

TIDINGS

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

March 2024

Calendar of Events

- March 1st - 2nd Drive thru Fish Dinner 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- March 3rd - Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 a.m. - Communion
Rev. John Martin, officiating
- March 8th - 3rd Drive thru Fish Dinner- 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- March 10th - Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 a.m.
- March 15th - 4th Drive thru Fish Dinner - 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- March 17th - Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 a.m. - Mission Sunday
- March 22nd - 5th Drive thru Fish Dinner - 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- March 24th - Palm Sunday Church Service - 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt 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 - 10:00 a.m. - Communion
Enhanced coffee hour - 11:00 a.m.

From Rev. Linda

Do you have a story to tell, one story, maybe more? I am sure that you do. It has been said, and I believe it, that each person has at least one good sermon in them. Now, I'm not going to ask you to come on Sunday morning and share it with the congregation, but I am asking you to think about it.

What story could you tell about faith changing the direction of events? It could be something that happened to you, or it could be about an incident you were not personally involved with. At Tuesday morning Bible study recently, we talked about some of 'our' stories. We acknowledged that we had all had experiences that we did not want to forget and that would be worth sharing. I commented that it would be good to write out some of these stories and suggested that it could be a worthwhile undertaking for all of us. I would suggest the same of each if you as I work at the task myself.

The church calendar reminds us that we are in the season of Lent. It is a time for thoughtfulness and reflection. Many of us gathered on Wednesday, February 14 for an Ash Wednesday worship. It was the first day of lent and a time to recognize our individual mortality. For some, this day is recognized as the most somber day of the year. We need to remember however, that the season leads us to the solemn afternoon of Good Friday and the celebration of Easter. These are days filled with stories we have heard again and again. They are stories we must tell, again and again, as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ and the new life he brings.

What is your story? Is it something you want to share? Call me, or a trusted loved one, and share your story. I pray we all have stories of great joy, and I know we all have stories of hardship, times when we felt alone and in the wilderness as Jesus was for forty days. I would be honored if you desired to share those stories with me as well. Contact me and we will see about getting together.

March is a busy month at St. Paul. I hope you will be involved in a variety of events. Review this newsletter for a listing of some of them. While we will gather every Sunday at 10am for worship, Sunday March 24th is Palm Sunday as we will remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, knowing that this is the city that kills prophets. Later in the week we will have an evening (7pm) Maundy Thursday service as we remember the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples. Friday we will come together at noon to mourn the tragic death of Jesus. Sunday, March 31, our worship will celebrate the new life that the death of Jesus brought. It will be a joyous morning!

I look forward to seeing you in church. Be a part of the story at St. Paul.

In the Peace of Christ,

Rev. Linda

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EDITORIAL

“Whenever the sounds of the world die out in the soul, or sink low, then we hear these whisperings of God. He is always whispering to us, only we do not always hear because of the noise, hurry, and distraction which life causes as it rushes on.” ~Frederick William Faber

Lent is a time of spiritual renewal and reflection in preparation of observing Good Friday, the death of Jesus and celebrating Easter, the resurrection of Jesus. The purpose of Lent is to draw closer to God through prayer, repentance, and self-examination. During Lent, many Christians choose to fast or give up certain indulgences as a form of self-discipline and penance. The importance of this practice is to help us reaffirm God’s place in our life. Following are some recommendations for meaningful things to give up so as to make more time and resources for reflection, prayer, devotion, and good deeds.

*Screen time / replace with prayer, devotion & bible study * Social Media / replace with prayer, devotion & bible study * YouTube / replace with prayer, devotion & bible study * Video Games / replace with playing a board game with children * Shopping (only buy the essentials) and use your extra time to volunteer * Fast Food / donate the money you would spend to a ministry or charity * 20 Minutes of relaxation / Replace with walking 20 minutes in silence with God each morning or evening * Gossip / replace it with seeking God’s truth * Complaining / replace it with complimenting others * Sarcasm / replace with doing a random act of kindness every day during Lent

It is not as much about what we “give up” as it is about what we “take in.” May we seek to fill ourselves with Truth and a greater understanding of God’s love, mercy and grace as we journey through Lent.

