

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

November 2025

Sunday, November 2nd	Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am Totenfest – Daylight Savings Time - Fall Back
Sunday, November 9th	Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am Stewardship Sunday
Sunday, November 16th	Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am
Sunday, November 23rd	Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am Active Shooter Training 11:15 am
Thursday, November 27th	Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed
Friday, November 28th	Office Closed
Sunday, November 30th	Church Service - Pew Communion & Sunday School 10:00 am First Sunday of Advent

December 2025

Sunday, December 7th	Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am Advent by Candlelight - Gift Basket Sale - No Coffee Hour
Sunday, December 14th	Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am
Thursday, December 18th	Blue Christmas Service
Sunday, December 21st	Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am Special Music - Harpist Christa Grix
Wednesday, December 24th	Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm - Pew Communion
Thursday, December 25th	Christmas Day - Office Closed
Friday, December 26th	Office Closed
Sunday, December 28th	Church Service & Sunday School 10:00 am

INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

Change is all about us. It is a normal part of life and not always easy to adjust to. Involved in a discussion earlier today the topics included the change of seasons to the changing of our clocks. The slightest look at today's news shows how our world is changing. As the world changes around us, some of our long-held traditions have to change.

For me, Sunday always meant church followed by dinner at Grandma and Grandpa's house. With my one daughter in California and her sister, who lives in Dearborn, having sons that place sports on Sunday, dinner together is out of the question. Church is not a priority for either of them. The tradition I grew up with and valued greatly is gone.

We have no control over what traditions we were born into. However, as time passes, and changes occur, we must decide how to respond to them. We must decide: Is this inherited tradition life-giving, death-dealing, or a mix of both? While challenging our long-held traditions, we have to recognize that changes come in both good and bad ways. What is the core value of the tradition, and should we continue to foster it?

Understanding the tradition's core treasures is essential, its deepest values, vision, practices, and insights, its origins, history, and leading figures. We also have a responsibility to face its shortcomings, missteps, imbalances, and current needs for growth, so we can someday, if possible, pass on an even better version of the tradition than we have received.

Acknowledging the treasures of the church, we are called to invest our time and energy in its life-giving traditions. How will we help our Christian tradition to grow, mature, and expand its influence for good?

Let us work together and rejoice. Let us enrich and improve the tradition as it stands.

See you in Church. Blessings, *Linda*

OCTOBER COMMUNITY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

Thank you to everyone who has chosen to fill a shoebox for children in need. Shoeboxes will be delivered on Sunday, November 16th to the collection center. From there they were delivered via semi to the distribution center in Boone, NC where they were shipped via train, plane, and ship to God's children throughout all parts of His world.

With the shoeboxes to soon be delivered, it is now time to begin our annual "Angel Tree" gift outreach for the Salvation Army. Church members are invited to pick a tag from the Angel tree located in Fellowship Hall. While there will be no name on the tag, the tag will identify a gender and age. Please purchase a gift (\$25.00 average) for a child in that category.

Register your tag by signing your name along with the tag number on the sheet located at the table. A list of gift recommendations will also be available on the table.

ALL GIFTS MUST BE RETURNED BY DECEMBER 8th. The gifts will be delivered on Monday to the Salvation Army for use in their Shop free Christmas Store. Pre-registered, qualified parents will come shop for their children at designated times. Each parent is permitted to pick one big gift and a stocking stuffer for their child/ren.

The tree will be ready once the angel tags are received from the Salvation Army sometime in November. In addition, we will be collecting hats, gloves and undergarments for the Salvation Army. Collection boxes will be placed in the Narthex and lobby area.

Please contact Pastor Schalm with any questions.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Join Our Sunday School Team!

The Christian Education Ministry and Sunday School are seeking enthusiastic volunteers for several important roles:

- **Sunday School Superintendent**
- **Teachers** to join our teaching rotation
- **Substitute Helpers** to be available as needed

No experience is necessary—training and support will be provided for all volunteers! We also welcome children, especially those aged 5–14, to participate in our Sunday School program. If you're interested in volunteering or know children who would enjoy joining us, please contact Deb Case or call the church office (313) 291-1221.

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 19th. 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. Congratulations to Rob and Anne Snelson, Gail Denman, Marilyn Lang and Rodney Gish, our winners of the best Halloween displays.

