

# TIDINGS

St. Paul United Church of Christ

24158 Goddard Road, Taylor, Michigan 48180-3910

(313) 291-1221

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[www.stpaulucctaylor.org](http://www.stpaulucctaylor.org)

Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. Lesa Branham

## Calendar of Events

### **June 2026**

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Sunday, June 7th  | Church Service - Communion & Sunday School - 10:00 am                      |
| Sunday, June 14th | Church Service - Sunday School - 10:00 am<br>Baccalaureate Sunday          |
| Sunday, June 21st | Church Service - Sunday School 10:00 am<br>Father's Day and Donuts for Dad |
| Sunday, June 28th | Church Service 10:00 am  |

### **July 2026**

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Sunday, July 5th   | Church Service - Communion 10:00 am                      |
| Saturday, July 6th | July 4th Holiday - Office Closed                         |
| Sunday, July 12th  | Church Service 10:00 am<br>Semi-Annual Meeting 11:00 am  |
| Sunday, July 19th  | Church Service 10:00 am                                  |
| Sunday, July 26th  | Church Service - 10:00 am under the tent - Summer Picnic |

### **August 2026**

|                       |                                       |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sunday, August 2nd    | Church Service - Communion 10:00 am   |
| Sunday, August 9th    | Church Service 10:00 am               |
| Saturday, August 15th | Annual Kitchen Cleaning - 9:00 - Noon |
| Sunday, August 16th   | Church Service 10:00 am               |
| Sunday, August 23rd   | Church Service 10:00 am               |
| Sunday, August 30th   | Church Service 10:00 am               |

## **The Power of a Personal Invitation**

It has been said that most people who begin attending church don't come because of a billboard or a website. More often than not, they come because someone they trust invited them.

There are people all around us right now who are carrying quiet burdens:  
people searching for hope,  
people wrestling with loneliness,  
people wondering if God still sees them,  
people longing for connection, meaning, and peace.

And sometimes, the doorway to something new begins with something very simple—an invitation.

Scripture gives us a glimpse of this kind of moment:

"Come and see," said Philip. — John 1:46

No argument. No pressure. Just an invitation. And Nathanael came—and his life was changed.

This Sunday, I want to invite you to prayerfully consider one person you might invite to worship with you.

A neighbor.

A coworker.

A family member.

A friend.

Someone who has drifted away from church.

Someone who may have never been before.

Not as a project—but as a person God already loves.

God is already at work in people's lives before we ever speak a word. Our invitation is often simply a small part of something God has already begun.

The early church grew this way—through ordinary people sharing the hope they had found in Christ. They opened their homes, shared meals, and created space for others to experience God's love in real community.

And that continues today.

When you invite someone, you are not asking them to come to a perfect church.

You are simply inviting them into a community that is learning to love God, love people, and walk together in grace.

A place where they can be seen.

A place where they can breathe.

A place where they might encounter hope again.

You never really know what someone has been carrying privately. So your invitation may become part of a much larger story God is already writing in their life.

So this week I invite you to:

- Pray for someone by name
- Reach out with care
- Offer a simple invitation
- Sit with them if they come
- Help them feel welcomed and at ease

And then trust God with the rest.

Imagine what could happen if each of us simply made space for one person.

Not pressure—just presence.

Not obligation—just invitation.

Hope could be stirred.

Faith could be renewed.

Someone who felt far from God might find themselves unexpectedly close again.

Church is not just something we attend.

It is a community we share—and a grace we receive and extend. I look forward to worshiping with you this Sunday—and perhaps meeting someone new, simply because you took a moment to invite them. Rev Lesa Branham

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ACTIVITIES**

### **Sunday School**

Church Sunday School will continue through June 21st, meeting each Sunday at 10:00 am. We warmly invite all children and their friends to join us for a blessed time of learning, fellowship, and spiritual growth as we study God’s Word together.

## **BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES**

### **June Birthdays**

Kaitlyn Barbee, Gracie Barnosky, Sherrill Berndt, Ida Black, August Block, Francis Block, Gabriel Block, Stuart Block, Jack Burchard, Joseph Cappello, Koston Erickson, Dwayne Evison, Denise Foley, Andrea Fuller, Katherine Fuller, Beverly Gunther, Everett Hard, Eileen Herkimer, Karen Hill, Henrietta Hinzmann, Kathy Horvath, Julia Jacob, Abigail Johnson, Saoirse Keith, Laura Kiefer, Carrie Knofske, Roy Kronemann, Maxwell Lange, Cameron Maher, Christian Maher, Steven Matney, Samantha Otten, Charles Pecsénye, Thomas Quartz, Richard Rice, Anthony Rogers, Hailey Smith, Gary Staffeld, Helen St. Louis, Meredith Stull, Kyle Thompson, Richard Vignola, Ada Wagner, Kathleen Williams, Thomas Williams, Carrie Wright, Haley Wright, and Jacob Wright

### **June Anniversaries**

Roseanna and Frank Brosky, Lisa and Dan Childress, Griffin and Elizabeth Drutchas, Joan and Eugene Homeister, Julia and David Jacobs, Emily and Lauren King, Erica and Michael McCleary, and Katelyn and John Metro.

