

TIDINGS

St. Paul United Church of Christ
24158 Goddard Road, Taylor, Michigan 48180-3910
(313) 291-1221
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www.stpaulucctaylor.org
Interim Sr. Pastor - Rev. Linda Anderson

Calendar of Events

October 2025

Thursday, October 2nd	Rummage Sale - 9:00 to 4:00 pm
Friday, October 3rd	Rummage Sale - 9:00 to 4:00 pm
Saturday, October 4th	Rummage Sale - 9:00 to 11:00 am
Sunday, October 5th	Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am World Wide Communion Sunday
Sunday, October 12th	Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday, October 19th	Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am Halloween Trunk or Treat - 4:00 pm
Sunday, October 26th	Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am Reformation Sunday

November 2025

Sunday, November 2nd	Church Service - Communion & Sunday School 10:00 am Daylight Savings Time - Fall Back
Sunday, November 9th	Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday, November 16th	Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday, November 23rd	Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am
Thursday, November 27th	Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed
Friday, November 28th	Office Closed
Sunday, November 30th	Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am

NOTE: We will continue to highlight our Church Organizations and Ministry's this month. The intent is to explain what each Organization and Ministry does and hopefully solicit new members for these groups.

INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

We easily speak of things going well, the good life, or being happy. What we often overlook is the sense of joy that is a deep and special feeling. Faith helps us as we seek joy in our daily lives. It provides us with peace and comfort that are hard to explain. I recently read a daily devotion relating to joy that I found very meaningful. Sharing it with you, I hope you will also find it meaningful.

What Is the Source of Your Joy?

Mystic and theologian Howard Thurman (1899–1981) writes of faith as the most secure foundation for joy:

There are some who are dependent upon the mood of others for their happiness.... There are some whose joy is dependent upon circumstances.... There are some who must win their joy against high odds, squeeze it out of the arid ground of their living or wrest it from the stubborn sadness of circumstance.... There are still others who find their joy deep in the heart of their religious experience. It is not related to, dependent upon, or derived from, any circumstances or conditions in the midst of which they must live. It is a joy independent of all vicissitudes. There is a strange quality of awe in their joy, that is but a reflection of the deep calm water of the spirit out of which it comes. It is primarily a discovery of the soul, when God makes known [God's] presence, where there are no words, no outward song, only the Divine Movement. This is the joy that the world cannot give. This is the joy that keeps watch against all the emissaries of sadness of mind and weariness of soul. This is the joy that comforts and is the companion, as we walk even through the valley of the shadow of death.

Catholic priest Henri Nouwen (1932–1996) writes of the joy we experience through the love of God:

Joy is a gift that is there even when we are sorrowful, even when we are in pain, even when things are difficult in our lives. The joy that Jesus offers is a joy that exists in very, very difficult situations....

What we have to start sensing is that in the spiritual life, joy is embracing sorrow and happiness, pain and pleasure. It is deeper, fuller. It is more. It is something that remains with us. It is something of God that is very profound. It is something we can experience even when we are in touch with very painful things in our lives. If there is anything the church wants to teach us it is that the joy of God can be with us always—in moments of sickness, in moments of health, in moments of success, in moments of failure, in moments of birth, in moments of death. The joy of God is never going to leave us....

When we can face our own painful situation, we will discover that hidden in the pain is the treasure—a joy that is there for us to experience here and now. It is very important that we get in touch with this. That is what the spiritual life—the life with God—is about. It is being in touch with that love that becomes joy in us.... Underneath all our fluctuations is a deep solid divine stream that is called joy.

Wishing you joy! Linda

OCTOBER COMMUNITY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

The October Community Outreach, Operation Christmas Child will kick-off on Sunday, October 26. The shoebox ministry provides children around the world with small gift filled shoe boxes and books about Jesus in the child's native language. All church members will be 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 16th. All filled shoeboxes will be delivered to the collection center on November 16th where they will be transferred via a semi-truck to the distribution center in Boone, NC. From there they will go via plane, train and boat to countries, to include the USA to children in need.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Christian Education Seeks Help for Sunday School

The Christian Education Ministry and the Sunday School are looking for a few new people. We need a new Superintendent of the Sunday School, 1-2 teachers to help in our rotation, and a couple people to just be on hand in case we need a substitute. We will help you and provide you with training. But most of all, we are in need of children, especially between the ages of 5-14. If you can help us with any of these things, please contact Deb Case or the church office.