In Christ, Pastor Cheryl Schalm, Minister of Christian Education

Christian Education Activities

Sunday School to Host Annual Easter Egg Hunt & Party

On Palm Sunday, March 24th the Sunday School will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt and party during the church hour for all children attending Sunday School. The egg hunt will be held outdoors. In addition, children will be decorating cookies and coloring Easter eggs. There is also a rumor that the Easter Bunny will be hopping in for a visit! To register for the Easter Party and egg hunt please sign the sheet on the Christian Education Welcome Center desk.

WE ARE IN NEED OF WRAPPED CANDY DONATIONS TO FILL EASTER EGGS. ALL DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED IN THE DONATION BUCKET LOCATED AT THE WELCOME CENTER DESK.

Youth to participate in a "30 Hour Technology Famine" to Help Feed the Need

Instead of going without food for 30 hours this year, the youth will be tucking away their technology & electronics in order to help feed the need. For 30 hours they will take their minds and hands off social media and electronics and redirect them to helping those less fortunate.

With the American Psychological Association (APA) reporting that technology use has been found to contribute to poor self-esteem and isolation in some youth and World Vision International reporting that millions of children are dangerously malnourished with 30 million of them suffering from wasting (also known as acute malnutrition), it's a win-win for all young people!

The famine will begin at 12:00 a.m. on Friday, March 8th and conclude at 6:00 a.m. Saturday morning. The youth will then gather at the church on Saturday, March 9th at 4:30 p.m. to host the annual ARC Special Olympics dinner dance. A celebratory breakfast will be shared on Sunday, March 10th.

Youth will be taking pledges in support of their famine during coffee through March 17th. Proceeds will benefit World Vision's work to feed children in need throughout the world. All youth interested in participating should sign the sheet on the youth board or contact Pastor Schalm.

Youth To Host Annual ARC/Special Olympics St. Patty's Pizza Party and Dance

The youth will once again be hosting a pizza party and dance for the ARC/Special Olympic athletes. The event will take place on Saturday, March 9th from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Between 75 – 90 athletes are expected to participate.

Cookies, cupcakes, and dessert items are being sought for the dinner dance. Please see Pastor Schalm if you are interested in donating.

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

Holy Week Services begin Sunday March 24

Holy Week services begin on Palm Sunday March 24th, 10 a.m. celebrating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the giving of palms at the end of the service. On Maundy Thursday March 28th we will commemorate the Last Supper at our 7:00 p.m. service with Holy Communion being served. The next day on Good Friday March 29th at 12 noon, a solemn service will be held for the Day Jesus died on the cross for our sins. The week will culminate with a celebration of Jesus' Resurrection on Easter Sunday March 31st at our 10:00 a.m. service. Following the service there will be an enhanced coffee hour in fellowship hall. Please join us for food and fellowship.

Order Your Easter Lily Today

Easter lilies are always a wonderful addition to the chancel area on Easter Sunday. The cost for this year's Easter lily is \$10.00. To order your lily in memory or in honor of someone just take one of the white envelopes that can be found in your pew rack, fill in the necessary information, insert your money and then drop in the offering plate in the narthex, (if the offering plate has already been removed just hand it to the Deacon). All orders are due no later than Sunday, March 24. Lilies will be displayed in the sanctuary on Easter morning and can be taken after service. A complete list of those being honored or memorialized will be included in the bulletin on Easter Sunday.

Third Sunday of Every Month to Be Designated as Mission Sunday

Beginning in March, the third Sunday of every month will be designated as "Mission Sunday." A monthly mission or outreach will be shared with the congregation throughout the month by means of the newsletter, morning bulletin and emails. While items for the mission or outreach will be collected throughout the month, they will be gathered and blessed on the third Sunday of the month.

