

the EVANGEL

St. Paul's Newsletter

January 2018



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St. Paul's
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rochester, Michigan

January 2018

Pastor's Message



Happy New Year!

As we begin 2018, I want to take you back to where we were one year ago: Our new 11 a.m. worship service, **The Open Door**, began January 8 in Hickey Hall. Truly we opened our arms and the doors of this great church even wider to welcome new people into a relationship with Jesus Christ. Over this past year, so many people in our community were drawn to this new service to experience God's transforming love, and they were also drawn into our existing worship services in the Sanctuary. This is exciting as we anticipate further growth in our church this coming year. Please continue to pray with me for our outreach, hospitality, and discipleship as we seek to follow Jesus Christ in all that we do.

Secondly, I want to invite you to be here on Sunday, January 21, as we welcome our Michigan Area UMC Bishop, David Alan Bard, to our church. Bishop Bard will be preaching at all of our worship services. This will indeed be a very special day for us, and your presence will be an added blessing to this important occasion of worship... so, please mark your calendars.

Together, we will continue making more disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community and the world. To God be the glory!

Yours in Christ,
Rev. David Eardley

Open Door Birthday Party

Sunday, January 14
11 a.m. in Hickey Hall

Join us as we give thanks and celebrate one year of the Open Door service with a party complete with cake and ice cream. Invite your friends to experience this new service. **Everyone is welcome.**



Modern. Relevant. Transformational.

Bishop David Alan Bard

Sunday, January 21
9 & 11 a.m. Worship Services

We welcome Bishop David Alan Bard of the Michigan Area who will preach at both the 9 and 11 a.m. services on January 21. We are looking forward to hearing his message for our church community.



HARMONY IN THE HILLS



MICHIGAN OPERA THEATRE

Michigan Opera Theatre

Sunday, January 21; 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Harmony in the Hills is thrilled to present an Overture to Opera program by the Michigan Opera Theatre. This 50 minute program of live music showcases two upcoming operas; Pucini's *Tosca* and Ricky Ian Gordon's *27* (based on the life of Gertrude Stein). A reception follows the concert so guests can meet and greet the artists. Admission is free.



Welcome Rev. Judy May

We welcome Rev. Judy May to our church staff as Associate Pastor beginning January 1, 2018. Judy has a

degree in Humanities, Social Science and Education from Purdue University, a degree in Christian Education from Scarritt College in Nashville, and a Master of Divinity from United Theological Seminary. She was Pastor at Waterford Four Towns UMC, Walled Lake UMC, Warren First UMC and Grosse Pointe UMC. She also has served as Associate Pastor at Dearborn First UMC, Program Director at Baldwin Avenue UMC and Community Center and Director of Christian Education at Dearborn First and Nardin Park. Judy has a daughter who lives in Rochester with her husband and two children and a son who lives in Massachusetts with his wife and daughter.

Help Needed! Wednesday, January 3 9 a.m. until task completed

Volunteers are needed to put away all the Advent decorations. Many hands make for light work! Please contact Sandy Heller at 248-613-2935 or prshoes3@hotmail.com.



UMW Sunday Sunday, January 14 9 & 11 a.m. Services

The United Methodist Women will have their Installation of Officers for 2018 during the 11 a.m. worship service and recognize individuals for their dedication and service to St. Paul's.



Sunday Adult Studies Sundays at 10 a.m.

Faith & Friends Spiritual Growth Study; Room 132

We begin **Meeting the Spirit** by Douglas Connelly. Who is the Holy Spirit? How does He change our lives? How does He work in the world? The Spirit of God is eager to work in your life to draw you closer to God.

Open Hearts All Ages, Stages and Spiritual Levels; Room 131

Open Doors is now Open Hearts. For singles & couples, parents & non-parents. All are welcome! We begin Max Lucado's new book **Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World**.

Family Life Active Couples & Singles, 50 & older; Rickard Chapel

A welcoming place to learn and share as we enjoy discussions and presentations on a variety of Christian issues and topics. We are also known for our sense of humor as we grow in Christian fellowship. Please visit and see if you don't feel right at home!

