



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

1401 S. Griffin Street
Grand Haven, Michigan 49417
616-842-6870

stpaulsgrandhaven@gmail.com

Website: stpaulsgrandhaven.org



**St. Paul's is called to care for others,
just as God cares for us.**



Office Hours

Church Office: 9:00 am-1:00 pm
Monday-Friday

Worship at 10:00 am on Sunday mornings
In Person or via Zoom

Deadlines

The deadline for the June "Bells"
is Monday, May 20.

The deadline for announcements in
the weekly bulletin is
each Tuesday at 1:00 pm.

THE BELLS

May 2024

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



St. Paul's *Called to Care* Ministry

The aim of *Called to Care* is to provide skills for and ministries of caregiving by laypersons. *Called to Care* offers organized efforts in the church for giving care to the sick, infirm and to others who may need special attention during a time of crisis. The following people are serving in the *Called to Care* capacity: Joie Homik, 485-5136; Deb DeBruyn, 296-0222; and Bev Velik, 846-5483.



Find us on:
facebook®

From the Pastor

Dear Church,

Somebody told me that this month marks my tenure of serving as your Pastor at seven years...oh my, has it really been seven years? Sure enough. I remember preaching at St. Paul's for the first time in May of 2017 when you voted to approve me as your next Pastor. Joie came into the Pastor's Study off the side of the sanctuary after the congregational vote and gave me a hug. I was confident even then that God was guiding me throughout my life of ministry, but in hindsight I can say with certainty that God's hand has been on my shoulder through all the seasons of serving this church for the past seven years. I couldn't have done it, but by his grace and guidance.

Seven years feels significant for me. In the Bible, the number seven is a symbol of wholeness. In the beginning, God made the heavens and the earth in six days, and rested on the seventh day, and God blessed the seventh day and consecrated it as holy. In our church calendar, the liturgical season of Easter is seven weeks. And seven times seven equals the number of days between the first Easter and Pentecost (the 50th day), when God's Spirit blew in a totally new direction and birthed the church with Peter, James, John and Paul stumbling forward to preach sermons about the resurrected Jesus, and serve new Christians filled with grace and truth.

The chapter that is ending for me was one of first calling, of my family growing from two to five with the additions of our three children, of our church having many saints and pillars pass away while also adding new friends and members as we begin to grow younger. In the past seven years, we put a new roof over our heads, we hired new staff, we started new ministries, we survived a years-long pandemic, we're halfway towards a new boiler and from a certain perspective today we are in a healthy, relatively stable season. So, the seven-year chapter comes to a close with much to be grateful for. And a new chapter begins at Pentecost this May. How fitting! We pray for God's Spirit to blow once again and guide the church in our activities moving forward.

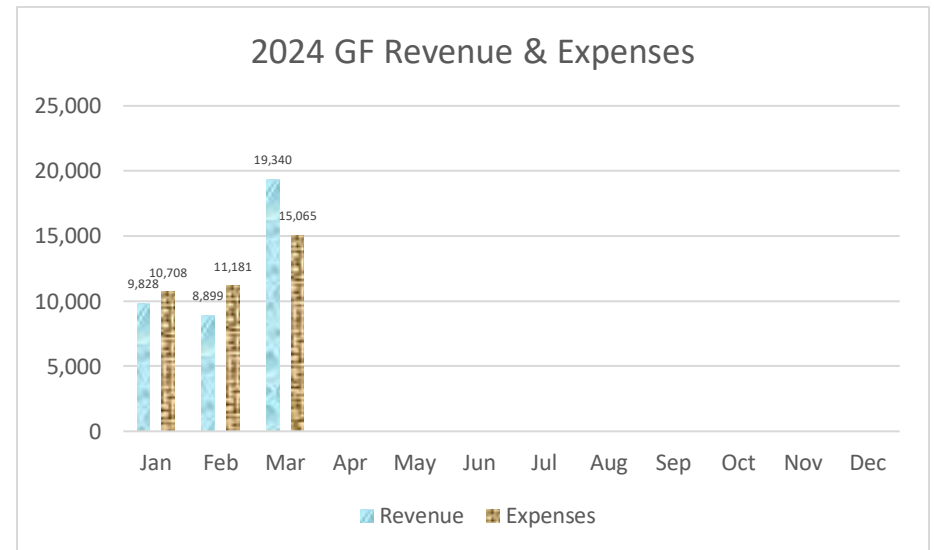
I pray: God, please call me to serve another seven years, this congregation, your church. As we begin another chapter of the life of this place, write a good story, help us to grow in grace, gratitude and love. Bless us with your abiding presence and move among us with power. Help us to forgive, to serve, to laugh, to work hard, to rest well and to delight in your plans for this church moving forward. Amen.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Matt