If we happened to miss your birthday or anniversary, please forgive us. It simply means we do not yet have that information in our records. We would be honored to celebrate these special occasions with you, so please call the Church Office at (313) 291-1221, and we will be happy to update our records.

## **ALL CHURCH EVENT**

### **Graduates to Be Celebrated at Our Annual Baccalaureate Service**

We warmly invite you to join us for this special service on Sunday, June 14th, as we give thanks to God and celebrate those in our church family who are reaching important milestones. During worship we will honor our graduating seniors, college graduates, and those receiving special certifications. Robed graduates who attend will process down the center aisle at the beginning of worship and will be individually acknowledged during a meaningful time of prayer and blessing. Please watch your *Morning Tide* for additional details.

To help us recognize everyone, please let our church office know if you have a high school or college graduate in your family who should be included that Sunday. You can call the office at (313) 291-1221. Thank you for helping us celebrate and encourage our graduates as they step into the next season God has for them.

### **Donuts for Dad**

On June 21st, Father's Day, the Christian Education ministry will be honoring and celebrating all dads, as well as all the men of our congregation, with a special "Donuts for Dads" continental breakfast. We thank God for the faithful love, guidance, and example so many of them provide in our homes, in our church family, and in our community. Whether you are a father, grandfather, mentor, uncle, brother, we are grateful for the ways the Lord is working through you.

Please plan to join us in the Fellowship Hall following the morning worship service for coffee, juice, and donuts, along with warm fellowship. Families are welcome, come help us show appreciation and offer a prayer of blessing for the men among us. Mark your planners now, and if you're able, invite a friend to attend worship and stay for breakfast as we rejoice together in God's goodness!

### **Sewing Guild "Sew 'n Sews"**

Come and join us for a warm and welcoming time of sewing fellowship at 10:00 a.m. on June 18th in the West Room. Whether you're experienced or you've never picked up a needle and thread before, you are truly invited, no sewing skills are necessary, and we're happy to help you learn along the way. Please bring a sandwich for your lunch, and we will provide dessert and beverages. Most of all, come ready for laughter, friendly conversation, and the joy of being together. We are grateful for each person who comes, and we look forward to a morning of encouragement, community, and caring hearts. As we gather, we thank God for the blessing of fellowship and the chance to serve and support one another. We would love to have you with us, bring a friend if you'd like! For more information, please contact Janet Staffeld.

## **Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting**

The Semi-Annual Meeting of the St. Paul Congregation will be held on Sunday, July 12th, immediately after the morning worship service. As we give thanks for the Lord's continued care and ask for His wisdom for the months ahead, we invite all members to remain after worship for this important time of listening, sharing, and making decisions together as one church family. The meeting is expected to be relatively brief. A mid-year financial report will be shared by the treasurer, a vote on proposed by-law changes, along with reports from a couple of other ministries so that everyone may know what has happened at St. Paul since the beginning of 2026 and how God has been at work among us.

St. Paul church members are asked to sign in for the meeting once they have arrived to help establish a quorum and ensure our business may be conducted in good order. Please look for the table in the narthex as you enter the church through the front or side doors. Thank you for your faithful participation and continued prayers for the mission and ministry of St. Paul.

## **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **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.

### **Small Groups to begin meeting**

Over the next couple months, the St. Paul Council will be hosting a series of Small Groups to meet with Rev. Branham. These gatherings will be a warm and welcoming opportunity for us to come together in fellowship, prayer, and conversation as a church family. Through these small groups, Rev. Branham will have the chance to listen more deeply to the hopes, needs, and the dreams of our congregation, while also getting to know the unique heart of our church community. We pray that this time of sharing will help provide wisdom, clarity, and encouragement as she begins to discern, with God's guidance, the path forward for our church and the ministry to which He is calling us in the days ahead.

### **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.

## **Annual Safety / Security / Housekeeping TOur**

Our Annual Safety / Security / Housekeeping tour took place on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. This yearly walk-through is an important part of our commitment to being faithful stewards of the church God has entrusted to our care. As we move through the building room by room, we look carefully for any safety, security, or housekeeping concerns that may need attention, always with the goal of keeping our church a welcoming, orderly, and well-cared-for place for everyone who enters. We are thankful that, with each passing year, we continue to find fewer issues to report, which reflects the dedication, hard work, and servant-hearted spirit of those who help care for our church home. Any items that are identified are thoughtfully assigned to the appropriate person for correction, so they can be addressed in a timely manner. We thank the Lord for His continued guidance and protection, and we remain committed to maintaining a safe and peaceful environment where worship, fellowship, and ministry can flourish.

## **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. Below is an article from the 1947 February Tidings I thought you might find interesting.