- January 7 Growing Old Gracefully - Jean Meyers
- January 14 Seven Lessons from Heaven - Camille Doerr
- January 21 Supper at Emmaus - Roger Roller
- January 28 St. Paul's Budget - Ron DiLiddo

Caregivers Support Group

First Saturday of the Month 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. in Room 132

The challenges of caregiving can result in caregivers ignoring their own physical and emotional health. This group of peers comes together for encouragement to care for themselves and help remind themselves that it is not selfish to attend to their own needs. We provide a space to pool our collective intelligence to devise productive strategies for dealing with stress around difficult caregiving situations. We also share stories, laughter, and tears with each other. And as all good United Methodists, it is over a hot cup of coffee.



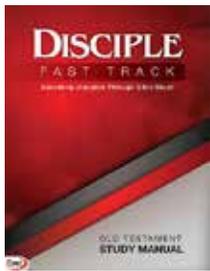
Compete & Eat OR Just Eat! 9th Annual Chili Cook-off Sunday, January 28

12:15 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Bring a crock-pot of your favorite chili and join us for this friendly competition. Vote for your favorite chili with a cash donation to the 2018 mission project Mobile Libraries for Uganda. Gold, Silver and Bronze winners will be determined by the cash donation contributed to their specific chili and will receive a prize ladle. Sign up to bring your favorite chili recipe at the Welcome Center in the Narthex in early January or call the church office at 248-651-9361.



Classes & Groups



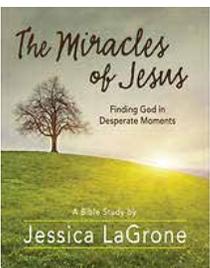
Disciple Fast Track Part 1 of 2 Sundays, January 7 - March 11 6 - 7:30 p.m. in the Library

Disciple Fast Track, an adaptation of the original, bestselling *Disciple Bible Study*, provides a viable option for busy people seeking comprehensive engagement over time with the entire biblical text.

Fast Track groups meet for a total of 24 weeks, devoting 12 weeks each to the Old Testament and the New Testament. Participants read a manageable 3-5 chapters of the Bible daily in preparation for the weekly meetings, which last approximately 75 minutes. Part 1 covers the Old Testament. Part 2 will be offered in the fall. Call the office at 248-651-9361 by December 21 to register. Books for this segment (\$15) will be distributed at the first class.



Come together with other women to make a friend... be a friend... laugh... dig into God's Word together and discover new ways to **Live In Faith Everyday.**



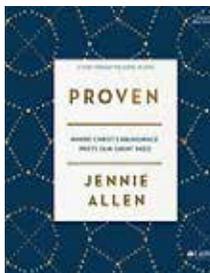
Miracles of Jesus Finding God in Desperate Moments Fridays, January 5 - February 9 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor

Come early for coffee and refreshments!

This exciting new DVD study by Jessica LaGrone offers new insights into often familiar biblical stories as well as meaningful life application.

Please call the office at 248-651-9361 to reserve a book by December 28 and, where possible, pick up books and read "Week One" prior to first class. Books are \$12, payable at first class. Led by Brenda Younker, Nancy Fidler & Amy Ritenburgh.

*Childcare available by reservation.



Proven Mondays, January 8 - March 5 7 - 9 p.m. in Room 128-129

You don't have anything to prove. Too many of us walk through life feeling as if we don't measure up. We think if we could only work harder or be better, we could be enough. But the truth is, we will never be enough. Key passages in John

demonstrate how only Jesus is enough. We don't have to prove anything because Jesus has already proven everything. Books (\$15) available at first class. To register, contact Shelly Cowling at Scowling@stpaulsrochester.org.

*** Childcare available by reservation - To reserve childcare, call the church office at 248-651-9361 ext. 114 by 3 p.m. at least 2 business days prior to the first class.**

Divorce Support Group First Thursday of the Month 6 - 7:30 p.m. in the Lounge

Divorce support group is for women who are currently dealing with divorce or have been through divorce. Group facilitated by licensed therapist.

*Childcare available by reservation.



