

TIDINGS

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

April 2024

Calendar of Events

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

Thursday March 28th - Maundy Thursday Service - 7 p.m. - Communion

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

Sunday March 31st - Easter Sunday Service - 10 a.m. service - Communion

Monday April 1st - Office Closed

Sunday April 7th - Church Service & Sunday School - 10 a.m.

Sunday April 14th - Church Service & Sunday School - 10 a.m.

Sunday April 21st - Church Service & Sunday School - 10 a.m.

Sunday April 28th - Church Service & Sunday School - 10 a.m.

From Rev. Linda

The text messages have been coming with greater frequency in recent days. It is a low and brief beeping noise that the phone makes. Sometimes I hear it, and quickly look to see who is reaching out to me, other times the phone is far enough away that I don't immediately reach for it. In those cases, the message waits. When I do pick up my phone and retrieve the message, it is always urgent.

Blood is needed, and I, with O positive blood, am classified as a universal donor and am regularly being called to come forward and donate a pint. It is usually a simple task, only takes a short time period and is often rewarded with cookies and juice. I have always looked at it as volunteer work where you get to lay back and put your feet up.

They tell us that giving blood saves lives. I know I was blessed with receiving someone else's donated blood when sick and hospitalized some years back. For me, I first donated when I was in college. My roommate had AB type blood and it is considered a rare variety. Once, when I had driven her so she could donate, the nurse looked at me and asked if I was going to simply sit in the waiting room while Maxine donated? You remember the nurses from years back, white stocking, starched white uniform and cap? I remember her voice, and realized I didn't have an option; I started what would become a practice for years to come.

It is Easter. Yes, I know, not specifically Easter day, but the season of Easter for sure. We call out and celebrate Jesus the Christ who gave his blood and his life for each of us. Dying on a cross, he rose and brings for us new life. It is proper and good that we celebrate such a gift. It is the greatest of gifts ever given. Hallelujah! Christ is Risen!! He is Risen indeed!!

Now, what do we do next? Can we keep the celebration alive? I hope so. Easter is always a time to consider new beginnings. It is a time to look at new ways of doing things. It is a time to dedicate and rededicate our lives, individually and collectively, to the Christ who rose for us. The season of Easter is a time of growth. Is the congregation willing to grow? Yes, true, I hear a lot of talk about growing in numbers, and in attendance. But, is the congregation willing to grow spiritually, in faith and practices? That is where church growth begins. Can the congregation grow together as a united church family? It is not necessarily an easy task, but it is one that has great benefits. We should all work toward it, following the love and teachings of Christ.

As followers of Christ, we have much to celebrate. We have much to do as his disciples, carrying on the work that he started. It is not an option.

Let us rejoice, and be glad!

Let us move forward with the joy of Easter and the opportunities of new life.

See you in church,

Linda

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EDITORIAL

"Because God's children are human beings - made of flesh and blood - the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could He die, and only by dying could He break the power of the devil, who had the power of death." ~ Hebrews 2:14

As we prepare to celebrate Easter, let us reflect upon the truth that the Lord became a human being! Not some sort of half-god, half-man; not just pretending to be human, but truly and fully human, "made of flesh and blood," just like us.

That's so staggering that some of the first Christians struggled to accept it. But John gave this testimony of his experience: "We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands."

Heard! Seen! Touched! Yes, there was no doubt that Jesus was indeed a real man. And he did everything that characterizes real human beings: getting tired, being thirsty, feeling hungry, sleeping, feeling emotions, enjoying children, socializing, grieving over a friend's death, suffering, and the ultimate human experience - dying.

Because He was "flesh and blood" He can understand and help us in every situation; because whatever we face, He himself has faced. We never need to walk through any valley alone. Jesus is called our Savior for a reason. He came to save us. Let us trust Him to do so.

"It was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested." ~ Hebrews 2:17-18

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!

All parents and church members are invited to come up after service to see the freshly painted and renovated Christian Education wing that Charlie and Marjie Barnard have volunteered their time and talents to provide. Make sure to see the bookcase Charlie made from an old balcony pew and the beautiful and one of a kind picture that hangs above it made from one of St. Paul's old pianos. Christian Education has truly been

blessed and we are so grateful for all the time, talent and love the Barnard's have put into providing the Sunday School with a "refreshingly new appeal."

Youth and Sunday School Children Participate in a "30 Hour" Technology

Over the weekend of March 8-9, the youth tucked away their technology & electronics in order to raise funds to help feed those in need. For 30 hours they took their minds and hands off social media and electronics and redirected them to helping those less fortunate.

As part of the famine weekend, the youth gathered at the church on Saturday, March 9th to host the annual ARC Special Olympics dinner dance. A celebratory breakfast was then shared on Sunday, March 10th.