ORGANIZATIONAL / MINISTRY GROUPS

Christian Education

The mission and purpose of Christian Education at St. Paul United Church of Christ is to witness the Gospel of Jesus Christ. With Holy Scripture as our guide and foundation we seek to encourage the whole family to see every phase of church life as giving testimony to our faith. We are committed to providing for all a nurturing environment for learning and fellowship in which the joy of Christian living and the love of Christ are encountered. As part of our Christian Education process we strive to help young and old identify their gifts, callings, and vocations as Christians. We see our Christian Education Program as a place of refuge where we can learn the skills for coping with our problems. We seek to introduce our own Christian family to the larger life and mission of the Christian Church. At the same time, we are committed to promoting tolerance and understanding of other religions of the world. Christian Education is also responsible for Sunday School and Youth Activities and also host the following events each year: Trunk or Treat, Christmas Pageant, Easter Party/Easter Egg Hunt, Donuts for Dad, Advent by Candlelight, Picnic Games, Family Fun Night, host Coffee Hour, and many other smaller activities.

Memorial Ministry

The Memorial Ministry is responsible for managing memorial donations given to the St. Paul Memorial Fund. The Memorial Fund consists of special gifts and legacies to the Church. The money given to the Memorial Fund is to be kept by the Church Treasurer and the funds are to be used in accordance with the decisions of the Memorial Ministry. The Memorial Ministry will use the money with consideration given to the family of the person memorialized and/or giver of the gifts. The Memorial Ministry holds sole authority over the Memorial Fund and it shall be separate from the Generational Endowment Fund. Items purchased by the Memorial Ministry include: donation to steeple repair, new Bunn coffee pot for parlor, new sewing table for Sew n' Sew group, choir robes, hearing aid system for sanctuary, tables for Sunday School, Memorial Cremation Garden, chairs for Fellowship Hall and many more items.

ALL CHURCH EVENTS

World Wide Communion Sunday - October 5th

St. Paul to celebrate World Wide Communion Sunday on October 5, 2025. World Communion Sunday is a day, celebrated on the first Sunday of October, when Christians from various denominations and countries gather for Holy Communion to affirm their unity in Christ and their shared identity as the global church. Those following the worship service live streamed on Facebook are encouraged to use bread and juice from their home kitchens which will be consecrated with prayer during the communion service.

Our St. Paul congregation observes an open communion for all baptized adult or confirmed Christians regardless of particular church membership. Non-members are invited to fully share in the communion meal, renewing their own commitment to walk more closely with Jesus Christ.

2025/2026 Confirmation Classes to Begin

An informational adult/ confirmand (7th grade – high school) meeting will be held on Sunday, October 5 immediately after worship service. All will gather in Mrs. Lori Roger's classroom (Junior/ Senior room) upstairs. Confirmation classes begin Sunday, October 12, 10 am in the Junior/Senior Classroom. Class will be confirmed on Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026. If you have any questions, please contact Rev Anderson or Jane Dykowski.

Sew "N" Sew Gals to Meet

Thursday, October 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 Janet Staffeld, chairwoman, for more info.

St. Paul UCC Halloween "Trunk or Treat"

When: Saturday, October 19th

Where: St. Paul, UCC circular drive

Time: 4:00 p.m. - hot dogs & chips, caramel apples, pumpkin decorating

5:00 p.m. - trunk or treat

5:30 p.m. - hayride

Candy donations are being sought and can be dropped off in the office or the tub located at the welcome center in the Christian Education department. Please contact Deb Case if you are interested in assisting with this event.

Reformation Service Celebrates Protestant Heritage

Remembering Martin Luther and other early church leaders, our St. Paul congregation will be celebrating our annual Reformation Sunday, the birthday of the Protestant churches, October 26th , at 10 am. For the occasion sixth graders will be receiving Bibles as a gift from our Christian Education Ministry and asked to be present for the sanctuary service.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

2026 Council Positions

It's not too early to start thinking about joining the St. Paul Council in 2026, each position is for a three year cycle. Positions for 2026 include: 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Elder, Trustee and Deacon. A complete description of the positions can be obtained by contacting the church office or by speaking to a Trustee.

Council positions still open for 2025 are: 2nd Vice-President (3 year commitment), 1st Vice-President (2 year commitment), two Deacons (2 year and 3 year commitment). A complete description of the positions can be obtained by contacting the church office or by speaking to a Trustee. Please prayerfully consider taking one of these positions on our church council. If you have any questions please contact Trustee Toni Hill, Conrad Heidt or Michael Isaacs.

