-5000; *Bert Thompson*, Optalis Health & Rehabilitation, 9150 Allen Rd, Allen Park; Office: 313-386-2150.