

TIDINGS

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

Calendar of Events

April 2026

Thursday, April 2nd	Maundy Thursday - 7:00 pm
Friday, April 3rd	Good Friday - 12:00 pm
Sunday, April 5th	Easter - Communion & Sunday School - 10:00 am Enhanced Coffee Hour
Monday, April 6th	Easter Monday - Office Closed Set-up for Spring Rummage Sale Begins - 9:00 am
Tuesday, April 7th	Rummage Sale drop-off Begins - 9:00 am
Sunday, April 12th	Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 am Rev. Anderson Last Day - Special Coffee Hour
Sunday, April 19th	Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 am
Sunday, April 26th	Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 am Rev Branham First Sunday Service
Thursday, April 30th	Rummage Sale - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

May 2026

Friday, May 1st	Rummage Sale - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Saturday, May 2nd	Rummage Sale - 9:00 am - 11:00 am
Sunday, May 3rd	Church Service - Sunday School - 10:00 am
Sunday, May 10th	Mother's Day Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 am Muffins for Mom & Cradle Roll
Sunday, May 17th	Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 am
Thursday, May 21st	Every Daughter Banquet
Sunday, May 24th	Pentecost - Church Service - Communion & Sunday School - 10:00 am
Monday, May 25th	Memorial Day - Office Closed
Sunday, May 31st	Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 am

A Blessing of Farewell for Rev. Linda Anderson

Please plan to join us on Sunday, April 12th, as we gather to wish Rev. Linda Anderson well as she departs St. Paul after serving as our Interim Senior Pastor. Rev. Anderson has been with St. Paul and has been in this role since November 2023, and we are deeply thankful for her steady leadership and faithful dedication during some very challenging times in our church family. As we send her forth, we do so with love and gratitude, surrounding her with prayer and entrusting her to God's gracious care. May God bless her and keep her, grant her strength and joy for the journey ahead, and guide her steps in the next chapter of her ministry and life. There will be a special Coffee Hour after the 10:00 am worship service to show our appreciation and bid her a final farewell. Please plan on joining us. St. Paul Council

Please Join Us in Welcoming Rev. Lisa Branham to Our Church Family

With joyful hearts to the Lord, we are happy to share that Rev. Lisa Branham will officially become part of our St. Paul church family on Thursday, April 16th, serving as our Senior Pastor. We warmly welcome Rev. Branham and her husband, Bill, as they make the move to Michigan and step into this new journey that God has prepared for them and for the life and ministry of St. Paul. Her first Sunday on the pulpit is planned for Sunday, April 26th. Please join us for this special worship service as we gather in the presence of God, united in faith, prayer, and fellowship. We ask you to keep Rev. Branham, Bill, and our congregation in your prayers, that the Holy Spirit would guide, strengthen, and bless this new beginning. May the Lord bless and keep Rev. Branham and St. Paul, and may He lead us forward together in love and service.

APRIL COMMUNITY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

Given the current events taking place in our world today and the sense of helplessness many are expressing, April's outreach will provide individuals with the opportunity to teach love, kindness, encouragement and acceptance through the demonstration of it.

While we may not have the power to control the wars, injustice, hatred, and cruelty we are witnessing and experiencing, we can counter it by teaching children of all nationalities its alternatives.

Members and friends are invited and encouraged to make a "caring card" or many cards for a child/ren. These cards should be filled with encouraging words that teach kindness, acceptance and love. These cards, along with others, will be delivered to local school children.

Let us inspire and positively influence those that we can. Character matters. Kindness matters. Decency matters. Hate, greed and racism are not genetic, they are taught. As Christians, let us teach ALL children the way of love taught us through the life and teachings of Christ. Today's youth will one day serve as our leaders. Thus, let us teach them through demonstration how to lead with the qualities and characteristics of Christ.

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better, It's not." ~ The Lorax

Cards can be dropped in the box located in the Narthex. Many blessings, Cheryl

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Sunday School

Church Sunday School continues through April at 10:00 am every Sunday.

We'd Love Your Help in Sunday School!

Is God placing Sunday School on your heart? If you enjoy cheering kids on, sharing God's love, and helping families feel at home at church, we'd love to have you serve with us. Even a little time and a willing heart can make a big difference.

Here are a couple of simple ways you can jump in and help:

- **Sunday School Superintendent:** Help our Sunday School run smoothly by supporting our teachers, helping with simple planning, and being a friendly point-person on Sundays.
- **Substitute Helpers:** Perfect if your schedule changes week to week just be available now and then to fill in, lend a hand, and be an extra encourager when needed.