Emergency Evacuation Drill

The Safety and Security Ministry hosted their annual Emergency Evacuation Drill on Sunday, September 14th. We are happy to announce that everyone was evacuated in a quick and safe manner, with a time of 2 minutes and 33 seconds. The drills are intended to teach members and staff on the proper way to exit the church in case of an emergency. We want to thank all who participated in the drill on September 14th for their patience and quick response. St. Paul Safety and Security Ministry

Chancel Choir Practice

Choir practice continues on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. New voices are always welcome. For more information please contact any choir member or Music Director, Ava Janus.

St. Paul Prayer List / Fellowship of Concern

If you or someone you know needs to be added to our "Prayer List" or "Fellowship of Concern" please call the Church Office (313) 291-1221, Monday thru Friday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Just a reminder, a review of the prayer list is done by the office and Sr. Pastor every four weeks, please contact the office if you wish to have your name removed or if you want to continue to be on the list.

St. Paul "Looking Back at the Past"

A special Bulletin Board is being set up in the Fellowship Hall entitled "Pictures From The Past" and has been populated with pictures from St. Paul's past. Members are encouraged to review the board and post pictures of their own on the board for all to enjoy.

2025 Budget Status - Thank You for your Continued Support

I will continue to report only our actual income and expenses for the remainder of 2025. Our actual income for August was \$23,637.00 and our actual expenses for August were \$14,252.63, a difference of \$9,284.37 which was a positive balance for the month. We are currently only \$4,113.91 negative for the year, an improvement of about \$9,000 from July. Our General Fund, which is the fund we use to pay our expenses (salaries, utilities, etc) is at \$27,476.18 an increase of \$8,784.37 from July. These are definitely positive trends from last month. Let us pray that this trend continues for the remainder of 2025. If you have any questions about our budget please feel free to give me a call. Dan Case - St. Paul Treasurer

2026 Budget Preparations Begin

Preparations for the 2026 St. Paul Budget have begun. The first draft of the budget will be presented to the Council at their October 14th meeting. The Budget and Finance Ministry will meet on Monday, November 3rd to review and discuss the draft budget. On Sunday November 9th members will have an opportunity to meet with Dan Case, St. Paul Treasurer after the Worship Service in the parlor to review the draft budget and provide input. The final Council approved budget will be presented to the Congregation for review and approval on Sunday, January 18, 2026 at our Annual Meeting.

Rummage Sale Volunteers Needed

The annual St. Paul Fall Rummage Sale will be held Thursday through Friday, October 2nd - 4th. Rummage sale hours will be Thursday & Friday 9 am to 4 pm, Saturday 9 am to 11 am. Help is needed to host the actual sale and clean-up afterwards on Saturday morning. To volunteer, please contact the church office (313) 291-1221 or call Toni Hill. All proceeds from the rummage sale support church-related projects.

2025 Membership Directory

The 2025 Membership Directory is scheduled for release in late October. Once published the Deacons will be handing them out before and after Sunday Worship Service.

Burial Graves for Sale

The St. Paul Memorial Ministry still 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.

By-Law Review

The St. Paul Council has established a special committee to review our existing By-Laws and update as required. The committee will be meeting approximately three to four times between now and the end of the year on Monday nights at 6:30 pm. If you are interested in participating on this committee please contact Dan Case.

Neighbors In Need Mission Offering – Received in October

This Mission offering supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. A large portion of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of ministries, advocacy efforts and direct service programs. This offering also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC through the Council for American Indian Ministries. There are over 20 UCC congregations on reservations primarily in the states of North and South Dakota and Minnesota. Neighbors In Need helps make another world possible, it needs your support.

An offering envelope is included in this Tidings. If you misplace the envelope, any regular envelope indicating "Neighbors In Need" may be used. There will also be offering envelopes in the pews as well. Place your envelope in the offering plate on Sunday, drop it off to our Church Office, or US Postal mail. Make checks payable to St. Paul UCC Church and indicate the offering name on the memo line.

You may also use Vanco, our electronic online and mobile giving source for Your "Neighbors In Need" donation. Visit us online at www.stpauluccctaylor.org/giving, locate the Online Giving button and select "Neighbors In Need" and enter the amount of your donation.

Your prayerful gift helps God's spirit move and speak in our congregations for generations to come. On behalf of the Stewardship of St. Paul, Thank You.

Pastoral Care

If you find yourself or your family in need of pastoral care please call the Church Office at (313) 291-1221, Monday through Friday from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. If after hours please leave a message our voicemail is checked daily. In the case of an emergency please contact Tim Ruffner our President or Rev. Anderson.