Members & Friends of St. Paul's – Our Financial Report

Our March revenue total allowed us to cover our March expenses and our January & February shortfalls! Our March expenses were up 10% due to the refrigerator breakdown evaluation charges and quarterly payments. Here are the March and year-to-date numbers:

	Actual	Year to Date
Actual Revenue	\$ 19,340	\$ 38,067
Actual Expenses	\$ 15,065	\$ 36,954
Difference	\$ 4,275	\$ 1,113



Online Giving

St. Paul's has partnered with *Givelify* so you can use an easy phone app for online giving and tithing. This app has many features to help you easily give to St. Paul's and track your giving. Please visit our church website to learn more about this giving option at stpaulsgrandhaven.org then click on the giving tab.



May Birthdays

- 2 Chris Willis
- 5 Katy (Kalsbeek) Walters
Ashley Passorelli
Lucas Bruhn
- 8 Jeanne Willette
Jeremy Velik
- 16 Phil Hunter
- 17 Wayne Burns
- 19 Bruce Samdal
Hailey Bryant
- 20 Krystal Goresch
- 22 Bev Velik
Tami Japenga
- 31 Hillary Schmidt

If a name is missing or a birth date is incorrect, please call the church office at 616-842-6870 and give us the correct information.



Helping Hand Special Offering

There will be a special offering for the Helping Hand Fund on Sunday, May 5.



Election Day

Once again, St. Paul's Fellowship Hall will be used as a polling station for the upcoming election on Tuesday, May 7.



In Remembrance May

- 1 1970 Elsie Berg
1973 John C. Zimmerman
1994 Alice Alward
2014 Victoria (Vicki) Verplank
- 2 2003 Joyce Lampe
- 3 1994 Celia Bethke
- 4 2004 Grace Wilbert
- 5 1975 Emma Schultz
- 10 1978 Adeline Koats
- 11 1986 Ken Doolittle
1986 Arnold Sirovy
1998 Mary Lynn Cook
- 12 1985 Henry VanAgtmael
2007 Janine Sroka
2015 Ted Vick
- 13 1993 Carl Reuter Dahl
1998 Grace Schmidt
- 15 2008 Herman J. Ott, Jr.
- 16 1985 Frank Lemke
- 18 1979 Stephen Stone
1988 Rudolf Harmke
- 20 1992 Iva Rosin
- 21 2022 Wayne Van Duinen
- 24 1979 Frieda Rudershausen
2001 Walter Podein
2017 Eldora (Doddie) Hudson
- 26 1962 Fred W. Bruhn
- 27 1993 Frances VanAgtmael
- 28 1958 Ernestine Harmke
2007 James VanderZalm
- 29 2022 Don Styx
- 30 1983 Gerhardt L. Growth

This Month We Ring the Bells For.....



Everyone who participated in our Lent & Easter season activities.



Memorial Contributions – March 2024

In Memory of Bill & Ruth Kieft

Bill & Sue Kieft

In Memory of Patty White

Joie Homik
Bill & Sue Kieft

Let us remember the following people in our thoughts and prayers.

Liz Styx – Robbinswood

Norma Wolfe – Christian Haven

Fred Bruhn – Grand Pines

Vonnie Van Duinen – Robbinswood

If there should be changes in this list, please contact the church office at 616-842-6870. We are all ministers of Christ through our baptism.



Graduate Recognition Sunday

Congratulations to our 2024 graduates – Carly Burns, Grace VanBeek, Rhys Bedford & Jonathon Homik who will be recognized on our Graduate Recognition Sunday, May 19.

Carly Burns from Grandville Senior High School, granddaughter of Dennis & Darleen Burns. Plans to attend GRCC.

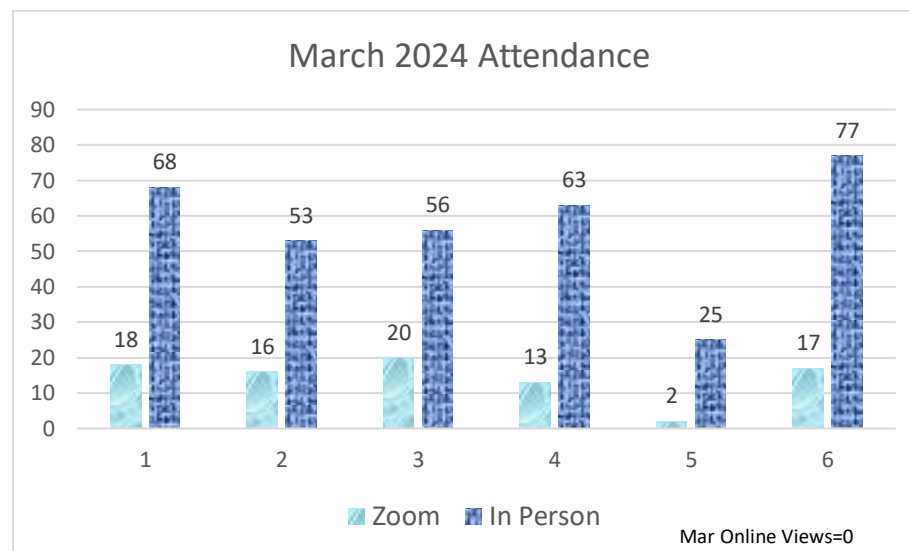
Grace VanBeek from the University of Michigan Nursing School, granddaughter of Dennis & Darleen Burns. Will be working in cardiology at the Cleveland Clinic.