The youth want to thank all those who made pledges in support of their famine. Proceeds will benefit World Vision's work to feed children in need throughout the world.

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

The youth hosted their annual pizza party and dance for the ARC/Special Olympic athletes on March 9th. Approximately 75 athletes, to include caregivers, enjoyed pizza, salad, chips and wonderful desserts and cookies baked and donated by church members. Following dinner the athletes and young people danced the night away.

Each athlete went home with a handmade hat knitted by Susan Bennett and a yummy table favor beautifully packaged and donated by Sharon Leanard. A huge, huge, thank you to them as well as to Sue Mrowka for the beautiful flower arrangements, to all those who baked and donated dessert items, and to all those who came to help with the event.

A great time was had by all!

Sunday School Spring Fling to Be Held April 14

During the Sunday School Hour on April 14, the Sunday School children will partake in some fun Spring activities. They will decorate pots and plant flowers for homebound church members, decorate spring cookies, and play some fun outdoor spring games. The Sunday School children are encouraged to invite and bring a friend! Contact Pastor Schalm with any questions.

Rock Hard in Faith Youth Happenings

On Saturday, April 20th, the youth will head down to Detroit to spend the morning at **Eastern Market** and have breakfast. Interested youth should sign the sheet on the youth board to confirm their participation.

On Saturday, May 4th, youth should plan to help fill flower orders. We will head to Block's (time to be determined) to fill previously submitted order forms. Flowers will then be available for pick up after service on Sunday, May 5th. Youth will be needed to help carry flowers to member's cars. All monies raised from the **Youth Flower Sale** support the youth mission trip and other youth activities and events.

Summer Mission Trip Coming in June

Youth should plan now for the **summer mission trip** planned for June 23-June 28. We will be staying at Cass Social Services and serving at the many different outreach programs they offer. In addition to serving, we will partake in daily devotions and enjoy fun evening activities. A commitment will be required by May 5th. Informational packets will be sent soon.

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

Palm Sunday March 24

Palms will be distributed during our worship service. The children's Easter Egg hunt and party will take place during the Sunday School hour.

Maundy Thursday March 28

On Thursday, March 28th we will gather at 7:00 p.m. for "The Service of Shadows" in the sanctuary. We will celebrate an open Altar Communion (visitors welcome).

Good Friday March 29

"Life within the Shadows" will be our service on Good Friday 12:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday March 31 "The Shadows are Lifted"

Join your church friends and bring your neighbors too, as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus on March 31st. There will be lilies adorning the chancel and sanctuary along with the wooden cross. Holy communion will be offered and songs will be sung to celebrate the resurrection.

April 21st is Designated as Mission Sunday

In addition to the youth raising funds to support the mission of World Vision to eradicate world hunger, church members were encouraged to bring in non-perishable food items to be donated to the Fish & Loaves Food Pantry. During the Mission Sunday service held on March 17th, Marjie Barnard, who volunteers at Fish & Loaves shared information on the history, purpose and success of Fish & Loaves. Afterwards Angel Staten shared her experience in doing the 30 Hour Technology Famine.

Thank you to all those who supported the youth's 30 Hour Famine and to all those who donated food for Fish & Loaves. During Mission Sunday on April 21, we will hear from a past UCC disaster relief mission trip volunteer.

The UCC Disaster Relief Ministry provides support for individuals and communities impacted by natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires and other natural disasters globally. A donation box will be placed in the narthex for anyone interested in donating to this ministry. Please contact Pastor Schalm with any questions.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Flower Sale

Once again the youth will be holding their annual flower sale. The flowers will be coming from Blocks Stand and Greenhouse. If you would like to order flowers, please see an usher to pick up an order form. Pick up date for the flowers will be on **May 5th** before/after the worship service. All order forms must be turned in **NO LATER THAN April 24th**. Any questions please see Candace Poet.

St. Paul Email System is designed to keep you informed

Communication with you, our members and friends is very important to us at St. Paul, one method we use to keep members informed about upcoming and current activities is our email system. More than 250 of our members currently receive a short email about current activities, future events, funeral notifications, and many other interesting items including the monthly St. Paul Tidings.

If you are not currently registered for the e-mail system or your email address has changed, all you need to do is visit the homepage of our website, "stpaulucctaylor.org", and simply click on the "Join Our Email List" button. If you have any questions or comments on the e-mail system, you can contact any member of the IT ministry, Gary Peters, Michael Isaacs or Dan Case.

Church Safety and Security – Emergency Response Team Members

Ensuring the safety of our membership is one of the most important goals of the Safety and Security Ministry. The ministry is looking for interested people who would like to serve on the Emergency Response Team (ERT) for the Church, currently there are 11 people who have volunteered to be on the team, we are looking for about 20-25 people to serve on this important ministry. Roles and responsibilities of an ERT member include: Building evacuations (fire, tornados, electrical outages, etc.), attending semi-annual training, being familiar with all aspects of the buildings, evaluate and eliminate all safety hazards in the building and attend quarterly meetings. If you are interested in serving on the St. Paul Emergency Response Team, please contact Dan Case or any member of the Safety and Security Ministry.