United Methodist Men Saturday, January 6 8 a.m. in Hickey Hall

All men are welcome to join us for breakfast and brotherhood. We continue our book study of *Half Truths* and explore popular sayings that miss the point. **Join us!**



Seeker's Study Mondays

1 - 2:30 p.m. in Room 132

We continue our discussion of *Grounded*. The distant God of conventional religion has given way to a more intimate sense of the sacred that is with us in the world. Join this progressive, open, accepting group for an intriguing study. **Join us!**



Young At Heart Adults Tuesday, January 16

YAHAs is a group for retirees or any who wish to participate.

11 a.m.: Visiting in Hickey Hall

Noon: Bring your own brown bag lunch and dessert will be provided at no charge. **Please RSVP at 248-651-9361.**

1 p.m.: Program - Our Church Building over the Years by Frank Sonye.



HUGS Humor, Understanding, Growth and Support
 Mothers and grandmothers of all ages
 Wednesdays; 9:30 - 11 a.m. Room 132

First Wednesday Lunch Bunch
 January 10; 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 Bring an ingredient to include in a salad and stay for lunch. Bring your little guys in with us as we linger over conversation and lunch.

January 10 Me Myself & Lies: We are starting the year off by constructing a wise thought closet - another way to Think (and ACT) on These Things and let God's light shine through all circumstances and shape the way we react to our world. This is part of Jennifer Rothschild's *Me Myself & Lies* video sessions. Although Rothschild has a book that accompanies her series, no outside reading is necessary to glean some great tips on filling our thought closets with wisdom and truth.

January 17 Me Myself & Lies: Guard the door of our thought closet.

January 24 Me Myself & Lies: Make God the center of our thought closet.

January 31 Me Myself & Lies: Maintain a hope-filled thought closet.

See stpaulsrochester.org/calendar/ for more detailed information.

HUGS observes the Rochester Community Schools calendar. When schools are closed, HUGS will not meet.

*Childcare is available by reservation.

United Methodist Women

"Serve one another in love..."

Galatians 5:13



January Circle Meetings

- **Faith Circle** - Thursday, January 11 at 1 p.m. in the Parlor - Program by Rev. Eardley.
- **New Hope Circle** - Thursday, January 11 at 7 p.m. Movie night at Kathy Swisher's home.

Executive Board Meeting: Thursday, February 22; 9 a.m. in the Parlor.

UMW Donates \$46,850

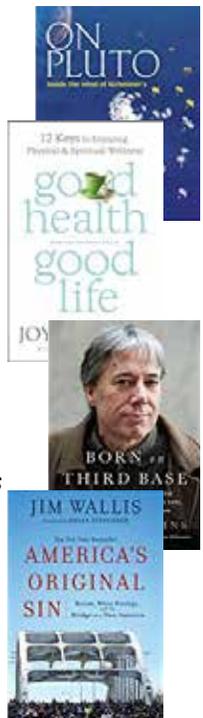
On December 14, the UMW Executive Board met for their annual Spend-Down meeting to decide where to donate the un-budgeted money raised during the year. Because of your generosity and a successful year, they had **\$25,000 to donate on top of the \$3,000 in extra giving and \$18,850 budgeted giving** already donated during the year. **In 2017 the UMW donated \$46,850 to missions!**

Thank you for your generous support of the UMW and all its projects!

UMW Reading Program

The UMW has donated fifteen new books to the St. Paul's library:

- *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* (Large Print)
- *Good Health, Good Life: 12 Keys to Enjoying Physical and Spiritual Wellness* (Large Print)
- *Born on Third Base: A One Percenter Makes the Case for Tackling Inequality, Bringing Wealth Home, and Committing to the Common Good*
- *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege and the Bridge to a New America*
- *One Well*
- *50 Women Every Christian Should Know: Learning from Heroines of the Faith*
- *Sacred Secular: How God Is Using the World to Shape the Church*
- *Adventure of Ascent: Field Notes from a Lifelong Journey*
- *Detained and Deported: Stories of Immigrant Families Under Fire*
- *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*
- *On Pluto: Inside the Mind of Alzheimer's*
- *Three Feathers*
- *A House in the Sky*
- *Massacre at Sand Creek: How Methodists Were Involved in an American Tragedy*
- *Growing Peace: A Story of Farming, Music, and Religious Harmony*





St. Paul's 2018 Mission Project

**Raise \$32,000 for Three Mobile Libraries in Uganda
To Increase Literacy Rates Among Children**

A recent report comparing East African nations highlights that despite Ugandan children attending school in comparably high numbers, only 39% are literate. Many factors contribute to a culture of literacy, but key infrastructure and books are missing in Uganda as public libraries do not exist and children are not able to take text books from school home.