Rhys Bedford from Delton High School, grandson of Joie Homik. Plans to attend Calvin University to study environmental health.

Jonathon Homik from CMU with a degree in computer science, grandson of Joie Homik. Plans to pursue employment.

In-Person & Online Worship

St. Paul's continues to offer worship for everyone at 10:00 am on Sunday mornings. You can choose to attend either in person in our sanctuary or connect with us online via Zoom.



Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am. Contact Lois Williams for meeting details at oldlady16025@gmail.com.



Weekly Bible Study

All are welcome to join Pastor Matt for a weekly Bible Study on Mondays at 9:30 am for thoughtful discussion and reflection. Contact Pastor Matt at revmattschmidt@gmail.com with any questions.



Card Ministry

St. Paul's card ministry meets on the third Tuesday of the month to help Beautiful Soul Ministries create unique cards that are shared with those in need of thoughtful prayer. All are welcome to come & join in the fun! They meet at the BSM store at 1:00 pm at 1830 172nd Avenue, Suite K, in Grand Haven. Please contact Laurie McFee by calling 616-741-9092 or email her at beautifulsoulministries@gmail.com with any questions.



Salvation Army Summer Food Drive HELP US TAKE A BITE OUT OF HUNGER!

The Spiritual Life Committee is excited to announce the dates for our Summer Food Drive collection. Donation bins will be in the Fellowship Hall from Sunday, May 19th to Sunday, June 16th. Items collected will benefit the Tri-Cities Salvation Army Food Pantry. A list of nonperishable donation suggestions will be posted above the bins.



Joel L. Dannemiller Educational Grant

The Joel L. Dannemiller Educational Grant is an educational grant program available from St. Paul's UCC. In order to qualify for this grant, you must be enrolled in an accredited college or trade school program. Money received must be applied towards educational expenses such as books or tuition. The amount of the grant is \$250.00 per year for the first three years only. Please contact the church office for an application if you are interested in applying.



May Choir/Music Ministry

Sunday Choir

*Choir rehearsals on Thursday nights from 6:30-7:30 pm
— May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

*Choir rehearsal Sunday, May 19, at 9:30 am

Zoom Music Ministry

*Meet before Sunday services at 9:30 am to rehearse together
— May 5, 12 & 26

Please give me a call, shoot me a text or send me an email with any questions!

Chris Rademacher
chrisradmusic@gmail.com
231-903-7580

Church Office Holiday Hours

The church office will be closed on Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day.

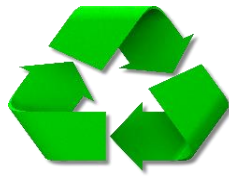


Coffee Fellowship

Enjoy a time of fellowship with coffee & treats immediately following our worship service in Fellowship Hall.



Thank you, Ron Bishop, for graciously offering your musical & computer talents in preparing songbooks & digital music for our choir & their guests to use when singing at local area nursing homes.
Joie Homik



Notes from the Green Committee

St. Paul's UCC applied for and was selected to receive a free high-level Energy Audit by Lawrence Technical University's RESTART Program. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) paid Lawrence Technical for the audit and selected Diane Mills from Occupant Care to conduct the audit. Diane came to St. Paul's and met with representatives Steve Devine, Phyllis Allison, Andrew Soria, Deb DeBruyn and Pastor Matt. She was very thorough and seemed to understand our church's needs. She was also prompt in getting the audit back to us.

This audit identified energy efficiencies St. Paul's UCC can consider, including the need for a new boiler, and will be useful in applying for grants. If you are interested in reviewing this document, contact Phyllis Allison phyllis.allison@gmail.com and she will email you a copy.



Chair Exercise Time

We have a small group that meets on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10 to 11 am for anyone who wants to be more limber or just feel better. The class uses various CD's consisting of warm-up, aerobics, weight training & balance. Do all or any part you want to try and go at your own pace. A group also meets on Wednesday mornings from 9 to 10 am. Both men and women are welcome any or all days, and we are open to all ages since some younger people have health issues and need gentle exercises as well. Please join us and you will be among friends! Drop in anytime.

