

TIDINGS

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

Calendar of Events

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
Friday, May 8th	Girl Scout Banquet
Sunday, May 10th	Mother's Day Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 am Muffins for Mom & Cradle Roll Rev Branham's First Sunday on the Pulpit
Thursday, May 14th	Every Daughter Banquet
Sunday, May 17th	Church Service & Sunday School - 10:00 am
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 Music Sunday

June 2026

Sunday, June 7th	Church Service - Communion & Sunday School - 10:00 am
Sunday, June 10th	Church Service - Sunday School - 10:00 am Baccalaureate Sunday
Sunday, June 21st	Church Service - 10:00 am Father's Day and Donuts for Dad
Sunday, June 28th	Church Service - 10:00 am

SENIOR PASTOR

As I step into this season with you, I want to begin simply by saying how grateful I am to be joining you at St. Paul United Church of Christ. I am looking forward to getting to know you—not just your names, but your stories, your history, and the ways God has already been present in this congregation long before I arrived. I am joining something God is already doing here.

With Mother's Day approaching, I've also been mindful that this season can feel different for different people. For some, it is a time of joy, gratitude, and celebration. For others, it carries grief, memories, or a sense of absence that sits quietly beneath the surface. And for many, it is some mixture of all of that. Wherever you find yourself in it, I hope you hear this clearly: you are not walking through it alone. We are invited into a community that walks together, prays together, and learns how to pay attention to God together.

As I begin my time with you, my posture is simple—I want to listen well, learn deeply, and understand how God has been shaping this church up to this point. I do not come with a prewritten plan. I come with curiosity, care, and a desire to discern with you.

And together, we will begin asking an important question: What is God's will for us in this season? Not in an abstract way, but in the real life of this church—right here, right now.

That kind of discernment takes time. It grows as we worship together, as we talk honestly with one another, and as we learn to slow down enough to notice where God may already be leading.

There's something fitting about beginning this journey around Mother's Day, because it reminds us that the most lasting kinds of love are steady. They are formed over time and sustained through presence—especially in seasons that are complex or uncertain.

That's the kind of spirit I hope we can bring into this season together: open, hopeful, and willing to be guided by God as we go.

I am grateful to be here with you, and I look forward to what God will show us as we listen and walk together.

Blessings,

Pastor Lesa

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 May 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 knowing 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

May Birthdays

Summer Bock, Dorothy Boltz, Alex Brandt, Mark Bresky, Olivia Craig, Naaman Drutchas, DeAnna Frazier, Andrew Hipp, Joan Homeister, Kaitlyn Isaacs, Rev Norman Kirsch, Dori Lamberti, David Lange Sr., Rosemarie Laslo, Jennifer Lee, Ellen Ludlam, Charlotte MacZink, Samuel-Jay Martin, Katherine Martinez, Alivia McGahey, Daniel Newton, Julia-Joy Miller, Wanda Mink, Emily Pedersen, Terry Povlich, Suzanne Ronald, Pastor Cheryl Schalm, Kimberly Staffeld, Angel Staten, Peggy Staten, Wendy Warner, Cynthia Winter, Kevin Winter.

May Anniversaries

Ida and Robert Black, Kathleen and Daniel Galeski, Jennifer and Michael Isaacs, Pamela and David Lange, and Lori and Ron Rogers.

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 May 21st 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.

St. Paul Church 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 from 9 am to 4 pm, Saturday 9 am to 11 am. Volunteer help is especially needed on Saturday, May 2nd at 11:00 am as we clean up after the Rummage Sale.

To volunteer, please contact Toni Hill or the church office (313) 291-1221. We're grateful for your help as we serve together. Thank you for supporting this ministry—God bless, and please keep this event in your prayers. All proceeds from the rummage sale support church-related projects.

Muffins for Mom Celebration on Mother's Day

The Men's Fellowship is excited to honor and celebrate the women of our congregation on Sunday, May 10th, with a special *Muffins for Mom* continental breakfast. As we give thanks to God for the love, faith, and dedication of mothers, we invite you to join us in a time of fellowship. Please join us after the morning worship service in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, muffins, danish, fresh fruit and other light refreshments. All ladies are warmly invited—bring a friend and come share in the joy of the day. We look forward to celebrating together!

Mother's Day & Cradle Roll Sunday — Giving Thanks to God for the Women of Our Church and Our Newest Little Ones

Sunday, May 10th is Mother's Day and Cradle Roll Sunday—a special morning of worship when we thank God for the women of our church and rejoice in His blessing of new life as we recognize the infants born this past year to families in our congregation during our 10:00 a.m. service.

Parents are invited to place a photo of their child on the altar for the length of the service as we praise the Lord and give thanks for God's gift of new life among us. Please contact the church office at (313) 291-1221 if you would like to participate or if you would like to include a child or grandchild in the Cradle Roll roster. As you leave the sanctuary, each woman will be presented with a flower to take home and plant, compliments of Block Greenhouse.

Mother Daughter Banquet

Calling all moms, daughters, daughters-in-law, grandmothers, and friends—you're warmly invited to the Annual Mother Daughter Banquet at St. Paul Church on Thursday, May 14, from 6:00–8:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Come enjoy a relaxed evening of Christian fellowship as we celebrate God's blessings and the special women in our lives. Bring your mom, invite your daughter, or come with a friend, everyone is welcome! This year's theme is "Garden Party," so dress up and join the fun. We're also inviting everyone to wear their finest (and biggest) hat!