New to this? You're in good company and you won't be doing it alone. We'll walk with you, answer questions, and provide training and support. And if you have kids ages 5-14, we'd love to welcome them too! Sunday School is a fun place to make friends, learn God's Word, and grow in faith.

Interested in serving or know a child who would love Sunday School? Please reach out to Deb Case or Kaitlyn Isaacs, or call our church office at (313) 291-1221. We'd be honored to help you get started as we serve together and help our children "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ". We can't wait to welcome you. Our Sunday School family has a spot for you!

BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES

April Birthdays

Pauline Arndt, Luke Barnosky, Susan Bennett, Brittany Booms, Jeremy Capello, Desmond Craig, Dan Durisin, Drew Dykowski, Chelsey Eisenga, Joshua, Eisenga, Frederick Fanter, Harold Fick, Aaron Flomo, Elizabeth Gish, Ryan Grant, Mary Hard, Shirley Heaslip, Michael Hipp, Alyssa Killingbeck, Lillie Krause, Shawn Lange, Christopher Logan, Ciera Mack, Tony McAdam, Michael McCleary, Tony McAdam, Amy McGahey, James Mink, Ellie Muljo, Nichole Pappas, Lillian Roscoe, Denise Salisbury, Jake Smart, Lucas Staffeld, Irene Stoner, Glema Weaver, and Charmaine Wright.

April Anniversaries

Henrietta and Ronald Hinzmann, Abbigail and Tyler Keith, Mark and Ruth Kenosian, Lori and Brent Kuhn, Ann and Dennis Schmoekel, and Cynthia and Kevin Winter.

If we missed your birthday or anniversary, we're sorry, but it's because we don't have it in our records. Please call the Church Office at (313) 291-1221 and we will gladly update our records.

ALL CHURCH EVENT

Sewing Guild "Sew 'n Sews"

Come and join us at 10:00 a.m. on April 16th in the West Room. No sewing skills necessary. Bring a sandwich, dessert and beverages are provided. Wonderful fun and fellowship. For more information please contact Janet Staffeld.

During the first three months of 2026 the Sew 'n Sews have donated the following items: 15 blankets to our January Mission Outreach, 5 knitted hats, 2 blankets and 1 crochet scarf to Wild Game Dinner as prizes, 56 blankets to Detroit Metro Share, 93 fleece blankets, 8 flannel quilts, 11 afghans and 16 baby hats, to Corewell Trenton Hospital.

They also received the following letter we thought we would share with you:

Dear Sew and Sew Sewing Guild,

I wanted to thank you for the blanket that my son received on Christmas Eve. It was the most difficult time of my life. The grey blanket with the snowmen with bright red hats really cheered up my son's room in the final days of his life. He had a smile on his face when we put the blanket on his bed. It made his space feel homier which was important as we tried to get him home with hospice. Unfortunately his body was too weak to be transferred home. Please know that the work you do makes a big difference and it has touched our lives. God Bless You! With Heartfelt gratitude.

Maundy/Holy Thursday April 2nd

On Thursday, April 2nd, we warmly invite you to gather with us at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary as we celebrate Holy Communion, remembering the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples on the night before his crucifixion. On this sacred evening, Jesus gave his followers a new commandment: that we love one another as he has loved us. As we come to the Lord's Table, we do so in gratitude, reflection, and hope, trusting in Christ's abiding presence among us.

Good Friday

On Friday, April 3rd we invite you to join us for a worship service at Noon as we gather in the sanctuary. This will be a quiet and reverent devotional service as we remember our Lord's final words and reflect on His great love for us. Together, we will sing beloved passion hymns and enter into prayerful silence. As an expression of our shared faith and humility before God, we will enter and depart the sanctuary in silence.

Easter Sunday

Join your church friends and invite your neighbors as we gather in humble gratitude and joyful praise to celebrate the glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ on April 5th. On this holy morning, we will proclaim the Good News that Christ is risen indeed, rejoicing in His triumph over sin and death and the promise of new life through Him.

The chancel and sanctuary will be adorned with lilies, symbols of resurrection and purity, surrounding the wooden cross that reminds us of Christ's sacrificial love and victorious resurrection. We will partake together in Holy Communion, giving thanks for His body broken and His blood shed for the forgiveness of sins, and lift our voices in hymns of praise and thanksgiving to our risen Savior. Following the worship service, all are invited to continue in Christian fellowship and thanksgiving by attending an enhanced coffee hour in the fellowship hall.

