

TIDINGS

St. Paul United Church of Christ
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Interim Pastor - Rev. Linda Anderson
Minister of Christian Education - Pastor Cheryl Schalm

February 2024

Calendar of Events

February 4th - Church Service & Sunday School Winter Blast - 10:00 a.m.

February 11th - Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.

February 14th - Ash Wednesday Service - 7:00 p.m.

February 18th - Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.

February 25th - Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.

March 2024

March 3rd - Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 a.m. - Communion

March 10th - Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.

March 17th - Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.

March 24th - Palm Sunday Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.

March 28th - Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 p.m.

March 29th - Good Friday Service - 12:00 p.m.

March 31st - Easter Sunday Service

From Rev. Linda

*Did you not know
what the Holy One
can do with dust?*

—from [The Terrible, Marvelous Dust](#)

Earlier today I finished reading the book, ***The Midnight Library*** by Matt Haig in preparation for the February gathering of the book club I attend. I had not voted to read the book but it was chosen by a vote of our participants. Having now read the book, I'm not certain how I feel about it.

In the story, main character Nora Seed, questions the value of her life and thinks of ending it. As she questions life and experiences depression, she is introduced to a unique library where the multitudes of books all contain stories of her life. Each book is a variation from the other. The question presented is, how would one's life be different if different decisions had been made earlier?

Nora finds herself reviewing her life and considering what possibilities might have been if different choices had been made. What if she could undo an old breakup or change career paths? With the librarians' guidance, Nora was able to look back, and decide the direction of her future.

'Never underestimate the big importance of small things, 'Mrs. Elm (the librarian) said. 'You must always remember that.'

Lent begins on February 14th with the observance of Ash Wednesday. This is a time of prayer and fasting, moving toward Easter. It is a time when people of faith are called to examine their lives, their faith, and their relationship with God. During Lent we are called to examine what is most important to us, where our foundation is and what will guide and strengthen us as we move forward. It is a time to review the love that first created, and continues to create what is most basic to whom we are.

This year, 2024, we will gather on Ash Wednesday to reflect on what has been, what survives when all seems to be lost. The dust from our past brokenness, and joys, is where we begin. God does great things with dust, and we are challenged to do the same.

Change is all around us, let us move forward together.

Blessings,

Linda

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EDITORIAL

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs."

~ 1 Corinthians 13:4-5

Recently I heard a story about a little girl who received a beautiful golden-haired doll for Christmas. She jumped with excitement as she hugged her new doll. Then she rushed to hug her grandmother who gave her the doll and repeatedly told her; Thank You, Thank You, Thank You.

The little girl played with her new doll most of the day, but toward evening she put it down and sought out one of her old dolls. She cradled the tattered and torn old doll in her arms. The doll's hair had nearly all worn away, its nose was broken, one eye would not stay open, and an arm was missing.

When the little girl's grandma saw her playing with her old doll she commented to the little girl that she seemed to like her old doll better.

The little girl told her grandma that she liked the beautiful doll she gave her but she loved her old doll better because if she didn't love her, no one else would.

I trust we all know the saying, "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder." A similar saying might be, "Love is the choice of the beholder." When we see faults in others, we can choose to look beyond them. We can choose to love them regardless of their negative attributes, faults, and/or quirks.

As we celebrate Valentine's Day and all the days that follow, let us choose to see love through a telescope and not a microscope.

In Christ, Pastor Cheryl Schalm, Minister of Christian Education

Christian Education Activities

Sunday School Winter Blast

Sunday School children are encouraged to invite their friends to join them for the "2024" Winter Blast to be held on Sunday, February 4th. Arrive early at 9:30 a.m. to partake in the waffle bar. Afterwards plan to join in for some fun games, winter crafts and s'more making. All activities to include the waffle bar will be held upstairs in the Christian Education department. We hope to see you there!

The Youth Survive Ice Camp

On Friday, January 19th six youth along with three chaperones departed for Ice Camp held at Miracle Camp in Lawton. Over the course of the (very cold) weekend the youth joined together with other youth for praise & worship services, skits and games. In addition, they had the opportunity to snow tube, snowshoe, partake in an archery battle, join in a gold rush challenge, play dodgeball and to partake in a variety of other activities. A great time was had by all!

Thank you to Men's Fellowship for their generous donation to help fund this event!

Missions and more! Youth to Serve at Cass Social Services

Rock Hard in Faith Youth Fellowship will be serving at Cass Social Services from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m on Saturday, February 24 (Please note date change due to school dances). Afterwards we will head out for some pizza and fellowship. Please sign the sheet on the youth board or contact Pastor Schalm to confirm your participation by February 11th.

World Vision Feed the Need Event and Special Olympic St. Patty's Pizza Party and Dance.

On Saturday, March 9th members of Rock Hard in Faith Youth Fellowship will be hosting a St. Patrick's pizza dinner dance for the ARC, Special Olympic athletes. Then at midnight participating youth will begin a 30 Hour Famine to raise money for those living in poverty throughout the world. All money raised will serve to feed those in need. All interested in participating should sign the sheet on the youth board! Donations can be made in support of the 30 Hour Famine during coffee hour beginning on February 11th.

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.**

ALL CHURCH EVENTS

Lenten Season Start Observed with Ash Wednesday Service

Lenten season at St. Paul United Church will begin with a service on Ash Wednesday, February 14th, 7:00 p.m. For the Ash Wednesday Service, Pastor Linda Anderson will be administering ashes prepared from the burning of palms from last year's Holy Week observance. Church members and friends will be singly invited to come forth to receive the ashes at the foot of the chancel steps at the closing of the service.