Members are encouraged to bring in non-perishable food items for March's Mission to benefit the Fish & Loaves Food Pantry. Collection containers will be set up in the narthex, Christian Education department and west lobby. Please contact Pastor Schalm with any questions.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 box during the Sunday Worship or give it to a Deacon. Although a signature is not required it helps for us to provide you with appropriate feedback in a timely manner. The cards are reviewed weekly and acted upon accordingly. Our goal is to respond to the cards immediately and provide feedback to the author. All cards are treated confidentially.

St. Paul Wild Game Dinners

Many people have been asking for additional information about our Wild Game Dinners. Here are a few fun facts about the dinners:

1. St. Paul has hosted 14 Wild Game Dinners over the past 16 years.
2. The dinners have raised a little over \$110,000 for our Heat and Energy cost and the Facility Improvement Fund.
3. Fellowship Hall is decorated with real mounts. These include deer heads, fish, ducks, bears, coyotes, a mountain lion and many more. The mounts are on loan by members and friends of St. Paul, this year the mounts were from the Block Families, Poet Family, Staffeld Family and Brooker family.
4. The evening begins with Hors D'oeuvres which this year included: White Pheasant Chili, Salmon Dip, Venison Sausage, Cheese & Crackers and Assorted Fruit.
5. The singing of God Bless America and a 50/50 raffle are done just prior to dinner.

6. This year's buffet dinner included: Cared Buffalo, Buffalo Stir Fry, BBQ Wild Boar, Wild Boar Sausage w/Green Peppers and Onions, Venison Meatloaf, Venison Kielbasa w/Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes W/Squirrel Gravy, Salad, Roll and Desert.
7. The rest of the evening is filled with numerous raffles. There is even a balloon raffle with each balloon containing money; the top prize is a fifty-dollar bill.

It takes many volunteers to run huge events like the Wild Game Dinner. If you are interested in helping with next year's dinner, please contact any member of the Building and Grounds Ministry. St. Paul Building and Grounds Ministry

Facebook Live Viewing

There have been some questions recently regarding our Facebook Live streaming. Here are a couple simple facts:

- Videos are no longer being stored on our website for viewing later.
- You must have a Facebook account to view our Worship Services live each Sunday.
- You must have a Facebook account to view our Worship Services at a different time other than live on Sunday.

Unfortunately, we don't set the rules for Facebook and must abide by their rules for live streaming and watching videos at a later time. It is possible to set up a Facebook account and not be engaged in the Social Media aspect of Facebook, but you must have a legitimate email address. Please contact any member of the IT Ministry if you have questions or need more information. Michael Isaacs, Gary Peters, and Dan Case.

Burial Graves for Sale

The St. Paul Memorial Ministry has four graves available for immediate purchase. The graves are located at Michigan Memorial Park in Huron Township. The four graves are all together and located in Section 22 "Garden of Apostles" with a retail value of \$1,825 per grave, the asking price is only \$1,000 per grave. Once purchased the graves may also be used as partial payment (full retail value) for purchase of a spot in their above ground burial sites or their indoor and outdoor cremation niches as well. You have many options available to you. Please contact any member of the Memorial Ministry if you are interested.

One Great Hour of Sharing donations to be received this month

During the month of March we will be collecting for One Great Hour of Sharing. You are invited to participate in this UCC Mission Offering which assists our Christian friends world-wide in the development of health and education, and disaster and refugee relief. An offering envelope is included in these *Tidings* and can also be found in the pew racks. We also offer the option of making your donation through our electronic giving process. Visit us at 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. Please prayerfully consider your gift to those in need.

Sew "N" Sew Gals to Meet

Thursday, March 21st 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 continue on Wednesday's in March

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.