2024 Budget Status

After two months we find ourselves at \$13,384 under budget for our projected income, however our expenses are currently at \$11,983 under budget which is a good thing. We have spent \$10,700 more in the first two months than we took in. Our General Operating Fund, which is the fund we use to pay our bills and salaries, is at \$12,206 beginning the year at \$22,013. If this trend continues the Council will have to make some hard decisions regarding our spending. We continue to monitor all expenses and spend only on those items that are essential to run the church and our programs. If you have any questions please feel free to call me. Dan Case - St. Paul Treasurer

Sew "N" Sew Gals to Meet

Thursday, April 18th 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.

Safety and Security

For the next couple of months we will be highlighting some safety measures that are in place at the Church to help keep you informed. This month we will be covering **EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILLS**.

The objectives of an evacuation drills are:

- Give our members and staff an opportunity to practice emergency procedures in a simulated but safe environment.
- Determine if members of the Emergency Response Team understand and can carry out their duties
- Evaluating the effectiveness of our evacuation procedures and determining necessary changes or adjustments to procedures to improve performance
- Complying with local fire codes and insurance company requirements.

If a building evacuation is initiated, for your own safety, **YOU MUST EVACUATE** when asked to do so.

Important "do's and don'ts" are:

- Remain Calm. Proceed as quickly as possible in an orderly manner.
- Follow the instructions of the Emergency Response Team.
- If you occupy an enclosed room, close the door as you leave.
- Take only essential personal items with you. DO NOT return for coats, purses, briefcases, etc., after you have left the building.
- Once out of the building, proceed to the designated assembly area (Green or Red based on the building exit).
- PARENTS, all children in the 2nd Floor Sunday School will be escorted by staff to an assembly area. Children may be picked up from their designated assembly area after the "all clear" signal is given, but not before.
- Do not return to the building until the "all clear" signal is given.

St. Paul Safety and Security Ministry

Spring Rummage Sale Happening in May

The annual St. Paul Spring Rummage Sale is scheduled for May 2nd thru the 4th. The spring Rummage Sale set-up will start right after Easter on Monday April 1st in the fellowship hall. Donations will be welcomed beginning Tuesday, April 2nd. Donations can be dropped off Monday thru Friday from 9 until 2. The last day for drop off will be April 30th at noon. **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Tables will be set up across Fellowship Hall with signs indicating where particular items should be deposited there. Your cooperation is appreciated and will help with final sorting and displaying of clothing and household goods. **All donated items should be clean and in a good state of condition and repair for resale.**

Set-up volunteers are needed Monday April 1 to set up tables and racks and then beginning Tuesday April 2nd the sorting of the donations will begin. Further assistance will be needed on Saturday May 4th for clean up. Please contact the church office (313-291-1221) or speak with Women's Fellowship President Toni Hill to volunteer.

HEALTH MINISTRIES

Join us on Wednesdays in April for our ongoing Exercise Class

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.

Hands on CPR

Looking forward to hands on CPR in mid-May. During coffee hour we will have a demonstration and practice of Hands-on-only CPR. All who are interested in learning will be able to practice on a mannequin.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Lectors are needed for Sunday Services

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

Council Seeks to Fill Two Positions

The church council has two positions that need to be filled. Someone is needed to fill the position of 2nd Trustee and the position of 3rd Deacon. Description of these positions can be obtained by contacting the church office. Please prayerfully consider taking one of these positions to complete our church council. If you have any questions please contact Trustee Toni Hill or Michael Isaacs.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

A special **Thank You** to the following people who helped with the 2024 Drive-Thru Fish Dinners: Gary Staffeld, Diane Poet, Toni Hill, James Poet, Candace Poet, Crystal Poet, Eric Poet, Dan Evison, Helen St. Louis, Sue Mrowka, Karen Hill, Tim Ruffner, Dan Case, Deb Case, Vicky Grant, Pandora Sidak, Elizabeth Isaacs, Kaitlyn Isaacs, Jennifer Ruffner, Eleanor Ruffner, Elizabeth Ruffner, Sharon Podpora, Tom Tank, Sandra Rose, Ed Brainard, Janet Staffeld, Gene Kincaid, Jeff MacZink, Kirk Blanchard, Anne Blanchard, Dee Salsbury and Gail Denman. Also a special **Thank You** to Pat Staffeld for donating the brownies.

Thank you to the March Merry Mailers: Sandi Rose, Helen St. Louis, and Wendy Warner.