ORGANIZATIONAL / MINISTRY GROUPS

Building and Grounds

The Building and Grounds Ministry responsibilities include maintaining the physical facility and grounds through regular inspections, cleaning, and repairs. Key duties involve both building systems (like HVAC, electrical, and plumbing) and outdoor areas (like landscaping and snow removal), and coordinating with vendors and volunteers for tasks that range from minor repairs to larger improvement projects. The overarching goal is to provide a safe, clean, and welcoming environment for worship and other church activities. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Building and Grounds Ministry please speak to Gary Staffeld.

Safety and Security Ministry

The Safety and Security Ministry is committed to taking a proactive approach with regards to the safety and security of our members and our building. We aim to ensure a safe and secure worship experience for both members and visitors. By fostering an environment that is attentive and informed, we hope to minimize the likelihood of emergencies. An emergency refers to any situation presenting an immediate danger to safety, health, life, property, or the environment, but which can be managed by local individuals or agencies.

When it comes to caring for "**our people,**" it is important that we acknowledge emergencies can happen and take steps to be ready. Places of worship have always faced incidents like medical emergencies, fires, power outages, and natural events such as winter storms and tornadoes. However, the modern world has introduced additional challenges, including increased crime and uncertainty, even in the spaces we hold most sacred. If you are interested in joining our Emergency Response Team please contact Dan Case.

ALL CHURCH EVENTS

Totenfest Service Remembers Family Members and Friends

Church members who have passed away over the last twelve months are being remembered at the Totenfest Service on Sunday, November 2nd. As their names are read aloud near the end of the service, our historic 1911 church bell will be rung in honor of each deceased member. Prior to the start of worship, altar candles will be lit for each church member and friend being memorialized Totenfest morning.

Active Shooter Awareness and Response Training

To ensure the safety of our membership, we will be holding a crucial active shooter awareness and response training session. This training is vital for everyone's preparedness in the event of an emergency.

Training will cover:

- The "Run. Hide. Fight." strategy, including when and how to evacuate, seek cover, or defend yourself if necessary.
- Recognizing potential warning signs of violence.
- Procedures for quickly and effectively contacting emergency services (911).
- Coordinating with law enforcement upon their arrival, including what to do and what information to provide.

Details:

- Date: Sunday, November 23rd
- Time: 11:15 am
- Location: St. Paul Sanctuary
- Facilitator: St. Paul Safety and Security Ministry

We strongly encourage everyone to attend. Your participation is essential for our collective safety.

Sew "N" Sew Gals to Meet

Thursday, November 20th 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.

"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, December 7th, from 6:45-8:30 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 Peggy Staten. (pstaten75@yahoo.com or call/text (734) 740-0647). It is quite easy to be a hostess and she 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.

The deadline to sign up is Sunday, November 30th. The table arrangement in the hall is based on the order that you sign your group up by. She will need to know the total numbers at each table by November 30th.

Christmas Gift Sale Donations

The Christmas Gift & Basket Sale in the West Room will be open to the public on these dates: Friday, December 5 (10 am - 12 noon; Saturday, December 6 (10 am - 2 pm); and Sunday, December 7 (11 am - 1 pm). NEW THIS YEAR: FOR CHURCH MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ONLY IT WILL BE OPEN Thursday, December 4, 4 PM UNTIL 7 PM. We will also be open after the Advent by Candlelight program on December 7th as well as after the Family Christmas Service on December 14th. There are reasonably priced gifts for all ages. Many items are arranged in decorative gift baskets. Plan to attend and do some Christmas shopping early. Please call Peggy Staten or Jane Dykowski if you have questions.

Annual Congregational Meeting Scheduled

The annual meeting of the St. Paul congregation will be held on Sunday, January 18 2026. 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 2026 budget will be sent to all church members in mid-December accompanied by a letter from the President-elect Tim Ruffner. 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 Sixteenth Annual Wild Game Dinner

The St. Paul Building and Grounds Ministry and Men's Fellowship will be hosting its 16th Annual Wild Game Dinner, date still TBD. As always the doors will 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. Tickets can be purchased beginning mid November 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.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Daylight Savings Time

Just a quick reminder that Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 2, 2025. You will need to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 1st. We don't want you showing up at church an hour early, we want you to get that extra hour of sleep.