Lawn Mowing Volunteers Needed!

We are in need of lawn mowing volunteers and/or subs! If you are interested in being added to the lawn mowing rotation schedule or are available to fill in as a sub if needed, please contact Alex Nordin at alex.nordin55@gmail.com, call him at 616-594-9209 or talk to him on a Sunday.

TIP

When eating seafood, check labels. "Line caught" is sustainable. Mussels are a super good choice in terms of energy and the planet. Cod has been almost fished out.



Trinity Church Paper Recycling

Trinity Church, located next to the Grand Pines Assisted Living Center, offers paper recycling through a PaperGator® recycling bin in the church's parking lot. A variety of paper items are accepted. Please contact their church office at 616-842-9480 for a complete list of welcome items.



Church Drop Box Available

St. Paul's has a secure drop box attached to the exterior brick of the building near the narthex entrance. Its wide entry slot can accommodate a variety of things besides standard envelopes. Simply lift the lid & drop your item in the slot. The drop box is checked regularly.



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Saturday
			1 9:00 am Exercise Class	2 10:00 am Exercise Class 11:00 am Book Club 6:00 pm BPB Assembly 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	3 10-11:30 am MOPS Playdate	4
5 10:00 am Worship Service – Communion/Helping Hand Fund 11:00 am Fellowship 11:15 am Church & Ministry Cte Mtg.	6 9:30 am Bible Study BPB Food Delivery Set-Up for Election Day	7 Election Day	8 9:00 am Exercise Class	9 10:00 am Exercise Class 11:00 am Book Club 6:00 pm BPB Assembly 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal Ascension Day	10	11
12 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Fellowship Mother's Day	13 9:30 am Bible Study 7 pm Council Meeting BPB Food Delivery	14 10:00 am Exercise Class 1-2 pm Parkinson's Support Group	15 9:00 am Exercise Class 10:00 am Women's Fellowship	16 10:00 am Exercise Class 11:00 am Book Club 12 Noon Spiritual Life Committee Meeting 6:00 pm BPB Assembly 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	17	18
19 9:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship Service – Graduate Recognition Sunday 11:00 am Fellowship 11:15 am Christian Ed/Youth Committee Meeting Pentecost Sunday Salvation Army Summer Food Drive Begins	20 9:30 am Bible Study BPB Food Delivery June "Bells" Deadline	21 10:00 am Exercise Class 1:00 pm Card Ministry – BSM Store	22 9:00 am Exercise Class	23 10:00 am Exercise Class 11:00 am Book Club 6:00 pm BPB Assembly 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	24	25
26 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Fellowship Trinity Sunday	27 Memorial Day – Church Office Closed	28 10:00 am Exercise Class 6:30 pm Green Cte Mtg. June "Bells" Mailing	29 9:00 am Exercise Class	30 10:00 am Exercise Class 11:00 am Book Club 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	31	

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SUNDAY

May 5, 2024

WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Scriptures: Psalm 98
John 15:9-17

Music Ministry: Special Music

Audio/Visual: Wayne Merz, Alex Nordin
& Ron Rademacher

Greeters: Debbie Scott
Marellen Lemke

Psalmist: TBD

Fellowship: Tom Rader

Nursery: TBD

In-Person & Home Worship
Communion
Helping Hand Fund Special Offering

SUNDAY

May 12, 2024

WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Scriptures: Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13

Music Ministry: Special Music

Audio/Visual: Wayne Merz, Alex Nordin
& Ron Rademacher

Greeters: Jim & Mary Ann Hancock
Dave Cooper

Psalmist: TBD

Fellowship: Peggy & Ron Briegel

Nursery: TBD

In-Person & Home Worship
Mother's Day

SUNDAY

May 19, 2024

WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.

Pentecost Sunday

Scriptures: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Acts 2

Music Ministry: Special Music - Choir

Audio/Visual: Wayne Merz, Alex Nordin
& Ron Rademacher

Greeters: Tom Rader
Judy Klumpel

Psalmist: TBD

Fellowship: Judy Klumpel

Nursery: TBD

In-Person & Home Worship
Salvation Army Summer Food Drive Begins
Graduate Recognition Sunday

SUNDAY

May 26, 2024

WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.

Trinity Sunday

Scriptures: Psalm 29
John 3:1-17

Music Ministry: Special Music

Audio/Visual: Wayne Merz, Alex Nordin
& Ron Rademacher

Greeters: Ron Briegel
Peggy Briegel

Psalmist: TBD

Fellowship: Shelly Svoboda

Nursery: TBD

In-Person & Home Worship