Baptized Unto the Lord, Carter Eli Bock, born January 9, 2024 to Andrew and Summer Herkimer Bock and baptized Sunday, March 17, 2024. Grandparents: John and Vicky King; Ernest and Nanci Bock. Great-Grandparent: Pat Herkimer. Sibling: Scott Dreaver. **Dedicated to the Lord,** Scott Dreaver.

Condolences: To the Family & Friends of Glen Koths, who passed away February 29, 2024 at the age of 93 years. Memorial service was March 25, 2024 at St. Paul UCC, Taylor. Rev. Linda Anderson officiated; **to the Family & Friends of Shirley Havenstein,** who passed away March 20, 2024 at the age of 89 years. Pastor Cheryl Schalm to officiate. Final arrangements are pending.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR

Church Members and Friends: Kyle Hard, Justine Kimbler, Fred Miller, Dan Newton, Bill Pattenau, Lois Rice, Shirley Robinson, Sandi Rose, Barbara Schultz, Sally Sigman, Joan Smarr, Sue Spears, Linda Tank, Jeannette Wackro, Carol Wioncek.

Extended Family: Suzanne & Dennis Bennett (sister, brother-in-law of Karen Hill), Rhonda Wioncek Berndt, Sherry Burchard (daughter, Sandy and Jack Burchard), Ted Butkin, Ailani Flores (friends of Rosemarie Laslo), Brody Howell (nephew, Justine Kimber), Sue Milatz, Debi and Al Petri, Jerry Rossi, Randy Snelson, Rachel Tank (Daughter, Tom & Linda Tank).

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; Barbara Schultz, Randall Residence at Encore Village, 10801 E. Grand River, Room 212, Brighton, 48116; *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.

Council Position Highlights

For the month of April we will be highlighting the position of **1st & 2nd Vice President**. **A listing of all current council members is posted on the welcome board in the west lobby. There are 2 open positions on Council at this time.**

The First Vice-President supports the President in his or her duties as leaders of the Church. After two years of service the First Vice-President assumes the role of President.

1. COUNCIL / CABINET
 - a. Attend monthly Council meetings, as scheduled.
 - b. Attend special Council meetings, as scheduled.
 - c. Shall assist the Elders with Communion, as required.
 - d. Attend yearly Council Retreat.
 - e. Serve as the Council Representative at Church services for a minimum of six services each year. (see Council Representative duties and responsibilities)
 - f. Work Coffee Hour or special events when Council has volunteered to host.
 - g. Attend the Semi-Annual and Annual meetings
2. MEETINGS
 - a. In the absence of the President, the First-Vice President shall preside over all Council meetings.
 - b. In the absence of the President, the First-Vice President shall preside over all Congregational meetings.
 - c. In the absence of the President, the First-Vice President shall preside over all special Congregational meetings.
 - d. In the absence of the President, the First-Vice President shall preside over all Executive Committee meetings.
 - e. The First Vice-President shall preside over all Cabinet meetings.
3. FINANCE
 - a. The First-Vice President is Chairperson of the Budget Ministry.
4. SPECIAL
 - a. The First-Vice President shall chair the Annual Church Picnic.
 1. Shall ensure that the tent and chairs for annual Church picnic are ordered at the end of March, delivery date is TBD.

- b. The First-Vice President shall serve as the liaison between the Council and the Communication Ministry and the LED Sign Coordinator.

The Second Vice-President supports the President and First Vice-President in their duties as leaders of the Church. After one year of service the Second-Vice President becomes the First Vice-President. A year later he or she succeeds to the role of President.

1. COUNCIL / CABINET
 - a. Attend monthly Council meetings, as scheduled.
 - b. Attend special Council meetings, as scheduled.
 - c. Attend quarterly Cabinet meetings, as scheduled.
 - d. Shall assist the Elders with Communion, as required.
 - e. Attend yearly Council Retreat.
 - f. Serve as the Council Representative at Church services for a minimum of six services each year. (see Council Representative duties and responsibilities)
 - g. Work Coffee Hour or special events when Council has volunteered to host.
 - h. Attend the Semi-Annual and Annual meetings.
2. MEETINGS
 - a. In the absence of the President and the First-Vice President, the Second Vice-President shall preside over all Council meetings.
 - b. In the absence of the President and the First-Vice President, the Second Vice-President shall preside over all Congregational meetings.
 - c. In the absence of the President and the First-Vice President, the Second Vice-President shall preside over all Special Congregational meetings.
 - d. In the absence of the President and the First-Vice President, the Second Vice-President shall preside over all Executive Committee meetings.
 - e. In the absence of the First-Vice President, the Second Vice-President shall preside over all Cabinet meetings.
3. FINANCE
 - a. The Second Vice-President is Vice-Chairperson of the Budget Ministry.
4. SPECIAL
 - a. The Second Vice-President shall co-chair the Annual Church Picnic.