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.

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.

Neighbors In Need Mission Offering – Received in November

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.

Altar Flowers

At St. Paul United Church of Christ, we understand the profound importance of honoring loved ones and commemorating significant events in our lives. Our altar flowers serve as a beautiful tribute, creating a warm and compassionate atmosphere that fosters meaningful memories for all. With arrangements available for just \$20 for a single vase or \$40 for two, we strive to make this heartfelt gesture both affordable and accessible to our congregation. We invite you to participate in this lovely initiative by signing up on the sheet located in the narthex of the church or by calling our office at (313) 291-1221. By contributing to our altar flowers, you not only enhance the beauty of our worship space but also embody our mission of unity and service within the community. Join us in celebrating life and expressing love and gratitude through this special act of remembrance.

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.

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 September was \$14,009.47 and our actual expenses for August were \$16,470.00 , a difference of \$2,460.53 which was a negative balance for the month. We are currently \$10,148.66 negative for the year. Our General Fund, which is the fund we use to pay our expenses (salaries, utilities, etc) is at \$20,939.96 a decrease of \$2,960.53 from August. These numbers show a negative trend from last month. Let us pray that as we close out 2025 that we see some overall improvement. We will be monitoring spending very closely 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 Continue

Preparations for 2026 St. Paul budget continue. The first draft of the budget was 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.

HEALTH MINISTRIES

Update for Our Call List Is Needed

Please contact the office if you are or know of someone who doesn't get our e-mail notifications regarding the death or serious illness of a church member or someone who would like a home visit. 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.

Health Ministries Committee

We need additional volunteers for the Health Ministries team. If interested, please contact Kathy Williams. A survey regarding topics for future informational programs regarding health issues will be sent out in early November. The survey will be available via email and US mail. Please complete the survey either online or by returning a hard copy to the office. We hope to offer programs in the spring of 2026.

Exercise Class Continues

Exercise classes will be held on Thursdays from 11 am-12 n. (*No class November 27, Thanksgiving.* 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 on www.stpaulucctaylor.org Health Activities (stpaulucctaylor.org) If you would like to participate or have any questions, contact the office or 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.

Meditation Class

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

Health/Medical Supplies Available/Needed

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

ROSE ON THE PULPIT celebrates the birth of Remy Hayes Craig, born October 3, 2025 to Desmond and Olivia Drapeau Craig. St. Paul grandparent is Sheri Herkimer. St. Paul great-grandparent is Eileen Herkimer. Sibling is Stella.

LOVE AND SYMPATHY to family and friends of Robert & Shirley Robinson who passed away August 27, 2025. Service was September 5, 2025. Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas officiated. **LOVE AND SYMPATHY** to the family and friends of Kyle Hard who passed away August 28, 2025. Service was September 14, 2025. Pastor Cheryl Schalm and Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas officiated

A special **THANK YOU** to all of the people who helped to make the Fall Rummage Sale a success.

A special **Thank You** to all of the people who helped prepare the ChristnNet lunches. Over 50 lunches were prepared and delivered to the ChirstNet Warming Center.

MEMORIALS

FACILITY IMPROVEMENT FUND:

In Memory of: *Paul T. Matney* From: The Matney Family

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR

Church Members and Friends: Marjie Barnard, Paula Block, Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas, Denise Foley, Julius Enesey, Mary Hard and Family, Justine Kimbler, Dave Lange, Sr., Joe Mayfield, Dave Schmoekel, Bill Pattenau, Maeve Rischel, Sandi Rose, Sally Sigman, Joan Smarr, John Smith, Sue Spears, Roy Staffeld, William Stears, Jr., Sue Stern, Linda Tank, Tom Tank, Jeannette Wackro, Al Wierzbicki.

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, Lynn Jenkins (sister, Cindy Romas), Tony Koths, Jennifer Lee, Jeff MacZink, Sue Milatz, Steve Newberry, Al Petri, Linda Schutter (cousin, Sandi Rose), Jerry Rossi, Kevin Siemers, Randy Snelson, Rachel Tank (Daughter, Tom & Linda Tank), Blain Tayler, Anna Thomson (mother, Lucinda Chavez), Cindy Twilliger, William Veteto, Wendy Wendt (sister, Cindy Romas), 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.