First Sunday in Lent A Communion Service

Altar communion will be offered on the first Sunday in Lent February 18th. Church members will be invited to come forward and receive a wafer and juice and then return to their seat. St. Paul practices an "open communion" which means that formal membership in the congregation is not required to partake of the bread and cup. However, all are asked to commit themselves to walk more closely with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. This Sunday will be the start of the seven week Lenten season ending with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Your March Tidings will give further detail concerning Holy Week services.

We need your help to make the Fish Dinner Coleslaw

It is time to make the coleslaw to be served for the five drive thru fish dinners which begin on February 23, 2024. The brine will be made on Friday February 9th. On Saturday February 10th many hands will be needed starting at 8:00 a.m. when the cabbage will be chopped and prepared. At 9:30 the task of chopping all the other vegetables that make the coleslaw will begin. When all is ready the brine will be mixed with the chopped vegetables, put into five gallon buckets and stored in the refrigerators until needed. This makes for a great time for fellowship and to show your skills in the kitchen. Please consider joining in the fun. Free Donuts and Coffee will be available for all who help.

2024 Lenten Fish Dinners - Volunteers Needed

Our congregation will be hosting five drive-thru only fish dinners on Fridays during the Lenten Season. The dinners will be hosted on February 23, March 1, 8, 15, 22 from 3:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.. As in past years, the menu will include three breaded 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 two pieces 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 Tim Ruffner or you may contact the church office (313) 291-1221.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newly Elected Council Members to be Installed

Newly elected Council Members were installed to their respective positions on January 28th during the 10 a.m. service. Those installed are/were

1st Vice President - Tim Ruffner
2nd Vice President - Louise Stanek
Trustee - Michael Isaacs
Senior Elder - Fred Miller
3rd Elder - Mark Ennis
Senior Deacon - Teri Staffeld
3rd Deacon - This could be you!!

We still have an open position for a 3 year term of Deacon. Please prayerfully consider filling this position. A complete description of the position can be obtained by contacting the church office or by speaking to a Trustee.

In years past the council has had volunteers from the congregation become auxiliary members to fill in for the Deacons, Elders. The requirements are that you be available to fill in when a person is needed for a Sunday. You are not required to attend any meetings. If you would be willing to come on board as an auxiliary deacon or elder please let someone on the council know.

Those who have already stepped up to be an auxiliary person are: Jennifer Ruffner and David Lange.

Qualified Charitable Distribution – Did you know?

The Secure 2.0 Act of 2022 changed the age for Minimum Required Distributions from 72 to 73 years of age, however it had no impact on Qualified Charitable Distributions. QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity, St. Paul does qualify. QCDs can be counted toward satisfying your minimum required distributions (MRDs) for the year. Since it is already excluded from your taxable income, you can't take the itemized deduction (charitable donation) again. That would be double-dipping. While many IRAs are eligible for QCDs—there are requirements:

- You must be 70½ or older to be eligible to make a QCD.
- The maximum annual amount that can qualify for a QCD is \$100,000. This applies to the sum of QCDs made to one or more charities in a calendar year.
- For a QCD to count towards your current year's MRD, the funds must come out of your IRA, generally by December 31.

If you have additional questions or want to start QCD donations please contact Daniel Case, St. Paul Treasurer.

Sew "N" Sew Gals to Meet

ex Thursday, February 15th 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 Janet Staffeld, chairwoman, for more info.

HEALTH MINISTRIES

Exercise Class on Wednesday's in February

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 leads you through a variety of exercises each week. 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 February 21st**

Our Daily Bread Devotional Availability

If you are interested in reading Our 'Daily Bread', please contact the office.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Lectors are needed for Sunday Services

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

JOYS AND CONCERNS

United in Marriage on Friday, January 19, 2024 David Adams wed Savannah Swain. Pastor Cheryl Schalm officiated.

Rose on the pulpit celebrates the birth of Carter Eli Bock, born Tuesday, January 9, 2024, to Andrew and Summer Herkimer Bock. St. Paul Grandparents are John and Vicky King. St. Paul Great-Grandmother is Pat Herkimer. Sibling is Scott.

Condolences to the family and friends of LaVerne Roe, who passed away January 2, 2024, at the age of 92 years. Funeral service was January 6, 2024. Interment Toledo Memorial Park, Sylvania, Ohio. Rev. Linda Anderson officiated. Arrangements by Martenson Family of Funeral Homes, Allen Park Chapel.

A **Special Thank You** to all of those individuals who helped to make the 2024 Wild Game Dinner a huge success. Building and Grounds Ministry

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

FACILITY IMPROVEMENT FUND:

In Memory of: *William Zabik* From: Gary & Pat Staffeld

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR

Church Members and Friends: Kyle Hard, Dan Newton, Bill Pattenau, Lois Rice, Shirley Robinson, Sandi Rose, Barbara Schultz, Sally Sigman, Joan Smarr, Sue Spears, Linda Tank.

Extended Family: Rhonda Wioncek Berndt, Ted Butkin, Marybeth Staffeld Gibbs (daughter, Roy & Mary), Ailani Flores (friends of Rosemarie Laslo), Sue Milatz, Debi and Al Petri, Jerry Rossi, Randy Snelson, Diane St. Louis (sister of Marjie Barnard), Rachel Tank (Daughter, Tom & Linda Tank), and the Abdual Family (friends, Rosemarie Laslo).

Church Members & Friends in Extended Care or Rehab Care:

Judy Albright, Allegria Village, 15081 Ford Rd., Apt. 606, Dearborn, 48126-4642; Darlene Babin, American House, 16333 Allen Rd., Room 213, Southgate, 48195; Dave Cowper, Hampton Manor of Woodhaven, 22125 Van Horn Rd., Room 308, Woodhaven 48183; *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.