St. Paul Spring Rummage Sale –Volunteers Needed

The annual St. Paul Spring Rummage Sale will be held Thursday through Saturday, April 30th, May 1st and May 2nd. Rummage sale hours will be Thursday & Friday 9 am to 4 pm, Saturday 9 am to 11 am. Rummage Sale donations will be welcomed starting Tuesday, April 7th. We ask that items be distributed and dropped-off to designated tables. All donated clothing, household goods, and equipment should be clean and in a good state of repair.

Rummage sale set-up in Fellowship Hall starts Monday, April 6th at 9:00 am. If you are available to help in the set up it would be greatly appreciated.

The Fellowship Hall will be closed for all other activities until the rummage sale finishes. Beyond set-up, help is needed to host the actual sale and clean-up afterwards on Saturday morning May 2nd.. To volunteer, please contact Toni Hill or the church office (313) 291-1221. All proceeds from the rummage sale support church-related projects.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Paul “Remembering the Past”

Don't forget to visit our special Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall entitled “Remembering The Past” each month it will be 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.

2026 Budget Status - Thank You for your Continued Support

As always, I will continue to report only our actual income and expenses. For the month of February, our actual income totaled \$10,324, while expenses were \$22,121, resulting in a net difference of (\$11,797). As we continue into 2026, we remain in a negative balance year to date. Our General Fund—which supports the day-to-day ministry and operations of St. Paul, including salaries, utilities, and other essential expenses—currently stands at \$4,388. This represents a decrease of \$12,297 from January.

We give thanks to God for His continued faithfulness, and we thank you for the generosity and stewardship you show through your giving. Your gifts help sustain the mission and ministry of our church, and they are truly appreciated. Please don’t hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or would like to visit about the budget or our finances—I’m happy to talk anytime. Blessings in Christ, Dan Case – St. Paul Treasurer

Prayerful Invitation to Serve in Council Roles

We are still seeking faithful servants to fill three Deacon positions (one-year, two-year, and three-year terms), as well as the roles of 1st and 2nd Vice-President. Please consider, with a prayerful heart, whether God is calling you to serve our congregation in one of these important roles. Your willingness to step forward can make a meaningful difference in our church’s ministry and fellowship.

If you feel led to volunteer or would like to learn more, please reach out to Tim Ruffner, Michael Isaacs, or Toni Hill. May the Lord guide you as you consider this opportunity to serve.

Chancel Choir Practice

Choir practice continues on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm. New voices are always welcome. For more information please contact any choir member or Music Director, Ava Janus.

St. Paul Email System is designed to keep you informed

St. Paul Church family, staying connected with you, our members and friends, is a true blessing and very important to us. One way we share what's happening in the life of our church is through our email updates. More than 250 members already receive brief emails with current activities, upcoming events, funeral notifications, and other helpful information, including the monthly *St. Paul Tidings*.

If you're not yet signed up for our email list—or if your email address has changed—we'd love to include you. Just visit the homepage of our website, "stpaulucctaylor.org," and click the "Join Our Email List" button. If you have any questions or suggestions about our email updates, please feel free to reach out to a member of the IT Ministry: Gary Peters, Michael Isaacs, or Dan Case.

St. Paul Prayer List / Fellowship of Concern

If you or someone you care about would like to be lifted up in prayer or included in our "Fellowship of Concern," please reach out to our Church Office at (313) 291-1221, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. We believe in the power of prayer and the strength of our faith community to support one another in times of need.

As a reminder, our prayer list is lovingly reviewed every four weeks by the office and our Senior Pastor. If you wish to continue receiving prayers or would like your name removed, please let us know. We are here to walk with you in faith, offering comfort, hope, and the assurance that you are not alone on your journey.

Pastoral Care

If you find yourself or your family in need of 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.

HEALTH MINISTRIES

Update for Our Call List Is 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 or 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.

Exercise Class Continues

Exercise classes will be held on Thursdays from 11 am–12 n (NO classes on Thursday April 2 and 9.) 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.

Health Ministries Committee

We need volunteers for the Health Ministries team. If interested, please 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

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Tidings Editor

After two and a half blessed years serving as editor of the St. Paul Monthly Tidings, I feel prayerfully led to step down from this role. It has truly been a pleasure to serve our community in this way.