Our Daily Bread Devotional Availability

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

2024 Lenten Fish Dinners Continue - Volunteers Needed

Our congregation continues with our drive-thru only fish dinners on Fridays during the Lenten Season. The remaining dinners will be hosted on March 1, 8, 15, and 22 from 3:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. or until we run out of fish. As in past years, the menu will include three breaded pieces of wild-caught atlantic cod, french fries, our church's famous coleslaw, 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 you may contact the church office (313) 291-1221.

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

A huge **THANK YOU** to the following people who helped in the preparation of coleslaw for the 2024 Fish Dinners: Tim Ruffner, Dale Simon, Teri Staffeld, Toni Hill, Tom Tank, Lisa Childress, Sharon Podpora, Louise Stanek, Helen St. Louis, Wendy Warner, Jane Dykowski, Dorothy Evison, Dan Evison, Jeff MacZink, Bernie Baca, Janet Staffeld, Christine Schwab, Dan Case, Candace Poet, Crystal Poet, Diane Poet, James Poet, Gary Staffeld and Ed Brainard. Also a **special thanks** to the Blocks Stand and Greenhouse for donating all of the cabbage, peppers and carrots. When finished we ended up with eighteen five gallon pails of our famous St. Paul Coleslaw.

A special **Thank You** to the following people who helped with the 2024 Wild game Dinner: Karen Hill, Toni Hill, Helen St. Louis, Diane Poet, Crystal Poet, Dee Salsbury, Debbie Case, Barb Smith, John Smith, Christine Schwab, Katrina Jadzinski, Lauren Fultz, Mike Covert, Teri Staffled, Billy Stears, Peggy Staten, Angel Staten, Andrew Staten, Stuart Block, Ed Brainard, St. Paul Girl Scouts, Eric Poet, Pat Staffeld, Julius Enesey, and Jennifer Ruffner. St. Paul Building and Grounds Ministry.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

FACILITY IMPROVEMENT FUND:

In Memory of: *William Zabik* From: Daniel & Deborah Case

ORGAN FUND:

In Memory of: *LaVerne Roe* From: Doug & Janet Staffeld, Sewing Guild

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR

Church Members and Friends: Kyle Hard, Dan Newton, Bill Pattenaude, 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, 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.

New Article Starting this Month

Starting this month and for the next several months, we will be including a description/duties for each of the council positions. The council thought it was important for the congregation to have a better understanding of each of the positions held by volunteers to manage the business of St. Paul. Each of these positions play an integral part in the management of the church. This month we will be highlighting the position of **President. A listing of all current council members is posted on the welcome board in the west lobby.**

Council Position - President

The President is the elected leader of the Church and represents the Congregation in all matters inside and outside of the Church.

1. COUNCIL / CABINET
 - a. Attend quarterly Cabinet meetings, as scheduled.
 - b. Attend yearly Council Retreat.
 - c. Shall assist the Elders with Communion, as required.
 - d. Work Coffee Hour or special events when Council has volunteered to host.

2. MEETINGS
 - a. The President shall preside over all Council meetings.
 - b. The President shall preside over all Congregational meetings.
 - c. The President shall call a special Congregational meeting if he or she or the Pastor(s) considers it necessary, if three members of the Council request one or if twelve voting members of the Congregation request one.
 - d. The President shall preside over all Executive Committee meetings.

3. STAFF
 - a. Develop and maintain a vacation schedule for all staff.
 - b. Develop and get approval for yearly Paid Holiday schedule for staff.
 - c. Verify and sign all Memorandum of Understandings for all paid staff (listing salary, vacation days, etc.) that have been developed by the Treasurer each January.
 - d. The President is responsible to manage and resolve any Human Resource and/or Personnel Issues.

4. SPECIAL
 - a. The President appoints all Ministries and shall be an ex-officio member of them.
 - b. The President shall ensure that there is a Chairperson assigned to manage the Annual Fish Dinners.
 - c. During an extended absence of the Pastor, the President will, in consultation with the officers of the Church Council, assume the duties for the direction of all staff members.

The President, in consultation, with the Pastor, shall direct the affairs of the Church Office through the Administrative Assistant.