Only 39% of Ugandan children are literate.

Mobile Libraries deliver books to homes and provide literacy assessments.



Pangea Educational Development will provide an innovative service to bring books closer to homes than ever before: mobile libraries. Mobile libraries will provide families with the monthly recommended number of books for the size of each family. Each month the mobile library will return to retrieve and deliver new books to each family. Each mobile library will be driven by a mobile librarian who not only delivers the books, but conducts literacy progression assessments each month to understand growth and appropriate book selection going forward.

In a small pilot program, in just two months we have seen a student increase her literacy progression rate nearly half a grade level. Imagine how many gaps we can close if children have access to materials like these throughout the year and in their communities. The impact over time will be tremendous.

We are excited to work with Pangea Education Development again.

This is the same group we worked with on the Piggery Project.

Warm Coats for Baldwin

In the past 6 years, the generous congregation of St. Paul's has donated approximately 1000 new winter coats for the Baldwin Center store where clients "shop" for their family members before Christmas. Members of our congregation who volunteer at the store report that the coats are some of the first things chosen.



Please shop the post-holiday sales and purchase coats for next year's store. All sizes, infant through adult, are needed. Cash donations are also accepted. Please write "Coats for Baldwin" on the memo line of your check. **Drop off donations in the Narthex February 4 - March 11.** Last year we collected 214 coats. Can we top that this year?

Contact Roxanne Cleveland at 248-371-0382 with questions.

Thank you for helping us make a difference in our local community.

Christmas Food Basket Program - Thank You!

The Mission Council thanks you for your generous support of the Christmas Food Basket Program.



Together we raised \$12,500 to support 115 families this holiday season. On behalf of our partners, The Rochester Area Neighborhood House and Hollywood Market, we thank you for another successful drive and distribution of food to families in our hometown. **Thank you for making a huge difference this holiday season.**



Love to Sing? Want to Serve?

St. Paul's Youth Chorus Wednesdays, January 3 - 24 6 - 7 p.m. in the Music Room

The Youth Chorus will rehearse Wednesday evenings beginning January 3 and will sing on Sunday, January 28 at the 11 a.m. worship service in the Sanctuary. Youth 12-18 who love to sing and want to serve are encouraged to join us! Choir experience is helpful but not necessary. Please contact Karen Fisher at kareneuf63@icloud.com.



Worktrip Fundraiser

Garden/Flower Planters \$250

Support the youth summer worktrip by purchasing a beautiful garden planter. Includes a handmade cedar planter and a \$25 gift card to Bordine's. Great for decks and yards. Display flowers or enjoy vegetables. Awesome Christmas or birthday gift. To order, email Jodi Stuermer at Jodi@stpaulsrochester.org.

Middle School Youth Group

All 6th - 8th grade students and their friends
Sundays, 6 - 7 p.m. in Hickey Hall

Follows Shine, Confirmation and Journey.

Jan 7 You Do You - Leadership Lab

Jan 14 Snow Go? - Leadership Lab

Jan 21 Blanket Palooza 4.0 service project

Jan 28 Ash Wednesday prep; Lighting the Way

Come hang out with us. Youth Group is a great way to start your week!



High School Youth Group

All 9th - 12th grade students and their friends
Sundays, 5 - 7 p.m. in the Lounge

Small groups, dinner (\$3), youth group fun!

Jan 7 Reality vs. Resolve - Who wins?

Jan 14 Winter Wonder

Jan 21 Blanket Palooza 4.0 service project

Jan 28 Ash Wednesday prep; Embracing your Gifts

No matter what the activity, laughter is guaranteed!