October is National Church Safety and Security Month

National Church Safety and Security Month is a time for heightening awareness on preventing fires and injuries and reviewing ways to be secure in our worship setting. St. Paul Safety and Security Ministry meets on a regular basis and reviews church policies with regards to providing a safe environment in which to worship. You can identify members of your Emergency Response Team (ERT) by the yellow and red arm bands or red badges hanging around their necks that they wear during St. Paul services and at our larger events. If you are interested in joining the ERT or becoming a member of the Safety and Security Ministry please contact Dan Case.

Active Shooter Procedures

With the recent incidents occurring in schools and churches in the past several months the Safety and Security Ministry thought that it would be appropriate to include our current procedures with regards to an active shooter event at our church. We plan on holding an active shooter training session in November, date TBD, for St. Paul members.

ACTIVE SHOOTER EMERGENCY

ACTION PLAN

An Active Shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area; in most cases, active shooters use firearm(s) and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims.

Active Shooter situations are unpredictable and evolve quickly. Typically, the immediate deployment of law enforcement is required to stop the shooting and mitigate harm to victims.

Because active shooter situations are often over within minutes, before law enforcement arrives on the scene, St. Paul staff and members must be prepared both mentally and physically to deal with an active shooter situation. Time is a critical factor in the management of a situation of this magnitude.

HOW TO RESPOND

RUN/HIDE/FIGHT

Evacuate/Run

If there is an accessible escape path, attempt to evacuate the building.

Be sure to:

- Have an escape route and plan in mind.
- Evacuate regardless of whether others agree to follow.
- Leave your belongings behind.
- Help others escape, if possible.
- Prevent others from entering an area where the active shooter may be.
- Keep your hands visible when law enforcement arrives on scene.
- Follow the instructions of any police officers.
- Do not attempt to move wounded people.
- Call 911 when you are safe. If possible, give the 911 operator, the location of the shooter, number of shooters, physical description, number and type of weapon, number of potential victims.

Lockdown"**HIDE OUT**"

If evacuation is not possible, find a place to hide where the active shooter is less likely to find you.

Your hiding place should:

1. Be out of the active shooter's view
2. Provide protection if shots are fired in your direction (i.e., an office with a closed and locked door)
3. Not trap you or restrict your options for movement
4. To prevent an active shooter from entering your hiding place: Lock the door, blockade the door with heavy furniture, cover the window with covering material.

If the active shooter is nearby:

1. Lock the door
2. Silence your cell phone and/or pager
3. Turn off any source of noise (i.e., radios, televisions)
4. Hide behind large items (i.e., cabinets, desks)
5. Remain quiet
6. If evacuation and hiding out are not possible:
 - o Remain calm
 - o Dial 911, if possible, to alert police to the active shooter's location
 - o If you cannot speak, leave the line open and allow the dispatcher to listen

Remain in place until found by a uniformed law enforcement officer.

Take Action against the Active Shooter/Fight

AS A LAST RESORT, and only when your life is in imminent danger, attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter by:

- Acting as aggressively as possible against him/her
- Throwing items and improvising weapons
- Yelling
- Committing to your actions

NOTE: These types of situations will generate a lot of media attention. All media communications and inquiries will be made by the Active President or designated spokesperson.

HEALTH MINISTRIES**Exercise Class Continues**

We are trying to make a change for the new year. Exercise classes will be held on Thursdays from 11 am–12 n. (*No class October 8.*) Our instructor, Delissa Hampton is there every step of the way to cheer you on to work at whatever pace you can do. All exercises can be done seated or standing position with or with the use of a chair, or a combination of both. A small donation of \$3 to \$5 is suggested but not expected for each class you attend. Hope to see you soon. 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. The information to join the class is at www.stpauluctaylor.org, "What's Happening", "Health Activities". If you would like to participate or have any questions, contact the office or Kathy Williams.

Meditation class

Meditation Class will be held on Thursdays, following the exercise class at approximately 12 noon in the parlor.

Updates for Our Call List Are Needed

Please contact the office if you are or know of someone who doesn't get e-mail notifications regarding the death or serious illness of a church member. We have not done this in a long time. It is important to reach out to those members. Also, if you are willing to make calls contact Kathy Williams.

Communion for Members who are Unable to Attend Church

Please contact Kathy Williams or the office if you know of a member who is homebound.