### **New Pipe Organ (Tidings February 1947)**

The congregation in its annual meeting confirmed the report of the July meeting in that the Council would be given permission to go ahead and order a new organ realizing that it will be 18 months before it will be ready for delivery. Consequently, the Council in its last meeting voted for a Moller organ the price to be \$4451. This is to be a Memorial organ so we hope that our folks will remember their loved ones with a donation for this cause. At one of our recent funerals friends of the deceased gave your Pastor money to be sent to the Lutheran Old Folks Home at Monroe. Surely our people can and will do as well. We have Memorial Wreath cards which you can use instead of flowers at funerals, and we are sure that it will be a lasting memorial. The special offerings on the last Sunday of each month will also be placed into this fund. Let us do our share so that at least most of the above amount will be on hand when the organ is placed into the church. Consequently, we have an organ to sell. It would be best not to dispose of it until time for our new one arrives but if we can get a good price for it we will sell it most anytime and resort to the piano for our services.

## **St. Paul Email System—Staying Connected as a Church Family**

At St. Paul, staying in touch with you, our members and friends, is an important part of how we care for one another and grow together in faith. As God calls us to love and support one another, we try to share timely information and encouragement throughout the week. One way we stay connected is through our email system. More than 250 members currently receive a brief message with updates on current church activities, upcoming events, funeral notifications, and other helpful information, including our monthly St. Paul Tidings.

If you're not currently registered for the email system, or if your email address has changed, please visit the homepage of our website, "stpaulucctaylor.org", and click the "Join Our Email List" button. If you have any questions or comments, we'd be glad to help—please contact any member of the IT Ministry: Gary Peters, Michael Isaacs, or Dan Case. God bless you!

## **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 April, our actual income totaled \$24,791, while expenses were \$12,311, resulting in a net difference of a positive \$12,480. However, as we continue into 2026, we still 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 \$16,578. This represents an increase of \$13,904 from March. April was indeed a very good month for us at St Paul.

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 Treasure

## **St. Paul Staff Direct Phone Numbers (Pastoral Care & Ministry Support)**

To better serve you in Christian love, our phone system allows you to reach individual staff members directly. Each staff member has a unique phone number and a personal voicemail box, so you can leave a message anytime and your request will be returned as soon as possible.

Direct numbers are listed below. When leaving a message, please include your name, a callback number, and a brief note (e.g., prayer request, scheduling, ministry question) so we can respond faithfully and promptly.

- 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 would like to speak with or leave a voicemail for a specific staff member, please use the direct numbers above. You may also call the church office at (313) 291-1221 at any time to be transferred (when available) or to leave a general message. Thank you for allowing us to walk with you in faith; it is our prayer to serve you with care, clarity, and compassion. Blessings, St. Paul IT Ministry

## **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.

## **HEALTH MINISTRIES**

Kathy recently attended an in-service in Detroit on the difference between normal changes in the aging brain and dementia. It was very informative, and we are grateful for the opportunity to learn more so we can better care for one another. God willing, we hope to offer a presentation for the congregation this fall.

### **Help Us Care for One Another: Call List Update Needed**

Please contact the office if you are, or know of, someone who does not receive email notifications about the serious illness or passing of a church member, or if someone would welcome a home visit. We have not updated this ministry in some time, and it is important that we continue to reach out with compassion, prayer, and care for those in need. If you feel called to help by making calls, please contact Kathy Williams.

### **Exercise Class Continues**

Exercise classes will be held on Thursdays from 11 am–12 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](http://www.stpaulucctaylor.org) Health Activities ([stpaulucctaylor.org](http://stpaulucctaylor.org)) If you would like to participate or have any questions, contact the office or Kathy Williams. Contact Kathy for the code to get into the class via Zoom.

### **Health Ministries Committee: A Caring Call to Serve**

We are prayerfully seeking volunteers to serve on the Health Ministries team. If you feel called to share your time and gifts in this ministry of care, please contact Kathy Williams With God's guidance, we hope to offer helpful and meaningful programs this year.

### **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

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **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.

### **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.

### **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 all of those people who helped make the Spring Rummage Sale a huge success. Women's Fellowship raised a little over \$4,100.

A special **Thank You** to all of those people who helped to make the Every Daughter Banquet a success and a special **Thank You** to Pat Staffeld for her donation of two cakes and cookies for the dessert. Also a special **Thank You** to Blocks Greenhouse for their donation of flowers for the event. A great time was had by all who attended. St. Paul Girl Scouts and Women's and Men's Fellowship.

**Thank you** for the cards, phone calls, texts, and prayers I received during my recovery. Your kindness and support meant so much to me, and I thank God for each of you.  
Debbie Case

## **MEMORIALS**

### **UNIFIED BUDGET FUND:**

In Memory of: *Conrad Heidt* From: Tuesday Morning Bible Study

### **FACILITY IMPROVEMENT FUND:**

In Honor of: *New Beginnings* From: Jane Dykowski

## **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, Kathy Peters, 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.