A buffet-style dinner will be served. The menu includes chicken, meatballs, mac & cheese, scalloped potatoes, green beans, a salad bar, rolls, dessert, and a beverage. Cost is \$5 per person; children age 5 and under are free. Special entertainment will be provided by the Harmony Town Chorus.

Throughout the evening, we'll have special prizes recognizing our guests, plus a 50/50 raffle and basket door prizes. Tickets may be purchased in the Fellowship Hall after Sunday worship—please plan to pick yours up early so we can save you a seat. **Advance ticket purchase is required—no tickets will be sold at the door. The last day to purchase tickets is Sunday, May 10th.**

This year's Mother Daughter Banquet is jointly hosted by the Girl Scouts, Women's Fellowship, and Men's Fellowship. We'd love to have you with us for a joyful evening together—may God bless you and your family.

Music Sunday

There is plenty of MUSIC to look forward to on Sunday, May 31st as the entire church service will be filled with glorious music praising our God by the Chancel Choir under the direction of Ava Janus.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Paul Steeple

We are truly grateful to share some joyful news with our church family: the steeple at St. Paul has been repaired, power washed and freshly painted. It is shining once again, and with God's help it will continue to look beautiful and stand strong for many years to come.

This work would not have been possible without your continued prayers, generous support, and willingness to care for the place where we gather to worship. Thank you to everyone who helped make this project a success—whether through time, gifts, or encouragement. Please keep our church and all who serve in your prayers as we continue to be faithful stewards of the blessings the Lord has entrusted to us. Building and Grounds Ministry

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 am continuing to report only our actual income and expenses. For the month of March, our actual income totaled \$15,178, while expenses were \$12,895, resulting in a net difference of a positive \$2,283. However, as we continue into 2026, we continue with a negative balance for the year. 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 \$5,106. This represents an increase of \$2,953 from February.

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

Strengthen the Church Offering

Each May, we receive the United Church of Christ "Strengthen the Church" offering. This special offering celebrates Pentecost, the birthday of the Christian Church, when we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church (Pentecost Sunday is May 24). You may give on any Sunday in May.

Through this offering, we give thanks for God's work in and through the Church. Your gifts help support new church starts, church revitalization, youth ministries, leadership development, and more. As you are able, please pray about making a gift in May—planting seeds for the future of our UCC denomination and for the ministry God is calling us to share:

- Use the offering envelope included in your May Tidings.
- Pick up an envelope in the Narthex (see any usher for help).
- Give online through Vanco: visit www.stpaulucctaylor.org/giving, select Online Giving, choose "Strengthen the Church," and enter your gift amount.

Thank you for your faithful, prayerful support of this special mission offering.

Graduate Names Needed

If you or a family member have or are receiving a high school diploma, G.E.D., college degree, or continuing education certificate since last June, please contact the church office by June 9 for inclusion in the Baccalaureate Service, June 14. Graduates are invited to participate in gown and mortarboard. Forms are available from an usher or the office.

Staff Unique Phone Numbers

Our current phone system has an additional feature that allows you to call any member of the staff directly. Each Staff member has a unique phone number and personal Voice Mail Box.

The unique numbers for our staff members are as follow:

Rev. Lesa Branham	(313) 209-6623
Cindy Romas	(313) 209-6630
Jennifer Wilson	(313) 209-6629
Annette Thie	(313) 209-6622
Sue Mrowka	(313) 209-6628

If you wish to talk or leave a voice mail for an individual member of the staff, please utilize the numbers above. As always you can still call the office at (313) 291-1221 any time and be transferred or leave a voice mail. St. Paul IT Ministry

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 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, President or Rev. Lesa Branham, Senior Pastor.

HEALTH MINISTRIES

Exercise Class Continues

Exercise classes will be held on Thursdays from 11 am–12 n. 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.

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.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

A special **Thank You** to the following individuals who helped set up the Fellowship Hall for the Rummage Sale: Toni Hill, Tom Tank, Dee Salsbury, Marilyn Lang, Rodney Gish, Dan Case, Mark Ennis, Gary Staffeld, Dale Simon and Harold Fick.

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, Bradley Patterson, 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 Salsbury, Crystal Poet, and Gail Denman. A special **Thank You** to Gail Denman for making the brownies used for the Fish Dinners this year.

Condolences to the family and friends of Conrad Heidt who passed away April 3, 2026 at the age of 89 years. Memorial service was April 11, 2026, at St. Paul UCC, Taylor. Rev. Linda Anderson officiant.

MEMORIALS

MEMORIAL FUND:

In Memory of: *Conrad Heidt* From: Gary & Pat Staffeld

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR

Church Members and Friends: Darlene Babin, Colleen Baca, Paula Block, Marion Bolen, Debbie Case, Rev. Geoffrey Drutchas, Denise Foley, Makenna Gorbe, 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, Joseph Rocha Thompson, 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**, American House, 20300 Fort St., Riverview, 48193; **Bert Thompson**, Optalis Health & Rehabilitation, 9150 Allen Rd, Allen Park; Office: 313-386-2150.