#HoustonStrong Fundraiser

Jan 21 Sell Super Bowl subs 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Narthex/Hickey Hall

Jan 28 Sell Super Bowl subs 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Narthex/Hickey Hall

Super Bowl Subs

Sales:

January 21 & 28

8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

in the Narthex

Sub sales are back again! For just \$7 you get a turkey or ham sub sandwich, chips and a freshly baked cookie. Subs are great to eat as you enjoy the game - or order a dozen and be the hit of your party! Proceeds support the High School Youth summer worktrip to Houston, TX July 8- 15. Are you ready for some football!?

Distribution:

February 4

8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Outside of Hickey Hall



Save The Date!

CLUB 45

February 2 - 3

Winter Camping at Echo Grove

Open to all 4th and 5th graders.

Email Amy Heitman at

Amy@stpaulsrochester.org if you can join us or if you have any questions.





Tiny Home Project 2017

St. Paul's Surpasses Goal

On November 20, Rev. Jon Reynolds and Mission Council chair, Bruce Ohms, presented Rev. Faith Fowler of Cass Community Social Services with a check for \$43,000 for the Tiny Home project. Our 2017 goal was \$35,000 for this project. Cass is building 25 homes (250-400 square feet) on the north end of its campus. Each home will be on its own lot and most will have a front porch or rear deck to increase the living space.

St. Paul's Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to eligible members of St. Paul's United Methodist Church who have demonstrated service to the church or community. Scholarships may be used for tuition or room and board at an accredited college or university, vocational program, apprenticeship or training program.



Applications and information available at stpaulsrochester.org. (Follow 'Scholarship' quick link at bottom of homepage) Application deadline is April 15, 2018.

St. Paul's United Methodist Women Scholarship

St. Paul's UMW offer scholarships for women and youth members of St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Scholarships in the amount of \$250 will be available for higher education and summer camp.



Applications and information available at stpaulsrochester.org (Follow 'Scholarship' quick link at bottom of homepage). Application deadline is April 15, 2018.

Holy Communion

January 7 at 9 & 11 a.m.

Worship Services

The sacrament of Holy Communion celebrates the presence of Christ and helps us find strength for Christian living. In the United Methodist Church, communion is open to all who intend to lead a Christian life.



Noisy Offering

Sunday, January 14

We will be collecting a "noisy" offering with proceeds supporting UMW. **Please bring your coins!**



Blood Pressure Clinic

Sunday, January 14

9:45 - 11 a.m. & noon - 12:30 p.m.

in the Narthex

Have your blood pressure checked and pick up information on Cancer.



Upcoming Baptism Dates

Sunday, January 28 and March 18

The sacrament of Holy Baptism is an important event in the life of a child and the Church and is open to children and adults. For more information, contact the office at 248-651-9361.



SUNDAY WORSHIP Worship with us!

Contemporary Service - 9 a.m. · Traditional Service - 11 a.m.

7	Epiphany - Memorial Dedication - Holy Communion		
	Matthew 2:1-12	Overwhelmed with Joy	Rev. Eardley
14	United Methodist Women Sunday		
	Mark 1:4-11	Living in Faith: Beyond the Logic of our Fears	Rev. Grimmett
21	Mark 1:14-20	RESOLVE to Follow	Bishop Bard
28	Baptism		
	Mark 1:21-28	RESOLVE to Connect	Rev. Eardley
The Open Door Service · Modern - 11 a.m. in Hickey Hall			
7	Luke 12:13-22	What Keeps You Up at Night- Money	Rev. Reynolds
14	John 15:12-17	What Keeps You Up at Night- Relationships	Rev. Reynolds
21	Mark 1:14-20	RESOLVE to Follow	Bishop Bard
28	Acts 16:14-15	Telling Our Stories - Lydia	Rev. Reynolds

Sermon Series January

Looking Ahead to February

- 2nd- 3rd Club 45 Winter Retreat
- 3rd UMM Breakfast
- Support For Caregivers
- 4th Superbowl Sub Sale
- 20th YAHA's
- Beer & Hymns
- 25th Harmony in the Hills Concert
- Zenith Brass 4:30 p.m.