I would be grateful to welcome an intern for a six-month period, with the hope that they may feel called to take on the responsibilities of editor after that time. The *Tidings* can be prepared from home using a web browser and Google Documents, making it a flexible and accessible ministry opportunity.

If you feel this may be a calling for you, or if you would like to learn more, please reach out to Dan Case. We would love to discern together how God may be leading you to serve.

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.

Volunteers are still needed to manage our three flags in front of the Church

We are looking for an individual or a couple who would be interested in managing the three Flag Poles in front of the Church. Flags would need to be replaced as required and the flags moved to half-mast on special occasions. If you are interested please contact Dan Case.

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.

Volunteers are still needed to cover the Office for Administrative Assistant

The office is looking for volunteers to cover the office functions when the Administrative Assistant is sick or on vacation. Office hours are 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Monday through Friday. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Sue Mrowka, Office Manager.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

A special **Thank You** to the following people who have helped with the 2026 Drive-Thru Fish Dinners: Gary Staffeld, Diane Poet, Toni Hill, James Poet, Eric Poet, Dan Evison, Dorothy Evison, Helen St. Louis, Sandy McGahey, Janet Staffeld, Doug Staffeld, Ellen Ludlam, Rodney Gish, Harold Fick, Wendy Warner, Sue Mrowka, Karen Hill, Tim Ruffner, Dan Case, Vicky Grant, Debbie Case, Pandora Sidak, Rodney Gish, Marilyn Lang, Elizabeth Isaacs, Kaitlyn Isaacs, Sharon Podpora, Tom Tank, Sandra Rose, Pauline Arndt, Dee Salisbury, Crystal Poet, and Gail Denman. A special **Thank You** to Gail Denman for making the brownies used for the Fish Dinners this year.

A special **Thank You** to Toni Hill, Karen Hill, Kaitlyn Isaacs, Helen St. Louis, Jane Dykowski and Dan Case for their help with the Confirmation Breakfast. Also a Special **Thank You** to Dan and Dorothy Evison for their donations of muffins for the event.

Congratulations to Brenda Murphy for finishing second in her age group at the 15th Annual Rock CF River Half Marathon on Grosse Ile Sunday, March 22nd. She ran in the 15K marathon.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR

Church Members and Friends: Darlene Babin, Colleen Baca, Paula Block, Marion Bolen, Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas, Denise Foley, Makenna Gorbe, Conrad Heidt, Pam Jones, Justine Kimbler, Betty Mayfield, Fred Miller, Dan Newton, Dave Lange, Sr., Dave Schmoekel, Bill Pattenaude, Sharon Podpora, Maeve Rischel, Sandi Rose, Sally Sigman, Joan Smarr, John Smith, Sue Spears, Louise Stanek, Peggy Staten, Billy-jo Stears, William Stears, Jr., Sue Stern, Linda Tank, Tom Tank, Al Wierzbicki.

Extended Family: Susan & Dennis Bennett (sister, brother-in-law, Karen Hill), Nora Cousino (sister-in-law, Helen St. Louis), Ailani Flores (friends, Rosemarie Laslo), Freeman Floyd, Krystal Grant, Tony Koths, Shirley Lande & Family, Jennifer Lee, Jeff MacZink, Steve Newberry, Al Petri, Kelly Potter, Mary Smith (Aunt, Sylvia Matney), Randy Snelson, Rachel Tank (Daughter, Tom & Linda Tank), Blain Tayler, Holly Staten Thompson, Anna Thomson (mother, Lucinda Chavez), Kathleen Walsh, Diane Williams.

Church Members & Friends in Extended Care or Rehab Care:

Judy Albright, 17381 Michigan Heights Dr., Romulus, 48174-5911; **Darlene Babin**, Hampton Manor of Woodhaven, 22125 Van Horn Rd., Room 210, Woodhaven, 48183; **Barbara Gish**, 24422 Cornell, Brownstown, 48183-3009; **Betty Mayfield**, Hampton Manor of Trenton, 5999 Fort St., Room 213, Trenton, 48183; **Lois Rice**, Burcham Hills, 2700 Burcham Dr., Apt. 536, East Lansing, 48823-9977; **Melissa Rossi**, 17652 Colgate, Dearborn Heights, 48125; **Sally Sigman**, Medi-Lodge, Room 216, 23600 Northline Rd., Taylor, 48180, Office: 734-287-8580; **Bert Thompson**, Optalis Health & Rehabilitation, 9150 Allen Rd, Allen Park; Office: 313-386-2150.