Health/Medical Supplies Available/Needed

A hospital bed is needed for someone in our church. If you have or need medical supplies, such as walkers, wheelchairs, please contact Kathy Williams or the office.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers need to Host Coffee Hour

We are looking for volunteers to host Coffee Hour in December. Training will be provided. All the hosts need to do is pick up the donuts, serve and clean up. Coffee Hour is after the worship service. Juice and coffee are provided by the church. If interested please contact the Church Office at (313) 291-1221.

Christmas Gift Sale Donations

Once again a Christmas Gift Sale is being planned for early December. There has been increased interest in the event. There have been several inquiries regarding items to sell and about helping. Therefore, we are planning it again for 2025. The hope is to open the "shop" for a couple December weeks in the West Room. To enhance the inventory, we are soliciting donations of new items you may have which you are unlikely to use. Additionally, we hope to have work days at the church to assemble and prepare items for the sale. Your donations and "crafty" help will be appreciated. Please contact Peggy Staten or Jane Dykowski for more details about donations, helping and the event.

Liturgists are still 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.

Auxiliary Deacons Needed

If you're looking to serve our church but don't want to commit to being on the Council the Auxiliary Deacon position might be right for you. The auxiliary appointees are not required to attend or allowed to vote at the regular Council Meetings. They are only allowed to assist with normal and/or special duties as a Deacon (ie: usher, etc) or cover for the elected position, as required. If you are interested please see any Deacon on Sunday morning.

Ushers and Acolytes Needed for Sunday Morning Services

Visit our Usher / Acolyte Sign-up board located in the Narthex of the Church. Being an usher or acolyte is as easy as signing your name to the board, you can sign up for a single service or as many services as you want. Experience is not required; the Deacons will be glad to train you prior to the service. All ushers are asked to be at Church thirty minutes prior to the service. Talk to a Deacon on Sunday Morning if you would like additional information.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

A special **THANK YOU** to the following people for helping to set up for the Fall Rummage Sale: Toni Hill, Dee Salsbury, Harold Fick, Tom Tank, Dale Simon, Ed Brainard, Janet Staffeld and Dan Case.

A special **THANK YOU** to Sharon Podpora and Louise Stanek for hosting the September 7th Coffee Hour.

MEMORIALS

FACILITY IMPROVEMENT FUND:

In Memory of: *Kyle Hard* From: Dan & Deborah Case

KITCHEN FUND:

In Memory of: *Bob & Shirley Robinson* From: Dan & Dorothy Evison

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR

Church Members and Friends: Marjie Barnard, Paula Block, Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas, Denise Foley, Julius Enesey, Justine Kimbler, Dave Lange, Sr., Rosemarie Laslo, Joe Mayfield, Dave Schmoekel, Kyle Hard, Bill Pattenau, Bob Robinson, Shirley Robinson, Sandi Rose, Joan Smarr, John Smith, Sue Spears, William Stears, Jr., Bridget Stephens, Sue Stern, Linda Tank, Tom Tank.

Extended Family: Susan & Dennis Bennett (sister, brother-in-law, Karen Hill), Rhonda Wioncek Berndt, Ted Butkin, Nora Cousino (sister-in-law, Helen St. Louis), Ailani Flores (friends, Rosemarie Laslo), Freeman Floyd, Alicia Hagen, Tony Koths, Jennifer Lee, Jeff MacZink, Steve Newberry, Al Petri, Linda Schutter (cousin, Sandi Rose), Jerry Rossi, Kevin Siemers, Vicki Simon (mother, Michael Isaacs), Randy Snelson, Rachel Tank (Daughter, Tom & Linda Tank), Blain Tayler, Anna Thomson (mother, Lucinda Chavez), Cindy Twilliger, Diana Williams.

Church Members & Friends in Extended Care or Rehab Care:

Judy Albright, 17381 Michigan Heights Dr., Romulus, 48174-5911; **Darlene Babin**, American House, 16333 Allen Rd., Room 213, Southgate, 48195; **Barbara Gish**, American House, 16333 Allen Rd, Apt. 109, Southgate, 48195; **Lois Rice**, Burcham Hills, 2700 Burcham Dr., Apt. 536, East Lansing, 48823-9977; **Melissa Rossi**, 17652 Colgate, Dearborn Heights, 48125; **Sally Sigman**, American House 20300 Fort St., Room 256, Riverview, 48193; **Bert Thompson**, Optalis Health & Rehabilitation, 9150 Allen Rd, Allen Park; Office: 313-386-2150.